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Abortion-attempt Survivor Speaks at Benefit for Visitation House

National pro-life activist, Melissa Ohden, supports Worcester home for women in crisis pregnancies

WORCESTER, MA. – On April 26th, Visitation House, a Catholic, Worcester-based home for women in crisis pregnancies, will host Melissa Ohden, a national pro-life activist, speaker and author at its 12th Annual Benefit Dinner to be held at St. George's Orthodox Church, Worcester.

Melissa Ohden will share her life story about how she survived her mother's failed abortion. She reveals the confounding emotions of disbelief, abandonment, inner anguish and ultimately the transformative forgiveness of her birth parents.

In her new book, *You Carried Me* (Plough), Melissa reflects on the societal, economic and family pressures that led to her mother's abortion decision. She raises questions about the possibility that her mother may have chosen to keep and raise her if her birth mother had a place to turn for help.

"I am delighted to join the Worcester community to support and honor Visitation House. This caring home gives young mothers, from all walks of life, a respite to nurture and safeguard the precious lives of their unborn child," says Melissa. "More homes like Visitation House will encourage women to choose life when faced with the daunting choices of an unplanned pregnancy."

Visitation House believes in the dignity of every life and honors women by providing support and tools to navigate motherhood in a healthy, community environment.

Evelyn Lindquist, Executive Director for Visitation House since 2007, states, "In the mission field of Worcester, our home stewards the culture of life with open hearts and open arms. We work with each resident to help her develop a greater appreciation of her own dignity, while living in a community that welcomes and nurtures life.

"Every day we provide shelter, nutritious meals and offer mentoring and real-life enrichment experiences – all at no cost to the mother. Ultimately, we are a bridge of hope leading to more empowered women and healthier families."

Visitation House is a private organization funded by charitable donations. www.visitationhouse.org

Background:

Melissa Ohden is a national pro-life advocate, speaker and author with a compelling story of surviving a failed saline infusion abortion. With a Master's Degree in Social Work, Melissa worked in fields of substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence/sexual assault counseling, and child welfare. In 2012, she founded The Abortion Survivors Network (ASN) supporting more than 210 abortion survivors. In 2016, Melissa testified before Congress and the Australian Parliament regarding the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. She sits on the Board of Directors for the Vitae Foundation and has been featured on The 700 Club, EWTN, Fox News, Focus on the Family, American Family Radio, the Mike Huckabee show, and the Teresa Tomeo show. She is the author of *You Carried Me, A Daughter's Memoir*, released in January 2017. <http://melissaohden.com/about/>
<http://www.plough.com/en/topics/life/relationships/you-carried-me>

Visitation House, Inc. is a private, 501 3(c) non-profit Catholic, pro-life home that welcomes and nurtures women in crisis pregnancies. Since 2005, Visitation House offers 10 private rooms, nutritious meals, 24x7 staff, classes on personal-baby-care, life-skills and guidance on housing, childcare, educational, and career resources. Visitation House is funded by charitable donations allowing these services at no cost to residents and is located at 119 Endicott St., Worcester. www.visitationhouse.org