

The Wonder of Having a Baby in Community

By Rebecca Bissonnette, February 2010



On January 8, 2010, my life significantly changed, for I became a mother. My son, Theodore Olivier Bissonnette, was born here at Triform under the care of our excellent midwife, Jenna Houston. He is my first child, so I only know the experience of having a baby in community--quite an amazing thing!

There are so many people who share your wonder, your excitement, your fears, and your worries.

There are many who are interested in your stories.

There are children who peek in through the windows.

There is abundant, beautiful, and good food to keep you going as you learn the art of nursing. There are the cows in the barn to whom you now feel a different connection.

There are many smiles, looks of awe and wonder, and many eager hands to hold the fresh treasure, but who manage to wait patiently until it is the right time.

There is the opportunity for the whole family, papa included, to have time together to establish this new way of breathing, of sleeping, of doing things with one hand.

There are beautiful gifts of flowers, of hand-made sweaters, of passed-down changing tables, of cards with words of love and anticipation.

There are offers to do the things you cannot find time for--tuning the lyre, washing the diapers, printing out the immigration forms.

There are pictures and understandings of the human being that widen one's perspective and offer imaginations that go beyond the physical, material world, but also recognize how essential it is. There are the friends in the other communities who share the joy and send good thoughts and wishes.

There is a strong respect and embracing of mothering, for what it offers to the community and to the world.

I want to thank everyone here at Triform, especially my dear Etienne, for making this such a special time.