FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Parker Dockray, Executive Director 510-817-0781wk /510-333-8061 cell parker@yourbackline.org Shelly Dodson, Center Director 812-558-0089 wk /812-707-1291 cell shelly@alloptionsprc.org

All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center to open in Bloomington, Indiana

On May 2nd, a new pregnancy resource center will open in Bloomington to offer free pregnancy tests, peer counseling, and material support through all your pregnancy and parenting turning points.

<u>All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center</u> is a program of <u>Backline</u>, a national nonprofit organization that has been working since 2004 to support people in all their experiences with pregnancy, parenting, abortion, and adoption. Backline is best known for its Talkline (1-888-493-0092) available toll-free anywhere in the United States and Canada, and its Pregnancy Options Workshop, a training for providers and professionals who wish to improve their ability to offer nonjudgmental pregnancy counseling and support.

"I know firsthand how important it is to have unbiased support when facing an unintended pregnancy," says Angelique Saavedra, who called the Talkline herself a few years ago and is now planning to volunteer at All-Options. "When I placed my daughter for adoption, it was very hard to find support from people that didn't expect me to feel a certain way or make a certain decision. Backline and All-Options trust pregnant and parenting people to know what is right for them. It's an amazing gift to the community and I am so happy to be part of it."

All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center will be a place where all people can find open-hearted and open-minded support and get connected with care and resources that support their needs, including pregnancy tests, peer counseling, diapers, baby clothes, abortion funding, adoption information, support groups, and referrals to all kinds of local services and providers. All-Options is a secular, client-centered organization where everyone is welcome, and all services are confidential and available free of charge.

In addition to providing much needed direct support, All-Options hopes to serve as a hub for providers, advocates, and community members who want to create a more compassionate and just Indiana by supporting people in a welcoming and inclusive space.

The launch of All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center comes at a time when Indiana has been in the national spotlight for some very distressing reasons - an <u>HIV outbreak</u>, laws <u>enabling</u> <u>discrimination against GLBTQ people</u>, the sentencing of a woman to 20 years in prison for <u>feticide</u>, and <u>allegations of compromised prenatal and birthing care</u> for low-income women.

"We know these bleak headlines do not tell the real story of Hoosier values and attitudes," said Center Director Shelly Dodson, a native of Bloomington. "Many of us are deeply frustrated and want to see less judgment and more compassion from our policymakers and politicians. At All-Options, people can find support for whatever they are feeling or going through in regards to pregnancy and parenting. We look forward to working with our fellow Hoosiers as we expand the services and support available to pregnant women, families and all people in Southern Indiana."

All-Options relies on a team of dedicated local volunteers as well as donations from area residents. Anyone interested in volunteering, making a contribution, or donating gently used baby clothes or other items should call 812-558-0089 or visit <u>www.alloptionsprc.org</u>. As a program of Backline, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, all donations to All-Options are tax-deductible.

A <u>crowd-funding campaign</u> in October raised more than \$25,000 to help launch the nation's first All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center, drawing support from nearly 300 individuals all across Indiana and the country. Many donors expressed a personal appreciation for this kind of unconditional pregnancy support:

- "I wish I had had a resource like this when I needed it. Keep up the good fight!"
- "In honor of the doctor and patient advocate who helped with my abortion in 1998, and my newborn son."
- "In memory of the daughter I surrendered to adoption against my will. Looking forward to the day when all women have fair, even, options based counseling that meets their needs and desires not those of society."
- "In honor of all those navigating through complex decisions. Also in honor of the awesome, humbling, and life-changing experience I had as a volunteer Talkline advocate."
- "This is to honor all my daughter's future choices."

"The community enthusiasm and support for Backline and our vision of an All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center has been incredible," said Executive Director Parker Dockray. "Opening a brick-and-mortar space where people can find the same unconditional support we've been known for on our Talkline is a dream come true."

Bloomington area community members are invited to an open house and launch party at All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center on Saturday, May 2nd from 10am-1pm. Light refreshments will be served; remarks will begin at 11am, followed by a drawing featuring prizes and gift certificates from local businesses. All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center is located at 1014 S Walnut Street.

APPEAL EMAIL to supporters

Most likely, you have been hearing a lot about Indiana in the news lately. Indiana has been in the national spotlight for some very distressing reasons - an <u>HIV outbreak</u>, laws <u>enabling</u> <u>discrimination against GLBTQ people</u>, the sentencing of a woman to 20 years in prison for <u>feticide</u>, and <u>allegations of compromised prenatal and birthing care</u> for low-income women.

At Backline, we know that these bleak headlines do not tell the real story of Indiana values and attitudes. We know that many Hoosiers are deeply frustrated and want to see less judgment and bias, and more open-minded listening and compassion for all the people in their state.

That is why we are so thrilled that our All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center will open in Bloomington on May 2nd!

All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center will be a place where people can find open-hearted and open-minded support through every pregnancy and parenting turning point. At All-Options, everyone can get connected with care and resources that support their needs, including free pregnancy tests, peer counseling, diapers, baby clothes, abortion funding, adoption information, support groups, referrals to all kinds of providers - or all of the above.

If you are in the Bloomington area, we hope you will join us on May 2nd for our opening party and come see what we're all about. Spread the word and RSVP here.

No matter where you live, you can be part of this exciting new model of support!

- Share your excitement on Twitter during our live tweet of the launch: Sat, May 2nd, 11am-Noon ET. @AllOptionsPRC @YourBackline #alloptions #openheartedIN
- Donate to help us provide free pregnancy tests, safer sex kits, abortion and pregnancy loss care packages, Finnish-style baby boxes, and more!
- Send a personal message of support to the people who visit the Center

Now more than ever, Indiana - and the country - needs more radically open-hearted support. Backline and All-Options are thrilled to be working with our Bloomington community to build a more just and compassionate Indiana for all Hoosiers. Join us!