

Meet Karen...

"My birth mother entered the Florence Crittenton Center when she was 3 months pregnant with me. Before she left her hometown, where she lived with her other 5 children, some friends took on the responsibility of taking care of the other children while my birth mom went to Sioux City to have me, but no one knew the real story. She wasn't married at the time. Her wise doctor told her about the center, and at that time, it was walking distance to St. John's Hospital, where she gave birth to me on June 28th, 1965. I don't know much about her stay at the center, but according to one of my half siblings, my birth mom thinks she saw my adoptive dad and mom come for a visit. It's my understanding that the new moms took turns in the nursery taking care of the babies or giving each other a break to do other things. and although she never held me, she rubbed my arms and back while I was in a crib, as she knew it would be harder to relinquish me if she held me. I believe I was 10 days old when my adoptive parents picked me up from a restaurant called, "Green Gables" so that no one could see or trace the license plate of my parents' car. At this point in my journey, I have met 4 out of my 5 half siblings, which I am so grateful for, and we have been able to put more of our stories together. Yes, they were surprised to learn they had another sister! I hope to meet my birth mom someday. She is about 88 years old, and she made the best, selfless decision one could make, and that was putting me up for adoption. I know without a doubt; this was God's amazing plan for my life from the beginning. He protected me while I was in my birth mother's womb, and I'm so grateful that her doctor told her about Florence Crittenton. One time, as Florence Crittenton center was falling apart and had tape around the building, I spent some time up there, in Sioux City, and I walked probably where my birth mother had walked! I had tears in my eyes thinking about that. Florence Crittenton Center has touched the lives of a lot of children and mothers over the many years, and I'm very thankful I was one of them 60 years ago! I started this journey about 6 years ago, when my husband and I were given the ancestry kits from our adult kids for Christmas, and it has led me on this amazing journey."

**-Karen Roghair, Community Member and Adopted Child of
Crittenton Center.**