

Arbor Vitae

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Last week I saw a flyer in the women's bathroom at the MLB advertising for a new women's center here in Ann Arbor. The center is called Arbor Vitae and is located in the basement of Starbucks on Liberty Street.

What I saw on the Arbor Vitae poster really impressed me. The center provides women so many services that are confidential and COMPLETELY FREE: pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, financial aid, materials, and resources. Wow. That's a good deal! I am very happy to see that there is finally a place close to campus that helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy, which must be very stressful. The women who need help are very lucky to have a place to go for productive and free services and help planning for the future.

The presence of Arbor Vitae seems like a step in the right direction – getting resources to women who need them. As a feminist, I believe the university and community as a whole should have more resources readily available for women who unexpectedly become pregnant. I have been unable to find a listing of women's centers such as Arbor Vitae through UHS, and I'm not familiar with financial aid or special housing services that the university offers to young pregnant women or mothers (especially undergraduate women). I would like to see UHS and the university be openly willing to help women in their time of need and make it easy for these women to discreetly find the information they need when they need it.