

M

BTS .ESF

Just Business or Just Friends?

IN THE SMALL TOWN OF LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA 27-year-old Carla carried and delivered a baby last year for an Australian couple. Carla and her husband are both medical technicians and have two young daughters of their own. Carla's surrogate pregnancy and delivery were difficult - which had not been the case with her own babies. But she remains cheerful about the experience.



Corey and Carla of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Last year Carla carried a baby for an infertile Australian couple.

"This is something I felt I had to do. I just wanted to help someone out. Everyone deserves a child, and this is something I could do for someone else," Carla says.

Carla's parents and friends were supportive, if not a bit awed. "The main reaction was, how can you do this? How can you give away your baby?" Carla says. She would answer, "It's not my baby."

As it turned out, Carla and Corey became good friends with the Australians, who flew over for the conception and then returned for the birth. The couple stayed with Carla and Corey for two weeks waiting for their baby to come.

Researcher and health policy expert Nancy Reame of the University of Michigan is conducting a long-range study of surrogates. If the intended parents treat the surrogate with respect and concern, Reame says, the surrogate appears to experience much less sense of loss after the baby is gone. Many surrogate mothers want some form of ongoing contact with the families they help, she says.

http://www.americanradioworks.org/features/fertility_race/part4/section4.shtml