



St. Clare's Home

RESTORING HOPE ~ SAVING LIVES

NEWSLETTER 7 | JANUARY 2024



Happy New Year! 2024

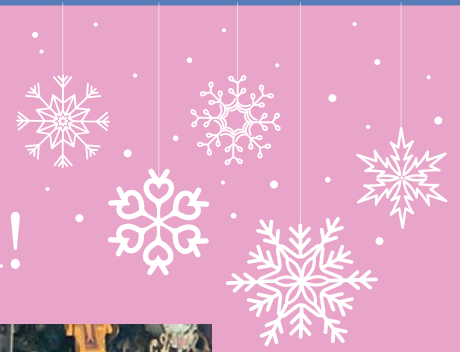
Happy New Year to all! St Clare's Home is excited to begin 2024. As we leave 2023, we look back on the amazing events, miracles and woman and babies that have been helped inside and outside of the home. Did I say miracles? We feel they were! An example was one of our moms, Deona, who received a scholarship for CNA training – out of 400 applicants. Time and again, everything comes together for childcare, transportation and training opportunities or employment. These are our mini-miracles and God's encouragement to continue to help others. God never said it would be easy, but he always provides. The rewards are endless when helping our moms and babies.

We would love you to be part of this mission. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to help drive moms to appointments, mentor, babysit, teach English, sort donations, house sit or a variety of other ways and things we need, please contact stclaresvolunteer@charlestdiocese.org.

God Bless you and your family in 2024!

Valerie Baronkin
Executive Director of St. Clare's Home

Giving thanks & celebrating Christ's birth!



We are giving thanks with a grateful heart for the many holiday celebrations! Our moms and babies at St. Clare's had lots of fun on Thanksgiving Day. Alice, a volunteer, came to the house to prepare a sumptuous meal, which we ate together as a family at the Century Park in Greer.

Shortly before Christmas Day, we asked Santa to come to the home – to further celebrate, we invited our alumni moms to visit. Gifts were given to each mom with their children. The alumni moms were excited to share their stories of achievements and challenges. It was a wonderful homecoming for all. Thanks to Eileen, Brian, Tom, Mary Kay, Christina, Kedric and Maura for their help in orchestrating this celebration.

Finally, the Christmas celebration was the culmination of all the events. With prayer and gratitude, moms unwrapped the many gifts that were lavished on them by donors. Maura and Kedric provided a lovely Christmas dinner.

With the intercession of our patron St. Clare, our mother Mary, and the guardian angels of the babies in the home, we witnessed the beginning of another year. A lunch was provided by Knights of Columbus Council 1668. The moms expressed their gratitude for being in a home-like environment like St. Clare and for the love, acceptance, care, protection, hope and bright future ahead of them. We wish you all a blessed 2024!

– Sister Theresa Adeboye, SSMA

BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS

Boutique opens!



We had the grand opening of the **Bountiful Blessings Boutique** in December.

What does bountiful blessings mean?

1. liberal or generous in bestowing gifts or favors
2. given or provided abundantly, a bountiful harvest.

The boutique was a dream of staff and volunteers, but we didn't think that it would be a reality for 2024. We learned that we just need to put our trust in God and know that anything is possible with the generous folks who provide their time, talents and materials to turn an unfinished pool house into a luxury boutique.

The boutique is a place for residents to purchase donated items with their "Baby Bucks," earned from taking required and optional classes in childbirth, parenting, finance, faith and nutrition at St. Clare's. Brian Grady, Mike Holian and friends

started the project, securing the building for a storage unit. Then Deacon John and the Knights of Columbus from St. Mary in Greenville completed winterizing the outside of the building. They began the restoration of the inside with drywall and providing a wall-unit for AC/heating.

The Conroy Family, as part of their yearly Christmas volunteer project, then took over and completed the restoration. Three generations of Conroys finished drywalling, added a ceiling and light fixture, painted the ceiling, walls and floor, and provided beautifully restored furniture and a plush area rug.

Additionally, they made a special embroidered gift for each of the current babies in the house and provided delicious food for our Christmas celebration with Santa. We thank all our volunteers and hope for many "bountiful blessings" in 2024!



THE FINISHED BOUTIQUE



THREE GENERATIONS OF THE CONROY FAMILY AND SISTER STELLA IN FRONT OF THE BOUTIQUE AFTER COMPLETING THEIR WORK WEEKEND.



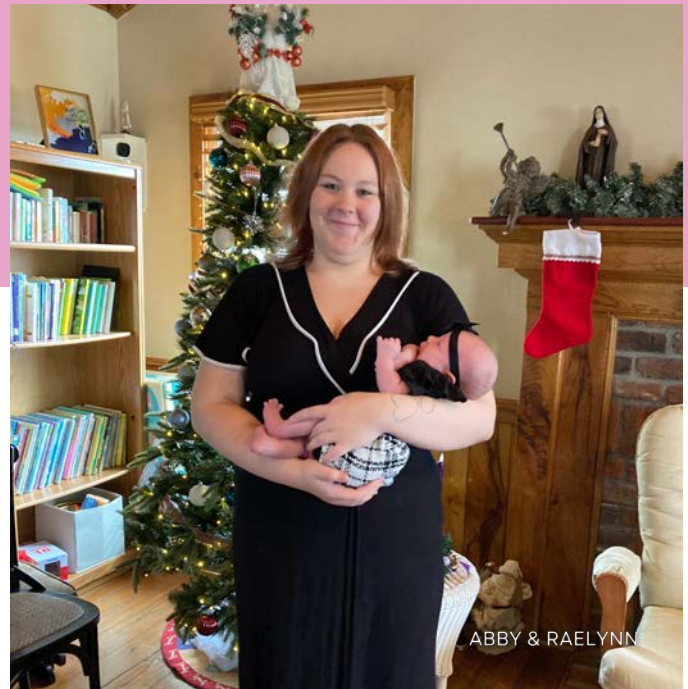
Success Story

Abby chose life!

Hi, my name is Abigail and here's my story. I was on drugs for most of my high school years, which led to me dropping out. When I found out I was pregnant I was just about 10 months clean. I was left to do everything alone, so an abortion was the first thought I had.

I was living with my parents at the time, and I was about to turn 18 so I couldn't live with them any more. I started looking online for places to help me and everything was about abortion and adoption.

And then I saw St. Clare's Home, a home of hope. I called the number on the website and Valerie answered. The one thing that I will never forget that she said was "I'm proud of you for choosing life." I never looked at it that way before, like wow, **I chose life**, I did that!



When I got into the home everyone was welcoming, and I knew from that moment that I was going to be OK. I was at the house for about eight months when I decided to leave because I thought I knew everything.

I was gone for about six weeks when I called Valerie crying and begging her to let me come back because my life was falling to pieces, and all I thought about was drugs. I am now a resident again at St. Clare's. I never thought that I was going to be a good mom, but now I have a 2-month-old daughter named Raelynn.

I am now taking GED classes, and I have an opportunity to go to Greenville Tech. I would love to work at a daycare. The staff at St. Clare's Home made me understand that it's okay to not be okay. They made me understand the meaning of life and love. In the past all I thought about was drugs and fighting, and now all I think about is will this be okay for Raelynn, is this safe.

St. Clare's has turned my life around completely; they push me to do things that I never thought I was capable of, and they are the reason that I am now one year and eight months clean.

A STORY OF *adoption & hope*



St. Clare's Home supports moms that want to parent their child and also moms that give their babies for adoption. Please read the heartwarming story from a birth mom that is supporting the mission of St. Clare's Home:

"Good morning and Merry Christmas to all of you staff, mommies and babies. Thank you for all you do at this beautiful home. My sister, who lives in Simpsonville, volunteers at your home and tells me of her activities there, and I wish I could be an active part of your community.

"Living 'up north' makes that impossible so I will just send contributions when I am able. I was an unwed mother in 1974, right after the horrible Roe v. Wade decision.

"Due to circumstances, I had to give my baby up for adoption. We were reunited in 2018. My daughter is beautiful, smart, successful. She and her husband gave me a beautiful granddaughter, who is a freshman at the University of South Carolina.

"The heartbreaking choice I made almost 50 years ago was truly the best for her. I wish a home like yours had been available to me. I am in awe of all you do for the mommies and babies. God Bless you and thank you for all you do.

Sincerely, Clare

P.S. I love the name of your home."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

*We could not accomplish
our mission without you!*

We have a new PO Box:

St. Clare's Home
1754 Woodruff Road #170
Greenville, SC 29607

Please send any checks to our post office box listed above, or click [here](#) to donate.

Please visit our [wish list](#) online, or our [Amazon Wish List](#).

Sign up for our **newsletter** with this link:
charlestdiocese.flocknote.com/StClaresHome

To arrange donations | 843-259-1108