



St. Clare's Home

RESTORING HOPE ~ SAVING LIVES

NEWSLETTER 5 | MAY 2023



Easter blessings to the friends of St. Clare's Home!

Spring 2023 is off to a busy start! The Pink & Blue Gala, our biggest event of the year to raise funds for operating expenses, was a tremendous success. We were able to raise over \$300,000 – a tremendous blessing to continue the mission serving moms and babies. We are so grateful for all of our sponsors and supporters: the operation of St. Clare would be impossible without you. The story and photos of the Pink & Blue Gala are below!

St. Clare's Home has served 20 women, seen 8 babies born and assisted 10 already born children. We have also helped 185 women through our outreach centers by providing furniture, clothing, diapers, wipes and other baby items. Several home and building improvements are underway by volunteers giving their time and talent. We are grateful for our fantastic volunteers and always in need of more helping hands. Plans are in progress to repair the driveway. We had to shut down its left side for fear that the ruts would damage vehicles. The driveway should be replaced by early May.

We continue to have new moms calling for help, so I cannot thank you enough for your endless support for pregnant women who choose life. The shelter, love, safety and security of St. Clare's would not be possible without you. So, on behalf of the many women, babies and children we serve – THANK YOU!

Valerie
Valerie Baronkin, St. Clare's Home Executive Director

Honey's Story

A story of hope!



HONEY IS AT THE FAR LEFT, WITH ISZAMINA BEING HELD BY ELIZABETH DRISCOLL.

St. Clare's has continued to be a blessing to both Iszamina and me. We are doing very well. I gave birth on Oct. 14, 2022, and I had her baptized two months later on Jan. 14, 2023. I am working hard being a full-time mother and a full-time student. I am studying for my BA in religion and biblical studies. I have completed one semester in college with a GPA of 4.0. I don't know what God wants to do with my degree yet, but my heart tells me to teach somewhere. I hope I will end up teaching at a local Catholic School. I am still praying about what God needs.

My stay at St. Clare's Home is helping me save money. I hope to use the money I save to buy a fix-me-up home in a nice area. I need a home that is under 20K or a mobile home and a small piece of land. I want something we can have permanently and call home. Please keep Iszamina and me in your prayers for a home!

I received a huge blessing on April 16, 2023, Divine Mercy Sunday. Pam, a lady from a Catholic Church in Columbia, gave me a nice SUV 2010 Dodge Journey.

Thank you, St. Clare's family for all your help, love, support and prayers! Without St Clare's and my relationship with God, none of these would be possible!

If you have a running car, in fairly good condition that you want to donate to a mom, please call St. Clare's Home at 843-259-1108. It means so much to us.

Easter at St. Clare's

The Lord has Risen! Alleluia! The residents and staff of St Clare's Home celebrated Easter Sunday with a delicious meal after attending Mass. Moms and their little ones participated in a competitive egg hunt on Easter Monday. May the joy of the risen Lord continue to reign in our hearts this Easter!



Gender reveals: *Two celebrations, two surprises!*



This spring, we celebrated two gender reveals! Meredith had her party on March 30, and **it's a BOY!** Deona had hers on April 5, and **it's a GIRL!** Family members, friends, staff of St. Clare's and volunteers attended.

We began with opening prayer and blessing of the food, followed by the cutting of the cake. The inner layers of each cake was filled with pink or blue filling and revealed the gender of the babies. Balloons were released as the mom cut her cake. What a blast!

Many thanks to Sandi Boyd and Elda Zayas for putting together these celebrations.



DEONA'S GENDER REVEAL



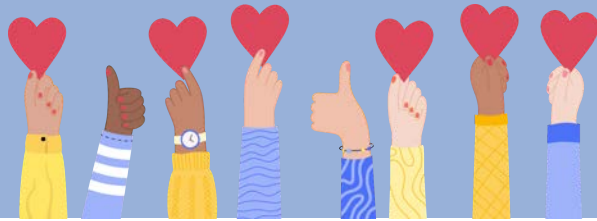
MEREDITH'S GENDER REVEAL



IT'S A BOY!



WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

On March 18, Deacon John Heuser from St. Mary Church and Mike Holian, our handyman volunteer group lead, organized 20 helpers to complete several outside projects, including the addition of siding to the pool house and other construction needs to ensure the building is structurally sound. Outside debris was removed from around the property and other storage areas were cleared. We are so appreciative of the time and effort our volunteers spent to clean up and continually improve our facilities.



St. Clare's Home is proud to share that two special seniors chose to lead service projects for their schools in March and April to serve the home.

- **Stephen Holland** led a Donation Drive for Mauldin High School for his senior project as part of the National Honor Society.
- **Anmarie Driscoll** led a Donation Drive as part of the Students In Action Group at Greenville Technical Charter High School.

Both Seniors have a heart for St. Clare's and we are so grateful for their work to spread our mission!



Shahid's Baptism

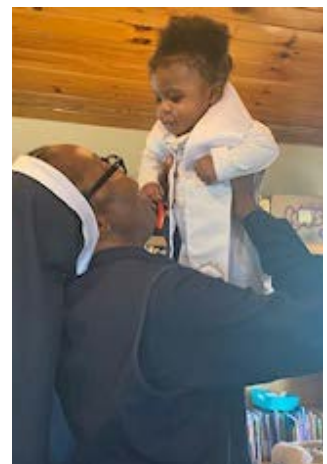
Come Holy Spirit!

Since the start of St Clare's Home on Aug. 11, 2021, we have been blessed with three Catholic baptisms – three more souls claimed for God's kingdom.

On April 21, 2023, Shahid Faith was baptized by Father José Gabriel Cruz, STL, pastor of Blessed Trinity Church in Greer. It was the first baptism that took place inside the home; the previous two were at the parish. Prior to Shahid's baptism, the joyous mom and godparents, Maura and Kedric Chamberlin, attended a preparation class facilitated by Deacon Gary Walczak. Maura took Shahid and his mom shopping for a baptismal outfit and shoes after purchasing the christening garments.

The Chamberlins, staff, volunteers and friends gathered joyously for the event. Please pray for Shahid Faith to grow in the love and knowledge of God so we will be proud of him as a member of the faith.

–Sister Theresa Adeboye, SSMA



PINK & BLUE GALA SUCCESS!



The Second Annual Pink & Blue Gala was held March 25th at the Greenville Convention Center when more than 350 supporters gathered for fun, food and fundraising.

We were blessed to have Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, begin and end our evening with prayer. A special video welcome was provided by the Hon. Pamela S. Evette, lieutenant governor of South Carolina. Claire Pizzuti, co-founder of St. Clare's Home, shared her vision and gratitude for the evolution of her dream of providing a home for pregnant women who choose life. Claire shared the remarkable growth of the number of volunteers and dedication of the many hands who minister to our moms and babies. Keynote speaker, Melissa Ohden, founder & CEO of the Abortion Survivors Network, addressed the audience with her moving life story and ministry to those like herself who have survived abortion. The

video, created by Juanita Bustamante, video ministry producer, highlighted the mission and personal witness to the gift of the life changing experience of St. Clare's Home.

Valerie Baronkin, executive director, provided the future vision of St. Clare's Home – the building of the convent. Valerie thanked the Diocese of Charleston, the Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel and the many gifts of those involved in the ongoing work.

The evening wrapped with playing the Heads or Tails game followed by our Paddle Raise to support the mission of the home. We are indebted to the many sponsors and generous donors who participated in our efforts to raise funds for St. Clare's. We thank our Gala Chair Maura Chamberlin and the Pink & Blue Gala Committee for all their hard work to make our celebration a night to remember.



Volunteer Updates



On Feb. 28, a group of students from St. Joseph's Catholic School, along with their teacher, Dr. Jill Kriegel, came to St. Clare's to bless the home by doing the weekly chores for the moms, followed by making them lunch and baking treats.

The moms were so appreciative to have a work break, and they loved the homemade cookies and brownies! What a beautiful scene to see SJC students interact with our moms, pouring love and encouragement into them – they students were God's hands and feet. What a blessing!



PAINTING THE MOMS' NAILS



PLAYING CARDS AS A COMMUNITY

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 Rd #170
Greenville, SC 29607



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

Please visit our [Wish List Here](#) or our Amazon [Wish List Here](#)

Sign up for our **newsletter** with this link:
<https://charlestandiocese.flocknote.com/StClaresHome>

To arrange donations call| 843-259-1108