



# St. Clare's Home

RESTORING HOPE ~ SAVING LIVES

NOVEMBER 2024



## Fall blessings & a new St. Clare's Home locale

This Fall, St Clare's Home had some exciting times. At one point, we had five babies under the age of 6-weeks-old. Praise God everyone is happy and healthy. We are all busy helping moms realize their dreams and goals, and we were able to get scholarships for several women to further their education. One mom is taking phlebotomy classes, another is studying to be a vet tech, while a third passed her state insurance license test and is now selling life insurance.

One of our moms, after careful consideration, chose to give her baby up for adoption. She is very much at peace with this open adoption and decision. The birth and adoptive moms stayed together at the hospital on the night the baby girl was born so they could get to know each other and establish communication and a friendship.

We are still working on a location for St. Clare's Home-Charleston. We have made an offer on a few homes but those have fallen through for one reason or another. We are actively investigating another property and the need is great. The homeless population continues to grow. Currently we have a **\$300,000 Matching Gift Challenge** to partially fund the purchase of the new home. We need your support to realize this dream! Please visit our site to donate and specify "Charleston" in the comments: [stclareshomesc.org/donate](https://stclareshomesc.org/donate) or click the button below!

DONATE



STCLARESHOMESC.ORG

# Field Trip Fun at Conestee Forest Preserve

LET'S GO

ADVENTURE

St. Clare's Home field trips are an important way for our moms to engage in new experiences, get involved in the community and enjoy the outdoors and activities in the Greenville area.

Outings have included picnics, airport tours, baking for community nonprofits, library tours, Christmas in Greenville and YMCA tours.

Our October field trip was a hike/walk at Conestee Nature Preserve. The Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel, volunteers, moms and a baby took a two-mile walk in the preserve followed by a delicious homemade picnic lunch.

We are looking for more field trip drivers and volunteers to continue this valuable experiences for our moms and babies monthly. Contact Colleen Chmiel, our volunteer manager, to become a field trip volunteer: [stclaresvolunteer@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:stclaresvolunteer@charlestandioocese.org).



# NEW STAFF

## *Sister Damiana joins the team!*



Sister Damiana Adeyingbo, a devoted and compassionate member of the Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel, has recently assumed the role of child care manager at St. Clare's. Her calm, determined demeanor brings a wealth of experience in caregiving and spiritual guidance to create a safe and nurturing environment for vulnerable children. Her background with her religious community has shaped her into a patient and empathetic leader, adept at providing structure and warmth.

Sister Damiana is known for her commitment to holistic care, believing children can only thrive when their emotional, physical and spiritual needs are met. She cultivates a sense of family at the home to ensure each child feels valued and supported. Her presence positively impacts St. Clare's Home as she dedicates herself to transforming it into a haven of growth, love and healing for every child who walks through its doors.

Sister Damiana has been an integral part of her congregation and played a crucial role in its development and mission. As a founding member, she helped establish

the charism, values and direction that guide the congregation. Over the years, she has taken on numerous responsibilities, demonstrating her versatility and deep commitment to her faith. In her role as superior general, Sister Damiana was responsible for leading the congregation, making critical decisions and fostering a spirit of unity among its members. Her expertise in canon law has made her a significant figure in various tribunals, where she has provided essential guidance on matters of Church law, helping to resolve disputes and ensure justice.

As a manager of a pastoral center, she has worked closely with local communities, offering support and resources to those in need. Her leadership in this role allowed her to impact many lives positively, promoting spiritual growth and providing guidance for parish activities. Outside of her professional commitments, Sister Damiana has a passion for cooking! She enjoys experimenting with new recipes and preparing meals for her sisters and colleagues. We are so blessed to have her at St. Clare's home.

# Khristina's Story

## *A place to call home!*



KHRISTINA AND  
HER CHILDREN

St. Clare's is a maternity home for pregnant women and new moms who recently delivered their baby. I found out about their program through another agency that recommended I call them. I was looking for housing for me and my two kids and was nine months pregnant waiting for the arrival of my newborn baby boy. I was very nervous at first because I had never been in a situation where I needed housing, and I also was not familiar with the program. I was interviewed and given a mental health assessment.

Once I went through their screening process, Valerie invited me to move in. The staff and other moms welcomed me with open arms. They showed me around the huge home. My room was all set up for me with beds, cribs and even personal care items for me and my children. I was introduced to the other moms and invited to have dinner and prayers with everyone. It was very refreshing and made me feel right at home. My kids adapted pretty fast. Everyone was kind and inviting. The home was filled with toys and books for the kids, with a play area outside and a small farming area.

They offered classes to help me improve my parenting, finances and education. I was provided with a tutor to help me obtain my G.E.D. During my stay I have been able to obtain my state Life and Health Insurance License. I'm currently building my agency!

I did not have my own transportation but was given rides to my appointments or stores when needed. I was given my own Ford Escape from a church member for me and my kids to be able to get around to anywhere we needed to go. I was so surprised and very grateful. The love and support that Valerie and the sisters and volunteers have provided me and my family is unmatched. I am truly blessed and forever grateful for all of their help, resources and kindness.

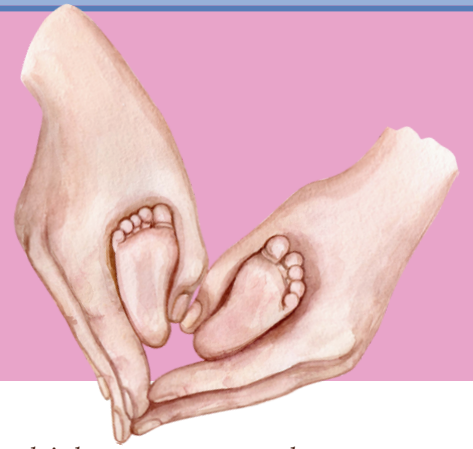
I'm reaching new heights in my life thanks to St. Clare's program. They are making the world a better place – one mom at a time. I will always recommend them to any mom who is struggling and truly needs help. All you have to do is put forth the effort and they will be there to help you every step of the way. May God continue to bless everyone that is a part of the organization. My children and I are proud to call St. Clare's home.

– *Khristina*



# Thank you

for your abundant support  
and gifts in 2024!



*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me’” (Mt 25:35-40)*

St. Clare’s Home has received many generous gifts in 2024; we would like to say thank you for the gifts from some of the area businesses:

- **Mercy Works** provided a scholarship for one of our residents to pursue a career as a veterinarian technician
- **S.C. Works** and **WIOA** are providing moms ongoing career, education and scholarship opportunities
- **Greenville Technical College** provided a scholarship for one residents to take classes to pursue a career in computer aided design and drafting (CAAD)
- **Taylor’s YMCA** provides weekly groceries and free memberships to the facilities, gym and pool
- **House of Raeford Farms, Inc.**, brings unlimited chicken products for the residents and Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel
- **Greenville’s Financial Empowerment Center** sends counselors to the home to provide budgeting assistance, housing counseling and debt management strategies for our moms



## ST. CLARE’S HOME IS HIRING!

*Is God calling you to help mothers and babies?*

We have an opening for a weekend staff person. This position works every other weekend spending time with our moms and taking care of light chores in the house. If interested or for more details, email Valerie: [vbaronkin@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:vbaronkin@charlestdiocese.org).

DISCOUNTED

*Early Bird Tickets*

ON SALE NOW FOR THE

*Pink & Blue Gala*

Friday, February 21st | 6:00 pm | Fluor Dining Venue

go to [PB2025.givesmart.com](https://PB2025.givesmart.com) to get yours today!

BUY NOW

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

*We could not accomplish our mission without you!*

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

♥ To sign up for our **newsletter**, click here:  
[charlestdiocese.flocknote.com/StClaresHome](https://charlestdiocese.flocknote.com/StClaresHome)

♥ To arrange donations, call **843-259-1108**.

♥ To volunteer, contact Colleen Chmiel:  
[stclaresvolunteer@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:stclaresvolunteer@charlestdiocese.org)

Are you able to donate a car for the moms?  
Call Valerie at **864-275-5505**

### Our PO Box:

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

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

