



St. Clare's Home

RESTORING HOPE ~ SAVING LIVES

NEWSLETTER 2 | MAY 2022



Our first Pink & Blue Banquet

It has been over a month since our Pink & Blue Banquet and it truly was a wonderful evening where we were able to share the positive impact St. Clare's Home is having on the people we are serving. God truly blessed us with the number of people who came and that we sold-out weeks before the event so more people can learn about the lives we are touching in Greenville county and beyond.

Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone opened the event up with a prayer and genuine gratitude to God for the home finally being able to save lives. Father Jay Scott Newman welcomed St. Clare's Home to the deanery. One of the co-founders, Claire Pizzuti, thanked our incredible sponsors and those individuals who got us to this point. Kathy Schmugge was able to give updates on the women we have served in the months since being open. Father Jeffrey Kirby, one of our main supporters over the years, offered an inspirational talk. It truly was a long-awaited, beautiful night. We were grateful to our incredible entertainers Amy Scheira and Art Decottis, plus Tommy Curtin for his incredible MCing. Many people commented that it was one of the best events they had been to in a long time. God is so good!

We have already set the date of our next event. It will be on **March 25, 2023** at the Greenville Convention Center, so please mark your calendars. We cannot imagine the event without you present!

At the banquet, we premiered our video of the staff, volunteers and moms, who talked about the great things God has accomplished in less than eight months. Click below to view!

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

STCLARESHOMESC.ORG

Our
Wonderful
VOLUNTEERS

**IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY
WE CAN CONTINUE TO DO THE MUCH
NEEDED WORK AT ST. CLARES HOME!**



Essential, flourishing and streamlining

Volunteers are an essential part of the continued ministry of St. Clare's Home, and we are grateful for the generosity of so many that bless us with their time and talents. In recent months, volunteers have worked hard to help the home flourish in a multitude of ways. From hosting program classes and writing thank you notes to organizing hundreds of donations and tending to our gardens, our volunteers continue to blow us away.

We are so thankful for all who choose to spend their time at St. Clare's Home to help us bless moms and their babies! We are growing every day, and it can only continue if we have a solid and well established volunteer base working along side us.

To streamline our volunteer activities and tackle larger projects more efficiently, we are introducing Volunteer Groups. Each group will be composed of 1-2 Group Leads to coordinate talented volunteers in their area of interest.

Volunteers will be with the same group for one year and will work together to complete projects provided by the Executive Advisors. Various groups available include gardening, donations, kitchen and meals, house sitters, handymen and more!

We are thankful for any time you can devote to helping us achieve our goals.



Student volunteers

Honoring Joseph on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker

Recently St. Clare's Home was blessed by St. Joseph's Catholic School with 51 students and countless other teachers and adult volunteers who came together for their annual St. Joseph the Worker Day. These students worked to organize our donations closet, clear brush and dead bushes off our property, complete a vegetable garden bed, clean out and organize a storage area, and install a pergola for our future prayer garden! One group of SJCS boys even rescued adorable baby birds and their nest.

We are so thankful for all the hardworking students and volunteers who came out to help us and make this volunteer work day such a huge success! Thank you especially to George Carr, Karl Orbon, Emily Weathers, Julie DiGiusto, Kim and Mark Capelle, and all the adult volunteers for supervising and directing the students in their efforts. We look forward to more opportunities to partner with local Catholic schools, and hope to see a lot of familiar faces again soon.



VOLUNTEERS

St Clare's Home needs more volunteers so please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at stclaresvolunteer@charlestdiocese.org for all the ways you can get involved with our mission!



BABY KING & his mom



SISTER STELLA MARY AND KING

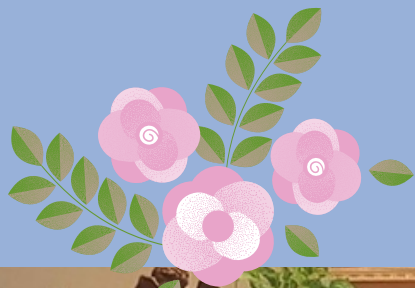
From a St. Clare's mom – *in her own words*

The sun crackles through the cold, early morning, and I nervously ponder the thought of how I could ever care for an innocent life I've created four months in. Still in shock that I could ever create a beautiful human being, I blankly stare at the pregnancy test from my trembling hands. I scurry to find resources to begin the next chapter in my life of becoming a mother. I'm from California, but I left a very toxic and extremely scary situation to become a much better version of myself. I had left bad habits and certain lifestyles behind as I realized I was given a second chance of flourishing, enrichment, and growth. Fast forward, I'm in a maternity home in the state Alabama, somewhere in the nice countryside surrounded by the pressures of giving up my sweet baby boy for adoption.

The feelings of stress, anxiety, hopelessness and sadness danced their way into my heart and settled into my tired mind. I almost caved – until my pregnancy counselor and program coordinator mentions St. Clare's in July of 2021. By this time, I'm around 8 and a half months pregnant and as big as a family sized van. I eagerly and enthusiastically sign the needed paperwork and plan for my trip to the home where all my mental and emotional stress would melt away. Twelve hours on the train I find myself home – August 3rd, 2021, at 3:30 am. Valerie waited with welcoming arms, and a grin that could light up the darkest of days.

From that day on, I met Sister Theresa and Sister Stella, followed by Claire, Kim, Kathy and the rest of the crew! As the summer days whizzed by, I felt loved, accepted, settled and at peace for the first time ever.

Two weeks later, I gave birth to the first born baby of St. Clare's. King is my beautiful, charming, healthy baby boy (see photo top right). Now, I'm set to graduate and test for my nationals as a Medical Insurance Specialist in June of 2022 with a dual certification. I'm beyond confident that I can overcome any obstacle thrown my way – because I was given a second chance to provide for my child, become a different and better person and enrich my life. I definitely plan on giving back one day volunteering at St. Clare's – and winning the lottery!



OUR FIRST MOTHER'S DAY



We are so blessed to be able to serve moms and babies at St Clare's Home. We were honored to celebrate with them for their first Mother's Day. Thanks to all who dropped off little surprises to make their day special.

Please remember the home is located in Greenville County. We have plenty of diapers and clothes at this time! Please consider one of the other items below, which can be sent or delivered to the Catholic Charities Office:

St. Clare's Home
c/o Jessica Thrall, Catholic Charities
2300 Old Buncombe Road | Greenville, SC 20609

To arrange donations only | 843-259-1108

INSIDE THE HOME

- AED / defibrillator
- Gift cards for groceries
- Ceiling fans

OUTSIDE THE HOME

- Gift cards for gasoline
- Fruit trees
- Paved walking path for moms
- Solar panels

PRAYER GARDEN

- St. Michael Statue approx. 1-2 ft high(1)
- Three outside benches

BUILDING RENOVATION NEEDS

- **Garage:** To turn in to additional space for storage
- **Barn:** replace flooring, paint interior, and update lighting + electric
- **Convent** for sisters to live in to free up space for moms



Some items are available on our Amazon wish list! Click here: [amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3827L6VMKKNOP?ref_=wl_fv_le](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3827L6VMKKNOP?ref_=wl_fv_le)



WE NEED YOU!

Do you have a heart for the mission of St. Clare's Home? We are looking for a great team player to fill our position as *Volunteer Coordinator*. Please send your resume to Valerie:

vbaronkin@charlestdiocese.org

