



St. Clare's Home

RESTORING HOPE ~ SAVING LIVES

NEWSLETTER 3 | SEPTEMBER 2022



Our First Anniversary!

St. Clare's Home just celebrated our first year anniversary! It has been a year of both joys and challenges serving our moms and their babies.

In August 2021, on the feast of St. Clare, we officially opened our doors after the Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel from Nigeria took their residence in the home.

During the first week of operation, we welcomed our first baby into the world. Baby King arrived at 3 a.m. on August 14. By God's grace, his mother made it to the home before going into labor. Since then, the home has witnessed the birth of five beautiful babies, ministered to 11 women, and provided a loving home to eight additional children. We are also joyfully anticipating the new arrival of three more babies.

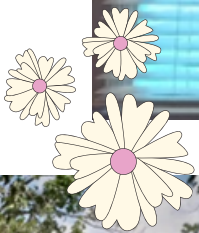
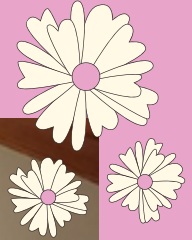
Our mission is to restore hope and save lives. We actively pursue this mission everyday by fulfilling our mothers' corporal and spiritual needs. Although we cannot offer permanent residence to every mother, we continuously offer support and resources to everyone in need of help, healing and love.

We are inspired by the bravery and humility of our moms who have sought support and continue to choose life. We are immensely proud of them for their dedication to the present and future well-being of their children. It is our hope that when they leave St. Clare's Home, they know the Catholic Church loves and cares for them and their children.

We are committed to building the kingdom of God in our communities one family at a time. Please pray for the continued success of our mission and for the protection, safety and health of our residents and staff.



“This is the safest home I
have ever lived in.”
-St. Clare’s Home Resident



OUR HOME IS BURSTING AT THE SEAMS, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GROW!

WE LOVE OUR SISTERS!



An Initiative to Build a New Convent

The Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel are doing a wonderful job creating a safe and loving environment for the families under our care. This job is not taken lightly. Our sisters act as coordinators for every aspect of our residents' daily schedules. From doctors' appointments and work schedules to school carpools and meal prep, the sisters work tirelessly around the clock to lift the burdens of everyday life off of our moms. The sisters also provide for the spiritual care of our residents.

Presently, our sisters occupy two bedrooms in the home. It is our hope and desire to build a new living space for our sisters. This will allow us to free up space in the main house, expand our offerings for more girls looking for a safe haven, and give our sisters a place to rest.

We plan to build a convent on site. Additionally, we plan to split the current home's master bedroom into two bedrooms. In order to accomplish these goals, we have created a fundraising campaign where donors can pay to name a room in memory of a saint or loved one. The estimated cost of both renovations is \$300,000. Extra funds collected during the campaign will go directly towards baby formula, clothes and other household expenditures.

Please consider donating to this campaign so that we offer more women a safe and loving home.

For more information on providing funds for this campaign, please call Valerie Baronkin at: 864-275-5505.



WE APPRECIATE YOU!



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Honoring Those Who Make Our Mission Possible

On Saturday, August 13, 2022, St. Clare's Home had the great privilege to honor its volunteers at a luncheon held at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Simpsonville. There was much to celebrate as we looked back over the last year at all that has been accomplished through the help of volunteers.

Updates were given by Sister Theresa, program director, Elizabeth Driscoll, volunteer coordinator, and Valerie Baronkin, executive director. Claire Pizzuti, the co-founder of St. Clare's Home, shared personal stories of the "God moments" she experienced this past year that culminated in the creation of St. Clare's.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and cake, organized by Monica Mason, Elda Zayas and their group of volunteers. Deacon Roger Schonewald closed the event with prayer. Everyone enjoyed gathering together to meet one another and share in the wonderful mission of St. Clare's Home. This luncheon was just a small token of the massive appreciation we have for our volunteers!



King's First Birthday *A Joyous Occasion!*

On Sunday, August 14, 2022, St. Clare's Home celebrated our first baby turning one! So much joy surrounded this Mom and her son as we reflected on King's first year of life.

To everyone's delight, King was able to walk across the room completely unassisted! Thank you to Monica Mason and Elda Zayas for organizing such a beautiful party.





SISTER STELLA AND KATHY SCHMUTGE

Baby Shower for Moms

On Saturday, August 20, 2022, St. Clare's Home hosted not one but three baby showers for three beautiful moms who will be having their babies in the coming months.

Each mom was surrounded by so much love as other women in the house, staff, volunteers, friends and family gathered to honor these women and truly shower them with love, support and gifts to help them as they prepare for their babies to enter the world.

Celebrating three beautiful women!



FUN & GAMES!



MOTHERS ENJOYING THEIR BABY SHOWER



MOTHER HIGHLIGHT



A young mom reached out to us in desperation. She was working for just nine dollars per hour and wondered how she was going to make ends meet with a baby on the way. When her fiancé went to jail, she didn't know what to do.

Then she heard about St Clare's Home and the possibility to get shelter while going to school. She jumped at the opportunity, glad to leave her current bedbug-infested home. While pregnant, she started her classes in life skills at the home, in addition to professional classes. After the baby was born she passed the coursework and received her certification. She qualified to be a medical administrative office assistant.

When her fiancé's charges were dropped and he was finally released from prison, the mom did not go back to him immediately. She needed evidence that he had reformed his life and received the necessary treatment for his issues. When she was convinced that he had turned his life around, with her baby close to a year old, she decided to move back with him to complete their dream to be a family. She left St. Clare's Home in June with an education, a better job and essential life skills. She was very happy with how far she had come, exclaiming as she left the home, "I feel like I can do anything!" It is serving strong women like this that make our mission so worthwhile.

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](https://charlestandiocese.flocknote.com/StClaresHome)

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