



St. Clare's Home

RESTORING HOPE ~ SAVING LIVES

NEWSLETTER 4 | FEBRUARY 2023



New Year's Greetings!

Greetings to our many supporters of St. Clare's Home. As we enter the New Year, I want to give you a brief update on the home. St. Clare's has served 17 women, 10 already born children, and seen the birth of eight babies. Several women have launched into independent living, and we continue to have new moms calling for help. We are so grateful for our donors and volunteers that make St. Clare's a place to help moms and children!

You are Invited to the Pink & Blue Gala!

The Pink & Blue Gala will be held **Saturday, March 25**, at the Greenville Convention Center. This event supports the ongoing operations of St. Clare's. There are many sponsorship opportunities for this event, plus ticket and table purchasing. Please click this [link](#) to view our Pink & Blue Gala website page. We would love to see you there!

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 Home would not be possible without you. On behalf of the many women, children and babies we serve, THANK YOU and Happy New Year.

In prayer and support of all women who choose life and their unborn children,

Valerie

Valerie Baronkin
Executive Director

CHRIST IS BORN!



Christmas Celebration *A Truly Magical Occasion!*

This Christmas season we were able to provide a truly magical Christmas celebration and sharing of traditions for moms who had never had those experiences. We decorated the tree together in mid-December while listening to Christmas music; decorated Christmas stockings as part of our Child Crafts Class; baked breads and cookies as part of our Baking Class; then Santa visited Dec. 16, plus singing Christmas carols and drinking hot chocolate! The moms and babies had their pictures taken with Santa, that will be a visual memory of the day where so many people showered them with the love of Christ.

On Dec. 19, we celebrated our annual St. Clare's Home Christmas Party for moms and invited Alumni moms back to celebrate with the staff. The party was organized by Elizabeth Driscoll, Volunteer Coordinator, and volunteers Elda Zayas and Sande Boyd. We enjoyed homemade cookies, treats and punch. St. Mary Magdalene Church's Giving Tree blessed us with so many presents for moms, babies and staff. Also, St. Mary's, the SC Cursillo Ultraya group's giving trees and the Bucaro family blessed us with an abundance of gift cards for the moms and home. Diane Kent of the Foothills Piecemakers Quilt Guild arranged for each mother and baby to receive a lap quilt and play quilt handmade by their members as a special gift they can keep forever.



TREE DECORATING



GIFTS GALORE



SANDIE BOYD AND SR. THERESA WATCH MOM OPEN GIFTS



HANDMADE QUILTS



BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS CAROLS



MEMBERS OF THE ST. MARY'S STUDENT CHOIR SINGING CAROLS AT THE HOME

Santa visits St. Clare's

Santa and his elves made their first appearance at St. Clare's on Friday, Dec. 16. Homemade cookies and hot chocolate were enjoyed by our moms and volunteers while Santa took requests from the children in attendance. Members of St. Mary's student choir sang beautiful Christmas carols for the enjoyment of all. We sincerely thank our special volunteers, including Jerry and Judy Lema, who provided gifts for our young ones in attendance and for Knight Tom Giambarberee, and Maura and Kedric Chamberlin who made the special arrangements for Santa to visit from the North Pole. It was a magical experience and for some moms it was their **first real Christmas!** It was an honor for us all to share in that experience.



SANTA & MRS. CLAUS



MAURA & KEDRIC CHAMBERLIN WITH SISTER STELLA & SANTA



SISTER STELLA TAKING CARE OF EVERYONE



SANTA WITH KING

A BEAUTIFUL BAPTISM THAT REIGNITED A MOTHER'S CATHOLIC FAITH

BAPTIZING BABY ISZY



HONEY HOLDS HER BABY, ISZAMINA, DURING THE BAPTISM

Baptismal Reflection

In 37 years of Church ministry, I have been privileged to have conducted hundreds of baptisms. Each has been a great experience of God's love for us, and I was able to conduct the baptism of Iszamina Areal Elizabeth Grace, born to Honey, a St. Clare's mom. The birth of a child is always symbolic of our participation in God's creative process. Seeing the glow on the mother's face reminds us of the glow that must have been on the Blessed Mother's face when she presented her Son, Jesus in the temple. We are especially reminded that God works in his own way whenever we approach him in life. While having her Iszamina baptized, Honey had her own faith reignited. What had been an ember came back a flame. Honey **returned to the sacrament of Reconciliation and received Holy Communion**. The community of St. Clare's Home – staff and residents – joined Honey in celebrating this joyous occasion. It was a very joyful time. I personally wish Honey, Iszamina, the staff and all the young ladies at St. Clare's Home God's blessing and a successful future life. –Deacon Gary Walczak



ISZAMINA WITH HER MOTHER, GODPARENTS AND DEACON GARY



Tanae Johnson

A St. Clare's success



December 2022

Before coming to St. Clare's home, I thought I was going to have to give my baby up for adoption. I was homeless, lost my job due to medical reasons, and it was hard finding work because I was high risk, and I was not supposed to be working. I was, in my opinion, at rock bottom. My aunt then helped me find St. Clare's home. I was really scared because it was three hours away in a new environment, but I wanted to keep my baby, and this was the best option.

Coming to St. Clare's was at first scary for me. Thankfully, the other residents here at the time were very welcoming. That made it easier for me to adapt to being in a new place. I honestly did not know what to expect living here, but it ended up being a big steppingstone to better things.

I arrived in April, and while being here I have learned a lot of things. From learning how to manage my finances to learning how to sew. I have enjoyed most

of the classes they provided, my favorite being the child craft class. While being here I also have met a lot of great people that even though they went beyond the home, we still keep in contact.

Most importantly, I have learned a lot of patience, self-confidence and determination. That's just the beginning. While being here I gave birth to a healthy baby boy in June. I also started and finished my higher education online which gave me more time to spend with and take care of my son.

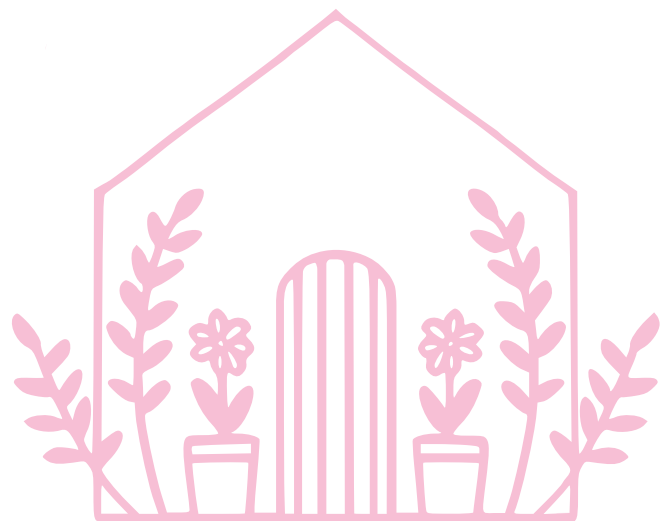
Now that I have found a permanent home, it's bittersweet. I hate to leave the people and the area, but I accomplished what I came here for. I couldn't have asked for a better home to be my steppingstone to self-sufficiency and greatness. I will miss everyone here from the staff to the volunteers. I thank you all for being here and for all your help, and thank you St. Clare's for helping me achieve what I needed to.



Temporary Convent

Our Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel have moved into a temporary convent as we make plans to build a convent on the property. This move freed up the huge master bedroom, which we were able to split and make into two bedrooms for moms. One sister always stays at St. Clare's overnight.

We now have the capability to house eight women, which is the limit for our group home. We are very excited about being able to serve additional mothers and babies, and hope to expand our efforts to care for more women soon!



BABY SHOWER!



St. Clare's celebrated three of our moms as they prepare to give birth to their babies!

At the baby shower, members of staff, volunteers and friends of the home had another chance to provide emotional support for our moms-to-be, and many gift items were presented to the moms to soon take care of their newborns!

We use this time to appreciate God for giving our moms the grace and strength to care for themselves and the unborn and ask for safe delivery.



Volunteers set up our gorgeous Nativity scene!



WE WELCOMED NOT ONE, BUT TWO BABIES!



Rosemary & Tokio joined us this month!

We are excited to announce the newest additions to St. Clare's Home! Rosemary was born Tuesday, Jan. 24. She weighs 7 pounds and 13 ounces, and is 20 inches tall. Tokio was born Sunday, Jan. 29. He weighs 7 pounds and 13 ounces, and is 22 inches tall. Please join us in continued prayers for our mothers and babies!



Happy Birthday



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL GALA

Saturday, March 25 at the
Greenville Convention Center

Join us for an evening of fellowship, fun and fund-raising to support the mission and operations of St. Clare's Home. SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES and ticket sales are on our site, stclareshomesc.org/pink-blue-gala.

Questions?

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