You’ve Got the Cutest Little Baby Face

Prince  
Nov. 22

Natalie  
Dec. 22

Mia Celeste  
Feb 4

Abdielyz  
March 28

Serenity  
April 15

Banjo  
May 29

A Life-Changing Experience

“My arrival to Visitation House I feel was destined. Before that I was really heading down the wrong road between drugs and depression. I didn’t realize I was pregnant until 4 months in, and my plan was to get an abortion because I was pressured by so many people, including doctors, and I felt very alone. I made 4 abortion appointments, but every one was interrupted in some way, shape, or form. The 4th time, my mom, who is pro-life, didn’t know she was bringing me to Planned Parenthood to terminate; she thought I was just getting an ultrasound, which made me feel horrible in itself. The day of the appointment, we missed the entrance to Planned Parenthood and went to turn around when 2 women, who I consider my baby’s angels, were standing there. They asked if I needed any help. I tried to show them away because they were holding pamphlets, and I knew what they were going to talk to me about. But my mom rolled down the window and started to talk. They offered me a free ultrasound at the crisis pregnancy center, and I finally agreed because they were very sweet and not threatening or judging. The ultrasound tech came in just for me, and I found out I was about 16 weeks. Once I saw that ultrasound, my baby moving, and all of her bones, I couldn’t go through with aborting. They told me there was help available and told me about Visitation House. I had some hesitation about coming, but now that I’m here I feel safe, and I feel that there’s hope. I have a lot of things to take care of to get ready for the real world, and since I’ve been here, I’ve been tackling them one by one with the help of the staff. I’ve made a drastic change in how I’m living and feel so much happier. I think of the staff at Visitation House as my angels. My opinion about abortion has changed, too. It seemed like the easy way out. I had no idea there were places like Visitation House that provide options for women, and I wish that more women knew. I know my road from here may not be easy, and I’m scared about what the future holds, but no matter what happens, I keep in mind that I am giving my baby life. My baby will have a chance now, and that’s so much better than what could have happened.”

Jalyssa’s Story

“My name is Jalyssa. Before I came to Visitation House, I was struggling with my son and found out I was pregnant with my daughter. I’ve never had a stable support system that did not judge me or help me unless it benefitted them. I was homeless, and no one cared until I got there (VH). I was on the verge of losing my son because I could not give him a stable home. Living at VH helped me to grow as a person and mother. It helped me to trust and have faith. It was hard at times living there with other people. I was alone for so long, in and out of foster homes, but I formed a bond with the staff and girls. They were there for my family when no one else was. Today I am currently in school to earn a Medical Office Certificate at Salter College. I have my own place with just me and my kids. I just bought my first car, and I’m proud to say my life changed for the better thanks to the Visitation House. Urijah is now 2 and learning to talk. Sophia is 8 months and the happiest little girl I know, and I owe it to VH for being there for me when I had nothing but a dream, a pregnancy, my son, and the clothes on our backs. The Visitation House helped me to grow and get the essentials to provide for and be the best mother to my blessings.”

IT STARTS WITH YOU: Jalyssa’s story would not have been possible without you, our faithful supporters. We have been fortunate to receive a number of generous bequests in the past couple of years that have really helped us to make ends meet. Please consider including Visitation House in your estate planning. You have the ability to truly save the life of a beautiful baby like Sophia and to give women who are struggling to overcome their past experiences a second chance. That would be a powerful legacy.
At our annual dinner on April 25th, we had a great night full of food & fun, old friends & new friends, — all to benefit a good cause: keeping the doors of Visitation House open as a refuge for women in need. Our keynote speaker, Erika Bachiochi, pointed out, “Visitation House has its own power of persuasion in the abortion debate, simply because it exists.”

We appreciate all of you who have given: your time and talent your prayers of support in honor of friends or family in celebration of special occasions, like birthdays or anniversaries through United Way

Your generosity allows us to continue to help mothers who need support to give their babies a healthy start!

New Board Members
We are excited that three wonderful people have accepted Eve’s invitation to join the Board. Christina Crowley (St. Bernadette’s) and Callie Foster (Immaculate Conception Parish) have been actively engaged supporters of VH for several years. Kevin Kieler (St. Luke’s Parish) was introduced to VH more recently and jumped right in to helping plan and run the annual dinner. We look forward to the addition of their new perspectives and ideas.

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Some donors have set up an automatic monthly donation through their employer.

Become a sustaining member of the Visitation House family. You can sign up for EFT (electronic funds transfer) by filling out the form on our website and mailing it to Eve at the address provided. Or you can donate safely and easily using PayPal.

NEW STAFF MEMBER
Jane Staite recently joined our staff to cover weekend shifts. (We’re here for our residents 24/7.) She’s new to the area and a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in W. Boylston.

Prayer Need: We live in a time and place where there seems to be very little respect for God’s gift of sexuality. Please pray (and act) for a change in our culture. Our residents struggle to embrace purity in the midst of so many negative influences.

Following Pope Francis’s call to make baptism readily available to single mothers, we have obtained special permission from Bishop McManus for Fr. Roy to conduct baptisms in our chapel (to be recorded at Our Lady of Czestochowa parish). We have plans for two children to be baptized this summer, and one resident is currently studying to make her confirmation.

Special thanks to:
- Fr. Michael Roy, Fr. John Gavin, and Fr. Adam Reid for saying Mass in our chapel for us once a month
- Tom Hardy for his many years of service on the Visitation House Board
- Horizons for Homeless Children for providing baby care one afternoon a week to give residents time to catch up on chores
- Jim Hudson, our webmaster
- The parishes, schools, & church groups who have been extremely generous in donating their time, talent, and treasure
- The many individuals who have donated baby items and clothing for the moms

Life Skill Highlights: Steven and Dawn Sandoval lead “Conversations about God” twice a month. Callie Foster has shared her expertise on chastity and natural family planning. Kathy Gervais will be teaching a new set of classes on addiction and smoking cessation.

Home Improvement
As the custodians of many diocesan buildings have done, we are also converting our heating system from oil to gas to save on our fuel bills. We will start to see the savings in the Fall.

Joy of CHRISTMAS

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