

# St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families

## 2022 Fall Newsletter



## In Her Own Words: Sierra's Story



*For client confidentiality, Sierra (not real name) and her daughter are not depicted in the above, licensed image.*

*Sierra is an accomplished student and an aspiring business owner who moved with her daughter into St. Ann's Center's Hope House program after her employer shuttered during COVID. Sierra took time out of her busy schedule to share her journey and her experience as a young mother.*

My name is Sierra, and I have been living with my one-year-old daughter at St. Ann's Center since February 2022. Her father and I co-parent together and it is going really well. I am glad that we co-parent her, since I grew up without my own parents and parented myself to adulthood.

Pursuing my education is important to me. In the same year I graduated from high school, I also graduated from Prince George's Community College. Then in 2019, I entered trade school and graduated in 2021 – when I was three-and-a-half months pregnant.

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## September Snapshot



Thanks to your generosity, five new mothers and their children moved in to St. Ann's Center during September to begin their journey towards healing and stability.

**Thank You!**





Tonya (Left) Receives Recognition Award, 2022



Tonya (Right) with Sister Mary and Cardinal Gregory, 2022



Former Board Member Nicola Whiteman,  
Sister Mary Bader, and Tonya (Right) in 2017

## Thank You, Tonya Sharpe!

This month, we specially recognize Tonya Sharpe, who is stepping away from St. Ann's Center's Board of Directors after concluding her second term on the Board – including three years as President of the Board.

Tonya has led us through an extraordinary season of change, challenge, and growth – for which we are incredibly grateful!

From our very first meeting in the mid-2000s, I knew Tonya resonated with St. Ann's mission and with the special journeys which moms and their children undertake during their time here.

In the years since, Tonya has found many unique ways to serve our mission as a volunteer, fundraiser, and friend-raiser extraordinaire, just to name a few! It has been a joy to receive Tonya's trademark phone calls, which begin with:

*“So I have an idea for St. Ann's...”*

Time after time, Tonya's ideas have led to wonderful new opportunities for our community. In addition to her large-scale efforts, Tonya has also shared herself as a mentor and coach to many young women living in our Teen-Mother Baby and Hope House programs.

This kind of care can never be measured in words or numbers – but only in the legacy that will long follow Tonya's tenure with us.

Tonya, you are – and continue to be – a gift to St. Ann's and all who walk through our doors. We wish you every blessing in the chapters yet to come! And we can't wait to see what's next for you.

*Sister Mary Bader*

Sister Mary Bader, CEO

## In Her Own Words: Sierra's Story

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I completed another trade school program in August 2022. I am also currently in a nursing program.

Prior to COVID, I did have my own place – but when the pandemic hit, the child care center I worked for closed down and without my job I faced eviction. I stayed briefly with family but that was unfortunately not long-term. During this stressful time, I also found out I was pregnant.

I was able to stay with another housing program, but this program had a deadline for when I needed to transition out. So I researched other housing programs and found St. Ann's.

St. Ann's was not what I expected at all – it was great. I had a good intake conversation with Ms. Gatewood, and processing didn't take long at all. Coming from a shared home with common rooms, I was excited that St. Ann's provided a private room for me and my daughter. The [on-site] day care is wonderful since I can have my daughter there while I am working.

Finding employment was challenging, but I was able to get a job at a local supermarket. My manager has been very supportive in allowing me to set my schedule around my daughter's needs.

I am also working on another challenge: setting up and maintaining a budget. St. Ann's staff has helped me plan a budget and create a budget binder to keep track of everything.

I am proud of the goals I have achieved at St. Ann's. Along with Ms. Gatewood, I have worked most closely with Ms. Celeste, Ms. Keisha, Ms. Gayle, and Ms. Tawanda. These women have been like mother figures to me. I want to say thank you to them, and also to Sister Mary Bader.



My message to young mothers like myself is to never give up! Before, I wanted to give up so badly. I didn't want to be around anyone, but since then many people have helped me keep going. I have realized that losing my mother at age 2 and basically losing my father are things which were not fair and really hurt me. It also makes me want to be here for my own daughter.

*"Never give up for your child."*

My daughter's father and his parents (my daughter's grandparents) are an inspiration to me. Through their words and their actions, they have really supported me. My daughter motivates me to keep growing and learning. I refuse to give up for her. Motherhood to me is putting my daughter first. I didn't have the help I needed growing up, but I want her to have it.

In the short term, I am looking forward to finishing my nursing program. It's self-paced, so I can work at it between parenting and my job. In the near future, I hope to own my own business – a one-stop hair and nail salon which also offers on-site child care for the community.

We are still figuring out the long-term plans, but I can say that my hope and dream for my daughter is that she grows up into someone who keeps pushing, doesn't quit, and never gives up on herself.

## Photo Gallery: Memorable Moments at St. Ann's Center!



Several resident children and children from the community graduated from St. Ann's Child Care! 🙌



Residents, Child Care students, and parents and teachers during St. Ann's annual July 4th Parade! ❤️



Jiffy Lube Live staff organized a donation drive for St. Ann's during The Chicks' recent VA concert! 😲



Friends and donors visited St. Ann's in August to drop off school supplies for our families! 🥰



Jiffy Lube Live also hosted a School Supply Drive in our auditorium! 😊



St. Ann's begins our exterior brick and mortar renovation project! 👍

## St. Ann's Stories: Q+A with Board Member Lenora Fuller-McCall

*A D.C. native, Lenora attended D.C. Public Schools and earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the George Washington University (GWU), where she majored in public affairs, economics, and legislative affairs. She completed additional studies at American University, the University of Maryland, Syracuse University's Maxwell School, and the Naval War College (Strategic Plans and War Games).*

*She worked at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington D.C. and its European Office in Frankfurt, Germany for almost two decades as a Congressional investigator, with a focus on defense readiness program requirements as well as budgets, foreign assistance programs, intelligence, international broadcasting operations, and U.N. peacekeeping operations. She also worked as a strategic planner and program auditor at the U.S. Department of State (OIG). Lenora has worked in and traveled to over 39 countries.*

*Lenora retired in 2013 after 33 years of federal service. She is active as a mentor with GWU's African American Student Alumni Association. Lenora has also been active in St. Gabriel's Church in D.C. since 1973, where she is a Sodalist and past member of the Parish Council and the Pastoral Green Team. She is married to Dr. Louis McCall, a retired professor and Foreign Service officer, who is a Cantor at her parish.*

### How were you first introduced to St. Ann's Center?

Following my graduate studies at GWU, I took additional journalism classes which led me to write for my parish newspaper. Then I wrote as a parish correspondent about life at St. Gabriel's for the *Catholic Standard*. The newspaper invited me to join their board. Two years later, I joined the board of *Catholic Charities*. Around that time, my parish's *Sodality Apostolic Life Committee* encouraged me to attend St. Ann's Center's Christmas Open House and get involved.

There I got to meet St. Ann's teachers and clients



and hear about their experiences. I enjoyed these conversations and looked forward to attending each year. One year, I talked with Sister Mary and asked about the performance measures being used at St. Ann's. She in turn asked about my background in strategic planning – and invited me back the following week to talk about mission evaluation. Soon afterward, I was asked to join St. Ann's board. I am now finishing up my third year as a board member.

### What is the most rewarding part of being a member of St. Ann's Board of Directors?

It is a privilege to hear the stories of persons who at one time had no hope, yet through their experiences at St. Ann's developed hope and belief in themselves, and the confidence and belief that they could positively impact their children's lives. To echo Michael Steele (who I knew as an altar boy at St. Gabriel's!):

*“St. Ann's Center is a place where lives are rebuilt –where people with no hope can find hope and have the confidence to achieve good things.”*

It brings me joy to be involved even in indirect ways of helping others to reach their goals. Growing up, our parents believed in us; I never doubted that they had confidence I would achieve. But I've met young people who don't grow up with that support.

*(Continued)*

## Q+A with Board Member Lenora Fuller-McCall

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In my life, I have volunteered and mentored with other organizations achieving good things – but with a faith-based organization, you're not just working with your own goals. You're being guided by a higher power, and that makes a difference. It's likely your goals will have a high probability of success. The goal is to transform lives, you see it happen. And St. Ann's has transformed lives.

### What do you wish more people knew about St. Ann's Center?

I wish more people could see and hear from all the women who have taken charge of their lives through St. Ann's training programs. It would be wonderful to have a panel of St. Ann's graduates talking about what they learned, who they were and who they are now, what they've shared with their children, and how their overall lives have been turned around.

Each year at Hope Blossoms we have the chance to hear from one individual – which is always a special experience. If people could hear from a group of St. Ann's alumni, though, I think that would make a significant impact. It would also help our staff

and board grow, by listening to clients about what has been effective and where we might improve our programs.

### What is the best advice you've ever received?

"Be yourself." And "Have faith in God." Faith transforms your life. I've been blessed with so many miracles in my life. God has been good to me. So I try to serve and to give back. He hasn't finished – I am still processing and discerning what He wants me to do.

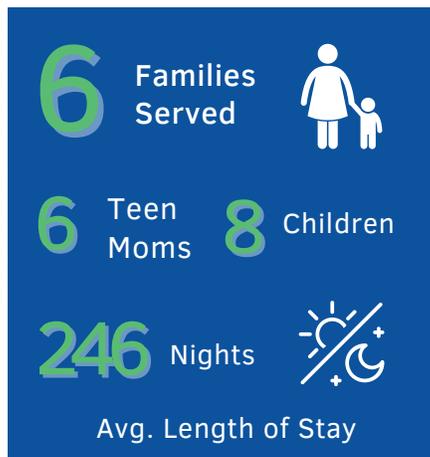
### What is your favorite place to visit in Washington, D.C. and why?

I love the National Museum of African American History and Culture. One, because I love history. Two, because I love cultural studies.

This museum makes me think of overcoming. We're resilient people in spite of all the obstacles thrown in front of us. Despite all the obstacles, we just keep fighting back. We're faithful people. But the goal is not just to accomplish for ourselves, but to help others too.

## St. Ann's Center - FY22 Program Highlights

GRACE HOUSE



HOPE HOUSE



FAITH HOUSE



## From the Development Desk

### Fall Plans to Save on Taxes!

Gifts to St. Ann's Center are a blessing year-round. Fall, in particular, is a great time to make plans to save money on 2022 taxes while supporting your favorite not-for-profit organizations —including St. Ann's Center (EIN: 53-0204626). For example:



#### Appreciated Securities

If you have held stock or mutual fund shares for more than a year and they have increased in value, you can contribute the stocks directly to St. Ann's Center and avoid capital gains taxes. You'll be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction for the full value of the securities.

#### Portion of IRA Required Minimum Distribution

If you donate a portion of your annual required minimum distribution directly to St. Ann's from your IRA account, you can avoid paying income taxes on that part of the distribution.

This is also a good time to make sure your will accurately reflects your wishes, including potentially supporting favorite charities as part of your legacy. For more information, please contact me at [sflaherty@stanns.org](mailto:sflaherty@stanns.org) or 301-559-5500

*Best wishes,  
Sue Flaherty  
Vice President, Development*

## Workplace Giving

Please support St. Ann's Center through your local workplace giving campaigns. To request a St. Ann's client or staff member to speak at your workplace, contact Susan Flaherty at [sflaherty@stanns.org](mailto:sflaherty@stanns.org) or 301-559-5500 x163.



#53-0204626



#29344



#8180

## Join the Circle!

Thank you to St. Ann's Circle of Angels for your monthly/quarterly contributions. Your recurring donations enable St. Ann's to provide high-quality care all year long. For more information contact Sue Flaherty at [sflaherty@stanns.org](mailto:sflaherty@stanns.org) or 301-559-5500. You can also sign up online at [www.stanns.org](http://www.stanns.org).





A Tradition of Caring

## St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families

4901 Eastern Avenue  
Hyattsville, MD 20782-3301

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Wednesday, OCT. 5

#### Fall Social

Our annual  
Fall Social.

*The Irish Inn at Glen Echo  
Glen Echo, MD  
5:30pm to 7:30pm*

Sunday, DEC. 4

#### Christmas Open House

Our annual  
holiday celebration.

*St. Ann's Center  
Hyattsville, MD  
1:00 pm to 3:00pm*

Wednesday, MAY 10

#### *Hope Blossoms*

Our annual reception  
and awards ceremony.

*Columbia Country Club  
Chevy Chase, MD*

Visit our website for additional details about  
these events and registration information:



[www.stanns.org/events](http://www.stanns.org/events)

CONNECT WITH US!  [www.stanns.org](http://www.stanns.org)

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