

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

2023 Fall Newsletter



In Her Own Words: Hana's Story



Hana and her son Abraham, photo courtesy of Hana

Hana is an aspiring health professional who just celebrated her 25th birthday at St. Ann's Center, where she and her son live as they prepare for their future. Hana took time from her busy schedule to share about her journey and her goals for her family.

My name is Hana, and I just celebrated my 25th birthday. I have a son, Abraham, who is one year and nine months old. I came with him to St. Ann's Center because I have been struggling.

Unfortunately, I do not have many family members I can rely on for help. I have been through several different shelters in the region – but these were not good environments where I could work on my goals.

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You Make a Difference!

5



Through your support, FIVE families successfully transitioned from St. Ann's Center to stable, independent housing in FY2023. Thank you for helping make these journeys possible!

**Thank
You!**



www.stanns.org



New Beginnings: A Message from Sister Mary Bader, CEO

Dear Friend,

Your help continues to allow St. Ann's Center to be a place of *new beginnings!*

Our Child Care Center started a new school year in August, welcoming students from families living at St. Ann's as well as families in our local community. Furthermore, this year St. Ann's began our first *Head Start* classroom, expanding upon our *Early Head Start* program incorporated in 2017.

This expansion is an amazing blessing for St. Ann's and the families we serve.

In September, we welcomed two new resident families – one to our *Teen Mother & Baby Program*, and one to *Hope House*, our supportive housing program for mothers and their children.

Also in September, our Board of Directors approved St. Ann's new three-year Strategic Plan, ensuring a bright and hopeful future for our programs. We are so thankful for the start of this new chapter in St. Ann's amazing 163-year history.

There is another new beginning on the horizon – one you may have seen in St. Ann's communications. After 18 years as CEO,

I will be transitioning from St. Ann's to accept a new leadership assignment from the *Daughters of Charity* this December. St. Ann's Board of Directors has begun the search for our next CEO, who will continue to adapt and grow our programs.

There is more to share (and more you can read now at www.stanns.org) but please know: ***St. Ann's Center is in a healthy and strong position thanks to our Board, our dedicated staff, and our faithful supporters like you.***

Thank you for all the ways you have helped me to serve St. Ann's mission – which will continue to assist families for years to come.

My heart is full of gratitude for this chapter we have shared together in the story of St. Ann's Center. I have faith, that through God's loving providence, many more wonderful chapters will be written!

With Gratitude and Joy,

Sister Mary Bader, CEO
St. Ann's Center for
Children, Youth and Families



Our Donors Make *New Beginnings* Possible

Thank you to *Deloitte*, *Ebenezer Methodist Church SUWMA*, the *Greater Suburban Maryland Chapter, JJOA* (pictured), *Jiffy Lube Live / Live Nation*, *Prince George's County Government - OHRM Workplace Well-Being Committee*, *Team MDRM*, and individual donors for providing St. Ann's resident families with needed school supplies in this important season of *new beginnings*.

We appreciate you!





Hana's Story, Continued

(Continued from Cover)

... So, I searched online for single-mother housing programs, found St. Ann's, and we moved in on March 22, 2022.

When I first arrived to St. Ann's, I was nervous. I transferred here from Northern Virginia, so I did not know Maryland or many people here. St. Ann's is also a quiet place, not like the shelters I had been to. It took time, but I got used to St. Ann's and I always asked questions when I needed help. Ms. Keisha has been especially helpful to me.

The whole St. Ann's staff is very nice. My only challenge here has been saying goodbye when staff members leave St. Ann's! It is hard when you have gotten close to that person.

Today I am on track to achieve my goals and dreams. I work at a Walgreen's customer service center while my son attends St. Ann's Child Care. My plan is to become a nurse or nursing assistant by the end of 2025, since I enjoy the healthcare field and helping people that way. It is a challenge to balance online classes with my work schedule and parenting, but I am trying my best and I will get there.

My dreams are not about material things – they are about a successful life. Same thing for my child; I want him to have the best life possible, and to have the experiences I did not have.



"What I've learned about motherhood is to be positive, even through difficult times. Motherhood is challenging – but at the same time I am happy, because I'm here at St. Ann's. I've learned that taking things step-by-step is the best way to reach my goals and create a better life for me and my child."

The advice I would give to new mothers in my position would be to take life slow. There are many distractions, but try to step back and think about the future. The past can affect you, but move forward and don't look back – the past will not return.

"It is hard to give advice, since everyone is different. You cannot be me, and I cannot be you. Just do your thing – and believe in God that life will get better. Have faith! Tomorrow is another day."

I am making each day count. I spend quality time with my son every night after I am done with work. I also try to read in my free time to help catch up on my education. It was hard for me when I first came to this country. I couldn't say one word in English. In high school I could not respond when someone said, "How are you?" That made it hard to make friends.

But I became close with my teachers and would eat lunch with them and even have after-school tutoring with them to help me improve. Sometimes I wish I was still in high school because of those positive memories. I thank God now that my conversational English has improved to the level I am at today. My next goal is to work on my reading and writing skills.

The last 6-7 years have been challenging, moving between different shelters and roommates. But I lived, you know? I say thank you to God, to be alive today. That's all I can say.

My message for anyone going through a challenging time is: Take it slow. You will learn everything you need to know in time. Believe in yourself and try not to compare yourself to others.



Jiffy Lube Live / Live Nation Team Host Rockin' Back-to-School-Night!

This August, *Jiffy Lube Live / Live Nation* volunteers hosted a school supply drive at St. Ann's to help resident families prepare for this special season. Team leader (and former St. Ann's Board Chair) **Tonya Sharpe** reflects:

"Back-to-school-night at St. Ann's has become a new tradition for the *Jiffy Lube Live / Live Nation* team. During our summer concert season, *Jiffy Lube Live* staff donated supplies for the families at St. Ann's. I was overwhelmed with joy to see the amount of items donated. There were so many school supplies, office supplies and snacks that a U-HAUL truck was needed to deliver everything to the families on August 15.

"St. Ann's auditorium was set up just like a store and families were given the opportunity to shop. It was an absolute joy to see the smiles on the faces of the mothers because they no longer had to worry about their children having the supplies they needed for school.

"Each child could pick out their own brand-new backpack and fill it to the brim with supplies and snacks for school. My heart was full of joy being there to share with them the kindness of strangers - and to let them know they were cared for by people who did not know them. I will always remember this special evening."



"It was extra-special collaborating on this event with Sister Mary Bader. Sister Mary, our entire Jiffy Lube Live / Live Nation team extends our warmest thanks (and a big hug!) for your inspiring leadership of St. Ann's, and for your years of friendship with our team. We can't wait to see what's next for you!"





Celebrating Sister Mary Bader

In a letter to St. Ann's Center's community on September 25, Sister Mary Bader shared the news that she will be transitioning from St. Ann's to accept a new leadership assignment from the *Daughters of Charity*. In this letter, Sister Mary offered thanks for the community that has blessed and sustained St. Ann's during her time as CEO:

"[My heart is full] of gratitude for the exceptional support you have given mothers and their little ones at St. Ann's Center. Through your generous gifts, you have helped so many families move from a life of uncertainty to one of hope, opportunity and independence. You have made a lasting difference in their lives."

Sister Mary - our staff, Board, and supporters hope you know that **you too** have made a lasting difference in all our lives - especially the lives of the many families who have journeyed through St. Ann's Center over the last 18 years!

We celebrate the spirit of hope and compassion you have brought to this role each day. We give thanks for the significant adaptation and growth of St. Ann's during your tenure, including:

- *Transforming a long-time residential program for young foster children into supportive, transitional housing for families facing homelessness.*
- *Adopting St. Ann's trauma-informed, strengths-based, developmental, reflective **Model of Care**.*
- *Helping ensure that St. Ann's never had to close our doors or turn away a family during COVID.*
- *Working with our Child Care team to incorporate Early Head Start and now, Head Start programs.*
- *Establishing our Community Outreach Program as well as our Employment & Education Program.*

These are just a few highlights from an amazing tenure, during which you have led, inspired, and encouraged our community and families. Thank you for authoring - *and inviting others to co-author* - this incredible chapter in St. Ann's story. We can't wait to see what your future holds. **God bless you!**



"Sister Mary has enabled countless families in our region to heal, thrive, and grow toward bright new futures. Sister Mary - thank you for all you have done for the mothers and their children who have called and continue to call St. Ann's Center home.

"You will be greatly missed and fondly remembered for your kindness, generosity, and commitment to the mission of St. Ann's Center."

- Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington



"Sister Mary has championed St. Ann's Vision and Mission through her tenacity, compassion, dedication, and love. She is cherished by the mothers and young children at St. Ann's, who are often seen running to her for a hug. She models strength, humility, kindness, and understanding when engaging with St. Ann's residents, employees, donors, or vendors.

"Her commitment to providing an exemplary home for mothers and their families has kept St. Ann's accreditation on target and current. She has also led St. Ann's through the COVID-19 pandemic and a much-needed facility renovation.

"Sister Mary will be greatly missed, but we are all so thankful to her for the solid foundation she has provided us - ensuring a bright and long-lasting future for St. Ann's Mission."

- Mary Lou Goehrung, St. Ann's Center Board Chair



What's New at St. Ann's?

Circle of Angels Gather for Tea and Thanksgiving

Our "Circle of Angels" gathered at St. Ann's Center on September 21 for afternoon tea and comprehensive tours of our supportive and transitional housing programs. Sister Mary opened with a prayer and message of gratitude in St. Ann's chapel, thanking this group (and the "Angels" who couldn't be there in person) for their commitment to supporting St. Ann's families through regular contributions. *Want to join our Circle?* Send an email to: etoups@stanns.org



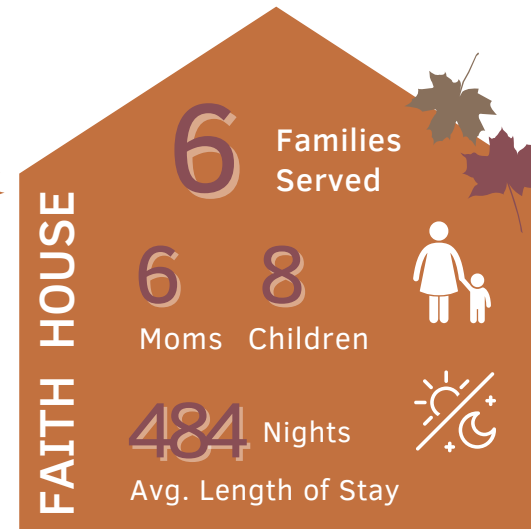
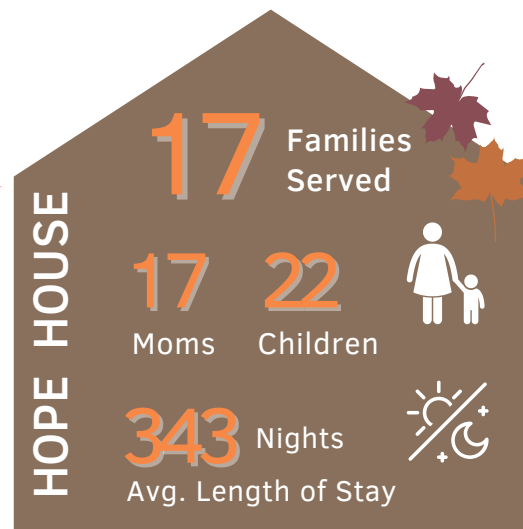
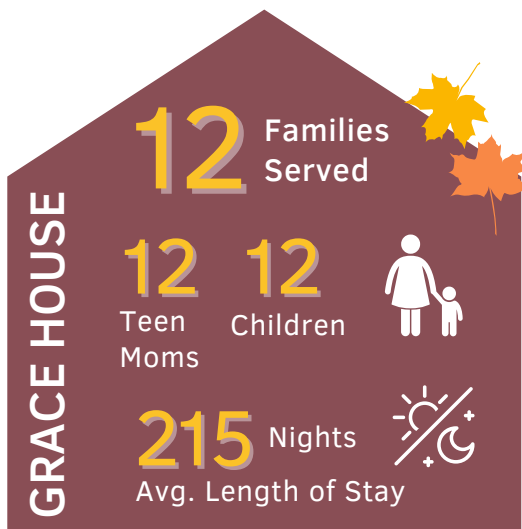
Young Professionals Network Hosts Summer Happy Hour

St. Ann's *Young Professionals Network* hosted a fun Summer Happy Hour fundraiser at Dacha Beer Garden in Navy Yard on August 22. Over 40 people purchased wristbands and raffle tickets, raising over \$1,000 for St. Ann's families. The event was made possible through Dacha's "Cause Tuesdays" program, which helps local organizations raise funds. Special thanks to *Boating in DC*, Dacha Beer Garden staff, and David and Jojo Pim for donating our awesome raffle prizes! Want to join our Network? Email Mike at: mmccormick@stanns.org



St. Ann's Center Clients Achieve Amazing Things in FY23

St. Ann's began a new program year on July 1, wrapping up the prior year in which St. Ann's clients reached educational milestones, earned new jobs and promotions, celebrated successful transitions to independent living, and celebrated the miracle of **FOUR** healthy babies born to mothers living at St. Ann's!





Why I Give to St. Ann's Center

The high integrity. The watchful use of funds. The qualified staff members who treat everyone with compassion, dignity and respect.

The residence with its shiny floors and fresh fruit baskets. The tradition of caring passed down through the *Daughters of Charity*. The women who are working so hard to carve a new path for themselves and their children. The lasting impact.

When women in crisis have nowhere else to turn, St. Ann's says, "Welcome!"

I have a vantage point to see that St. Ann's is a thoughtful and effective steward of my gifts.

That's why I support St. Ann's Center. Thank you for joining me in helping women and children on their journey toward stability and independence.

With thanks and best wishes,

Sue Flaherty
Vice President, Development



P.S. Should you need St. Ann's Center's EIN (tax ID number) to include St. Ann's in your donor-advised fund or will, it is #53-0204626.

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 or 301-559-5500 x163.



#53-0204626



#29344



#8180

St. Ann's Center by the Numbers

10

TEN years since we opened *Hope House* – our on-site, supportive housing program for mothers and their children facing crisis.

9

NINE classrooms - including *Early Head Start* and *Head Start* classrooms - make up St. Ann's Child Care Center program.

8

EIGHT private one-bedroom apartments in *Faith House* - our standalone transitional housing program for mothers and their children.

7

SEVEN core values: *Safe, nurturing, healing, empowering, and strength based* and where all are served with *compassion, dignity and respect*.

6

SIX families (6 mothers and 8 children) lived at *Faith House* in FY2023, as they prepared to transition to independent, stable housing.

5

FIVE families successfully transitioned from St. Ann's housing programs to independent housing in FY2023. We celebrate these families' wonderful successes!

4

FOUR healthy babies were born at St. Ann's in FY2023. Our staff is honored to play a role in this special chapter of our families' lives.

3

THREE *Daughters of Charity* founded St. Ann's in Washington, D.C. in 1860, beginning the tradition of caring which continues today - 163 years later.

2

TWO supportive housing programs: *Grace House*, serving teen mothers and their babies; and *Hope House*, serving housing-insecure mothers and their children.

1

St. Ann's employs a diverse team across many different program areas - *Child Care, Residential, Employment & Education, and Clinical Social Work Services*. But we are united by **ONE** mission - caring for the mothers and children who call St. Ann's Center home!



St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families
4901 Eastern Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20782-3301

2023 Fall Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, DEC. 3

Christmas Open House

Our annual holiday celebration.

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

TBD

Winter Social

Our first-ever Winter Social, hosted by St. Ann's Young Professionals Network.

All are welcome! Location and Time to be Announced!

Wednesday, MAY 8

Hope Blossoms

Our annual reception and awards ceremony.

*Columbia Country Club
Chevy Chase, MD*