

Spring 2023 Newsletter



Transforming the lives of women and children
in Chester County



Meet Cleo.

In 2003, Cleo left a toxic relationship. She packed up her three young boys and some baby clothes for the child she was expecting and walked away from everything she knew - her home, her possessions, and her neighborhood - to seek a new life in Chester County. At the time she felt broken and blamed herself. Fortunately, she found Home of the Sparrow.

Cleo recalls her first interaction with HOS. "They allowed me to start respecting myself and my self-confidence grew. They helped me open my first checking account and educated me on how to work on a budget." Cleo and her children lived in the HOS transitional house, the precursor to our Supportive Housing program and applied for additional programs and services offered by other agencies and the county. After delivering her baby boy, she enrolled her older boys in school, secured day care, and went in search of employment.

She found a job as a teacher's aide and realized she had a talent for working with children who needed emotional support services. This was the catalyst for earning her bachelor's in education. Her promotion to an Emotional Support Teacher motivated her to pursue her master's in psychology. Today, Cleo is a kindergarten teacher and is working toward her Montessori certification.

Visit our website at www.homeofthesparrow.org to read the rest of Cleo's inspirational story including the one behind this joyful photograph!

"I would not be where I am today had it not been for Home of the Sparrow.
There was always someone there to listen and help.
It took a village to make me who I am today and I'm so grateful."



Spring 2023

Dear Friends,

It's been a long time since Cleo needed our help and yet, she is still grateful for Home of the Sparrow. Her story demonstrates the power of meeting a woman where she is and doing all that is possible to change the trajectory of her life for the better. That's what we do every day thanks to donors, friends and volunteers like you. Together, we ensure that women and children in Chester County avoid the trauma of homelessness.

Housing insecurity exists because even if a woman works fulltime earning \$13.00/hour, an amount well above minimum wage, her monthly net salary is only \$1,583. Not only is this just \$232 more than the average rent of an apartment, it is not nearly enough to pay all of her other expenses.

That's why Home of the Sparrow exists and why your support is so important. Our combination of direct financial assistance and individualized case management services means eviction is no longer a threat, giving a woman time to learn budgeting skills, reduce expenses, eliminate debt, increase her income if possible, and work toward personal goals.

Every single gift to Home of the Sparrow reaches a woman we are helping. Perhaps it is a rental subsidy, a security deposit, a mental health therapy session, a bag filled with household items, a backpack filled with new school supplies for her child, or hours of one-on-one trauma-informed case management. Together, we help a woman address her needs so that she is empowered and motivated to obtain her goals.

I wish to thank everyone who has already made a donation of time or treasure. With your support, we have served over 600 women and children since last summer and the need is growing. To help meet this need an anonymous friend is offering to double your gift should you wish to make a contribution at this time. The first \$25,000 in charitable gifts received before June 30, 2023 will be matched dollar for dollar!

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors and staff, I thank you for all that you do to make our shared purpose a powerful and effective one for women and children in Chester County.

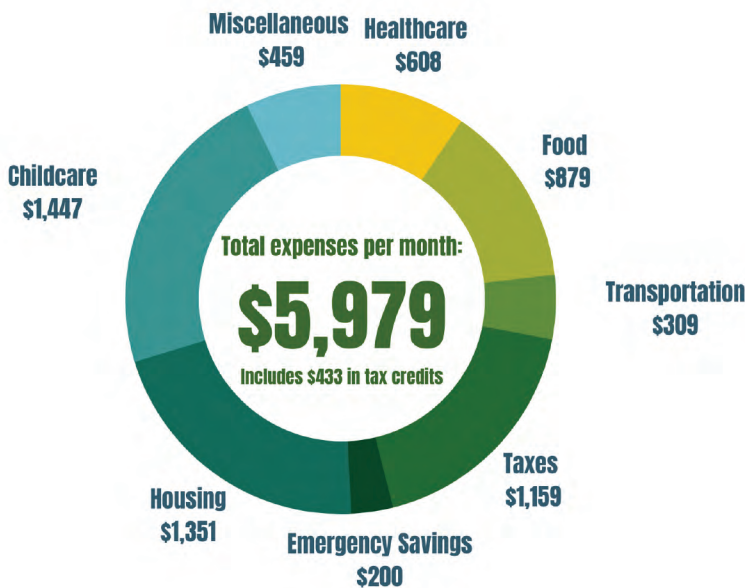
Sincerely,

Frank McKee, Jr.
Board President

Why are single women in Chester County struggling to make ends meet?

The High Cost of Living and Low Wages.

Typical monthly expenses for one parent with two school age children.



Source: The Self-Sufficiency Standard Calculator 2021, Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. More information at www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/calculator.



Our shared purpose and a generous match will make a difference!

Almost 30 years ago, Home of the Sparrow put down roots in Chester County with a single purpose - to prevent women and children from experiencing the trauma of homelessness. Join us today and participate in an exciting challenge! The first \$25,000 in charitable contributions received before June 30, 2023 will be matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor. This is a wonderful opportunity to double the impact of your kindness and generosity!

Thank you!

DONATE HERE



Or use the enclosed giving envelope

Questions? Contact Kathleen Sanger 610-647-4940
ksanger@homeofthesparrow.org



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969 East Swedesford Road
Exton, PA 19341
610-647-4940
info@homeofthesparrow.org
www.homeofthesparrow.org

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