

# Mother Teresa Home



*“LOVE begins at HOME  
and it is not how much we do  
but how much love we put in that action”*

*Mother Teresa*



The Pastoral mission of the “Mother Teresa Home” is to promote safety, stability, and well-being for people who have experienced or been exposed to pressure in regards to their pregnancy. The Mother Teresa Home will achieve this through providing programs that provide shelter, community service, and education referral services for all mothers in need.

### **Purpose**

The program supports homeless pregnant and/or parenting young people between the ages of 16 and 26, and occasionally their dependent children. (Based on application and need). Services are provided for up to 18 months. The program offers an intensive array of services to meet the short- and longer-term needs of pregnant and parenting women. Program goals are to teach young people parenting skills as well as child development, family budgeting, education, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote their long-term economic independence and ensure the wellbeing of their children.

In addition, the program will focus on giving young people the chance to exercise leadership, build skills, and become involved in their communities.

### **History**

Thousands of young women run away from their homes, are asked to leave their homes, or become homeless in the United States each year. Many of these young people are pregnant or have already become parents. Pregnant and parenting women not only need basic necessities like food and shelter, they must also learn to be effective parents. We have a significant challenge in the Western New York area as to appropriate/available places for these women in this particular group to turn to.

### **Services Provided**

**The program will offer the following services, either directly or by referral:**

- Safe, stable living accommodations
- Basic life-skill building, including consumer education and instruction in budgeting, using credit, housekeeping, menu planning, food preparation, and parenting skills
- Interpersonal skill building, including enhancing young people’s abilities to establish positive relationships with peers and adults, make decisions, and manage stress
- Educational opportunities, such as GED preparation, postsecondary training, or vocational education
- Assistance in job preparation and attainment, such as career counseling and job placement
- Education, information, and counseling to prevent, treat, and reduce substance abuse
- Mental health care, including individual and group counseling
- Physical health care, including routine physicals, health assessments, and emergency treatment
- Child-safe transitional and independent living accommodations
- Education in parenting, child discipline, and safety as well as direct supervision of parenting and related domestic skills
- Mental, physical, and reproductive health care, including individual and family counseling of parent and child
- Resources to help youth identify reliable and affordable child care
- Lessons in money management and use of credit and a checkbook
- Services to promote parents' educational advancement
- Facilitation of parent involvement in local schools and other child education programs