



# Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home Summer 2024 Newsletter

our website: [www.bgmhsacramento.org](http://www.bgmhsacramento.org)

MAILING ADDRESS - P.O. Box 221155, Sacramento, CA 95822

(916) 395-9370

**Summer 2024**

## Letter from our President:

Dear Friends, Family, and Supporters of BGMH,

I am happy to report that we will soon have three more precious babies living at our home, another baby girl and two baby boys. Our staff continue to work around the clock to assure that our mothers are getting care, comfort, and support. Due to the generous grant from the Knights of Malta, our enrichment program continues to grow. This summer a mother/baby trip is planned for the zoo and our home is also hosting a Family Day each month for our residents.

To help keep our residents and babies healthy and safe, BGMH needs repairs done on our homes. So, **CALLING ALL GENERAL CONTRACTORS:** We need your help on repairs. Please contact our Director, Paulette Wyllie, at (916) 395-9370 x 105 if you can help. I pray that the Holy Spirit guides you all in answering our call for help.

Although summer just started, we are already planning our biggest fundraiser of the year, our Annual Dinner. Save the date of September 8, 2024. This will be our fourth year at Armaan's Palace in Elk Grove, cocktails start at 5:00 p.m. I am happy to announce our ticket prices will remain \$85 per person! Also, we are delighted to say our dinner will be catered by Anderson's Family Catering. The folks from Anderson's Family Catering were with us the first two years we were at Armaan's Palace and if you recall they don't make us choose between beef or chicken, we get a little of both. For those friends who aren't meat eaters, a yummy vegetarian option is available. We are so happy and looking forward to their delicious food. As usual we will have our Grand Raffle as well as our table raffle baskets. Who will be the lucky winners? We will need donations for our baskets or feel free to make a basket of your own and donate it for the raffle. We are looking forward to another wonderful evening of fellowship, fun and inspirational stories.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We could not provide our moms with the care, guidance, and support they need if it wasn't for your continual financial support. May God Bless you all and I'll see you at the dinner on September 8th.



Thank you again for your continued support!

May God Bless you all,

Monica Brushia, President



## Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home's

### \*\*2024\*\* Baby Scoreboard

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Boys</b>	1	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Girls</b>	0	0	0	2	0	0

**Girls 2 Boys 4**

## Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home Board of Directors

President	Monica Brushia
Vice President	Lane Mayberry
Secretary	Deacon Dan Patterson
Treasurer	Diane Alexander
Member	Kathy Baxter
Member	Sister Maria Campos
Member	Barbara Montgomery
Member	Jim Rengstorff
Spiritual Director	Fr. Lawrence Kithinji
Director	Paulette Wyllie

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**Letter from our Executive Director:**

Dear Friends of BGMH,

Every morning whether at devotions with the residents at BGMH or at home, we pray that God blesses you, all our friends of BGMH. I hope our prayers have helped bring you peace and comfort during life's challenges and that you are healthy and happy as you take a moment to check in on us at BGMH.

In the past few months, we have had many mothers come and go through our doors. It is an ever-turning, revolving door of women and babies. At our dinner you hear from the women that are welcomed to BGMH experiencing some of the most unimaginable neglect, exploitation, and abuse. As a peer led program, those women include our staff. They arrive expecting to receive items of necessity like clothing, food and shelter, but many find out there is so much more that they receive that is intangible, like kindness, compassion, friendship, and love. Each time a new resident comes in, there is an adjustment that takes place in the home, and once we've gotten to know each other and understand each other's idiosyncrasies someone leaves, or another person arrives. At BGMH we are always in flux, but as many of you know people and children need consistency in order to thrive. That consistency comes from the staff of BGMH in both time and a calm reassuring temperament.

This time of year, I always seem to reflect on my time at BGMH because my anniversary is approaching. When I started, I was told that the average length of time a person does this kind of work (social care work) is about five years. Sharrie and I were just talking about when I began at BGMH my three children were in high school, middle school, and elementary school. A director and mother with school aged children was new to BGMH and we (the board, my staff, my husband, my kids and myself) all knew that it would be challenging and were understandably uncertain of the sustainability due to the taxing nature of the work and demands of a young family. Today, I have a college student, a recent high school graduate, and a high school student. I have two adult children and one that's only two and a half years from his 18th birthday and many of you have seen them grow up as well because they are always selling tickets at our annual dinner. As expected, it has been extremely difficult trying to meet the expectations of our supporters and needs of my children, my staff, the board, as well as our residents. But because of the understanding, compassion, and support given to me by that same list of people, I am about to celebrate my sixth year at BGMH. It is this same understanding, support, and compassion that has been shared with my staff that keeps them here and able to hold the door open at BGMH for eight, eleven, and 25+ years; and share with our residents what was given to them.

This longevity of staff, their consistency, in combination with residents' willingness to receive and use what is being offered to their advantage, that form beautiful transformative stories. Those stories are a testimony to what a special place Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home truly is, and those transformations wouldn't happen without you.

All the residents' stories that are published in our newsletters are in their own words. I hope you enjoy this edition's former resident update from Star; she sounds remarkable! She left just before I arrived at BGMH. May God bless you and your loved ones.

Light, love, and blessings,

Paulette Wyllie



**Special Thank You to our Inaugural Big Day of Giving Donors:**

*Anonymous, Esmenia Saldana, Leslie Pankey, Margaret Healy, Anonymous, Anonymous, James Salgado, Gerald Chrusciel, Peggy Stemmler, Anonymous, Anonymous, MP Smith, Liane Sousa, Denise Rose, Anonymous, Pamela and Stan Stewart, Diane Alexander, Teresa Irwin, Luz Martin, Eileen M Mahoney, Karla Vigen, Lane Mayberry, Mabel McKenzie, Anonymous, Anonymous, Diane Ramirez, Barbara & James Monroe, Sr. Family Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing to be a part of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's Big Day of Giving.*



**Former Resident Update: Star**

October 2017, I sat on a cold curb with nowhere to go. I was six months pregnant, fresh out of rehab, and feeling lost and scared. I had lost everything, including my daughter. And, although I had successfully completed four months of residential treatment, I was still very much at the beginning of my journey to fix the mess I had made of my life. I called my drug counselor crying. Where do I go from here? That night I was introduced to Caitlin and Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home. BGMH accepted me with such kindness. The women who worked there made me feel like they wanted me there, and they made me feel safe. At a time in my life when I was completely lost, they helped me find a way. They gave me protection and most importantly they gave me time. Time to heal. Time to make a plan. Time to take action. I spent eight months at BGMH. During that time, I completed drug court, outpatient services, codependency classes, domestic violence counseling, anger management counseling, and parenting education. I gave birth to a healthy baby boy in January 2018. Because of BGMH, I had a safe place for him. They also provided everything I needed for my baby so I can focus on being healthy for my son. I started the reunification process for my daughters. Bishop Gallegos gave me a safe place to spend time with my daughters on the weekends, and eventually, allowed them to come live at the house, finalizing reunification. And in June 2018, I walked out of BGMH with my three babies, happier than I had been in years, finally starting to find myself again and so deeply grateful to the program, and the changes they made in me, and to my life.

Over the last six years there has not been a day that goes by that I don't live my life with gratitude. I have never forgotten the broken down, abused, and defeated version of myself. And I have certainly not forgotten the ones that have helped build me back up. Through gratitude and consistency, I have gotten to where I am today. I still have struggles and disappointments, but I never stop pushing forward. I started on the streets sleeping in elevators to stay warm, then to a residential rehabilitation center, to Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home, to my parents' home, to a trailer, to a 2-bedroom apartment, to a 4-bedroom apartment, and this week I have been packing to move to our new house that I will own, with the help of the Habitat for Humanity program.

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seed you plant."* – Robert Louis Stevenson

The small acts that we do, day in and day out, add up to make a big impact on our growth. Sometimes we get caught up in what we have now, in this moment, instead of focusing on planting seeds for our future. Be courageous, be patient, be vigilant. Remember that the last thing to grow on a fruit tree is the fruit.

Thank you to BGMH for giving me the seeds to plant and giving me the courage to be someone different.

*Star M. Smith*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**March - June 2024:**

**In Memory of:**

Mercedes Slakey by Eileen M. Saprano • Betty Ann Lambert by Leon J. Lambert  
 Juan B. Rodriguez by Martha Rodriguez • Mothers: Gertrude and Mary by Raymond L. Fischbach  
 David A. Larson by Rita C. Larson • Mark Finn by Jean Pergande • Rosendo Mendoza by Ramona Mendoza  
 Sister Michele Mangan by John & Rosalie Atilano • John W. Sartori by Roy & Malene Mesich  
 Father Robert Copsey • Mark Splinter • Cynthia Tickler • Guy Amsberry

**In Honor Of:**

Wynette Sills by Margie Reilly • Shirley Styczynski by Robert Styczynski  
 Charlotte Ward by Timothy & Sonia Ward

**BIRTHDAY WISHES**

Paulette Wyllie by Eugene & Bessie Arena

**ANNIVERSARY**

Happy 67th wedding anniversary to William and Marilyn McCall!

**SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:**

Peace in the World, Souls in Purgatory, Blessings, and health of James Machart  
 For the health of Michael Vasquez, Ted Sobierajski, Helen Parra, Ramon Gonzalez and Chris Lee

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Thank you Mark Menz for donations of computers and printer to BGMH.

In Honor of Fr. Dan Madigan's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Priest  
 Donors: Lee & Diane Alexander; Eugene & Bessie Arena

We are very appreciative of those who have made donations to BGMH in the memory of, or in honor of a loved one. This is a special way of remembering someone significant to you, while helping young mothers choose life for their babies.



# Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home

P.O. Box 221155 Sacramento, CA 95822

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Electronic Service Requested

*Don't miss our  
Annual Fundraiser  
September 8, 2024!*



With Gratitude

## HOW YOU CAN HELP... PUT YOUR GIFT TO WORK IN VARIOUS WAYS!



**CASH OR CREDIT CARD welcomed**

**MATCHING GIFTS:** If your employer matches gifts, please enclose a "Matching Gift Form" with your donation.

**UNITED WAY DONATIONS:** Earmark your donation for BGMH by calling "United Way": 916-368-3000. Our Code # is 29694. You can do this at any time.

**NAME YOUR DAY:** It costs \$900.00 per day to operate BGMH. By donating \$900.00 yearly or \$75 monthly, we will name a day of your choice, for you or anyone, honoring an anniversary, birthday, memorial or other special occasion.

**ESTATE PLANNING:** For gifts of securities, stocks, bonds or real estate, please call: 916-395-9370.

**BECOME A PLEDGER:** To become a monthly or quarterly pledger, please complete the coupon to the right or via the website – [www.bgmhsacramento.org](http://www.bgmhsacramento.org).

**BE A VOLUNTEER:** We always need volunteers for mentoring, transportation to and from medical appointments, and help around the home, office or yard.

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• **Become a Pledger for** •

• *Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home* •

• If you want to become a monthly or •

• quarterly Donor, please fill out this coupon •

• & return it in the attached envelope with •

• your first pledge check. •

• **I/We pledge: \_\_\_\_\_ monthly.** •

• **I/We pledge: \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly.** •

• Those who pledge, will be sent •

• a supply of envelopes. Thank you. •

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