



Mommies Matter

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

A letter from our Executive Director,

Monica Flynn

If I had to sum up 2021 in one word, it would be resilience. As defined by the Merriam Webster dictionary, resilience is: the ability to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad happens.

When bad things happen to most of us, we can rely on family and friends to help us navigate the hardships we are facing. Our Mommies simply do not have this luxury. Some of the unfortunate things that happened to our Mommies in 2021 were: stolen cars, homelessness, rat infested apartments, premature births (our youngest born at 26 weeks gestation), continued adverse effects of COVID both financially and health-related, physical and emotional abuse, and sadly, a loss of one of our sweet little ones due to SIDS. Only because of your abundant support of time and treasure, our Mommies found friends and family in the Mommies Matter community. They did not have to navigate these trials alone. In doing life together, they found the strength, tenacity, and resilience to live by the mantra, *"I am not what happened to me, I am what I choose to become."* -Carl Gustav Jung

Resilience applies to our supporters as well. Despite a second year of navigating COVID in their own personal lives, our 141 volunteers who donated 2,308 hours, kept showing up; with ears open, arms wide, and hearts overflowing to walk alongside our Mommies in any way they needed. Our financial supporters proved resilient by continuing to make our ministry a priority, sending monthly donations when their own wallets were hit, and "showing up" at our virtual fundraising events even though we were all preferring to be there in person.

Because of your generosity in 2021, we were able to offer legal, life coaching, and financial services to all our Mommies at no cost to them. We were able to purchase vehicles and provide car maintenance, as safe, reliable transportation continues to be one of the biggest hardships our single mothers face. And for the month or so after giving birth, we were able to pay rents and other bills so the mother-child bond could form without worry of becoming delinquent or facing evictions due to the loss of income.

As we prepare this, our very first Annual Report, I am astounded by our growth and the concrete impact Mommies Matter has had on the lives of single mothers and their children in three short years. In 2021, we served a total of 54 Mommies, 124 children, and welcomed 16 new babies! Serving only 13 mothers and their children in our inaugural year 2018, Mommies Matter has grown by 315%, a pace beyond what we could have ever imagined. If that is any indication of our future, and with no shortage of unplanned pregnancies and the option of abortion, we are just beginning the Lord's work. As Desmond Tutu said, *"We need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."* That is Mommies Matter...not just pulling our Mommies "out of the river" by providing handouts, but rather going "upstream"

and addressing the root causes of their brokenness and trauma, resulting too often in unwanted pregnancies. I am humbled to know so many of you see the need of doing life together with single mothers. I thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us in 2022.



Monica Flynn

Executive Director, Mommies Matter



“Family isn’t always blood. It’s the people in your life who want you in theirs; the ones who accept you for who you are. The ones who would do anything to see you smile and who love you no matter what.” - Mommie J.

Why We Serve

The pro-life community does much to provide women with options at the time of an unplanned pregnancy, however, it offers very few opportunities for extensive accompaniment and mentorship for single mothers once they make the brave choice for life and against abortion.

Mommies Matter has been offering extensive support services to single, pregnant women in Columbus, Ohio since 2018.

Mommies Matter works closely today with local pregnancy centers, hospitals, and other social service organizations, bringing an extended array of services unique to the single mothers she serves.

Mommies Matter is a pro-love community that seeks to build authentic relationships with pregnant, single mothers and to journey alongside them in their quests for restoration and wholeness.

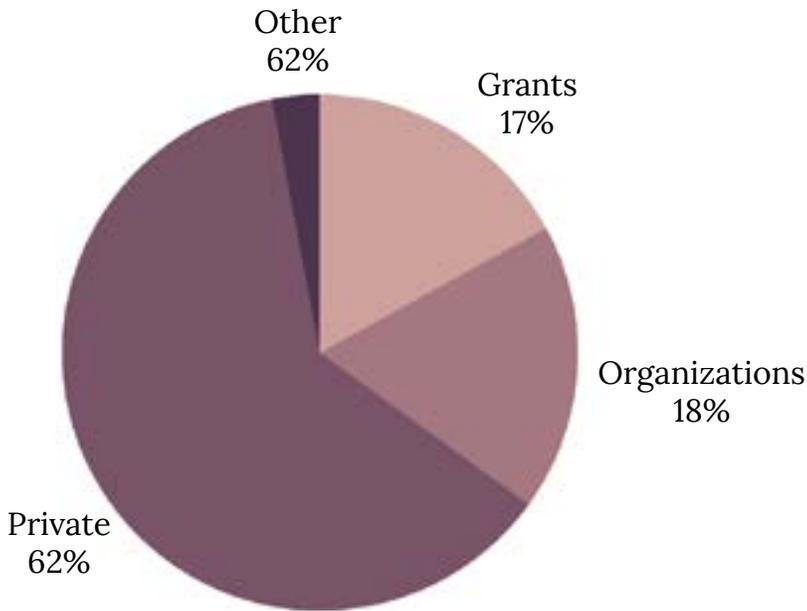
Our Mission is to work toward empowering single, pregnant women by “Doing Life Together” so that every mother can embrace her dignity and value as a woman.



“Today, for the first time in a very long time, I feel HOPE again. I feel like I’m enough and that I don’t have to do it alone. And honestly this is the first time since becoming a mom at age 17. I feel like there are people who can help me establish myself on different levels. Thanks for saying yes and for bringing me hope.” - Mommie A.

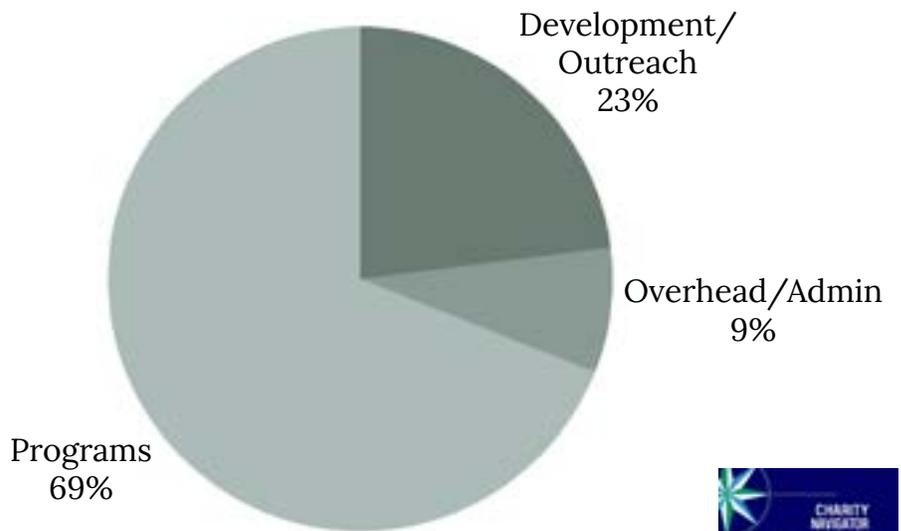
Financials

INCOME



I am proud to support Mommies Matter because single parents need all the help they can get. Whatever cause I volunteer for has to be worth my time and effort and this group does the most good for other people and that's what matters to me.
-Donor

EXPENSES



Featured Mommie - Dena

When I met Monica I was going through a lot. It was a pretty dark spot in my life. I was recently getting out of an abusive relationship and it was a really hard time. When I actually met Monica it was a relief. At first I didn't expect anything to come out of my one initial meeting with her because I wasn't used to anyone wanting to help me or listen to me. I never intended on opening up to her at all. It was almost like a 'yeah right, there's no way that it's going to be this great where it's a safe haven and I can open up to these people and they're just gonna love me how I am, however I come.' But when she could see the hurt in me and when she started crying with me, I knew that I could trust someone out there. Mommies Matter has been everything Monica said it was going to be.



My faith has definitely changed since I joined this community. I felt like I was losing hope and losing my faith. I was wondering 'is faith real? Why is all this stuff happening to me? What have I done to deserve certain things?' I am now at a point where I can have nice, peaceful conversations with God in regards to anything. It's a really beautiful feeling because I feel peace in my heart. I think the hardest thing is the first initial step into accepting the Lord. In the beginning, you see all these wonderful people and they're saying these strong words to you and you ask them 'how are you doing this?' And then they started telling us that their faith and relationship with God started in a similar spot to where I was at. I learned from you, and my relationship with God started with Mommies Matter because of what I saw. Then, I was able to really internalize it myself and make my own conversations with God. I think that was my first step in getting closer to the Lord, seeing and experiencing Him myself.

Mommies & Children Served

178

Babies Welcomed in 2021

16





Number of Volunteers

141

Volunteer Orientations

13

Volunteer Hours

2308

Volunteer Testimony

When I first heard about Mommies Matter, I was immediately struck by how this ministry serves such a beautiful and unique niche within the pro-life world. The more I learned about Mommies Matter, the more I saw that they provide needed, personalized ongoing support to mothers, and I felt it was a ministry with which I would like to become more involved. I reached out to Mommies Matter to see what needs they had that I might be able to help with. I have been a Support Sister to a mother who was expecting and it has been a privilege to write to her and pray for her during these months of her pregnancy. It's a rewarding way for me to be involved, while not involving a significant time commitment, I can easily add the time to volunteer into my schedule.

I've been impressed by the genuine care that Mommies Matter gives to our local community to support mothers in need and to provide them with tools to be successful mothers, from practical help like baby showers to teaching them life skills. I encourage anyone who would like to make a tangible impact with mothers in challenging situations to consider volunteering their gifts with Mommies Matter. There's a place for everyone. - Volunteer Mary Clare

Staff & Board Members



Monica Flynn
Founder & Executive Director



Gina McCauley
Executive Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator



Jennifer Wallace
Family Advocate



Anna Salmonowicz
Media & Design Coordinator



Brandy Conley
Accountant



Meredith Murphy
Life Coach



Renee Lupi
Legal Consultant



Lyndsie Harris
Financial Advocate



Daphne Suh
Community Liaison



Keli Breecroft
Special Events Co-Chair



Keila Cwiekalo
Special Events Co-Chair



Cynthia Straub
Board Chairperson



December Summersett
Board Secretary



Lisa Ehlers
Board Compliance Officer



Micah Hasalson
Board Member

Referring & Support Agency Partners



Aubrey's House



Church Partners & Financial Partners

Church Partners

Life Church at Easton
St. John Neumann Catholic Church
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Church of the Resurrection Catholic Church
Good News Church
Columbus Christian Center
Sunbury Church of the Nazarene
Pickerington Grace Fellowship
Powell Faith Community Church
Faith Community Church
St. Matthew's Catholic Church
St. Brigid of Kildare Catholic Church
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church

Corporate and Financial Partners

The Catholic Foundation
St. Martha's Giving Circle
Good Samaritan Ministry at St. John Neumann
Knights of Columbus state and local chapters
The Mary Foundation
Connected Pathways Early Learning Center
Young Catholic Professionals
Daughters of Erin
Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
D7 Foundation
Lynch Family Foundation
3M
Grange Insurance
JP Morgan Chase

Other Partners

Little Ladies Soft Serve
Great Harvest Bread Co. Upper Arlington

2SHEA Creative

Three Bags Full Pop-Up Consignment Shop

St. Vincent De Paul Society, Lancaster

Byers Motor Mart

Big Walnut Friends Who Share

SJN HUGS

Newborns in Need

Christ Child Society

Sondra Yothers Catering

Amanda Mahle Photography

Pastaria

Big Walnut Friends Who Share

Diocesan Office of Social Concerns

St. Gabriel Catholic Radio

The Catholic Times

Align Health and Wellness

See Kids Dream

Katering 4 Kids

KidsLinked

The Comedy & Magic of David McCreary

Texas Roadhouse

Donatos

