

# New Beginnings

Hotline: 412-761-5505 • www.genesispggh.org

Fall 2009

Genesis provides life-affirming programs and services to pregnant women, children and adoptive families.

## From Scared to Secure

### *How Friends Like You Helped Lourdes Turn Her Life Around*

Lourdes Gonzalez, 22, had everything going for her. She came from a loving, religious family and was studying international business in college. She had plans. Big plans. She was going to travel the world, have her own hair salon, and maybe buy a house.

***Because of Genesis — and friends like you who help support our critical programs and services — mothers like Lourdes now have a chance at a new beginning.***

But what she *never* planned on was becoming a mother so soon.

Lourdes discovered she was pregnant during her Christmas break in 2008. Suddenly, her world came to a halt.

“I was scared. I just didn’t know what to do,” Lourdes says. Worse, she could no longer afford the apartment she was renting. She eventually told her parents she was pregnant and moved in with them, but soon realized she needed help to lay a proper foundation for the baby boy she would have in five months.

So she called Genesis.

“I am just so thankful Genesis was there. I don’t know what I would have done. I would have been so unprepared for life, for being a mom. I was just so scared at the time,” Lourdes admits.

With welcoming arms, the staff at Genesis House opened up their eight-room residential program to

Lourdes for four months. She and the other moms-to-be who stay there are expected to complete chores and take parenting and newborn classes.

“Oh, I was thrilled to have those classes!” Lourdes says. “It prepared me for life as a working mom. I also had to make dinner for everyone once a week and clean the kitchen, but it was good. It was realistic.”

***Because of Genesis — and friends like you who help support our critical programs and services — mothers like Lourdes now have a chance at a new beginning.***

“I didn’t have to hide while I was at Genesis. I even went to school to continue my education and start my

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### Inside:

- ▶ *How YOU Make All the Difference*
- ▶ *One Mother Says, “Thank You For Saving My Life!”*



**Genesis**  
... a new beginning

## *I'll Never Forget The Lonely Little Girl Who Was The First To Pass Through Our Doors ...*

Dear Friend,

She was just 12 years old. And pregnant.

Her mother dropped her off at Genesis, handed us a few pieces of her belongings — clothes, a bike, some teddy bears — and stated very matter-of-factly, “She’s yours.” Then she left.

That little girl was our first client in 1983.

When she had nowhere else to go — nobody to trust — Genesis gave her a new beginning.

That’s why we renamed this newsletter *New Beginnings*. And we dedicate it to YOU — our friends and supporters — without whom we could not have helped that scared little 12-year-old or the thousands more who have passed through our doors since.

From prenatal education to lodging to counseling — and even just a shoulder to cry on — we are here for worried mothers-to-be, children, and adoptive families because YOU are here for us. It’s the only way we’ve been able to continue our life-altering work in Western Pennsylvania over these last 26 years.

But as we face the upcoming holiday season, I am reminded of all the work we have left to do. Cuts in the state budget, the long economic downturn, and job layoffs

have meant even more women and children coming to us in great need.

We simply can’t turn anyone away. EACH life is precious and a gift.

**At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ — which is why there’s no better time than now to offer a New Beginning to someone with your generous, tax-deductible holiday donation.**

From baby Nicolas to little Annina Rose — the stories of lives changed you read about in this newsletter prove that your support provides blessings in so many ways.

You may never personally know the mom, child or family your gift is helping — but I hope you know the miracles your generosity is creating. And isn’t that what the holidays are really all about?

God bless you for standing with us,



Carole McMahon  
Executive Director



## **From Scared to Secure**

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cosmetology career,” explains Lourdes. And after her son Nicolas was born, Lourdes continued to be assisted with her education by a scholarship she obtained through Genesis.

“I thank Genesis for getting me where I am today. What I learned is that there is someone there to help you. With Genesis, I know it’s a lifelong help, too,” she says.

**Genesis relies on the generosity and compassion of supporters like you in our community to sustain our unique programs and services and provide new beginnings to pregnant women, children, and adoptive families. Please mail a donation today in the enclosed envelope. Thank you so much.**



*Your donations are vital to a young mom like Lourdes and her baby, Nicolas, shown here. You help offer New Beginnings – thank you!*

Many companies offer a matching gift program. Check with your Human Resources office!  
Would you like to leave a lasting legacy of love through a planned gift? Please call 412-766-2693 to find out how!

## Because of You ... We Celebrate Life!

We want to recognize all the volunteers, staff, friends and supporters who have generously given their time, money, tears and heart to help us continue our life-altering work. Without YOU, none of it would be possible. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU and God Bless.

*The Real Alternatives Program honored our own Carole McMahon as this year's Counselor of the Year. (middle)*

*(left: PA State Rep. Katie True of Lancaster County; right: Ms. Bonnie Shultz of State Sen. Jane Orié's office)*



*Shown are 2009 New Beginnings award winner, John Rudzik, Executive Director, CentiMark Foundation, with wife Vera.*

*(Not pictured) Joan Josen, a tireless volunteer, who also received a New Beginnings award.*



*A precious group of joyous children gathered for our annual AFF Picnic. These are children placed for adoption through Genesis.*



## Your Gifts of Time and Money Make ALL the Difference!

Did you know that the actual cost to house and help a resident per day is \$106? Without our extraordinary volunteers — and your compassion and generosity — we'd never be able to afford to serve all those who come to our doors for help.

In 2008, we provided:

- ▶ 1,620 days of housing to 26 homeless pregnant women
- ▶ 26 days of foster care
- ▶ 4,140 clients with classes, clothing, baby equipment, formula, and food
- ▶ 4,232 hours of counseling

But the need keeps growing!

Please help us face this surge in demand and be prepared for the upcoming holiday season. For the sake of worried mothers-to-be, children, and adoptive families, send your most generous gift today. For as little as ...

- ▶ \$20 we can provide a pack of diapers
- ▶ \$50-60 we can offer a life-saving infant car seat
- ▶ \$60-70 we can give a new mother a crib mattress
- ▶ \$120-150 we can purchase a new crib

**ANY gift in ANY amount would be such a blessing and a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays during this season of giving. Please look inside your heart and be generous. Thank you.**