



# Star of the North MATERNITY HOME

Winter 2023 Newsletter | [www.starofthenorthmaternityhome.org](http://www.starofthenorthmaternityhome.org)

## Dear SON Supporters,

It was a message on our SON House phone a couple of weeks ago - from one of our first Mom's who had her beautiful baby girl while at Star of the North just after we opened in 2019. She was a delightful young 19 year old with supportive grandparents, pregnant and needing housing. She had interests in nutrition, breastfeeding and staying healthy during her pregnancy. She said "Hi, I am hoping you remember me as I am so grateful for my stay at SON. I am calling to say it took me 2 years after I left to understand that what you were trying to share with me was true and I "finally got it" and have healthy 3 and 4 year old children. We are hoping to move soon but need a few household items including a baby gate. Would you be able to help me?" Of course I immediately reconnected with her to invite her to come to see our new home and "shop" from the amazing donated items shared by our supporters. She shared how important God is in her life now and how she is writing music to share how she went through her times before and now and how much God has been a part of her life always. What a beautiful soul she is! We are so grateful she chooses life and I know she is being a great mom to her children.

As our staff and volunteers work hard 24/7 365 with each Mom, often meeting resistance, unexpected triggers and expectations for more, it is so rewarding to us all to know that we made a difference. Whoever we are, we often do things that are not noticed, appreciated or overlooked, but please know how much we do appreciate your support!

Congratulations to our Volunteers and Staff in SON Iron Range for hosting a fun evening at the First Annual SON Iron Range ***Laughing with the Stars Gala!*** We announced the big news that SONIR has purchased and is renovating a 7 bedroom home in Hibbing that will meet our needs well and saves us 40% in costs per year. We anticipate moving in by the end of December. Thank you to all our donors and sponsors as well!

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan E. McClernon, Executive Director



## Give to the Max 2023

Participate in Minnesota's largest giving initiative by giving to Star of the North on **Thursday, November 16!**



[www.StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org](http://www.StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org)



[StaroftheNorthMaternityHome](https://www.facebook.com/StaroftheNorthMaternityHome)

Twin Ports | (218) 340-1645 | [sonmhtwp@gmail.com](mailto:sonmhtwp@gmail.com) • Iron Range | (218) 206-1931 | [sonmhir@gmail.com](mailto:sonmhir@gmail.com)

# SON Iron Range

## Thank You for Supporting our Fall Gala

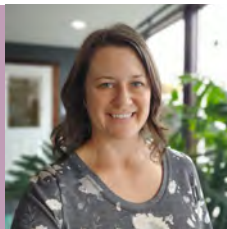
Our SON IR Fall Gala “*Laughing in the Stars*,” was held in Hibbing on October 14 and was a huge success thanks to our sponsors. Over 150 people were in attendance, enjoying a dinner catered by Valentini’s and laughing along with the hilarious duo of Slap Happy Comedy. The event raised over \$10,000 for our SON Iron Range Maternity Home. Many thanks to all who attended and supported the evening, including our Star sponsors Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Dr. Jan Baldwin, and Yoder Building Supplies & Essentia Health. We are grateful to our staff and volunteers and especially our lead planners, Emma Folk and Brooke Heubner. A thank you to the Open Door Church for hosting us.

**BIG Thank You to all our Gala Sponsors including:** Table sponsors and Auction Donors



From left to right: Erik Gascoigne, Sue McClernon, Brooke Heubner, Emma Folk and Adam Mollhagen (Slap Happy Comedy).

## Volunteer Spotlight: BROOKE HEUBNER



Administrative work is an unseen but necessary task to the successful operation of any organization, SON Iron Range included. Brooke is one of those behind the scenes individuals who helps to make sure we’re running smoothly. She is a wife, mom of four, and she works for a mission organization called Hands at Work, which is a ministry that seeks to empower churches in Africa to care for orphans. With her biostatistics background, she also helped us improve our program evaluation system by developing an online documentation and data collection process. Still, she finds time weekly to volunteer at SON, offering administrative and bookkeeping support. This fall she supported Emma Folk in organizing our Annual Gala & Comedy Show fundraiser, and thoroughly enjoyed getting the word out about SONMHIR by connecting with area businesses. God has called her to care for the poor and vulnerable (both globally and locally), and we are so thankful that she has chosen to live out this calling at our maternity home!

## Resident Spotlight: SONNIE



September brought sunshine into our home... Sonnie arrived. She came to the United States on a Visitor Visa in order to pick up supplies for a school charity she has started in her home country of Liberia. After finding out she was pregnant and high risk, her doctor advised her not to travel. As a result, she needed a place to stay during her pregnancy where she and the baby could get the care they needed. She was referred by a sister home in the Twin Cities and she came to us. Due to the quick actions and staff at SONIR, she safely gave birth to a little boy at 26 weeks in our Hibbing Hospital. They are both in good care at Essentia and now MN Children’s where we continue to offer support and encouragement. Presently, she is needing patience and strength as she watches her son fight for life everyday. And yet, she said, “I know God is with me. And I tell Charles that ‘God is with you.’ He is mighty so I can smile and have strength.” Someday, she hopes to get her immigration status changed so she can go to school and get a nursing degree. In the meantime, we’re thankful that God brought her and Charles to us!

## Iron Range Needs:

- Paper towels
- Baby Monitors
- Volunteers to Clean
- Volunteers to help with upcoming move

View our Target Wishlist on our website

# SON Twin Ports

## Staff Spotlight: Erika D'Angiola

Erika is our new Co-Program Manager at Star of the North Twin ports. She is coming to SON with 29 years of experience working with children and families as an elementary school teacher, pre-school and daycare owner, a children's church and youth director, a John Maxwell certified leadership teacher, and an absolute lover of kids and moms! She also has a degree in psychology; as well as an elementary education from the UST in St. Paul, Minnesota.



From Erika: "When I saw the post about the manager position my heart skipped a beat. I mentored a mom and child I had met at church that went through the Star of the North program. I contacted her right away and she stated "You would be so great at working there!" I applied and got the job. I enjoy working with and mentoring the mom's, modeling discipline practices, problem solving, playing with the babies, doing crafts and reading to the toddlers at our Duluth location. I have a love for reaching the world for Christ!" She is married to an amazing man, Pasquale, from Capri, Italy and has one daughter, Nicola.

## Resident Spotlight: EMILY



Emily and her two year old daughter, Sylvia, came to us from Recovering Hope Treatment Center in August of this year. Prior to that, they were staying with Emily's parents after she left an abusive relationship of ten and a half years. She's come a long way, is very excited to be here in the program, and she and Sylvia are a couple of shining stars in our home. Emily also has an older son, also Sylvia's big brother, Elias, who is currently living with Emily's family. The three of them enjoy weekly video calls together.

Here at Star of the North, Emily and Sylvia like taking walks outside - even in the cold weather! As an inside activity, they love coloring together. As a mother and daughter, they are like two peas in a pod. Emily is very healthy and nutrition-conscious--they are both great at eating their fair share of fruits and vegetables daily. Goals for Emily are to continue to strengthen her skills for an independent life for herself and her children.



From left to right: Deacon Lyle Johnson; wife, Amy; daughter, Katie Ruth; and daughter, Sarah.

## A FAMILY AFFAIR Volunteer Spotlight

Katie Ruth Johnson is one of our very valued volunteers who comes regularly every two weeks with her Job Coach Rachel, from Trillium Works. Katie helps with household chores and particularly loves when she gets a chance to interact and play with the little ones living with us. She is such a pleasant young woman - always arrives and leaves with a big smile on her face, and a warm and wonderful giggle-like smile.

Katie's father, Deacon Lyle serves as Board Chair of Together for Life Northland which sponsors Star of the North Maternity Homes. He is always willing to be contacted and consulted by our Exec Director or Program Managers. He is a magnificent cook and organizer of our annual Salmon Dinner (if you've not ever attended - you should plan to!) and our Corn Roast Picnic as well. He and his family are present and supportive for anything we need and serve as great members of our SON Team.

## Twin Ports Needs:

- Full and Queen New Sheet sets
- Bathrobes and slippers
- Gift Cards (Walmart, Target, Amazon)
- Baby Monitors

View our Amazon Wishlist on our website



Star of the North Maternity Home  
11 E Superior St, Executive Suites 273  
Duluth, MN 55802

The TFLN Board has announced the 2023-2024 Capital campaign as we need to raise \$200,000 for purchase and renovations of our new home for SON Iron Range and \$300,000 to pay off our SON Twin Ports Mortgage, whether through planned giving, a charitable trust or a will designating SON. Your support is truly appreciated. Contact us at [togetherforlifeforthland@gmail.com](mailto:togetherforlifeforthland@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 25, 2023**

Holiday Trunk Show

**December 2, 2023**

Iron Range Moving Sale

*212 Howard St (need volunteers)*

**February 25, 2024**

Women's Expo - Duluth

*Volunteers Needed*

**March 15, 2024**

Salmon Dinner Fundraiser

*In case of weather, March 22*

**August 5, 2024**

Twin Ports Corn Roast

7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STAR OF THE NORTH MATERNITY HOME

# Holiday Trunk Show

**Saturday, November 25**

11:00 a.m.-3 p.m.

*Shop for gifts, treats, crafts & fresh crêpes  
at Holy Rosary Catholic School Gym*

*Shop Local!*