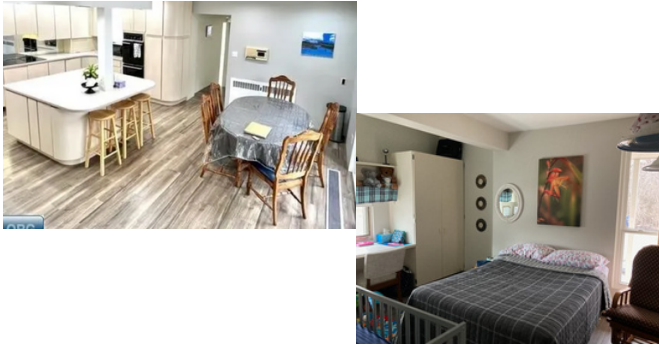




STAR OF THE NORTH MATERNITY HOME

www.StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org

SON Iron Range - SHE IS HOME!



SON IR was able to purchase and renovate a 7 bedroom home and moved in December 31st.

Dear SON Friends,

It was a leap of faith the Board made in purchasing a new home in Hibbing for SON Iron Range. The staff up there found the perfect home - but it needed renovations. We worked with Western Bank to secure a mortgage and moved forward in late July. Our board member, Pat Larson, masterfully GC'd the project with Alesch Contracting and we were in our new home by Dec 31st. It was a bigger project than planned but we did it right and with some amazing local family funding and an ARPA grant spearheaded by Commissioner Jugovich and SLC Brian Fritsinger, we are now able to save 40% annually in our housing costs. If you want to know how good God is - he exactly nailed the renovation costs with those two sources of funding. God is AMAZING!

Of course this always comes at the time I wonder if this mission is what God wants for us to be doing. More maternity-like homes are popping up in the area and its a struggle to keep it all going. Yet someone sends us a note of support, a small or large check, drops off a wonderful donation and it is clear God says - keep going with it. We have been blessed to help over 30 moms and babies and support a mom who despite being raped, chose life. Then I see the tender loving care from each of our staff and volunteers with these Mom's and babies/children and "see the Face of God" and how our faith is being poured out. That is all we can ask for as we put forth our hearts and prayers in a special way during Lent. Thank you for all your prayers and all you do for SON!

Come join us as the Annual Salmon Dinner & Auction on March 15th or support our online auction /art swap March 15-31st!

Sincerely,
Dr. Susan E. McClernon, Executive Director



Our Moms often need access to dental care and often have weeks to wait. Dental health is very important during and after pregnancy. With the leadership of Dr. Gary Madison and Harborview Family Dental, they have volunteered and provided dental care for many of our Moms.



A big thank you to Kynze Lundeen & Lundeen Productions for naming *Star of the North Maternity Home* as one of the charities at the 2024 Women's Expo. Erika D'Angiola and our volunteers hosted a table at the event held on February 24, 2024 at the DECC.

Grant Support: We are so Thankful!

Duluth Superior Community Foundation
 Ucare Foundation
 Cathedral Cares
 Rotary Club 25
 Kiwanis Club of Duluth
 Human Life Development Fund
 Order of Malta
 Owens Family Charitable Trust
 Overman Trust
 United Way of NE Minnesota
 Families Services Collaborative of St. Louis County

Our Churches Rock

- | | |
|--|--|
| Almond Branch
Cathedral of our Lady of the Rosary
Living Stones Fellowship, House of Praise
The Waters Edge Community Church
St. Rose Church
St. James Catholic Church
St. Benedicts Catholic Church | Gift of Love
Twelve Holy Apostles
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
Immaculate Heart Church CCW
St. Isidores Church CCW
St. Johns' Catholic Church
St. Anthony's Catholic Church |
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Volunteer Spotlight:



Mel Cogger, Volunteer

Mel is a lifelong Hibbing resident and retiree who loves to give of her time and talents to her church and community. Her heart's desire is to bring glory to God by loving people and serving any way she can. She began volunteering with us last winter and is now a staff member and volunteer driver. Every resident knows Mel cares greatly about them and their children. She wears her big heart on her sleeve and spends many hours in prayer for SON and all involved. She has truly been a blessing to us!



*We had a successful 7th Annual Trunk Show at the Holy Rosary Gym on November 25. Our Moms planned, baked and sold over \$500 in baked goods to raise money for their needs. We save out a \$100 for the next year's Moms to do it again. Thank you to all our local Artists & Crafters for joining us for a day of fun!
SAVE THE DATE: November 30, 2024*

SON HOUSE BLESSING



Fr. Daniel Weiske, Pastor John and Julie Krihin helped bless our new home as residents were moving in. Open House coming in April!

Needs for SON Iron Range: Check out our Target Registry

- Full Size Mattress
- Vacuum (Shark) lightweight
- 2 Box Springs for Full Bed
- Step stool
- Wrap Baby Carrier

Resident Interview

She has really enjoyed being here at SONIR and her favorite thing about being here is that "the staff are great at making the house feel like a home".



Tiara joined us with her 4 month old at our all new SON Iron Range home one month ago. She spent most of her childhood years in Cambodia with missionary parents. She has 2 American & 4 Cambodian siblings. She is proficient in Khmer (pronounced kah-my), which is the official language of Cambodia. And she can cook some amazing dishes stemming from her Cambodian days. Her favorite childhood memory is when her family went to a tiger farm in Thailand. She had the experience of a lifetime petting all the tigers but 2, so about 16 tigers in all. Another fond memory was playing with the other children in the rural Cambodian villages around them. She played the clarinet in the school band and sang in the choir. And her favorite form of art is throwing clay on the pottery wheel. She has really enjoyed being here at SONIR and her favorite thing about being here is that "the staff are great at making the house feel like a home". Her favorite motto is "Dulcius ex asparis" meaning "Sweeter after difficulty." We have really enjoyed getting to know Tiara.

We are HOME! SON Iron Range Manager Update:

We still have a Hibbing address but we are now moved into our 7-bedroom, 3.5 bath home and we couldn't be happier. We have all been enjoying the family life that comes with having a large kitchen and dining area that we can gather in, eat, and talk about our days with each other. Our move began in November of 2023 with lots of packing our apartments, office, and storage area. But with the help of amazing volunteers, including a crew headed by Dave Ongaro and trucks, we were able to get moved. A special thank you to several young people led by Nick Horvath and Gabe and Finn Frederick. Without the help of the staff and recruited family and friends to help us clean, set up, and organize, our move would not have been possible. Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't give a big thank you to Al Jensen for giving his time, talent, and resources to build some heavy-duty, never-gonna-buckle storage shelving in our garage! We are also anticipating the beautiful moments our Moms and their children can be out in our courtyard enjoying the fresh air with patio furniture so generously donated to us by the Ladies of Chisholm Baptist Church. Thank you also for those that have supported us financially and with your prayers. Without you all, we couldn't continue this ministry of sharing God's love with Moms and their little ones. We appreciate you and are beyond blessed by God's goodness shown to us.

Kelli Horvath, Program Manager and the SON Iron Range Team

SON Twin Ports

Margo brings her amazing listening skills to SON and our Moms appreciate her so much.



Margo Rathke, Co-Program Manager SON TWP

Margo Rathke is our licensed Social Worker and Co-Manager and she has been at Star of the North, Duluth, since May 2022. Prior to joining our team, Margo worked for a cumulative 25+ years as a Pediatric Social Worker in the hospital (St Mary's Essentia Health). That plus a good 16 years as a Stay at Home Mom, has pretty much made up her work/home life. Margo loves children - and working with Moms and babies is and always has been her specialty.

Margo has three grown children - two daughters, Katie and Molly, who live in the Duluth area - and a son, Sam - who lives in China. Three Grandchildren - Caden, Esperanza and Luzia round out the loves in her life. Her husband, Dr Mark Rathke passed away over 20 years ago and she continues to honor her love for and loss of him by facilitating a Grief Support Group for Young Widows on a monthly basis.

Margo likes to read (is a member of a Book Club), loves golfing, Luna (her cat), is a good listener, known to be a "conversational" writer, and has pretty great handwriting. She loves interacting with Moms and Babies as well as the outstanding (kind, concerned, accomplished, caring) women who primarily make up our care team at SON. She is thankful to be a part of Star of the North.

SON Twin Ports Needs

Baby Monitor with video -
Full Size Bed & Sheets
Robes & Slippers
Visit our Amazon Wish List
and search StaroftheNorth

OPENINGS : Co-Program Manager, Volunteers, Care Coordinators

SON Twin Ports is looking for a Co-Program Manager position, SON IR & TWP need care coordinators and volunteers, please email your resume to togetherforlifeforthland@gmail.com.



Thank you to St. John's and St. Ben's Catholic Churches Giving Tree Support!



Thank you to teacher volunteers from Stella Maris who cleared and created our craft room for our Moms.

Resident Mom Spotlight



Nikki with one of the baby blankets donated by the Lake Superior Community College Nursing Students (thank you LSC Nursing).

I like everyone that works here!!!!" She said that the staff treats the resident's like people and not like objects. "

Nikki, a current Star of the North resident, CHOSE LIFE for her baby and has overcome many obstacles along the way to give him a better life than she had in the foster care system. She is one strong Mama! She came to us 8 months pregnant and has just had her beautiful baby boy, Oakley as this is being written. When asked what she likes about SON, Nikki stated, "I love the program components, the Bible study, the structure and the life coaching has really opened my eyes about stuff! I like everyone that works here!!!" She said that the staff treats the resident's like people and not like objects. "The staff shows residents' respect! They have given me good support the last 2 weeks with labor pains when I thought I was out of my mind!" Nikki really likes the support she has gotten at Star of the North for her pregnancy and for reaching her goals in life. She is full of joy, loves puzzles, crafts and connecting with other mom's at SON and is very happy to be living here. Thanks to all of the donors, volunteers and staff that make this an amazing place!



Annual Salmon Fundraising Dinner

Benefit for Star of the North Maternity Home
Duluth | Iron Range
.....

Friday | March 15, 2024

Dinner | 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Live Music | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Silent Auction | Live Music by Donny Buck

\$25.00 per Adult ticket \$20.00 Seniors. KOC's & Veterans
Child rates 12 Under 5 Free

St. James Catholic Church | 721 N. 57th Ave. W. | Duluth

Please RSVP & Get Tickets at

www.starofthenorthmaternityhome.org

218-310-6838 or 218-340-1645

Bad Weather date: 3/22



2024 Upcoming Events

- March 15 - 31st Online Auction & Art Swap
- May 12 Mother's Day Flower Sale
- August 3 Corn Roast, St. James
- October TBD SON IR Banquet
- November 30 Artists Trunk Show
 - (Duluth and Hibbing)



Maternity Home

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

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