





Hopeful
Beginnings


of St. Mary's Services

ANNUAL REPORT FY-20-21


A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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In This Report

Our Mission and Vision

What We Do

- Maternity Counseling Program
- Adoption Program
- Teen Parenting Program

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Who We Are



Mission

Creating stable families through adoption.

Supporting women through the challenges of pregnancy & parenting.

Building communities through counseling and education.

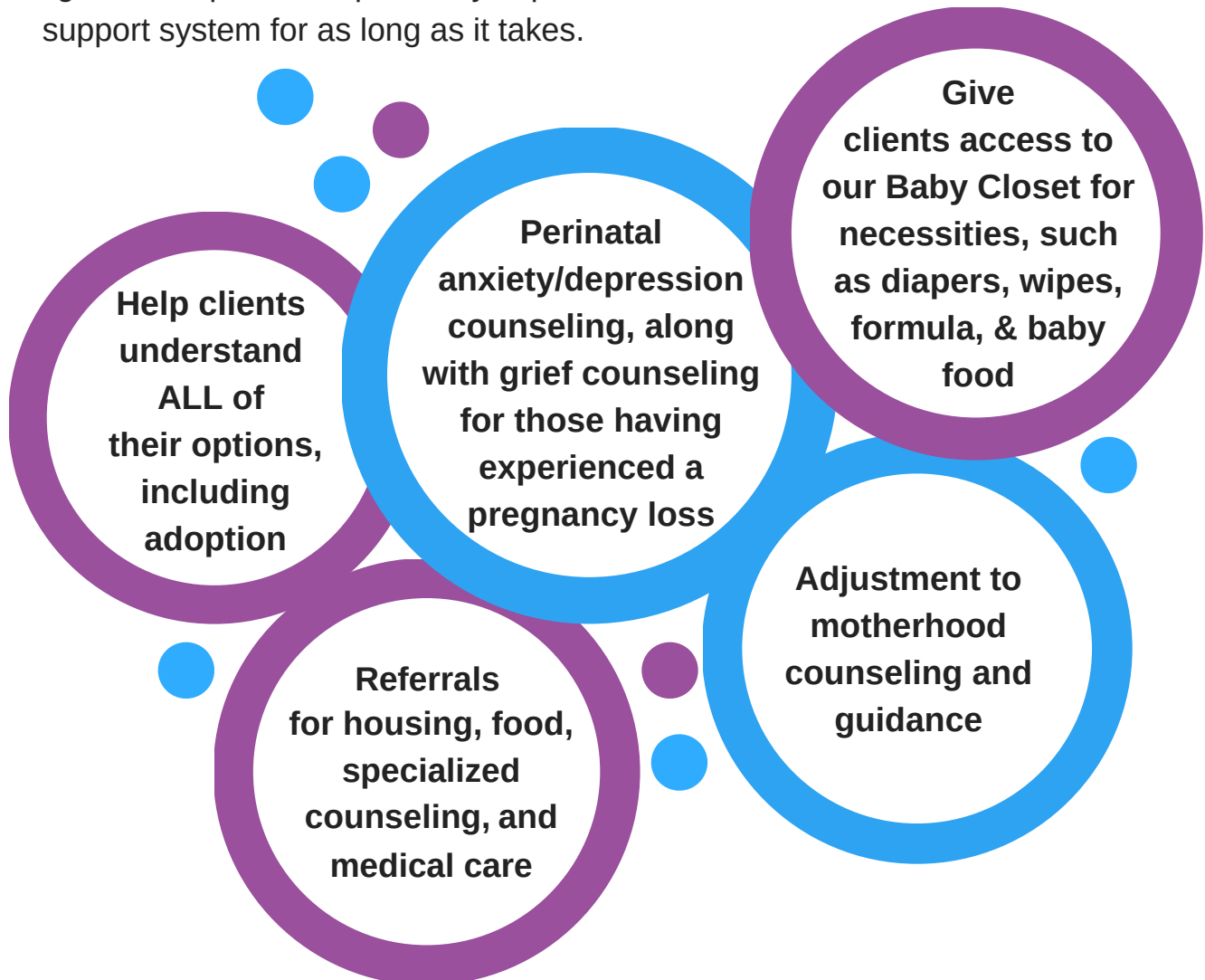
Vision

Every Child Deserves a Good Home.

What We Do

Maternity Counseling Program

Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's professional counselors serve many women, whether they are facing an unplanned pregnancy, looking for options counseling, experiencing prenatal anxiety/depression, postpartum anxiety/depression, having trouble adjusting to motherhood, or dealing with a pregnancy related loss, we are there for them. With professional counseling, women are able to navigate their journey of darkness to one of light and hope, which positively impacts their children's lives. We remain a support system for as long as it takes.



What We Do

Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's Adoption Program

The Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's Adoption Program has served couples and singles for many years, assisting them in creating families through adoption. To these candidates, we offer counseling, support, education, home visits, workshops, ongoing communication with birth parents, and post-placement support. If any of our adoptive family candidate's welcome a child, newborn to 3 years of age into their homes, even greater support, care, and instruction is given in order that the adoptive family provides a nurturing, healthy environment for the child. The overarching goal is to provide good homes for the children in all situations.



Three Families

**welcomed children
into their loving
homes during the
2020-2021 fiscal year**



"Answered Prayers - Part I"

Our Cup Runs Over...

Our journey with Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's began in 2019 when our prayers had been answered for a place that we could feel like a team and not just a number in the adoption process. That is exactly how we felt when we left after our first meeting at Hopeful Beginning, like we had just become a part of a team working together on the journey. In February of 2020, we were blessed with a beautiful baby girl we named Madison. Our prayers had been answered again



when we became parents to Madison and while we knew our journey would continue, we thought our wait was over. Little did we know it was just about to begin...again.

In December of 2020, we received a call from Julia at Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's. I will never forget that day. It was our last day before winter break and I was just finishing up lunch when my phone rang. When I answered, Julia asked how we all were doing and she asked all about Madison. I didn't really think too much of this because I knew that we were cared about at Hopeful Beginnings and just thought Julia was checking in. After we had caught up, Julia shared that Madison's birth mom was expecting again mid-March and asked if we had thought about adopting again and if we would consider keeping Madison and her sibling together. My gut reaction was to say yes but also knew that I needed to talk this over with my husband. I told this to Julia and said that we would be in touch with her later that night once we had talked it over. I called my husband, Sean, as soon as I got off the phone with Julia. He was shocked by what I shared just as I had been but immediately said call her back and tell her yes. We did call her back once I had gotten home from work and talked about it again. There was no doubt we wanted to accept this blessing. Julia asked us all sorts of scenario questions to make sure we had thought this through. We appreciated how she took the time to make sure this would be right not only for us but for the baby we would be placed with. Once we had decided, there was lots to do to take this new and yet familiar journey again.

"Answered Prayers - Part II"

Our Cup Runs Over... - *continued*

We completed our home study paperwork in record time knowing that mid-March was only three months away. Julia and Hopeful Beginnings were always there to help answer any questions that came up and to give us updates on our birth mom's progress when they had news. We finished up our home study with the in person visit at the beginning of February and then waited for news on a more exact due date for the baby. We spoke with Julia off and on over the next two weeks as she worked with our birth mom to try and get her into a pre-natal appointment. On our daughter's first birthday Julia called to let us know that she had been at an appointment with our birth mom that day. I asked how her appointment went and how she was doing. Julia told us that the due date had changed to the beginning of April but that she and the babies were doing fine. Yes, you read that correctly BABIES! Our birth mom was expecting twins. In true Hopeful Beginnings fashion, Julia walked through this news with us and made sure that this was still the right choice for us. She supported us and made us feel that whatever decision we made everything would be okay. Sean and I decided that we were up for this double blessing and we couldn't imagine not having Madison and her siblings grow up together. Well six days later our new little blessings were born. They surprised us all by showing up earlier than expected but they were healthy and doing well. Julia arranged for us to be able to see the babies at the hospital while still being respectful of how our birth mom was feeling and whether or not she wanted to spend some time with them. This is something that we both value from Hopeful Beginnings, it's not one sided. They care for everyone involved with placing a baby from the birth family to the adoptive family. I know how much support we have felt come our way from everyone at Hopeful Beginnings and I'm sure it is the same for the birth families. Our family has grown by leaps and bounds since that phone call in December and while it has been crazy, busy we can't imagine it any other way. We love seeing our children get the opportunity to grow up with one another and when we watch them together, we see how much love they already have for one another. As for Sean and I, we thought our hearts were full with Madison but little did we know how much more we would be given so much...more that our cup overflows.



What We Do

Teen Parenting Program

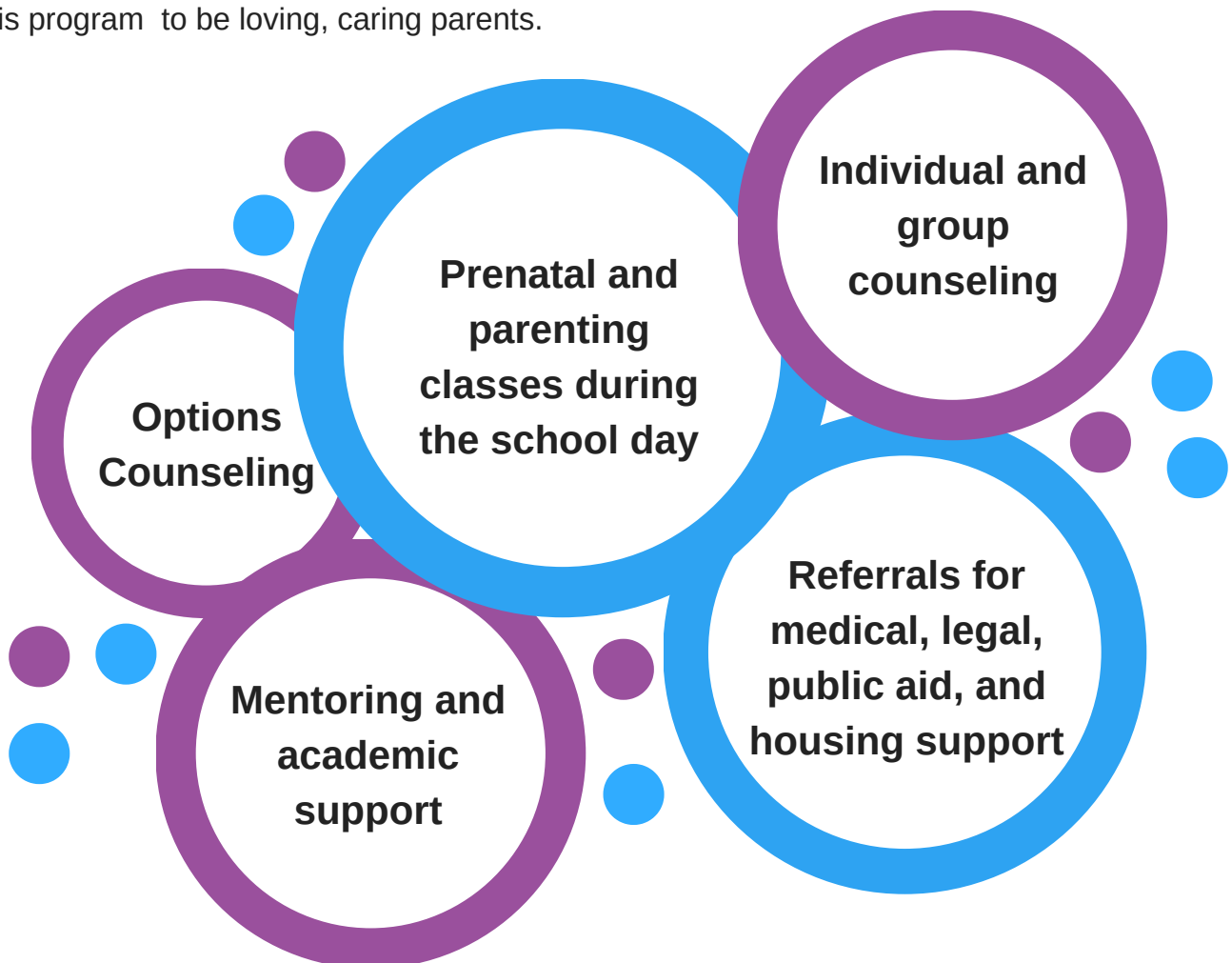
In collaboration and partnership with Township High School District 214, The Hopeful Beginnings Teen Parenting Program offers a variety of support to teen girls who are pregnant or already parenting. After graduating, each teen is eligible to receive a continuation of services, whether it be counseling, adjustment to motherhood, or case management, at our offices. We want to provide each one with a sense of stability, as well as continued support.

Our vision is for these students to graduate high school, and continue to pursue their life goals, while using the skills and lessons learned through this program to be loving, caring parents.

"Hopeful Beginnings was a safe space where I could go and talk about my problems and had supportive staff be there for me. I felt like I belonged there. The girls and I made a strong bond throughout the 2 years that I was there and it felt good to be able to connect with girls my age. It really made me think ahead and push myself hard everyday, made me realize that I was capable of attending college, despite the struggles as a teen mom. Staff really made me realize that I was a strong person and that if I set my mind to things, I could accomplish. I will forever be thankful I was apart of Hopeful Beginnings because it also shaped me into a better mother to my 2 year old son."

*- Cynthia**

*name has been changed to protect the privacy of the individual



Financial Position

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2021

Revenue

	FY2021	FY2020
Public Support	\$246,573	\$206,772
Program Revenue	\$210,968	\$202,426
Investment Income	\$894,691	\$213,298
*Change in Value of Perpetual Trusts	\$1,021,482	\$ 6,256
Miscellaneous	- 0 -	- 0 -
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$176,065	
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Total Revenue	\$ 2,549,779	\$ 628,752

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$ 402,024	\$443,585
Administrative and Occupancy	\$ 220,986	\$188,023
Fundraising	\$ 169,207	\$149,603
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Total Expenses	\$792,217	\$781,211

****Net Assets**

**Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,757,562	(\$ 152,459)
**Beginning of Year	\$ 6,655,077	\$6,807,536
**End of Year	\$ 8,412,639	\$6,655,077

**Donor restricted funds*

***includes Donor restricted funds*

Impact

With help from people like you, Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's Services supported hundreds of clients during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Pregnant or Parenting Women



Hopeful Beginnings responded to 107 clients who inquired about our maternity counseling services and provided over 1,592 hours of direct counseling and support.

Over \$15,000 was spent in order to aid these women in necessary living expenses (rent, utility, groceries, etc.) and over \$1,127 in medical services.

Helped Build 3 Families

The Adoption Programs at Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's Services welcomed 4 new families this fiscal year, which made a total of 20 active families in our programs. This program provided 649 hours of counseling and support throughout the many stages of the adoption process. We are proud that this support culminated in three adoption placements and four interstate placements.



How You Can Help

Donate

As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the community for resources to fund our programs and help us provide necessities for clients. Donations enable us to continue to provide free counseling services, education, and assistance to our maternity clients.

You can also donate via our Amazon Wish List; or when you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's Services. Gift Cards are also a great way to donate.

The biggest impact you can make is through a monetary donation. Another way you can contribute is by learning more about what we do, or by attending our fundraising events.

Refer

As a smaller agency, Hopeful Beginnings always benefits from conversation about our services and our passion for those who are in need. Refer Hopeful Beginnings to women in your life that are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy or are suffering from a perinatal mood disorder or feeling unprepared for motherhood.

Promote

"Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Twitter and Instagram!

Educate

Talk with your local schools about the benefits of implementing the Hopeful Beginnings teen parenting program for their students and the teens in your neighborhood. Share our expansive pregnancy-related counseling services to women in your life.



www.hopefulbeginning.org

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Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's Services is licensed by the
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Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's Services is affiliated with
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