



May 2024

"I didn't get to graduate from high school," she said. Our client, "Ann" looked embarrassed and ashamed when she shared this with Diane, our Program Manager. Ann went on to explain that she had been homeless most of her teenage years and was unable to attend school regularly.

This was heartbreaking for us. It wasn't just the fact that she didn't graduate from high school, but the embarrassment and shame she felt. It deeply moved us.

Fast forward two years, and Ann just started classes last week to get her GED.

Diane shared, "Ann agreed to go for the placement tests in late March. I am thrilled to announce Ann just completed her first week of school! She is very proud of her follow-through and her excitement is thrilling to hear and contagious."

The love and support Ann received only happened because of your support, the real hero of this story. Not only have you given financially, but you have also kept our apostolate in your prayers. Some of you have given the gift of your time. *'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'* Matt 5:23

What happens next? We need volunteers to join us for our community lunches and dinners. Pregnant women from the community join the clients living at Philomena House for a meal. These community meals allow pregnant women to come to Philomena House and **experience firsthand the culture of life.**

We also have yard work that needs to be done, back steps that need to be rebuilt and a garage that needs to be cleaned.

Finally, if you are interested in joining one of our committees, that would be incredibly helpful. We have a marketing committee, a fundraising committee and a finance committee. Next year, we plan to update our strategic plan, so mark your calendar to reach out to us in February/March. The more the merrier for that project!

Thanks again for your financial support. May God reward you in a way only He can!

God bless,

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P.S. Ann's story written by Diane, our Program Manager:

It's always a special bonus when a mother-to-be joins us early in her pregnancy. We get to watch each woman grow in knowledge, readiness, and size while we have time to build our relationship and ready ourselves for the arrival of their new bundle of joy.

When I started meeting Ann, she was smart, friendly, caring, and baby-centered. During our weekly meetings, Ann slowly revealed her story, and I learned she'd been homeless for most of her teenage years and was unable to attend school regularly. As our work and goal-setting continued, I was often impressed with Ann's thoughts and ability to problem-solve at work.

She'd share stories of frustrated or angry customers at work and would outline how she felt the situation should have been handled. Her strategies were fair and valid but didn't always align with how her co-workers or manager handled the situation. She was a star in identifying what could accelerate or diffuse the situation and would shake her head when her colleagues "made things worse."

As usual, time flew by, and beautiful "Ray" arrived strong, healthy, and was immediately the center of Ann's world. When Ann was ready to return to work, her godmother offered free childcare and a bedroom for Ann and Ray while they waited for their own apartment.

It took over five months, but Ann is now in her own unit in the fourplex while remaining close in proximity and relationship to her godmother and best friend.



The newest arrival born to our client at Philomena House.