

Esther's Place of Grace

A refuge of home, healing and hope for unsupported single moms and their babies.



REVIEW THROUGH JUNE 2021

Background

Esther's Place of Grace began while founding director, Mary Dow, was pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work at the Ohio State University (OSU). Mary was impressed to address the needs she recognized with unsupported, pregnant women who lacked adequate housing and support.

With a **mission** to provide a stable haven to shelter, assist and educate homeless, pregnant, and parenting young women, Esther's Place of Grace became a recognized 501(c)3 organization in 2018. A vision that empowers women to break harmful generational cycles of poverty, abuse, and addiction can positively impact the next generation.

The Problem

An unsupported, homeless woman in a crisis pregnancy has limited choices to carry her child to full term. Without stable housing or a positive support network, parenting is undertaken from a disadvantaged position that oftentimes leads to an outlook with little hope of a positive outcome.

Our Approach

Our response is to offer the shelter of a stable home that embodies a Christian environment along with the structure and resources to support young mothers toward healing and a hopeful future.

This will be done with the cooperation, direction, and love offered by supportive staff and a community of Christian believers. As Christians, we believe this outreach to be a natural extension of our faith.



Why Housing?

At Esther's Place of Grace, we believe that stable housing paired with support programs in a Christian context are fundamental to addressing the negative social issues that affect not only homeless, unsupported women, but also present risks to their children.

The poverty rate for single women with children in Licking County is 53.5% and over half of all births in Licking County are to single women.



"The impact of homelessness begins well before a child is born. The overwhelming majority of homeless parents are single women... Homeless women face many obstacles to healthy pregnancies, such as chemical abuse, chronic and acute health problems, and lack of prenatal care."

Hart-Shegos, Ellen Homelessness and Its Effects on Children. Family Housing Fund, Minneapolis, MN, 1999.

Programs and Services offered at Esther's Place of Grace

Our program is designed to support a new mother with a holistic approach. There are several support areas to consider in order to address physical needs along with mental, emotional and spiritual healing, and to prepare each client for successful independent living. Each mother will come to us with certain strengths that she will build on to reach her goals.

We work with her to devise a plan that will encompass vital areas to enable her to be successful as a mother with ongoing support from the community. The overall focus is a well-rounded program that empowers a woman toward stable, independent living.



Program Development Achievements

The first years have been busy developing a comprehensive program by which the home will operate overall and on a day-to-day basis. A case management plan outline has been devised to serve each client from the time they enter and follow through until they exit the program. A sampling of the written documents developed over this time includes:

- Organization Policy and Procedure
- Resident Handbook
- Adoption Curriculum
- Resident's Expectations
- Resident program Disclosures
- Bright Course - Faith-based program with modules including Pregnancy & Birth, The First year, Toddlers, Positive Parenting
- Resident Rights and Responsibilities
- Intake Assessment
- Balanced Living Program with five stages and goals
- Accountability Program



A baby shower at an Embrace Grace meeting

Outreach Programs *in Progress*

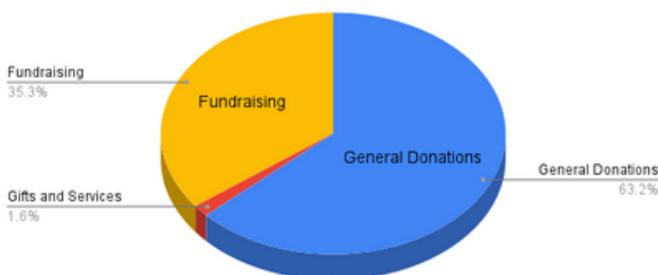
The mission of Esther's Place of Grace is already being expressed in two support-group meetings known as Embrace Grace and a follow-up program - Embrace Life.

Mary Dow leads these weekly meetings that provide emotional, practical, and spiritual support so that young single moms can navigate being the best mom to their children. Meetings are held with a dinner and available childcare at Living Hope Church of Pataskala.

Financial

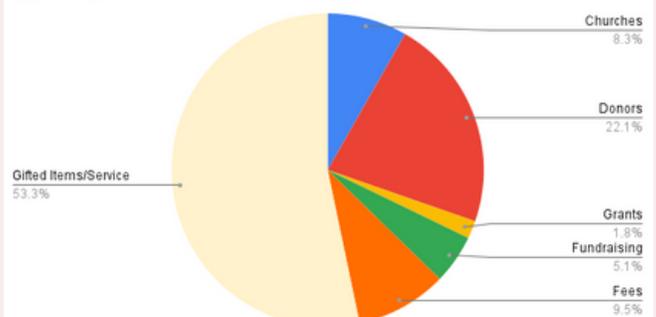
Raising funds to start a new organization is a challenge. Esther's Place of Grace's leadership, board and volunteers have established a humble nest egg through several fundraising events. A budget has also been created and approved for the coming fiscal year.

Fundraising Efforts through June, 2021



2021/2022 Budget

Approved by Board of Directors 5/10/2021



Board of Directors and Staff

Mary Dow, Executive Director
Elizabeth Friend, Secretary
Donna Dickson, Treasurer
Pam Ianni, Board Member
Carmen Debolt, Board Member
Amy Cyrus, Board Member
Marie Chiocca, Development Associate

Community Outreach Partners

- CareSource
- Children & Families First Council
- HASFY - Housing Assistance and Support for Youth
- Heartbeats of Licking County
- Starting Strong
- Licking County Affiliation for Housing
- Licking County JFS
- Licking County Children and Families First Council
- Licking County Memorial Hospital
- Licking County Health Department
- Women Infants and Children (WIC)
- New Beginnings (Domestic Violence Shelter)
- Newark Digital Academy
- Vertical 196

Awards, Affiliations & Memberships

