



Magdalena House is a long-term transitional home that serves mothers and their children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives by providing transformation through education, nurturing community, and programming. We rescue the least and the lost, sharing hope for a new beginning.

Magdalena House opened its doors in 2007 as a ministry of University United Methodist Church. We became a separate 501(c)(3) charitable organization in 2009.

We provide hope and cultivate lasting change in mothers and their children by:

- Establishing a safe neighborhood of transitional homes and loving community for each family.
- Requiring participation in full-time accredited education (ESL, GED, college), parental strengthening, spiritual formation, and diverse enrichment programming.
- Supporting related education costs, including tuition, transportation, books, and other academic needs not covered by loans and scholarships.
- Covering accredited child care and after school care costs so that mothers may attend school full-time.
- Offering diverse Enrichment Programming to support the development of protective factors that promote well-being in mothers and children so that they can flourish.
- Providing referrals and financial support for parenting courses, counseling, health care needs and legal assistance.
- Providing professional, financial and daily needs for each mother and child to flourish.
- Engaging in authentic, long-term relationships with each family member of our community.
- Empowering each resident to recognize and use her God-given talents to improve her community.

Who We Serve:

Magdalena House serves mothers and their children escaping violence. We primarily serve 4 groups of vulnerable families.

- Victims of domestic violence,
- Victims of human trafficking,
- Young mothers aging out of foster care and
- Mothers working reunification plans with CPS.

The mothers have experienced extremely low self-esteem, stress, trauma, PTSD, fear and depression resulting from their violent situations and generational violence and poverty. These families coming to MH are homeless and have no income.

- Average age of our entering mothers is 24 (range 18 to 37)
- Mothers with up to 2 children whose ages are 8 years or younger upon entry.

Historically, our mothers are

- 50% Hispanic, 23% African American, 20% Caucasian, and 7% multiple races.
- 30% of the women arrive without having graduated from high school
- 20% have limited English-language skills.
- Most have few job skills and only limited job placement potential beyond minimum wage jobs.

Our Program

We offer 24/7 support to create a home-like environment, full of hope and accountability, for these families. Children have a stable home so they can succeed in school.

Moms must participate in full-time accredited education such as ESL, GED, or college. Families participate in parental coaching, life enrichment classes and counseling. **Families stay with us for multiple years until they have completed their educational goals.** Moms completing our program can earn a living wage and are confident in themselves and their parenting. We employ 10 staff, and rely on over 250 volunteers, many with professional skills, who contribute over 4,000+ hours/year.

Our Objectives

Our objectives are for each mother to gain self-sufficiency through educational success; a belief in her goodness, giftedness and value; mastery of effective parenting skills and a desire to in turn serve our hurting world. We aim to empower and equip each mother to achieve a set of unique goals that she creates for herself to meet these objectives.

Because the needs of each family at Magdalena House are so varied, their goals and markers of success vary widely. Our greatest evaluation and accountability tool is our covenant review process. Upon intake, mothers identify their long-term goals for their time at Magdalena House. They then work with our Program Director to develop an initial covenant with Magdalena House in which they identify how to work towards these goals over the period of one semester. Covenant goals focus on academics, family strengthening/parenting, personal health, emotional well-being, and finances. Through this covenant process, women work to change behavior patterns and gain success at achieving manageable goals.

Our Success

Our ongoing program has been very successful. We have offered safe, loving, home-like shelter for 76 mothers and children who have stayed on average for 18 to 24 months.

Magdalena House offers homeless single mothers the opportunity to change the trajectory of their lives and the lives of their children. Over 75% of our mothers who have invested in the program (stayed over 6 months) have completed significant educational milestones, such as their GED, ESL program, Associate's Degree, or certified training. Women leaving Magdalena House are confident mothers who can support themselves and their children financially and emotionally.

Facilities and Plans

We have built a gated neighborhood on our 5 acre property for our mothers and their children. We opened two new homes and a Family Wellness Center early in 2018.

Our future plans are to build 4 more homes to support 28 families at a time.