

The Living Vine, Inc.



The Living Vine
Christian Maternity Home

Impacting two generations by allowing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to shine hope into the lives of women experiencing crisis pregnancies.

A place to grow,
A place to change,
A place to prepare
To love, live & succeed.

Arionna's Story

My name is Arionna and I am 18 years old. When I was young, my mother made me feel loved & wanted. My brother, sister and I were safe and happy until my mom met a man. Though they **weren't married, he** was the first father figure I ever had. I remember one night waking up to my mom screaming because my **"stepdad" was hitting** her. Even though I was only 6, I wondered why she would stay with someone who beat her.

By the time I was 13, I could not handle it either. Besides hitting her, my stepdad would lock her out the house all night and call her names. To protect my mom, I would fight him. He pushed me and treated me as if I was some type of animal. This really messed with my mind. To make matters worse, after one of our

fights, my mom would yell at me for putting **my hands on "HER MAN."** She **slapped** me and told me that I had to listen to him because nobody else would take in a woman with an ungrateful and destructive child.

By 15, I was sick of both of them. My mother began using cocaine and I escaped by hanging out with the wrong guys. They introduced me to sexual sin. My hurt allowed them to abuse and take advantage of me. Having watched my mom and stepdad, I justified it was okay. I spiraled out of **control. I wouldn't** listen to anyone and became totally disrespectful.

Then I met my grandmother (real **dad's side**); she moved me in with her because I was heading for destruction. She put

me on the right track and I was able to see my dad. While living with her, I found out my mom had HIV. She was told she had six months to live.

My dad decided that he wanted me to live with him. This made me happy. But during the first year, I was raped and my father did not believe me. Again I was hurt. I now knew then what he thought of me. When he met my stepmom, she was nice in the beginning, but things changed after she got to know me. She decided I was selfish wanting my dad all to myself. She said mean things to me, about my character and my dad never defended me. I was doing terrible in school.

Funny thing was that while living away from my mom, we seemed to draw closer together.

Story continued pg 2

Save the Date

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**September 13:
The Living Vine
Fundraiser
at Toucan's**

*More details on
back page*

**Coming Soon
BuyItForKids.com**

**Great gifts
for great kids.
A website created to
support The Living
Vine's ministry.**

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Arionna's Story Continued

She broke up with my step-dad and things got back to the way they use to be. Then one day I got a call from my sister and she told me that my mom was in a **coma. I felt like I couldn't breathe.** My mom died November 14, 2008.

With the loss of my mom, knowing I had no one, I met the father of my baby. We started dating and decided that we wanted a baby. He already had a child but I looked past that.

When I found out I was pregnant, the both of us were **happy. My dad wasn't though;** he told me that he was disgusted and that I would have to go live in a shelter. My step-mom was right alongside with him. That was when they brought me to the Vine.

My life has drastically changed. I am so thankful. I feel loved and wanted. Without a doubt, this is the best place for me to be mentally and spiritually. Ms.

Sarah even led my boyfriend to Jesus. We now have the chance to start over. Though I came from a family that made me feel unwanted and worthless, now **that I have Christ in my life, I'll never feel this way again.** I am proud of the person I am becoming.

PSALM 27: 10

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.

Please Pray About How You Can Get Involved

The Living Vine's entire annual budget is raised through private contributions from individuals, churches, civic organizations, and grants. We desire to walk by **faith in our Heavenly Father's** provision and receive no state or federal funds as it would limit what we are able to teach. All of our services are offered free of charge.

Therefore, we need YOU!

All donations to The Living Vine are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Our tax ID number is 58-2088326 under IRS.

We need people willing to help in a variety of ways: fundraising, maintenance, thrift store donation sorting, and tutoring to name a few.

Please call Paula at #352.9998 today to see how you can help!

Join our Guild

The Living Vine Guild meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at The Living Vine. The guild hosts birthday parties for our residents, coordinates fundraising opportunities, and helps keep our local churches and community aware of the ministry of The Living Vine.

For more information concerning the guild, contact Charlene at cbnelsonsr@aol.com or call #912.231.0930.

Blessingdales Thrift Stores

Savannah

Southside

2118 Bona Bella Ave

912.355.4339

M,T,Th, F: 10 am-5 pm

Sat: 10 am-3 pm

Downtown

134 Houston St

912.236.2034

M, T, W, F: 10 am-5 pm

Sat: 10 am-3 pm

Garden City

309 East Main Street

Traffic Circle Shopping Center

912.966.2242

T, W, Th, F: 10 am-5 pm

Sat: 10 am- 3 pm

Pooler

106-C South Chestnut St

912.330.0220

M,T, W, F: 9:30am-5 pm

Sat: 10 am-3 pm



**All proceeds support
The Living Vine**





The Living Vine: Our Residential Program

The Living Vine is a nonprofit Christian residential program for pregnant women. Since opening in 1996, more than 265 expectant mothers have called The Living Vine “home.” The majority of our residents have come from backgrounds of abuse, neglect, and bad choices. Our desire is to create a safe and loving environment while teaching Biblical principles, practical life skills, and job training. Each

resident is provided the opportunity to receive ministry for healing and change while ensuring proper prenatal care for her unborn baby.

Program Highlights:

- ◆ Spiritual growth & development
- ◆ Job training & Life skills
- ◆ Anger resolution & Counseling
- ◆ **Childbirth education & “Baby Think It Over” parenting skills**
- ◆ Educational options including: home school & GED preparation

“Our services are offered free of charge in the name of Jesus Christ to demonstrate His love.”

Vine’s Needs List:

Large Vine projects:

- New carpeting
- New flooring for kitchen and dining room
- Window treatments
- Large dining room table
- Replacement outside doors
- Laptop computers

House hold items:

- Indoor/outdoor entrance rugs
- Nonskid washable bathroom rugs
- Large rug in dining room
- Lamps & HE bulbs
- Decorative pillows
- Wet/Dry Shop vac
- Index cards & mechanical pencils
- Stamps
- Pantry Staples such as Soups, Fruit juices, Crackers, etc
- Coffee: regular & decaf

Gift Certificates:

- Wal-Mart/Sam’s
- Home Depot
- Office Max
- Publix/Kroger

Volunteer Support:

We have volunteer opportunities to meet your schedule. Projects like washing windows or helping sort clothing in one of our thrift stores might fit your schedule and would be a God-send to us.

If you or someone you know has a specialized skill, examples: tile work, roofing, painting, carpentry, etc, we would love your contact information. At different times, new projects come up and we would be so blessed to know who is interested in helping with those specific needs.

Service Projects:

- Pressure wash building and common areas
- Replacement of decaying boards on storage unit
- Bookshelves built
- Yard volunteers for Spring & Summer
- Guys with trucks to help with Blessingdales pick ups

Adopt a Day:

We need individuals and church groups to adopt a day at one of our Blessingdales stores. Ministry opportunities walk through our doors every day.

Maintenance:

- 1) We are in need of a roofer able to repair a slate roof.
- 2) Doors inside Vine not properly closing.

GoodSearch & GoodShop: Make a donation every time you search or shop on-line

Search the web with Yahoo-powered **GoodSearch.com** and they’ll donate about a penny to your cause each time you search!

Shop at more than 600 **GoodShop.com** merchants including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us, and others, and a percentage of each purchase will go to your cause!





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NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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SAVANNAH, GA

Address Service Requested

**A LITTLE change can
make a BIG difference!**

**So far, our baby bottle
fundraiser has raised over
\$51,800!**

**Please join the baby bottle
campaign. Baby bottles are
available at The Living Vine.**

Toucan Fundraiser



***Have dinner
at Toucan's
September
13, 2010.***

***Make it a special night
for family and friends
and help raise money for
The Living Vine.***

Gideon's Army

We are looking for an army of 300 individuals, groups, churches, Sunday School classes, businesses or civic groups who would commit to a \$1000 donation towards our 2010 budget. This army would cover our operating budget.

If you or your group are interested, please call us at 352.9998.

And the Lord said unto Gideon, by the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand.

Judges 7:7

Blessingdales Thrift Stores

Our Pooler store will be relocating very soon to 305 W Collins Street which is at the corner of Hwy 80 and Collins Street (literally around the corner from our current store).

We would welcome help with transitioning to our new building!
