

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.

Our 13th Anniversary

The staff at the Living Vine asked me to say a few “reflective” words about the ministry, now that we have just celebrated our thirteenth anniversary. Wow... over two hundred and sixty mothers and babies lives have been changed forever by the impact of this home – and we are still going strong. New girls are coming in every few weeks and new little babies come into this world every few months. As I look back to 1993 when there were just a handful of us meeting monthly to raise money and find a location for this vision called “The Living Vine,” I can see the Lord’s gentle Hand on everything we touched. The first fundraiser at Mrs. Wilkes, the Loving & Caring Seminar on how to start a maternity home, even the ordering of blueprints to build a home in another area... all of these events were

used by God to shape us and the ministry into, not what we thought we needed, but what He knew He wanted this home to be.

When we opened the doors to the Living Vine Christian Maternity Home here at 535 East 54th Street in September 1996, I remember being excited and scared at the same time. It has been quite a journey and we just wanted to share some of the blessings of the journey with you. Some of you have been with us from day one; others, ten or twelve years; still others are joining us even today as new volunteers, guild members and board members. We want to say thank you for the deep trust you have in the ministry, giving sacrificially to the needs of the girls you’ll probably never know (this side of heaven).

The monetary sacrifices, the donations of food,

the baby bottle campaigns, the giving of your time to cut our grass, fix our computers, repair our plumbing, the list goes on and on. God knows who you are and He knows why you help us. Some of you are adopted, some of you are adoptive parents, some of you had abortions, some of you gave money to have a baby aborted. Some of you just heard a call from God to help us. Whatever the reason, you each responded and we can never thank you enough.

Most of our girls are pretty battered and beaten down spiritually when they get here. They don’t realize how much it takes to feed, clothe, shelter and council them.

They are just thankful to be here. But later, years later, they know. They come back and say, “Tell the people who pay for this ministry thank you for me.”

Continued on back page

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The Living Vine: Our Residential Program

The Living Vine is a nonprofit Christian residential program for pregnant women. Since opening in 1996, more than 260 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 development
- ◆ Anger resolution & Counseling
- ◆ Childbirth education & “Baby Think It Over” parenting skills
- ◆ Educational options including: home school & GED preparation

Please Pray About How You Can Get Involved

The Living Vine’s entire annual budget is raised through private contributions from individuals, churches and 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 stores 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 cbnelson@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**

Courtney's Story

My name is Courtney and I am 16 years old. My life has not been the greatest. My parents do drugs and have been in and out of jail all my life. Their instability has caused me to be moved around a lot; I have attended 12 different schools. It is very hard to make friends when you are always starting over; sometimes I just wanted to give up. Finally, a family member stepped in to raise me and my siblings; while I know I should be grateful, I could not help but feel like an imposition. Never really feeling loved or important left a deep hole in my heart.

By the time I was in the eighth grade, I decided that a boyfriend could fulfill my need to be loved. I met someone who made lots of promises but, unfortunately, my family disapproved. Choosing him over all of my other relationships led me to begin lying and sneaking out. He was the first person that I felt loved by in years and I was going to do whatever I had to do to be with him.

A year and a half later I found out I was pregnant. I didn't know what to do or how to tell my family or friends--so I didn't. My boyfriend wanted me to lose the baby so that we wouldn't have to tell anyone. I just kept living like

I always had, not considering the consequences it could have on the baby. One of my aunts started catching on when I was about seven months pregnant. She took me to the doctor and demanded I had an abortion, but I refused. I was kicked out of my home and told that I could not come back with a child. By that time, my boyfriend said he didn't want to grow up and be a father, so he moved away leaving me to handle this on my own. I was hurt because I gave up everything for him thinking he would always be there for me.

I had heard about The Living Vine but I didn't want to go. I thought I would be looked down on or I wouldn't fit in. I have always believed in God, but during the past few years, I had messed up so much and felt like I wasn't good enough to be loved by Him. How would I be able to fit in with a group of Christians? After my family threatened to make me a ward of the state, I decided I would give the Vine a try. It ended up being one of the best decisions I made.

I soon found God again. At this time in my life, I needed him more than ever. The Vine told me that they would support me in any way they could. After I delivered, they would help me find a place for me and my baby

or they would support me if I chose adoption. Initially, I did not know what to do, so I was able to work through making plans for both options. The more I was able to seek God the more I realized God had bigger plans for my baby than I could ever imagine. I began understanding that I love my baby so much that I, at 16 years of age, want him to have everything that I am unable to give him. I was able to pick a family with a mommy and a daddy who could love him like I do, unconditionally.

God blessed me with a big healthy baby boy. I will never forget the day I placed him into a new family. It was the hardest thing I have ever had to do, but being at the Vine made it easier. I wasn't alone. I was surrounded by amazing people who were with me and helped me handle the pain. I feel at peace.

God used my mistakes not only to bring me to Him but He allowed me to give the greatest gift you can give. I gave a child a life with a family who will love him and care for him. I now know Jesus Christ as my Savior. I know that God loves me no matter what I have done; I am forgiven! Thank you for supporting the Vine. I don't know what would have happened to me without them.

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The Living Vine, Inc.

535 East 54th Street
Savannah, GA 31405

Phone: 912.352.9998

Fax: 912.352.1011

E-mail: thelivingvine@hotmail.com

Visit us online at www.thelivingvine.org

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A LITTLE change can make a BIG difference!

So far, our baby bottle
fundraiser has raised over
\$49,500!

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

Our 13th Anniversary Continued

Some of our girls are themselves now counselors in crisis pregnancy centers or work in group homes. Because God was good to them through you, now they want to be that blessing to someone else.

We just wanted to let all of you know we are alive and well, still proclaiming the only name under Heaven by which men are saved, and that name is Jesus; that girls are still being saved and babies are still being brought into this world with hope and a purpose. We still don't take government money, and never will. God provides for us.

The Vine itself is expanding its roots. We have four Blessingdales thrift stores ministering in four very different locations for God's glory. Even The Bona Bella Bear Club which started as an outgrowth of the first Blessingdales, has grown into a full-fledged outreach ministry of Southside Baptist Church.

We still need you to be a part of us. We just wanted to say we love you and we thank you. It's good to look back, but it's even better to look forward! Pray for us.

In Christ alone,

Claire Hedges, Founder

The Living Vine is in need of a face lift & we'd love your help!

We have priced some minor renovations to keep the property safe and beautiful for women in crisis pregnancies.

We would welcome your help on any or all of these projects:

Carpet for main pathways: \$6000

Cabinets doors for kitchen and bathrooms: \$6000

New Flooring for Kitchen and Dining Rooms \$7000

New Classroom Desks \$900

Built in Bookshelves: \$4600

Vehicles: The Living Vine needs 2 mini-vans in good working condition & a pick up truck.