



# Star of the North

## MATERNITY HOME

Winter 2023 Newsletter | [www.starofthenorthmaternityhome.org](http://www.starofthenorthmaternityhome.org)

### Dear SON Supporters,

**"...They went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." —Matthew 2:9-10**

Our name, Star of the North, was inspired from this bible verse and due to your generosity and support, we feel God's star stopping over our SON homes where our moms and babies are each day. Our staff and volunteers are so dedicated to ensuring our Moms and babies are well cared for. We are so grateful to the many ways you all step up to support us, whether it is a local Sand Lake Chapel or Blessed Sacrament Church raising funds for our moms and sharing our message for SON Iron Range, St. Johns and St. Ben's Giving Trees, monthly donations from the Almond Branch Church, Zion Lutheran in Cloquet dropping off gifts, and so many others. Each act of kindness, prayer and action are so deeply appreciated.

We recently updated our SON website and realized we have helped over 71 Mom's and babies since we opened in 2019. SON Iron Range is already full and has a waiting list. We are not an emergency shelter as we ask our Mom's to be part of a program towards independence. Our outcomes are Mom's having their babies at term (95%), attendance at medical, mental and behavioral health appointment (93%), in house educational programming which includes ECFE, Amazing Babies, Ask a MD/RN (thanks to the LaBerge's), and a Bible Study. Using the Holy Family, we are modeling how to live and work together. We are seeing dedicated Moms with their babies moving towards independence; we've had two moms back in



Led by Lori Hoyum, a MN Power Volunteer Team of staff came to prepare our home and yard for the winter by trimming trees and raking leaves

local community colleges, two moms who are working and two of our moms completing a week long peer counseling course to help others facing substance abuse. We have built a new collaborative relationship with New Hope Day Care, to ensure we have infant/toddler day care for our Mom's available. This has already made a wonderful difference for our Moms.

Our TFLN Collaborative just celebrated twelve years working together here in the Northland to continue building our Culture of Life and we praise God for His support as we work together. Check out our updated website if you need to find the TFLN Directory of one of these wonderful organizations. Thank you and blessings to each of you and your family this Christmas season and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Susan E. McClernon

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

As we opened SON in 2019, it took a true group of volunteers who were dedicated to staff 24/7. One standout was a 5th grade teacher from Blessed Sacrament who drove all the way from Gilbert, MN regularly to help with overnights and shift needs during her summer off from school. Lora Wyrwick also helps during the school year on weekends and holidays whenever needed. She has continued that service since Day 1 and now has also begun volunteering at SON Iron Range. This busy Mom and teacher is truly one dedicated servant of God as she has given so much to Star of the North and we are eternally grateful for her dedication!



### Do you feel a call to help Moms and Babies?

We are operating 24/7, 7 days a week at each of our homes and need volunteers and paid care coordinators (part-time) to support our mission.

- Twin Ports (Duluth) & Iron Range (Hibbing)
- Please go to our website to apply: [www.StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org](http://www.StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org) or email [togetherforlifenorthland@gmail.com](mailto:togetherforlifenorthland@gmail.com)



[www.StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org](http://www.StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org)



[StaroftheNorthMaternityHome](#)

Twin Ports | (218) 340-1645 | [sonmhtwp@gmail.com](mailto:sonmhtwp@gmail.com) • Iron Range | (218) 206-1931 | [sonmhir@gmail.com](mailto:sonmhir@gmail.com)

# SON Iron Range

## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer came to Star of the North after living in a boarding home for a few years and finding herself unexpectedly pregnant. She knew that she couldn't stay there and housing is difficult to find in the Northland. She found Star of the North and has been living there for 3 months and was supported through the birth of her baby. Jennifer is most looking forward to watching her daughter, Aziza, grow & live this new life with her.

Her biggest lesson? God has a plan and it will always work out.

Even if it's something you never expected.

If you're interested in donating to our new moms, please visit our Target Registry link at the bottom of this page.



## Small Community, Large Impact

This tiny congregation (35 members) of Sand Lake Chapel has been very interested and involved with our home on the range. They have donated \$5,000.00, attended our open houses, and have referred our dedicated volunteer, Angie Miller. They have expressed giving to us quarterly stating that they have been donating to more national organizations and want to start keeping it local.

"We are very fortunate to have support from Sand Lake Chapel in Britt," Kim Fagan says. "Pastor Dick Lohry reached out to us after reading about us in the newspaper, and hearing about us from a member of his congregation. After some investigation, Pastor Lohry and his Board Chair Dan Hautamaki, attended the Star of the North Iron Range open house in June. Pastor and Dan believed in our mission of empowering women."

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: *Angie Miller*

Angie has been volunteering with the Iron Range home since its inception last March. Previously interning with Range Women's Advocates in 2002 and serving on Sand Lake Chapel's board, she has always been interested in this line of work. She loves helping moms realize their potential while instituting positive change and breaking unhealthy cycles. Angie provides continuity and stability to our residents and to the program. She always has a warm smile and a loving spirit when she works.



In front of Sand Lake Chapel in Britt, Minnesota (from left to right) Pastor Dick Lohry, Angie Miller and Dan Hautamaki

## SAVE THE DATE

Nashwauk Home Sport and Travel show will be April 14th-15th, 2023.

Find our Star of the North Iron Range booth at the show!

## Needs for SON Iron Range:

- Cordless Rechargeable Vacuum
- Standard Printer Paper
- Crib Sheets

Check out our Target Registry at [www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/starofthenorthironrange](http://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/starofthenorthironrange)

- Crib Mattresses
- Crib size Waterproof mattress covers
- Diapers size Newborn, 1s, 2s, 3s, & 4s

# SON Twin Ports

## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Gen came to Star of the North Twin Ports pregnant and looking for a new beginning, a chance to become a better mother for her family. Gen's daughter, Vera, was born earlier this fall and her biggest lesson has been to ask for help when you need it. In the future, Gen has most appreciated the chance to have a stable, happy, and healthy environment for Vera. Gen just completed a week-long Peer Recovery Specialist Training.



If you're interested in donating to our new moms, please go to [togetherforlifenorthland.org/donate](http://togetherforlifenorthland.org/donate) now to view our Amazon Wishlist.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

*"Motherhood is one of the most special experiences life can offer women. I love supporting women in that."*

### **Kristin Cpin**

Kristin has been with Star of the North since the beginning, helping many residents with the new world of motherhood. Now leading a weekly Bible study with the residents of Star of the North Twin Ports, she is thankful for the opportunity to learn and grow in Christ alongside other women.



During the day, Kristin works in digital marketing while also homeschooling her two children. Still, for the past three years she makes time for the new moms staying at the SON house in Duluth.

Thank you, Kristin, for all that you do! If you're interested in volunteering, please go to [StaroftheNorthMaternityHome.org](http://StaroftheNorthMaternityHome.org).

# SON Twin Ports



Keith (left) and Marty (right) LaPlante with new artwork for both Iron Range and Twin Ports SON homes

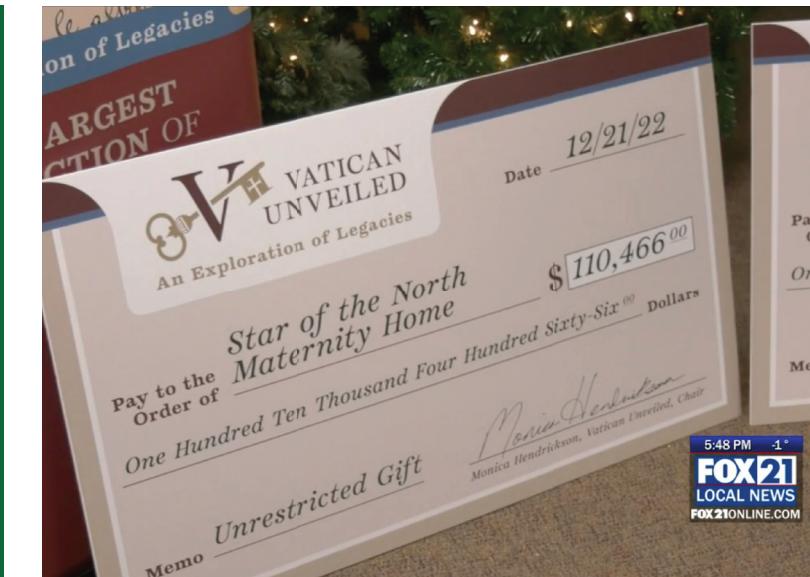
## New Year, New Artwork

We received a grant of 34 photo art pieces from the Foundation for Hospital Art out of Italy (through a collaboration of the UMD School of Public Health). Marty LaPlante engaged his brother Keith LaPlante to make these beautiful wooden frames and St. Germain's Glass Co completed the project by donating the glass. We will be using these to hang beautiful photo art on the walls of SON Iron Range and Twin Ports. Thank you to our UMD Public Health Intern, Leah Fleischhacker, and Marty for making this happen!

### Needs for SON Twin Ports:

- Queen and full size quilts
- Warm, fuzzy blankets
- Trash cans (bedroom size)
- Diapers size 5 and 6 and diaper wipes
- Four dining room chairs
- Tall boy dresser (not very large)
- Chlorox wipes
- Lysol spray

Check out our Amazon Wishlist at [Star of the North Maternity Home](http://StaroftheNorthMaternityHome.org)



We are so thankful to Fr. Richard Kunst and Monica Hendrickson for their leadership in the Vatican Unveiled fundraiser for Star of the North Maternity Homes and Stella Maris Academy. We raised \$110,000 for SON Iron Range and Twin Ports. We are SO grateful to our volunteers and sponsors as well!

## 2023 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

THE TFLN Board has asked us to begin a 2023 Capital campaign as we need to raise \$400,000 for purchase of a home for SON Iron Range which will include 6 apartments, ultrasound, offices and a child care center. See the enclosed letter for more details. Your generosity, whether through planned giving, a charitable trust or a will designating SON is truly appreciated.

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Star of the North Maternity Home

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