



STAR OF THE NORTH MATERNITY HOME

www.StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org

The Salmon Dinner Was a Success!

On March 14, over 250 gathered at St. James Church in Duluth for the 2025 Salmon Dinner, raising funds for Star of the North Maternity Home. The evening featured a moving testimonial from Marlana, one of our residents, who expressed deep gratitude for the home's support.

A special moment was the presentation of the Fr. Crossman Culture for Life Award, accepted by Paulette Moreland. The 2025 Organization Culture of Life award was presented to the Christ Child Society. Paulette Moreland and Renee Zurn accepted the award on behalf of Kathy Forsman.

This year's silent and online auction was a great success, thanks to our generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers. A special thanks to Deacon Lyle & Amy Johnson and his Kitchen Crew. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to the event's success.



Paulette Moreland
Fr. Crossman COL Award

Paulette Moreland, Sue McClernon, Renee Zurn
Christ Child Society Culture of Life Award

2025 Star of the North Twin Ports House Update

We're excited to be filling our Duluth home with moms and their children—currently two moms with their three-year-old daughters and more on the way. Our mostly female team of staff and volunteers provides essential support, and we're grateful for the men who help with transportation and repairs. We're especially in need of babysitters, drivers, Care Coordinators, and a live-in night staff member.

Thanks to the Alta Good Deeds Foundation Grant, every bed now has a brand-new mattress, frame, bedding, and pillows. We're also looking for gently used living room furniture, girls' summer clothes (sizes 4–6), and pull-ups.

Last summer's container garden was a hit, and this year we're adding a raspberry patch—thanks to a generous volunteer and eager moms ready to plant! Margo Rathke, SON Twin Ports Program Manager

Dear SON Supporters,

April 2025

Why do we do what we do 24/7? The amazing photo below of two of our current residents captures our "why"! As we reflect on the impact of our work—helping moms and children heal from trauma and reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)—it's important to consider the legacy we leave behind. Including Star of the North Maternity Home in your will is a meaningful way to offer lasting hope and support. Your gift helps provide safe shelter, essential resources, and 24/7 care to pregnant women and their children facing housing insecurity—empowering them to build healthy, stable lives. Please support our capital needs to pay off our homes and maintain both properties so we can continue serving families in need every day. (SONTwin Ports: \$292k, SON Iron Range: \$202k). We are so grateful!

Proverbs 13:22: "A good person leaves an inheritance to their children's children."

Dr. Susan McClernon, Executive Director



Pictured Left: Our Youngest and Cutest Residents



Thank you ALTA Good Deed Foundation

https://StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org

[StaroftheNorthMaternityHome](https://www.facebook.com/StaroftheNorthMaternityHome)

Twin Ports | (218) 340-1645 | sonmhtwp@gmail.com

Iron Range | (218) 206-1381 | sonmhir@gmail.com

Resident Spotlight- Miss Anonymous

Our residents often leave very difficult situations when they come to us. Miss A. had been in and out of a violent relationship, one that had caused CPS to step in and remove her children. She chose to live with us in order to remove herself from that relationship and prove to CPS that she was doing everything she could to get custody back. Happily, we can report that she has been successful! We love seeing her little ones around our home. Miss A. has impressed us all with how fiercely she has applied herself in our Program. She is thankful for the accountability SONIR has provided her as she works to improve her circumstances for herself and her family. Our hope for every one of our Residents is that they would realize their own worth. They are worthy of being treated with kindness and respect. They are worthy of the effort it takes to form a healthy, independent life.



2025 Chili Cook-October 25, Hibbing



Please plan to attend our next Chili Cook Off on Saturday, October 25, 2025 at Blessed Sacrament in Hibbing.

Start preparing your best recipes now, build your team and make a plan to get some warm fall chili while supporting Star of the North Iron Range. We are looking for auction items and event sponsors. Please email: kristyns.sonmhir@gmail.com

Staff Spotlight



The staff at SONIR are so grateful that Ginny Carlson is part of our team. Ginny moved to Hibbing from North Carolina with her parents and nine younger siblings after graduating high school. She met her husband and raised her daughter here, leaving the area for a few years due to her husband's time in the military. After returning to Hibbing, she began her career at Victory Christian Academy and has taught there faithfully for 26 years. With an eye on retiring in the not-too-distant future, she asked God to direct her to another ministry, one in which she could share the Gospel with others. God answered her prayers by bringing her to SONIR, where she's not only able to share the Gospel, but also to be a living example of God's love for the women and children who stay here. She has managed to juggle teaching full time, caring for her family, and serving at her church, all while filling a vital role at our home. Her servant's heart has been a wonderful blessing to staff and residents alike.

Check out our [Target Registry](#)



Needs For SON Iron Range
Disinfecting wipes
Cleaning supplies
Volunteers and babysitters
Part Time Staff

Capital Needs:

Payoff Mortgage -\$202K
Refrigerator/Freezer

SON Twin Ports

Resident Spotlight

Jessica and Theia



SON Twin Ports Needs



SON TWP Capital Needs:

Payoff Mortgage - \$292K
Bathroom Updates & Carpet Replacement (15K)

OPENINGS for TFLN Board Members

SON IR & TWP need Care Coordinators and Volunteers.

Please apply online at togetherforlifenorthland.org

Volunteer Spotlight- Judy Kreag

When Judy Kreag's grandchildren became teenagers, she felt called to serve—and joined Star of the North (SON) in September 2023. With a master's in remedial reading and decades of ECFE & teaching experience, she brings wisdom, warmth, and care to our community.

Judy has taught all ages, trained future educators, and even authored two cookbooks our moms love. She delights in playing with the children, taking their photos, and creating framed keepsakes for families. Her quiet, thoughtful support helps moms and kids through everyday challenges.

Initially thinking her role was to teach, Judy soon realized the real gift was offering love, encouragement, and presence. That heart-centered approach is why she now leads our Past Resident Outreach Program.

One fellow volunteer said, "She's like the grandma I never had." Another says, "I love Judy!"

So do we. Judy's impact is lasting, and we're deeply grateful she's part of the SON family.

Jessica and Theia (3 ½) came to us in February 2025. Her case worker, Nikki, found us, and from the moment she heard about Star of the North (SON), she was determined to come here. The process was as smooth as we've seen, and Jessica said she felt like there was divine intervention in bringing her to us.

Jessica separated from Theia's dad due to verbal and emotional abuse, but living in an apartment on their own was just too expensive. Financial insecurity made them move in with her mom. While she appreciates how living with her mom gave financial security and a helping hand with child care, Jessica shared that she felt silenced. It isn't easy being a daughter and a mom at the same time. She was at a vulnerable time, and it was easy for someone to step in and take the wheel. Jessica feels she lost her voice as a person and a parent. She shared, "I came here to find my voice and myself."

Since moving to SON, Jessica has really been able to connect with her daughter in a concrete way. She is strengthening her relationship with Theia and finding her voice as a parent. She is grateful for the opportunity to take control of her own life again, benefiting from both the support and the freedom to be who she wants to be. We can see her confidence growing!

So what's next for Jessica and Theia? School! Jessica is excited to take advantage of the chance to go to school and has been accepted to Lake Superior College's nursing program in the fall. Theia is a smart and curious girl who will thrive in preschool in the fall, as well.

When I asked what else people should know about her, Jessica said, "[Theia] is my world. She gives me the strength." It is so fun for us to watch them grow as individuals and as a family. Jessica truly is finding her voice as a parent; Theia is doing her job as a 3-year-old to figure out her place in the world. While they've been here a relatively short time, it really does feel like they are meant to be here. We are excited to be a part of their journey!





Maternity Home

Star of the North Maternity Home
11 E Superior St, Executive Suites 273
Duluth, MN 55802



Join us for a benefit for Star of the North Maternity Home

of the North Maternity Home

Iron Range

Join us for a benefit for Star of the North Maternity Home

of the North Maternity Home

Iron Range

Live Music

Brats & Corn

Beverages

Bring Lawn Chairs

715 N 57th Ave W, Duluth

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 2

CORN ROAST

7:30 PM - 7:30 PM

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

2310 7TH AVE E, HIBBING, MN 55746

CHILI COOK OFF

Diaper Drive

Silent Auction

10 SUGGESTED

DONATION

Or Call 218-206-1381

Email: somnhir@gmail.com

Register for the Competition



Visit StaroftheNorthMaternityHome.org for more information

(Event will take place in the gym for inclement weather)

7:30 PM - 7:30 PM

James Church Parking Lot

715 N 57th Ave W, Duluth

5:30-8:30 p.m.

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