



STAR OF THE NORTH MATERNITY HOME

www.StarOfTheNorthMaternityHome.org

Thank You, Margo!

We are grateful for the tremendous service and leadership by Margo Rathke, SON TWP Manager, for over three years. We celebrated her retirement as she moved to be with her family in China in October.



Donations In Memory Of:



- Jennifer Abalan
- Jim Angradi
- Chad Braafladt
- Bertha Brisk
- Louise M. Bordon
- Ardelle Berklich
- Stu Denis
- Todd Eckart
- Walt Fischer
- Alyce Flaherty
- Dolly Grillo
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- Anthony Pfahl
- Florence Smith
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- Kathleen Sullivan
- Karen Thompson
- Larry Thompson
- Susan Jessico
- Josephine Trost
- Nick Ventrelle
- Laura Wright
- Rosemary Zurn

From the Executive Director's Desk

November 2025

Dear SON Supporters,

What an amazing year it's been at Star of the North Maternity Home! We have served over 70 Moms & 69 Babies/Children.

Both of our homes have been full—every room filled with the laughter of children, the determination of strong Mothers, and the gentle hum of daily life being rebuilt with love and hope. For more than 14 months, our SON Iron Range home was full with four incredible Moms and their little ones. Now, SON Twin Ports is full, with four Moms and two children—and two more precious babies on the way!

When I say "full," I don't just mean every bed is taken; I mean our homes are full of purpose, healing, and growth.

Research shows that Moms recovering from trauma need up to 36 months to truly stabilize. On average, our Moms stay about 3–6 months—but when one stays for a year or more, we see something remarkable happen. We see confidence blooming. We see Moms going back to school or finding jobs. We see them learning to organize their calendars, cook, budget, drive, and even buy a car. They're growing in mind, body, and spirit, discovering their unique gifts and finding a sense of direction through life coaching. It's inspiring to watch transformation take place, step by step, day by day.

None of this would be possible without the people who stand behind this mission—our staff who serve with so much heart, our faithful volunteers who show up week after week, and our generous donors and grantors who make sure our doors stay open. You are the hands and feet of this ministry, and your support is changing lives in ways you may never fully see but that we witness every single day.

As we reflect on this season of fullness, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. Thank you for believing in our Moms and their children, for believing in second chances, and for helping create homes where hope truly lives.

With deep appreciation,

Dr. Susan E. McClernon
Executive Director

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18



BOREAL WATERS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Thank you to Boreal Waters Community Foundation for your Grant Support!

Resident Update: Congratulations, Crystal!

Star of the North Iron Range celebrated a graduation. Crystal graduated from our SON Program in July. She had been with us just shy of a year. She was diligent, conscientious, and a friend to all our residents. Housing was made available to her before July but she determined she was not quite yet ready to live on her own. So she stayed with us 3 more months and it made a world of a difference to her. Upon graduation, she received items for her new home and a new laptop. She continues to be in contact with us and shares her joys, successes, and even a struggle or two. Congratulations, Crystal! Keep reaching up!



Thank You for Attending the 2025 Chili Cook-Off



Our 2025 Chili Cook-Off was held on Saturday, October 25th at Blessed Sacrament Church. We had 12 entries to the contest and congratulate Sarah for winning! Thank you to Cathy Timmerman, volunteers and sponsors: Blessed Sacrament (and hosted), Eveleth Elks, John & Cindy Weiske, Yoder Building Supplies, Virginia Elks Lodge #1003, Kunnaris, Frabonis, Caribou Coffee and many others!



National Day of Remembrance



September 13th was National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Star of the North Iron Range's Kristyn Sinnott was one of the key speakers at the event and spoke on the redeeming power of Jesus Christ in our lives. She shared about the SON IR and the lives that are being changed by our mission work. The women come in with overwhelming needs, and in the course of time those needs are addressed and lives changed. The home aims to point the women in a new and successful direction through our programming so they and their children can have a future and hope, not just a band-aid.

Check out our [Target Registry](#)



Needs For SON Iron Range:
Gift Cards- Walmart, SuperOne, Aldi &
Target
Disinfecting wipes
Cleaning supplies
Volunteers and babysitters
Part-Time Staff

Capital Needs:

Garage Heater - \$4.5K
New Heater- \$39K
Payoff Mortgage -\$220K

SON Twin Ports

Resident Update

Jessica & Marlana



Fall is full of happy Resident updates from SON-Twin Ports! Two of our families, Marlana and Jessica along with their girls, have been featured in our last two Newsletters. Both Moms continue to live with us and are thriving!

Marlana shared her story last winter and talked about her sobriety, building a family with her daughter (Kyra) and her dad, and continuing her education. Today she is in her 2nd semester of college, pursuing Ojibwe studies, and working part time. Kyra started preschool and part-time daycare in September is acclimating to her new busy schedule, as well. She continues to be smart and spunky! And Marlana, along with Kyra's dad, are doing a great job as her parents, while working on themselves as individuals and as a pair. We are so proud of all of them!

Jessica and Theia were highlighted in May '25 when she shared how she came to us and that she was so grateful for the chance to find her voice as a Mom and strengthen her relationship with her daughter. They were also both looking forward to starting school. All of those things are in full bloom! Jessica and Theia have a strong and confident bond. Theia started preschool in September and loves it! And Jessica has completed certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She is also registered for her prerequisites in January to pursue her RN degree. Mom and daughter are both learning and growing so fast!

Finally, we have welcomed two new pregnant Moms in October, and we are so blessed to have them. They each bring their own new energy to the house and are fitting in great. It is fun to see groupings of Moms eat together, laugh, support each other, and get to know each other. Our staff and volunteers feel so lucky to have the families we have and take joy in each of them. We truly are blessed!

OPENINGS
Night Live In Care Coordination
(Nov 15th)
Volunteers - Babysitting & Transport

SON IR & TWP need Care Coordinators and Volunteers.
TFLN Board Members

Please apply online at
www.togetherforlifenorthland.org

SON TWP Needs:

Gift Cards- Walmart, SuperOne, Amazon & Target
Garage Plastic Storage Bins
Towel Sets

SON Twin Ports Needs



SON TWP Capital Needs:

Payoff Mortgage - \$292K
Carpet Replacement (15K)
Exterior Painting - \$12K

Staff Update

Meet Rachel



Rachel, a senior at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), joined us in September as a **Public Health Intern**. Drawn to SON by her passion for women's health and wellness, she's committed to supporting Moms and children. She shared that one of the most rewarding aspects of her internship is seeing the direct, positive impact she can have. When asked about her favorite part of working at SON, she said, "It's the connections." And it shows - Rachel is building meaningful relationships with Moms, their kids, and our staff. Rachel is collaborating with managers to gain insight into the inner workings of a nonprofit. She's learning what it takes to run an organization like SON and Rachel's energy, compassion, and commitment are making a real difference.



Maternity Home

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