

MOMMAS, Inc. ANNUAL REPORT



2005

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For the past 19 years, MOMMAS House has been offering group residential care to single mothers, pregnant or parenting and their children. All residences are located in Nassau County, New York, but applicants are not limited to that area.

There were 26 mothers and 26 children who shared our home for all or part of 2005. All were offered the opportunity to stay for two years but some did not need that much time and others were unable to adjust to the program requirements. Those who stayed the longest had the highest chance for successful independent living.

There were 225 requests for admission between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005. These referrals were from many various sources: the Department of Social Services, hospitals, adoption agencies, schools, churches, health care facilities, pregnancy counseling services, shelters, domestic violence agencies, friends and relatives.

There are many very unique stories, e.g.
One Muslim mother from South Africa had to hide at our home, when her life was threatened because of her single parenthood. After a few months she was able to find help in her own community but without MOMMAS House she would have had no choice to keep her little boy.

Admission is a process of completing an application, having an interview and visiting one of the houses. If placement seems a possibility, releases are forwarded to schools, health care and counseling facilities to obtain further information.

Since many women and girls apply, the next step is deciding who is offered a place. This is very difficult and depends on many factors, including the current make-up of the house, and what problems the girls in residence are already dealing with. The successful applicant signs a contract and agrees to live by a defined set of rules.

The age range of the mothers was from 17 to 24, with the median age of 20, and the children from pre-born to 5 years old. There was one child who attended school. Referrals were made for Early Intervention and Special Education evaluations on all of our children because they demonstrated some developmental delays or learning disabilities or the mother did not receive adequate pre-natal care.

The racial make-up was 58% Black, 29% Caucasian, 12% Hispanic and 1% American Indian or bi-racial. The religious affiliations were very difficult to ascertain as they have little if any connection to church. Of those who identify a religion, there were Christian 73%, Catholic 20%, and 7% other or no affiliation. Thirty percent of the newborn babies were baptized or christened in their mother's faith, which helped the mothers make some connection with that community.

As for goals attained, 5 attended college or nursing school, 1 graduated H.S. and won a scholarship to college, 3 earned their GED, 3 attended vocational/business schools, and 7 began employment. Day Care was provided on-site to facilitate school attendance.

Once their goals were reached, 13 families moved out into their own apartments or to a different housing situation. Five mothers were able to return to their families in a better position to support themselves and their children. Continued support services are offered to our "graduates", so that the initial stage is not so traumatic.

In 2005, our first transitional living apartments opened in a house in East Massapequa. One of our graduates has moved in to one of the apartments. We continue to rehabilitate the rest of the building and will have it fully occupied in 2006.

During this year, a housing specialist was hired to assist mothers to prepare for the move to independence and to be successful in the transitional housing. . Otherwise the staff remained the same. Each house has live-in staff and a day care worker. There are over 100 volunteers, who work in various capacities, and who enhance our program in many ways. Additionally, five colleges sent over 60 students to experience Service-Learning with MOMMAS House. The local Rotary Clubs have painted the Brookville and Glen Cove residences and several other special projects. As always, the Boy Scouts used MOMMAS House projects to obtain 2 Eagle Scout awards.

MOMMAS House is a member of the Pregnancy Services Network, Residential Service Providers Group, and the Inter-Agency Council of Glen Cove.

There were 40 speaking engagements at organizations (both civic and religious), schools and women's groups. There were featured spots on radio and television. Our newsletter is published 3-4 times/year and there have been several newspaper articles in the religious and secular press. Our web site (www.mommashouse.org) generated much interest and about 15 new volunteers and supporters. This was also the vehicle for referrals from all over the country.

Our 2005 operating costs were \$418,350(not including funds raised to purchase the house). Because of increased fund raising revenue and grants, there was a net income of \$560,546. This has finally given us an opportunity to do needed improvements, and to have an ability to meet unforeseen expenses. In January 2006 we are moving our offices to a better location and more space. A complete report may be obtained from the N.Y.S. Charities Registration Bureau (www.oag.state.ny.us/charities.hxml) and www.Guidestar.com.

A capital funds campaign has been started in an effort to raise the money to purchase a new house, to replace the one we lost. It is time that we stop renting and start investing income into property that MOMMAS owns. Our future is more secure and our organization continues to grow in an effort to meet the needs of these most vulnerable members of our society – the homeless mothers and their babies.