



COMMUNITY REPORT

FY 2023



A MINISTRY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Good Shepherd Children & Family Services

Good Shepherd is dedicated to strengthening, healing, and preserving families. It's work we have been doing for nearly 200 years, constantly evolving to meet the demands of the community. This can mean helping a young mother build a stable life for her baby, working with adoptive parents who want to create a family, finding a safe place for a child in foster care, or supporting a family who wants to provide a temporary, loving home. It is helping a family heal from traumas caused by poverty, addiction, or other societal factors.

Adoption Services: We represent every side of the adoption triad – children of all ages, birth parents, and adoptive families – by providing compassionate counseling and assistance as they explore their options and make life-changing, life-giving decisions.

Foster Care: Good Shepherd walks beside children in foster care and their families as they take the time they need to strengthen and stabilize. We also support foster parents who open their homes to children who need a safe place to stay during a difficult time.

Maternity Shelter: Good Shepherd's Maternity Shelter offers pregnant and parenting mothers and their babies a safe place to lay their heads. Our 24-hour direct care staff provides support and treatment services, focusing on skills that enable mothers to transition into stable housing and independence.



Volunteer Numbers

79 Unique Volunteers

237 Total Volunteer Hours

Pregnancy and Parenting Support: Good Shepherd believes that strengthening families is the most effective way to support children. We partner with other nonprofits to provide community-based services like pregnancy testing, crisis counseling, and connections to resources. Additionally, we visit families in their homes to provide services like parenting training, counseling, financial assistance, and baby care items.



The work we do at Good Shepherd is a calling, one that is shared by our staff, board, partners, churches, and donors. We are dedicated to facing the most challenging child welfare environment of our time by expanding our services where there is a need and sharing our expertise where it can make the biggest difference. We achieved impressive outcomes this past year because we have been blessed with the resources and passion needed to keep fighting for children and families. I'm thankful for those who join us on this mission!"

— Kathy Fowler, Executive Director/CEO, Good Shepherd Children & Family Services

Client Success Story

Armonie–Good Shepherd’s Maternity Shelter

Armonie had a job and was going to school when she found out she was pregnant in 11th grade. She was excited because she had worked in daycare and felt prepared, but her responsibilities became overwhelming and she left school just shy of graduation. She did everything she could to provide the best life for her daughter, Amelia—moving between relatives’ homes and taking jobs that would fit the childcare that was available.

“Amelia was two when I found out I was pregnant with Ja’Monie. He was in the NICU for about three weeks, and I was back and forth between the hospital, my mom’s house, my grandmother’s house, and my sister’s house. I wasn’t working when I brought him home, and it felt like no one wanted me around because they had their own lives and families. I knew it was time for me to find a stable place for us. I realized I needed help, and there was only one person I could go to, and that was God. I prayed and I cried a couple of nights. Then a friend told me about Good Shepherd. It was hard for me to come here because I never saw myself in this situation, but God told me it was going to be ok. He led me here. They didn’t look at me differently because I was a young mom with two kids. They accepted us. I’ll be moving to my own apartment in a few weeks. I’ve got a job I love, my kids are in daycare, I have a car, and things are getting better. It’s just the beginning. I’m so ready for life. I’m ready to look back and say, ‘I did it. Look how far I came with the help of Good Shepherd.’”

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Connecting children with families and keeping families connected by providing pregnancy and parenting support, foster care programs, and adoption services.



Contact

1340 Partridge Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63130
314.854.5700
goodshepinfo@gsstl.org
goodshepherdstl.org

