



The Philomena House Newsletter

WINTER 2020



Warm, cozy living room for our guests to gather.



Cute, bright-eyed babies born here over the years.



This pleasant and homey kitchen is a central space.

Generally families, but especially grandparents, want to protect and help their grandchildren. But when a granddaughter becomes pregnant, they may sometimes react with only anger and disgust. Our most recent guest left her home after attempting to continue her pregnancy in just this sort of environment. She was simply determined not to abort her unborn child! We shall call her Linda.

Linda was getting great grades in high school and had a good job after school. She was even able to have her own car. She was planning to attend college after high school.

After being with us just a few weeks, one morning I arrived earlier than usual to find her sitting in the kitchen attempting some breakfast. I was curious to see her there and asked if there was no school that day. Linda said yes she had school but felt sick and had a terrible headache. I asked if she had been reading the night before and she said yes. I asked if she needed glasses and she said yes. She had a current prescription but she could not afford new glasses since her first pair broke a few months earlier.

I was so surprised. I just said, "Get your coat. We're going to get you some new glasses."

We did get a pair of new glasses ordered that same day. But, they said the order would take 6-8 days. I wondered if she could even continue at school without glasses for another week or more. I was amazed that she made it for the past many months!

The following Monday, I made a trip to that membership store for some needed items on the way home. As I walked by the eye-glass department, I thought: "The glasses won't be in yet, but it can't hurt to ask"...so I asked and they were THERE! There was only one thing to do. I went right back to Philomena House with the new glasses. It was already late and both traffic and ice were thick. But since Linda would just be getting home from working after school, I could hardly wait to get there.

I handed Linda the box and she looked confused. She opened it and said, "My glasses!" She immediately put them on and shouted, "I CAN SEE!" She continued repeating that same statement over and over.

What a gift I received in watching her joyful response. And I want to pass on this gift of joy to you because Philomena House would not be open without your financial support. Thank you.

Blessings,
Joyce Nevins
Co-Director