



Minnesota Women of Today

Service ~ Growth ~ Fellowship

Winter State CIP 2015

chairs: Jane Homberg & Daina Mirsch-Wenner
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2014-2015 MNWT Statewide Project Revised ^{NEW}

Due to the New Beginnings closure, the Marketing Committee has replaced this year's Statewide Project Beneficiary. For more information about the New Beginnings closure, see the bottom

Overview

Emerge Mothers Academy is a charitable nonprofit organization established to provide support services to single mothers who will be equipped to emerge as confident women and caring mothers. Emerge Mothers Academy was officially recognized as a charitable nonprofit organization with the state of Minnesota effective January 2012 and approved as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt business by the Internal Revenue Service in June 2012.

Individualized programs enhance the skills of the single parent/pregnant woman to ensure that she will be equipped to emerge as a caring mother ready to move forward with confidence and independence. Women participating in our programs or living in our safe and stable housing participate in key components of the program that support

- physical and emotional health
- prenatal education
- personal development
- spiritual growth
- parenting education
- financial management
- job skills

In cooperation with Hope Academy, area pregnancy resource centers and social workers we serve single parents, homeless parents, and young pregnant women ages 16-21 years old. We use satellite locations, such as Hope Academy to provide parents with a meeting location and host mentor groups.

The Challenge

Each year, nearly 750,000 women aged 15-19 become pregnant. Minnesota ranks as one of the top five (5) states to have the highest pregnancy rates [132-149 per 1000] among 15-19 year old African American teenagers. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 41% of all births in 2008 were to single women.

Teen mothers are substantially less likely than women who delay childbearing to complete high school or obtain a GED. Fewer than 2% of teens who have a baby before age 18 attain a college degree by age 30. Teenage homelessness is a serious problem and is compounded when the woman is pregnant. Between 550 and 650 unaccompanied youth age 17 or younger in Minnesota are without permanent shelter. Sheltering programs turn away about 1000 individuals each night; nearly half are children and unaccompanied youth.

Programs & Services

Important programs and services offered for single mothers seeking to change their lives and realize their potential include:

- effective mentoring and parenting-skill groups
- safe, stable housing
- training in life skills (nutritional cooking, cleaning, positive parenting, financial management)
- referral to supportive services - prenatal care, counseling
- assistance with furthering education or securing work - GED prep, resume building, mock interview, completion of application

Successful participation in these programs will change a life and build a legacy by promoting

- optimal physical and emotional health
- accurate knowledge about prenatal care
- attainment of personal goals
- spiritual growth
- positive parenting
- sound financial management
- development of job skills

In the future, transitional housing will be essential for women who have successfully graduated through services provided at Emerge Mothers Academy. It is anticipated that this service will need to be established to continue to assist women in taking the next step toward achieving self sufficiency. To avoid risk of relapse back to destructive choices, transitional housing will provide ongoing support for mothers to continue forward motion toward confident independence and healthy choices.



Although, we are truly saddened by the dissolution of New Beginnings, we are excited to introduce you to Emerging Mothers Academy. Their mission is very similar to NB, in that they are helping single mothers emerge as confident women and caring mothers.

EMA does concentrate its efforts on the Twin Cities as that is where it is based. However, the organization will take in people from across the state, but those wishing to use EMA's services are required to relocate to the Twin Cities to benefit from the services.

Emerge Mothers Academy will gladly take all the items already collected for babies, even though they are focused more on the mothers, as opposed to the babies. Also the Bathroom Remodel will be changed to a Capital Campaign for Laptops & Printers for the EMA office. Since the organization is only two years old and they do not house mothers, that was the most likely solution we come up with to do with the donated monies.

Rebecca Erickson, Executive Director of Emerge Mothers Academy, is also very excited by this opportunity with MNWT!

Sincerely,

Daina Mirsch-Wenner & Jane Holmberg
2014-2015 MNWT Statewide Project Chairs

Item Donation: Helping Mothers Emerge!

If your chapter has already collected items for babies, Emerging Mothers Academy will gladly take all the items already collected. However, we hope you will focus on the items listed above, as EMA is focused more on the mothers than babies.

MOM ITEMS

- Gift cards for job interview outfits
- Gift cards for hygiene and household needs
- New or gently used maternity and baby clothes
- Gift cards for gasoline
- Bottled water
- Paper plates, napkins and forks
- Coffee
- Baked goodies

Fundraising: Office Upload Capital Campaign

You can play an important role in the Emerge Women's strides toward financial independence! Be a part of eliminating simple physical barriers of unemployment. One barrier is as simple as a computer and printer. Join this year's capital campaign supporting the Emerge Mothers Academy "Emerge Work-Prep Center." In the Emerge Work-Prep Center these women are trained on interview skills, assisted in writing a resume, given access to computers and printers to print beautiful resumes, coached by our social work staff, and are provided with funds to purchase a great looking suit (and cute shoes)!

Once these women hold the tools necessary for achieving financial independence their confidence soars. Please join our efforts to keep the Work-Prep Center fully stocked for all of 2015. Capital Campaign funds will go toward:

- Laptops/iPads and printers
- Resume folders and parchment paper
- Business suit and great shoes
- Interview coaching
- GED study materials

At the end of the day, your funds will pour confidence into these women's lives, and Minnesota women will be hearing "you're hired" more and more!



New Beginnings has been a 24-hour intensive residential program for pregnant women, new mothers and their babies for the last 30 yrs. and has made a huge difference in the local community. Unfortunately due to our current financial climate, we are unable to keep this organization running any longer. The Board of Directors has determined that it is in the best interests of New Beginnings to close down the organization. I would like to express my personal appreciation for the association

we have had through the years. You have been a wonderful, supportive member to new Beginnings. For further questions, please contact Paula (Interim Executive Director) at 320.255.1252.

The Vision

Emerge Mothers Academy will be a campus for learning and a residence for healing for single moms.

It is a non-profit organization designed to give women a safe place to stay . . . a place to figure out how they got here, and what steps they need to take to be sure they never go back. It will be a place to do the hard work of changing the patterns from which they came, in order to offer a bright future to their children.

A future filled with hope.

A new legacy.

Mothers who are confused, scared and weary will be welcomed with open arms. But once that momma is in, she will roll up her sleeves and get to work.

Skills need to be learned. Positive hands-on parenting needs to happen. An education must be completed. Emotional and spiritual maturity need to develop.

At *Emerge Mothers Academy*, she is here to get her work done, to be diligent, to grow and change, and to become a confident woman and a caring mother.

Emerge Mothers Academy
will seek to address issues of

Homelessness

Prenatal care

Financial independence

Life skills

and Parenting skills

*in order to create a better future for
each woman and child.*



Services will include:

Life skills training

One on one mentoring

Parenting and prenatal care education

Safe housing

Personal social work advocacy

Counseling and personal growth

Transitional support

The Investment

Your investment
of time, talent and treasure
will help a
single
pregnant
homeless
young woman

break the cycle of former patterns
and attain her potential.

With your commitment, each woman served will have a safe place to stay and raise her infant. She will be part of programs that help her complete her education and gain life and parenting skills. She will grow in emotional and spiritual maturity.

The subsequent benefit to the community will be immeasurable. A woman who successfully completes the programs at *Emerge Mothers Academy* can confidently look for work, care for her child, and become financially independent.

Questions? Contact
becca@emergetwincities.org

Emerge Mothers Academy is a 501c(3) nonprofit. Donations are tax deductible.