

Dear  
Friends,

We're in a period of welcoming some new guests at Hannah's House and saying good bye to others including a happy little dimpled face 9 month old boy. We will certainly miss his mother and him! We have also had contact in recent weeks with former guests who have reached out to us for a variety of reasons: renewing friendship, seeking mentoring or assistance of some sort, coming to us for diapers or clothing for their little one. There have been others who have sought assistance filling out legal forms for guardianship or sought our help in arranging temporary care for their child while they were hospitalized. All of these women, those coming, those going and those returning are part of our reason for being here. Our work with these women and their children continues across time whether they are current or former residents

The newly arriving here at Hannah's House often face challenges of learning to adopt new habits, identifying new goals that will help shape their future as a woman, and a mother. They also face the new responsibility of providing not only for themselves, but now, resources of time and money and loving care are meant to be offered for their child as well. For those who have been homeless and without stability, coming to Hannah's House can be a time of learning that structure can be their friend. It is sometimes a challenge to incorporate new habits, going to bed at a good time each night, getting up in the morning, or learning to prepare food that will feed not only them but the baby within them. Structure can feel confining until a woman begins to see that such habits and structure can be like a scaffold that frees her to build a future.

So what is our role as staff in serving these women? It is for us not only to enforce new guidelines, but to *live them* ourselves during our times (including overnights) at the house. We, along with the women, are learning the art of being *home-makers*, making a home for ourselves and one another. Homemaking is more than a reference to maintaining a well-ordered home. It is that, but it is more. Homemaking is the invisible work of making a home and living intentionally towards goals of goodness and respect towards one another, noticing the beauty of God's image in one another even in the midst of frustration. And we as house managers help make that work visible by talking and praying together and practicing ourselves, those things we ask of our guests.

Please pray for us, for unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Bowl for Babies! A wonderful opportunity to show your support for the choice these have made and for their ongoing formation.

God bless you all!

Susan Ayers Executive Director