



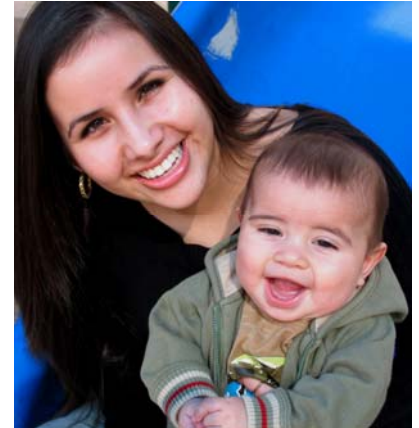
## MOMS' PLACE

### TEACHING TEEN MOMS HOW TO BE GREAT MOMS

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to be able to share with you all that has been happening at Moms' Place. For almost 8 years, I have had the privilege of working with young, single mothers who are venturing into parenthood for the first time. **As with all new mothers, it is a frightening time, full of preparation and anxiety. For most of our moms, however, it is a path they are taking alone.**

With some moms as young as 13 and 14 years old, the young mothers in our community receive little or no emotional and financial support from their parents/boyfriends and lack the economic, emotional and educational resources necessary to break out of the cycle of poverty that now threatens their own children. However, Moms' Place provides these mothers with the proper skills and knowledge needed for successful parenting and the opportunities necessary to break the cycles of poverty and abuse in their families. Through parenting classes, mother/child activities, and other practical support, Moms' Place is impacting generations of families, creating love and stability.



Moms' Place Families

#### A Young Mother's Story

*Vanessa came from an unhealthy family, spending most of her adolescence behind bars and giving way to her inner rage. When she discovered she was pregnant, she reluctantly came to Moms' Place. She was terrified of being pregnant...terrified that she would repeat the same cycle she had lived herself...terrified that she wouldn't know how to be a mom, much less a good mom. This courageous mom chose to keep her baby resulting in amazing life changes and a deep softening of her spirit. She still struggles, but is making healthy choices for her and her child.*

**CONTINUED...**



## MOMS' PLACE PARTNERSHIPS

### Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Moms' Place would like to thank the many organizations and churches that have partnered with them over the past year. Crisis Pregnancy Center has provided the curriculum for Moms' Place as well as provided our moms with the "Earn While You Learn" program which gives them credits as they go through Moms' Place that they can redeem for necessary baby items. Bridging AZ Furniture Bank is a non-profit that provides home furnishings for women and families moving into permanent housing. Boys Teen Charities provided meals and childcare last year for our Thursday night Moms' Place gatherings. And numerous churches, including Vineyard Church of North Phoenix, Grace Community Church and Scottsdale Bible Church have held baby item collections and put on some of our Moms' Place events such as our yearly Pumpkin Patch.



### Boys Teen Charities

These relationships have resulted in many blessings on our moms. **THANK YOU!**

This young mother was one of 4 moms who graduated Moms' Place this summer. Each of these mothers are maturing young women with families and lives that strive to honor God. They were each proud to speak at the graduation, sharing their experiences and challenging the young moms to never give up. They know that God has great plans for their lives.

This summer also included a group of Moms' Place graduates who are now serving as examples to current Moms' Place moms. **About 9 of our graduates volunteered as leaders during this year's Kids' Club, serving as teachers, small group leaders, childcare providers, and van drivers.** It was such a blessing to see growth and maturity working its way in the lives of these precious daughters of God.

Some of our moms are seeing God's blessing through fathers who are willing to be present and involved in their child's life and learn from our ***New Parents Class***. One of these new fathers was amazed to learn that his son could actually hear while in his mother's womb. He exclaimed, "My boy can hear me and he will know my voice!" What an amazing testament to how God calls to us.

Together, with God's provisions and grace, these new moms and dads, are learning what it means to care for their children, raising them up with proper care, stability, discipline, and love.

I am honored to be a part of God's families in this community.

Sincerely,



Susan Leon,  
Moms' Place Director



**Moms' Place Director, Susan Leon, with Vanessa and her daughter at Moms' Place Graduation in May.**



**Moms' Place graduates giving back to the community, serving as teachers this summer at Kids' Club**

## GET INVOLVED WITH MOM'S PLACE

1. Become a mentor to a teenage mother.
2. Teach cooking or scrapbooking.
3. Provide a meal for our weekly meetings.
4. Drive a mom to the grocery store or doctor's appointment.
5. Provide gift cards or donate the following items: Diapers, Layettes, Toys, Clothes, Baby Food.

**Contact Susan Leon at  
(602) 538-5451 or  
[Susan.Leon@nmaz.org](mailto:Susan.Leon@nmaz.org)**

All NM Programming relies on your generous donations. Go to [www.nmaz.org](http://www.nmaz.org) to donate online or send a check to the address below. Thank you for your faithfulness.

### NEWS & EVENTS

**Hope House Fundraiser**  
November 8

**Parent Volunteer—  
Christmas Store**  
December 6

**Christmas Fiesta**  
December 13

## DONATING TO NM THROUGH YOUR EMPLOYER

We want to let you know that many of you may have the opportunity to donate to Neighborhood Ministries through your employer. In fact, some employers will double your donation to NM through their Matching Gifts Program. Many places of employment offer this incentive as a way to give back to their community, promoting community responsibility and rewarding volunteerism. The following is a list of businesses that either offer the matching gifts program or designate funds to Neighborhood Ministries. Please check with your employer to see if they offer this. It is an easy way to designate and maybe even double your investment.

-American Express  
-Bank of America

-City of Phoenix  
-Macy's

-Valley of the Sun United Way