

# CRADLE OF HOPE

CREATING HOPE, ONE WOMAN AND CHILD AT A TIME



2018

## ANNUAL REPORT

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[www.cradleofhope.net](http://www.cradleofhope.net)





## LETTER *from* LEADERSHIP

Dear Valued Partner,

It has been a busy and productive year at Cradle of Hope, as we had the privilege of walking alongside mothers who are building bright futures for themselves and their children. Time and again, we've seen the strength and perseverance of the women we serve, as they achieve their goals and flourish.

As we look to the future, we are excited for our next chapter: opening a pregnancy resource center! We are grateful for this opportunity to provide counseling and support to more women.

This growth and transformative work would not be possible without your support. Thank you for standing with us.

*Rachel Mullelly*  
Rachel Mullelly  
Executive Director

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The mission of Cradle of Hope is to minister to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of single mothers and children through transitional housing and support services.

## OUR MISSION

Year in Review

## OUR WORK



In 2018, Cradle of Hope provided transitional housing, healthy meals, mentoring, and life-skills development to

**11** single mothers and their children.

**10** former residents benefited from follow-up support.

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parenting  
nutrition  
job search skills  
healthy relationships

**73**  
**CLASSES**

infant CPR  
art therapy  
goal setting  
financial planning

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**79%**

of Cradle of Hope's graduates are  
employed and living in permanent housing

Year in Review

# OUR IMPACT

Sara wanted to apply her caring nature to her career goals. Throughout the year, she completed a Certified Nurses' Aid training, graduated from a drivers training course, and acquired a vehicle. She was also accepted into a Licensed Practical Nurse training! She achieved her goal of becoming a home health aid, and has secured full time employment!



Denise completed a six week training program at Thomas Jefferson University to become a Certified Peer Specialist/Community Health Worker. She juggles her learning while helping others as a part-time employee with Every Good Gift.

## Client Testimonial

# SAMANTHA'S STORY

Growing up in the Philadelphia area my whole life, I never had a stable household. My parents were addicts, and I spent much of my childhood moving among foster homes. I threw myself into my studies, and became class president and Valedictorian of my high school. I kept busy playing on the softball team so that I could avoid the pain I felt as my parents ping-ponged in and out of rehab. School was my escape, and I thought my life was turning around when I received a full ride to Temple University! My first year was a struggle, but I was determined.

Then my mother died of an overdose in Kensington. I became really depressed, angry, confused and lost. I couldn't cope with things, and I stopped going to class.

The following winter I learned I was pregnant. I didn't know what to do, but I wanted to be strong, and work hard for this baby. I grew really sick and rushed to the hospital. The doctors did an ultrasound, and said, "Looks like there are two little blessings in there!" I began to tear up because my mom had twin boys too. This couldn't be a coincidence.

I tried to work, but I was often too ill to attend regularly. My bills were piling up, and I went into \$2,000 of credit card debt. My phone was shut off, and I drove without car insurance. Then I started to have car issues. I began to lose hope.

I shared my fears with a counselor at Jefferson during an OB appointment, and she told me about Cradle of Hope. I visited their website many times, and I prayed every night to get in. One night I kept repeating what I saw on the homepage of the website: *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

About a week later, I got a call from Cradle of Hope. I was in! I had a safe place for my sons to live. That was all that mattered.

**"I wouldn't change  
coming here for  
anything in the world!"**

This place is truly a blessing. We have classes daily that train us on how to make it successfully in this thing called "life." The boys will be five months old soon, and I have a full-time job as a medical receptionist. I've paid off all my debt, fixed my car, and I am up to date on all of my monthly bills! I'm also determined to go back to school.

Last but not least, my boys and I are healthy and safe. I am determined to give my children the best in life.

# Introducing Cradle's **PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER**

## **What services will Cradle's Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) offer?**

The Cradle PRC will offer counseling and decision-making support to women who are pregnant and are feeling overwhelmed by their pregnancy. For those that are still deciding what to do about the pregnancy, we will meet with them to help them make an informed decision, so they are aware of all of their choices. Cradle of Hope is a Pro-life organization that promotes informed decision making from a strengths based perspective. Our goal is that every woman who comes through our doors will feel cared for, supported, and empowered as they look at their current life circumstances and make choices about their pregnancy. A person in crisis can't always take a step back and see things clearly. At Cradle PRC we will offer an environment in which women can do that.

In addition to crisis pregnancy counseling, Cradle PRC will be able to offer practical help such as pregnancy testing, housing assistance, parenting classes, and general family support. Some examples of general family support include: helping women apply for state assistance, subsidized child care, and subsidized housing. We will help with referrals for adoption assistance, birth support groups, doulas, adoption services, anger



Get to know the new  
Cradle Pregnancy  
Resource Center with  
a Q&A with Director  
Cheryl Sumitra

management, medical care, long term counseling, etc. Cradle PRC will also provide practical help in the form of a pantry visit or baby items.

## **Can you tell us more about the need that precipitated the PRC?**

Every week Cradle of Hope's Transitional Housing Program receives anywhere from 5-15 calls from women who are pregnant and in need of housing. The founder of Cradle of Hope, Michelle Nejman, heard of an organization, Real Alternatives, which provides funding or supportive services to Pro-Life organizations offering pregnancy counseling and other services. We decided to try and obtain funding through this organization for a PRC so we could help all of the women who call in asking for help.

## **What makes the Cradle's PRC unique from crisis pregnancy centers?**

Our center will be unique because it will offer a continuum of care. We will be able to support moms from the time they find out they are pregnant up until their child is 1 year old. There are many agencies that either offer



pregnancy counseling or housing, but now with both programs (the pregnancy resource center and the transitional housing program) Cradle of Hope can offer both.

Women that live at Cradle of Hope will be able to partake of any classes or trainings that the PRC runs and vice versa. Women being served through the PRC will be able to attend classes and trainings that the transitional housing program offers.

Cradle of Hope is excited to embark on this new adventure, as we feel that by adding a PRC to our existing program, we will be able to support more women in crisis in a very practical way and continue with our mission of preserving the sanctity of all human life.

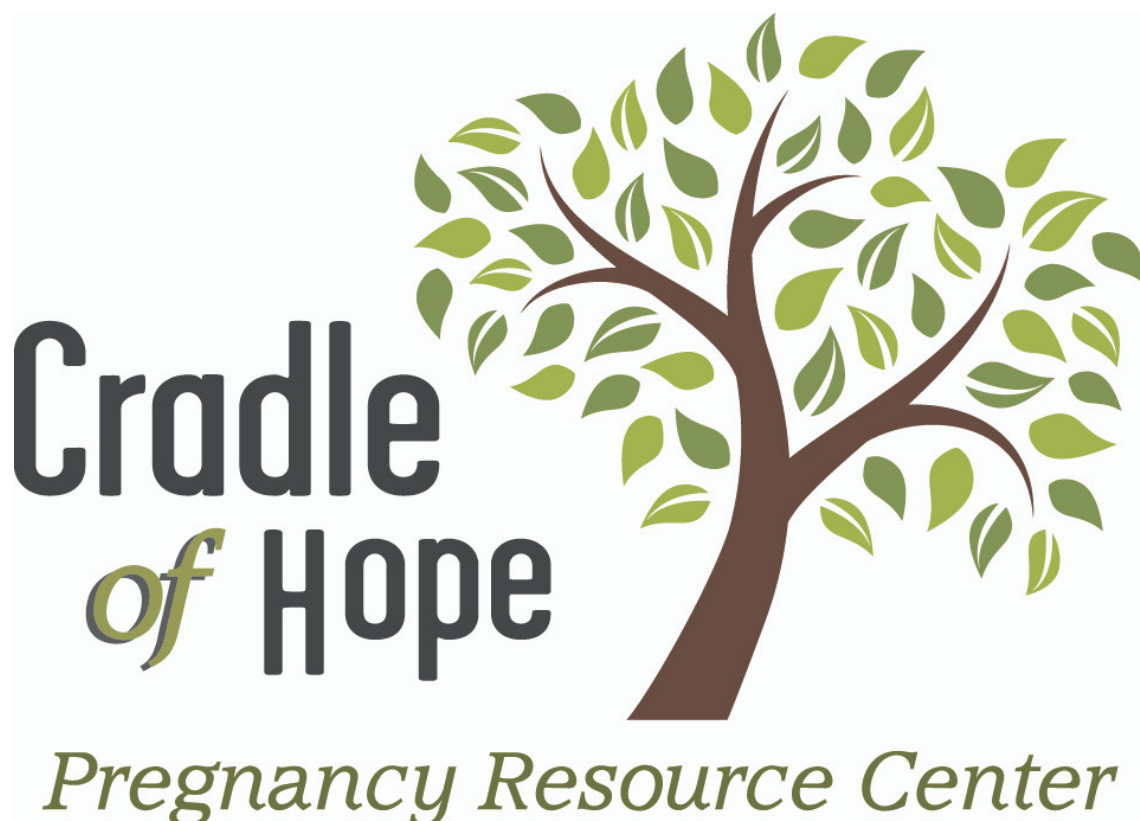
#### **When will this new resource be available?**

We are currently in the planning stages. We are setting up the office, completing our

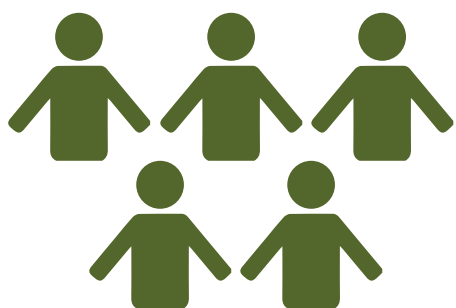
training through Real Alternatives, making a resource list, developing a training manual for volunteers, firming up our policies and procedures, and developing our website and brochures. We hope to be fully up and running in mid-February, and plan to start recruiting and training volunteers in early March.

#### **What are you most excited for when you dream about the future of the Pregnancy Resource Center?**

I am excited about running a center that helps women and their families. I am excited about creating space in which women can come and feel cared for, loved and supported as they face the most exciting, life-changing, and potentially scariest time in their lives. I am excited to be a part of the work of helping create healthy moms which in turn will create healthy families.



## OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT



volunteers  
contributed  
**1,790**  
hours of  
service

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### *Special Thanks to...*

- Gwynedd Mercy University's Department of Early Childhood Education for hosting a holiday event for the mothers and children
- Arcadia University's Sociology Department for babysitting, tutoring, and transporting clients
- Thomas Jefferson University's Occupational Therapy Aide for providing services to residents as part of her field work
- Abington High School for babysitting, cleaning, and providing yard work
- Archbishop Wood High School for providing maintenance, yard work, and cleaning as part of its Senior Community Day
- Martin Saints Classical High School's cooking class for providing meals



# OUR VALUED PARTNERS

## FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Connelly Foundation  
W.W. Smith Charitable Trust  
Willow Foundation  
Lewis Oswald Charitable Trust  
Genuardi Family Foundation  
Mill Spring Foundation

Lawrence Saunders Fund  
Bill and Katie Weaver Trust  
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation  
Beneficial Foundation  
Liz Christian Foundation  
Cedarcrest Charitable Foundation

*We are so grateful to the many foundations, donors, and community partners who make our work possible.*

Abington Hospital Ob-Gyn Clinic  
Abington Presbyterian Church  
Abington Senior High School  
Alpha Pregnancy Center  
Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center  
Arcadia University  
Bethany Christian Services  
Blessed Margaret Maternity Home  
Bridge Community Church  
Carmel Presbyterian Church  
Center for Parenting Education  
Earn Program of Montgomery County  
Every Good Gift  
Glenside Bible Church  
Guiding Star Ministries

Holy Martyrs Church  
Holy Trinity Evangelical Church  
KEYS at Montgomery County Community College  
Lakeside Teen Parenting Program  
Manor Junior College  
Montgomery County Community College  
Morning Star Ministries Maternity Home  
New Life Thrift Shop  
St. Luke's Church  
Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Our Lady's House  
Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia  
Roslyn Presbyterian Church  
Wayne Hall  
We Are the World Daycare Center

# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to support Cradle of Hope's mission and make a life-changing difference for the families we serve.

## VOLUNTEER

- Conduct a life-skills class
- Babysit
- Provide yard work and maintenance
- Organize a self-care outing for moms

## GIVE FINANCIALLY

- Make a donation through our website: [www.cradleofhope.net/donate](http://www.cradleofhope.net/donate)
- Support us all year long by becoming a monthly donor!
- Organize a donation drive with your local friends, place of worship, or workplace.
- Host a house party and invite your friends and family to engage with Cradle of Hope's work

**Questions?** Contact Executive Director Rachel Mullelly at 215-572-5937.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## President

Theresa Supka, MBA  
Debate Coach, St. Hilary's School

## Secretary

Cheryl Sumitra, MSW  
Church Administrator, Bridge Community Church

## Treasurer

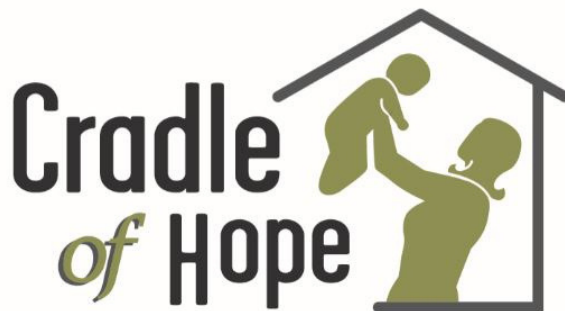
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Merhson Hinkel, MsPH, OTR/L  
Administrator, Hinkel Equipment Rental

Heather LaRocca, MSW  
Assistant Director, New Day to Stop Trafficking  
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A Home for Single Mothers and Children

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