

June 2011

Dear Madonna's Center,

I want to thank you for all the things you have done for me. At the very young age of fourteen, I found out the biggest news in my life. It changed me forever. I was six weeks pregnant. I hadn't even started my freshman year in high school yet. On top of all that, my single mother had lost her housing and our apartment. The only place I could call "home" was no longer mine. I had no where to go. My father was battling an addiction to methamphetamine. I felt all alone. How could I raise my child alone, with no place to go?

I feel that without the help from Madonna's Center my mother would have lost all faith and I would have as well. It killed my mom inside to know she could no longer provide shelter for her own children or her grandson on the way. During my pregnancy, I lived in a tent. The winter was the hardest, waking up to a foot of snow caving in on our tent. Some teens may complain they don't get enough allowance, or enough freedom. People take for granted what others are fortunate to have. I was thankful my brother, sister, mother and I even had a tent to keep the snow from falling directly onto us.

Throughout this very hard time, Madonna's Center supported me in many ways. They helped make that hard floor a little bit softer, the cold a little bit warmer, and the stress a tad bit less. My siblings would cry every night wishing a miracle could happen and they could have a Merry Christmas. During that holiday, Madonna's Center helped to find someone to sponsor our family and gave us the best Christmas we could have ever asked for. We each got a suitcase full of presents, including things we so badly needed, like pajamas, clothes, new shoes that fit. My mom cried for joy when she had seen how generous people had been. Our whole family agreed, even though it was the hardest time in our lives, that was our best Christmas ever.

Time was flying by and my pregnancy was too. By my eighth month of pregnancy we were still homeless, and I had no more than two outfits for my unborn child. At that time I thought I'd never find a way to support my own child. I often cried and even thought about adoption. It left me heartbroken. When I found out I was able to have a baby shower, thrown by Madonna's Center I was so thankful. I couldn't be more happy. I got everything I would need for my baby boy.

I realize everything happens for a reason, and I get by day by day. It isn't easy. I have been through more than anyone could ever imagine, but I will not complain. I can't complain, because God has answered my prayers. He allowed me to find this organization and without that, I wouldn't be who I am today. I have dreams to succeed and when I do I plan to give back to people who have to go through what I did.

Thank you so much for everything, words can't begin to describe how thankful I am for Madonna's Center.

Sincerely,

Anonymous Teen Mom (17 years old)