



**Holy Ground
Shelter
for Homeless, Inc.**

AT A GLANCE

200 W. 20th St., Riviera Beach, FL 33404; (561)355-5040; HolyGroundPBC.org

OUR MISSION

To shelter and mentor homeless, pregnant and parenting teen and young adult women and their children in Palm Beach County.

Residential Program Overview

Our Commitment: We provide our young mothers with the love, education, support and capacity-building skills vital to becoming good parents and productive members of the community. Our ultimate goal is not only to transform the lives of the young families we serve but to be a catalyst for generational change thus breaking the cycle of poverty, teen pregnancy, and homelessness.

Our services include:

- **Shelter** - Utilizing an independent living model, we provide rental assistance for furnished apartments that allow for convenient travel to their schools, places of work and daycare.
- **Mentoring** - Holy Ground matches every client with trained, adult female mentor/s to accompany them on their journey; mentors are also invaluable in monitoring the well-being, progress and needs of both our young mothers and their children.
- **Capacity-Building** - our Life Skills Series provides clients with the opportunity to learn from professionals regarding such topics as positive parenting, proper nutrition, healthy relationships, finances/budgeting, self-esteem, spirituality, employability skills, etc. Building the capability of our young mothers translates to a more positive outcome for their children.
- **Essential Resources** - Clients are assisted in accessing health insurance and healthcare services, food, childcare, education, job training, as well as baby supplies, etc.

Our Clients' Commitment to Holy Ground: Residential clients are required to:

- **Adhere to a signed contract** that covers a wide range of expectations related to personal behavior, care of their children, school, work, budgeting, communication with their mentors, upkeep of their homes, etc.
- **Continue their education** - complete high school and then enroll in college or a vocational certification program. Financial assistance is available to clients through Holy Ground's Fr. Arthur Obin, OMI Scholarship Fund.
- **Contribute to their living expenses** - work part-time and provide a percentage of their total income toward the payment of their rent and utilities as a means of learning financial responsibility. Clients are encouraged to save a portion of their income so they have a "nest egg" when they graduate from our program.
- **Set and Meet Goals** - clients are expected to participate in developing individualized and evolving case management plans consisting of short and long-term goals; the client's progress in achieving the stated goals is reviewed regularly with the Executive Director.



Non-Residential Program Overview

Serving at-risk pregnant and parenting teen and young adult women and their children who have a safe place to call home but need a helping hand to survive and thrive.

Services include but are not limited to:

- Monitoring of Health/Medical Needs of mother and child
- Academic/Vocational Guidance
- Case Management - development and monitoring of short and long-term goals focused on stabilizing family unit and building a better future
- Development of Life Skills
- Employability and Job Search Skill-building
- Access to Essential Resources - assistance provided in accessing social services; baby equipment, clothing, etc. as supplies allow

THE NEED

Teen pregnancies influence lives for generations. According to the *Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County Annual Health Profile 2014*, there were 672 live births to girls age 19 and under.



STATISTICS (Source: *Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County*)

- Teen mothers are likely to live in poverty (50% or more of all mothers on welfare had their first child as a teenager). 80% of teen fathers do not marry the mother of their child; less than 50% of all teen mothers will ever graduate high school.
- Daughters born to teen moms are more likely to become teen mothers themselves. A son born to a young woman in her teens is twice as likely to serve time in prison.
- Children of teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birth weights, demonstrate an increased occurrence of developmental disabilities and behavioral issues due to their mothers' lack of parenting skills, and are likely to demonstrate poor academic performance, with many of them more likely to fail to graduate from high school. Thus the cycle continues!

Our Process - Each prospective client is interviewed by our intake team (Executive Director, Academic/Vocational Coach, and Licensed Mental Health Counselor) to determine eligibility. Once in the program, clients and their children are consistently assessed to measure their well-being and progress. This includes frequent visits with their mentor/s; regular case management reviews with our Executive Director; on-going educational and vocational guidance from our Academic/Vocational Coach and sessions with our mental health professionals as deemed beneficial. Clients will also attend mandatory Life Skills classes geared to fill the gaps in knowledge and social interaction that result from unstable upbringings. By building the capability of our young mothers, we also expect to positively influence the outcome of their children. When staff, mentor/s and client determine that the client has progressed to a point where she is able to be self-sufficient and financially independent (which may take 2 to 4 years) and/or has reached her maximum potential in our program, the client is graduated .

Holy Ground Shelter - providing a home and hope for homeless, pregnant and parenting teen and young adult women who are open to transforming all areas of their lives!

Residential Services and Requirements

1. Shelter - long term
2. Mentoring - yes
3. Essential Resources - provided
4. Behavioral Contract - yes
5. Monitoring of Health/Medical Needs - yes
6. Academic /Vocation Planning - yes; vocational assessment and planning; assistance provided in finding and applying for scholarships; eligible to apply for Fr. Arthur Obin, OMI Scholarship.
7. Development of Life Skills - yes; 1-2 sessions/month
8. Employability and Job Search Skill-building - yes
9. Case Management - bi-weekly appointments
10. Contribute to Living Expenses - yes; clients are expected to provide a portion of total income

Non-Residential Services and Requirements

1. Shelter - not applicable
2. Mentoring - yes
3. Essential Resources - provided on more limited basis
4. Behavioral Contract - yes
5. Monitoring of Health/Medical Needs - yes
6. Academic /Vocation Planning - yes; vocational assessment and planning; assistance provided in finding and applying for scholarships
7. Development of Life Skills - yes; 1-2 sessions/month
8. Employability and Job Search Skill-building - yes
9. Case Management - monthly appointments
10. Contribute to Living Expenses - not applicable

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Holy Ground welcomes opportunities to share our work with the community at large. We have a wonderful 30-minute presentation which includes a brief outline of our history, teen pregnancy and homeless statistics, a 7-minute video about our first client's journey plus a question-and-answer period. Please contact us to schedule a presentation.