



ISSUE 22 | SUMMER 2020



LIFEHOUSE LIFELETTER

LifeHouse is a Christ-centered ministry ensuring life for unborn children by providing opportunities for housing, help, and hope for young women during their pregnancies and beyond.



HOPE IN THE STORM LIFEHOUSE RESPONDS TO COVID-19

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. | ISAIAH 41:10 (NIV)

As the world shut down due to COVID-19, it became clear that the work of LifeHouse would not come to a halt. The staff quickly went to work to find creative ways to continue to serve Houston's most vulnerable.

Currently, the ministry continues to keep its doors open to women in unplanned pregnancies. With Texas adjusting to a new "normal," LifeHouse has created new intake procedures that follow recommendations from the CDC and local leaders.

LifeHouse also launched new programs and resources to assist former residents who are living on their own and single parenting. From "COVID Care Packages" to online parenting classes, the LifeLine team has worked to meet the new physical and financial needs created by the pandemic. This response has allowed volunteers and staff to safely serve and actually reach more women.

In crisis, it is often the vulnerable who are hit the hardest. LifeHouse wanted to ensure the spiritual needs of the women would continue to be met. The ministry quickly launched an online Bible storytelling program for residents and alumnae. Led by volunteers and staff, women log on every day to learn about Jesus and receive prayer.

LifeHouse is so grateful for the immense support received from the community in this time. Thank you for continuing to show the women of LifeHouse that they can be encouraged even now - long after they have chosen Life.

**HELP LIFEHOUSE PROVIDE A HOME FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN.
VISIT [LIFEHOUSEHOUSTON.ORG](https://www.lifehousehouston.org) TO SHOP OUR AMAZON WISH LIST.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV
1

VIRTUAL CELEBRATION DINNER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020 ♦ ON YOUR TV!

Partner with LifeHouse to become a Celebration Dinner Host Home!
Contact katie.walters@lifehousehouston.org to learn more!

NOV
17

13TH ANNUAL LINKS FOR LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 ♦ THE CLUB AT CARLTON WOODS

Team Sponsorships are still open!
Sign up to play with LifeHouse at lifehousehouston.org.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

VALERIE HARKINS, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



For Valerie, working at LifeHouse was coming back home to her roots. Her pro-life career began volunteering alongside her parents, who ran a maternity home together for almost 20 years. Valerie then attended Texas Women's University where she earned her license in Social Work. She has since used her specialties in interpersonal relationship violence and Attachment Theory to create holistic services for women in unplanned pregnancies. Overtime, she has learned that there is no replacing the healing that happens in the home.

Valerie joined the LifeHouse team almost six years ago and currently serves as the ministry's Chief Operating Officer. Her role has allowed her to combine her passions for advocacy and community-wide education with her love for The Gospel. More than anything, she loves that her job at LifeHouse is ultimately about teaching the identity of Jesus to the orphan and the fatherless.

Valerie and her husband, Darin, have been married six years and have two dogs – Prince and Mimi. They love all games, the outdoors, and gourmet cooking.

FUN FACT: VALERIE IS AN AVID CAMPER! HER FAVORITE SPOT TO HIKE & CAMP IS THE FRIO RIVER.



HOUSING

JENNIFER, CURRENT RESIDENT

When a local pregnancy clinic informed Jennifer she was pregnant, she was shocked. She had spent the past year bouncing from one friend's home to the next. Jennifer knew she needed stability if she was going to become a parent. The counselor at the pregnancy center recommended LifeHouse. Jennifer immediately knew she could find a safe home at LifeHouse for her and her unborn child.

Jennifer was the first resident LifeHouse was able to welcome after shelter-in-place orders were lifted. She quickly bonded with her house parents as they navigated the pandemic together. Before living at LifeHouse, Jennifer admits she never had anyone teach her about children or model what a family should look like. "Having my house parents and the staff guide me," Jennifer says, "has given me a chance to be a good mom."

Living in the home has increased Jennifer's desire to grow in relationship with the Lord. She loves having a community to "attend" church with on Sundays. Jennifer is excited to raise her son to know and love God - just like his mother.

"To me, LifeHouse is an opportunity to succeed in motherhood."

JOIN LIFEHOUSE IN PRAYING OVER JENNIFER AND THE SAFE DELIVERY OF HER BABY BOY IN AUGUST!

HELP

AFTERCARE ACHIEVEMENTS

The LifeHouse Aftercare Program was created to disciple and educate women in their first year of motherhood. This summer, LifeHouse has been so encouraged by the accomplishments of the program's participants. It is clear that the foundation built in Aftercare has allowed each woman to exceed her personal goals and prepare for life after LifeHouse.



JESSICA | Jessica graduated from Aftercare this summer after completing every single one of her program goals – 8 months early! Jessica is currently employed full time with a law office. Following her Aftercare cash flow plan, she was also able to purchase a car in cash! Post-graduation, Jessica plans to continue attending her church with her house parents and baby boy, Levi.



DAESHA | Daesha's main goal entering the Aftercare program was to grow her relationship with God. Fifteen months later, she is confident God is always present and always with her. This past year Daesha graduated from both WorkFaith Connection and Getting Ahead programs focused on financial sustainability and job education. Daesha is currently working full-time and moved into an apartment with her son, Zion, this July.



MYLEIGH | When Myleigh first came to LifeHouse, she suffered from severe anxiety and depression. The Aftercare program has given her the freedom of a fresh start. In Aftercare, Myleigh has created her own savings plan and was able to purchase a car in cash! She most enjoys the parenting classes and learning about her daughter's attachment style. Myleigh is excited to continue to grow her relationship with God and her house parents before graduating in the fall.

HELP PROVIDE CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR OUR ALUMNAE'S LITTLE ONES! CONTACT BECKA.PETTICREW@LIFEHOUSEHOUSTON.ORG TO LEARN MORE.

CAMPUS NEEDS



**TWIN BED SHEET SET, WHITE • BATH TOWELS, WHITE • PILLOWS
BODY WASH AND SHAMPOO**

Schedule your donation drop-off today by emailing
becka.petticrew@lifehousehouston.org

Accepted donations list available at lifehousehouston.org/accepted-donations

HOPE

ALUMNA LACEY FINDS FAMILY IN LIFELINE

When a shelter-in-place was ordered, Lacey recalls days where she didn't know where she would get diapers for her son – let alone where food was coming from. But she knew she could reach out to her LifeHouse family for support.

Lacey first came to LifeHouse as a resident in 2018. She quickly found a forever family in her house parents and in the other residents and staff. Since the birth of her son, Ivory, she has remained an active participant in the LifeLine Program. Even in the midst of social distancing, Lacey has not missed an online class or Bible story session. In LifeLine, Lacey feels connected to a community of love and encouragement. Throughout the past few months, she has been able to bond with other LifeLine mothers as well as receive the help she needs from staff and volunteers.

True to its name, the LifeLine program has served as an anchor for those hit hardest by the pandemic. The "COVID Care Package" program was launched to safely deliver groceries and diapers to the homes of single mothers in need like Lacey. Online classes were opened to give the ladies of LifeLine greater access to educational parenting resources. Lacey and other alumnae now have a consistent spiritual community of support in a time of isolation.

**HELP LIFEHOUSE CREATE AND DELIVER COVID CARE PACKAGES!
VISIT [LIFEHOUSEHOUSTON.ORG](https://www.lifehousehouston.org) FOR DETAILS.**





COMMUNITY PARTNERS

HAJA SCOTT, BIBLE STORY TELLER

“God has given me a heart for women – for encouraging women and walking them through healing.”

Through COVID-19, God has turned LifeHouse’s gaze towards a new way to safely share the Gospel – virtual story telling. Haja’s sister, the LifeLine Program Manager, asked her to spend 15 minutes talking about any Gospel story with some current and former residents online. Now, months later, Haja hasn’t missed a week. She loves the simplicity of the story-telling format. “These are stories we’ve heard for years. They’re in our souls and our spirit...but every time we return there is a new lesson to learn.” Serving in the Bible Story program has allowed Haja to engage with Scripture in a new way.

With the blessing of technology, Haja has been able to serve as a messenger of The Word all the way from Austin, TX. She has loved getting to pray alongside the women of LifeHouse weekly and watch them grow in their reliance on Jesus. Her favorite moments are when she sees someone take what they have learned from the Bible story that day and apply it to their lives. Haja is excited to continue to see how God grows both her heart and the hearts of the women listening in every day.

**SIGN UP TO TEACH A BIBLE STORY!
EMAIL BECKA.PETTICREW@LIFEHOUSEHOUSTON.ORG
TO LEARN MORE.**

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