CRADLE OF HOPE

CREATING HOPE, ONE WOMAN AND CHILD AT A TIME



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

www.cradleofhope.net

DEAR VALUED PARTNER,

2025 brought significant challenges. Across our community, housing options disappeared, job pathways narrowed, and essential resources became harder to access. Expectant mothers and families arrived at our doors facing deep uncertainty. The crisis was, and remains, very real.

And yet, this was also a year of strength and growth. Cradle of Hope operated fully staffed—stability that allowed our team to step fully into their roles and provide consistent, expert care—supporting not only urgent needs, but clients' long-term journeys toward independence.

The Cradle Pregnancy Resource Center thrived, serving an unprecedented number of families, including a growing Spanish-speaking community. By providing bilingual support, we were able to build trust, deepen relationships, and ensure families left with tangible resources and the reassurance that they are not alone.

As housing and employment challenges persist, our lasting relationships with Cradle graduates offer stability, encouragement, and continued connection—whether through practical support or a hug on a hard day.

Most inspiring was the way our community stepped in. Volunteers, neighbors, churches, students, and local businesses filled critical gaps with generosity and care, reminding us of what is possible when a community comes together.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude and determination. The challenges our clients face are not short-term, but neither is our commitment. Thank you for walking alongside us and making hope possible every day.

With heartfelt thanks,

Alissa Messina, Executive Director
and the Cradle of Hope family



OUR MISSION



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



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Cradle of Hope is a nurturing home for single mothers and their children. We offer housing and support services for 9 mothers and their children at a time for up to 12 months.

47 mothers and children received transitional housing, healthy meals, case management, and life-skills development in 2025.

43 life-skills classes were attended, empowering program participants with a deeper understanding of:

- parenting
- budgeting
- postpartum living
- job readiness
- self care
- nutrition

11 mothers reversed the cycle of poverty, unemployment, and homelessness by securing permanent housing and maintaining employment.

CRADLE PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

The CPRC is a community-based hub for expectant parents, providing counseling, baby items and maternal education.

468 women received counseling and supportive services

938 children benefited from the CPRC's services

63 women participated in pre-natal, post-partum and birth education classes

663 in-person visits

1,277 # of clothing items, diapers, baby food, formula, baby items and furniture was given to families



AFTERCARE

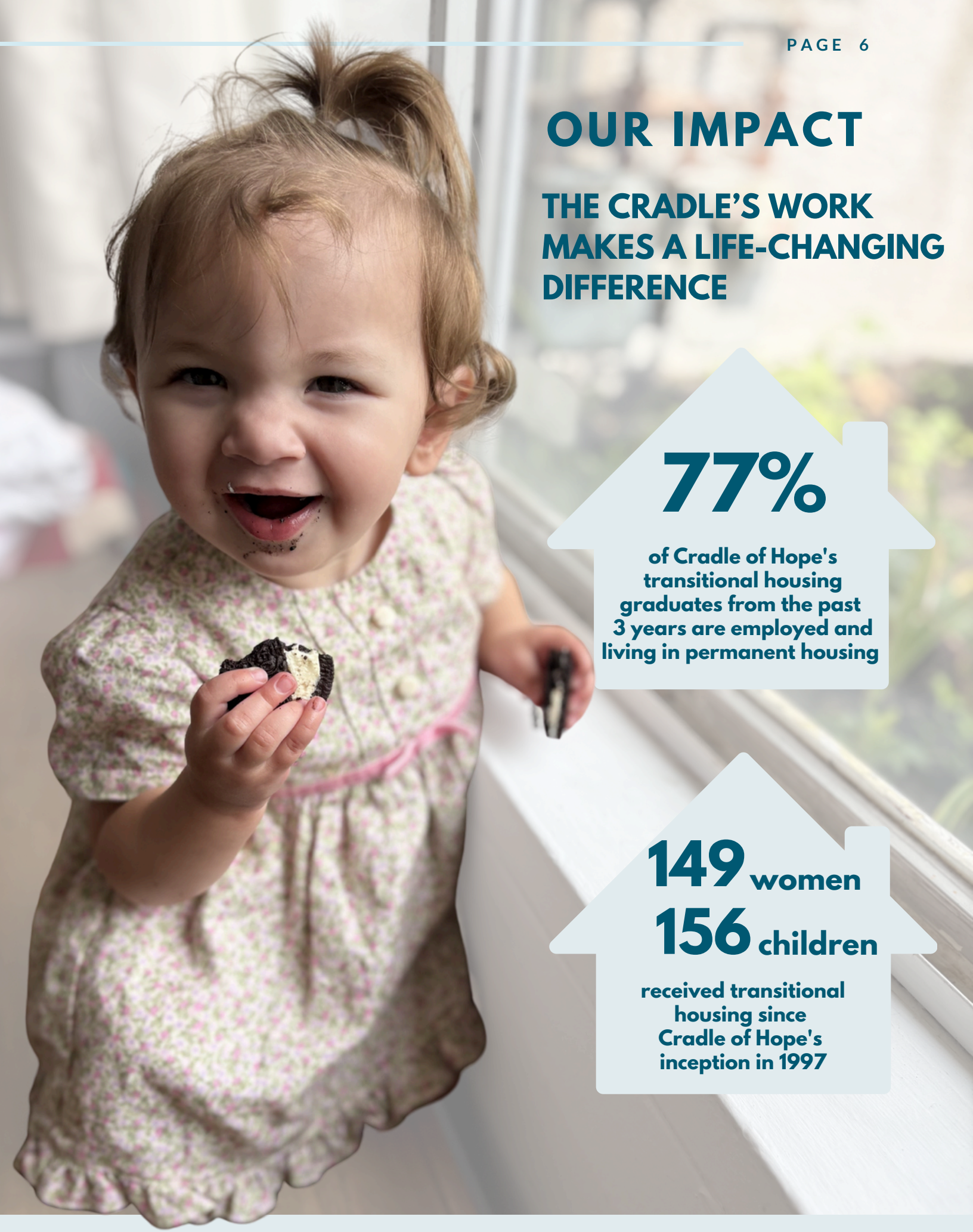
Parents who graduate from the Cradle's transitional housing program remain part of the Cradle community, receiving tangible aid like diapers and wipes, as well as emotional support to help sustain their independence.

31 former program participants benefited from follow-up support in 2025, with needs ranging from car repair, children's clothing, and visits to provide encouragement.



OUR IMPACT

THE CRADLE'S WORK MAKES A LIFE-CHANGING DIFFERENCE



77%

of Cradle of Hope's transitional housing graduates from the past 3 years are employed and living in permanent housing

149 women

156 children

received transitional housing since Cradle of Hope's inception in 1997



100%

of mothers in Cradle's transitional housing program:

- **secured state subsidies for food, healthcare, and childcare**
- **provided themselves and their infants with healthy meals**
- **had the necessary clothing for job interviews**
- **had adequate clothing for themselves and their children for all seasons**

This prayer was written by Samantha Pellicciotti, who lived at the Cradle with her twin boys. She published a memoir about her experience entitled *The Girl He Saved* that is available on Amazon.

Dear God,

Thank You for guiding me through the moments when I felt lost and afraid. Thank You for opening doors I couldn't have opened on my own, and for placing people in my life who lifted me when I was too tired to stand. Thank You for protecting my boys and me, for giving us shelter, safety, and a path forward when all I could see was uncertainty.

Help me continue to walk with faith, trusting that every step — even the hard ones — is leading us toward the future You promised. Keep my heart grateful, my spirit steady, and my home filled with peace and purpose.

Amen





Year in Review

HIGHLIGHTS

CREDIT COUNSELING

The Cradle's Transitional Housing clients benefit from individualized, on-site credit counseling and financial coaching providing by Sarah Davies, who led the development of the VantageScore credit score and brings more than 30 years of experience in consumer credit risk management. Addressing credit challenges—a barrier in today's competitive rental market—empowers clients to secure stable housing. Sarah meets with clients to create personalized financial plans, working closely with each mother to resolve negative credit situations. Through this partnership, clients are gaining practical tools, education and the confidence needed to manage their finances wisely for the future.



ELECTRICAL UPGRADES

Thanks to a generous grant from the Green Family Foundation, the original Cradle home (house #2238) is undergoing a major electrical upgrade. The project will be completed in winter 2026, with the subsequent drywall repairs and painting being done through generous volunteer support.



OUTDOOR ENHANCEMENTS

The Cradle's outdoor space received meaningful improvements this year, including finished decks, freshly painted fences, an expanded and beautiful play area for children, and a garden. These enhancements, made possible by many dedicated volunteers, provide families with a safe, inviting place to enjoy fresh air and outdoor play—an oasis for both children and their mothers.



TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

The organization is transitioning its files to Google Workspace to support secure, professional collaboration. In addition, the organization is consolidating cradleofhope.net and cradleprc.org into one streamlined, updated website to eliminate confusion and duplication while ensuring visitors can easily find the information they need. These investments in file sharing and web infrastructure reflect a broader commitment to professionalizing systems and processes to position the Cradle for long-term growth and success.



REACHING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

When Mirta Langlois began her internship at Cradle of Hope in August 2025, she quickly saw a growing need—particularly among Spanish-speaking families seeking support at the Cradle Pregnancy Resource Center (CPRC).

A Master of Social Work student at La Salle University and a longtime maternal health professional, Mirta brings both lived experience and professional expertise to her role. Fluent in Spanish, she serves as a vital bridge for families who might otherwise struggle to access care. “Clients share that it feels a lot more comfortable being able to communicate with someone that speaks their language, rather than using Google translate,” Mirta said.

“Having someone bilingual on our team, really allows us to meet clients’ needs at a deeper level and be able to help them get connected with the right resources,” said Alissa Messina, Executive Director of the Cradle of Hope. “Mirta is helping us build trust with authentic relationships.”

Many families Mirta serves are facing housing instability and unemployment, they may be staying with friends, and travel hours by bus to arrive at the CPRC to receive basic necessities.

“There are times people come without anything for their baby and they leave with a car full of supplies, with diapers, wipes, nursing supplies - it’s like a mini baby shower. And they are like ‘wow, I’m ready to have this baby now!’ **They are just overwhelmed with joy and gratitude. We give a lot of hugs on the way out. They feel so loved,”** Mirta said.



The growing Spanish-language population has caused the CPRC client base to blossom. Beyond distributing tangible goods, Mirta connects families to mental health, post partum, and public health resources.

“The Spanish community is very family-based,” Mirta said. “They look out for each other, they bring a friend or cousin with them to their appointment, so it’s only going to get bigger and bigger.”

Caring for the Community

LINA'S STORY

In the midst of frigid temperatures this January, Lina* and her two daughters arrived at the Cradle Pregnancy Resource Center (CPRC) for their first visit. She came through snow with her eight year old daughter at her side and her 18 month old in her arms. None of them had coats, and the baby was wearing socks with sandals.

Lina had been struggling to find work and her husband had limited income due to the economy. She had heard about the CPRC from a friend who had been a client for several months, and Lina hoped that the CPRC could help her with clothing and diapers for her youngest daughter. While she looked through clothes, her eight year old was happy to draw with new colored pencils and paper.

Normally the CPRC does not have clothing for older children due to lack of storage. However, on this day, new donations had just been dropped off. There were multiple outfits that fit her older daughter, including a winter coat and a scarf that matched her boots.

Lina was gushing with gratitude, and her daughter drew a beautiful picture to hang on our wall. As they left, Lina was able to gather some food from our pantry, boots for her little one, a coat for herself, and even a knitted bag to hold everything.

We look forward to welcoming Lina again in the coming months. The image of them leaving, bundled and warm in their coats, will remain in our minds until then.



*Name changed to protect client confidentiality

MEETING THE MOMENT WITH AFTERCARE

As external resources—such as affordable housing, SNAP benefits, living-wage jobs, and accessible healthcare—continue to shrink or disappear, Cradle of Hope's Aftercare program has expanded to meet the moment. Thanks to the added capacity of a fully staffed team, the program is ramped up at a time when it is needed most. Increasingly, Cradle graduates are relying on Aftercare for both tangible support and emotional connection as they navigate today's difficult landscape.



"One of the largest challenges is helping clients sustain their independence after leaving the Cradle, given the realities of the job market and the high cost of housing," said Rachel Mullelly, Development Coordinator. "We do a lot of scenario planning—like exploring rooming with another graduating client or a coworker—so they can combine incomes and afford rent."



"Transportation is another major challenge," said Alissa Messina, Executive Director. "Buses aren't always reliable and clients often have to transfer. Ubers are too expensive. These are the hard realities for our moms. And then the cost of daycare—you need it in order to work, but it's so expensive, so it's like the chicken or the egg conundrum when it comes to employment."

Aftercare is designed to be long-term, allowing relationships to continue well beyond the 12 months families spend in the Cradle's transitional housing program. Clients stay connected for years, and those relationships deepen. Former client Faith, for example, still comes to Rachel's home every Christmas Eve with her son, who is now seven years old!



The Cradle Pregnancy Resource Center (CPRC) helps make these ongoing connections possible by providing a dedicated space where families can continue to gather and build community.

"We can continue meeting people's tangible needs, like diapers and wipes. And we can provide emotional support and hugs on a hard day. **When graduates come here, they know they have a community of people who are happy to see their kids grow. We're so excited to see them, and we build them up,"** Rachel said.

VOLUNTEER DRIVEN

1,359

volunteer hours were invested in 2025

THANK YOU

to the dozens of churches, community groups, schools, and local companies who showed up in so many ways!

BABYSITTING
BAKING BIRTHDAY CAKES
SORTING DONATIONS
PAINTING FENCES
PROVIDING ART THERAPY
REPAIRING DECKS
HOSTING FUNDRAISERS
GARDENING
PLOWING DRIVEWAYS
CUTTING GRASS
AND SO MUCH MORE!

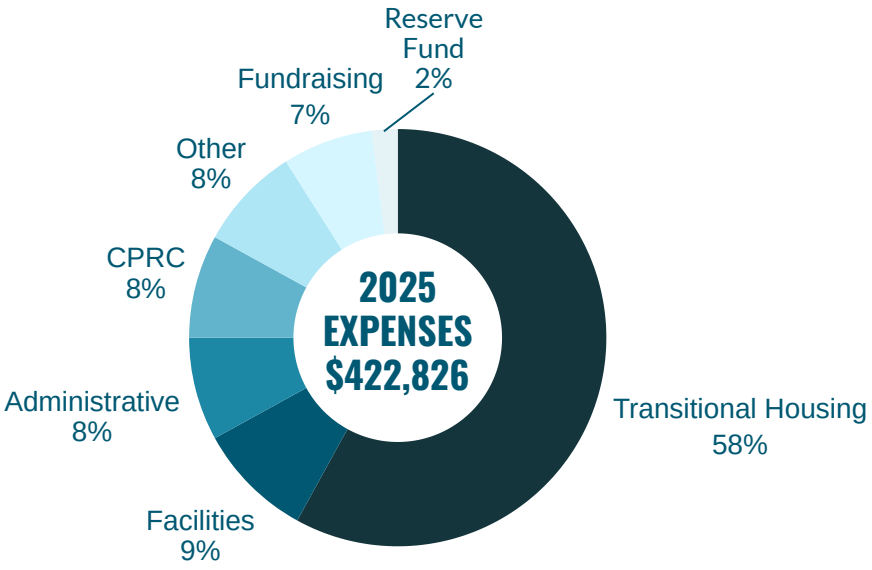
INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

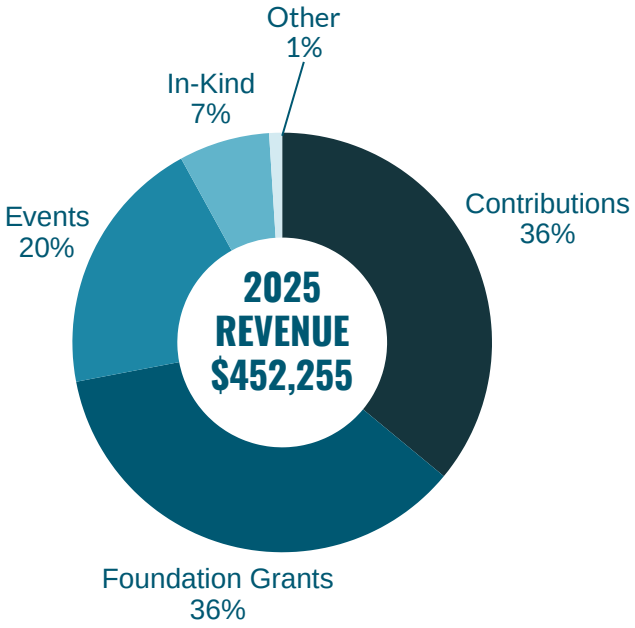
Contact
Development Coordinator
Rachel Mullelly
at 215-572-5937



FINANCIALS

Cradle of Hope is committed to the highest fiscal integrity and transparency as it carries out its life-changing mission. Below is a snapshot of the organization's 2025 revenue and expenses.





NOTE: $27,791 REVENUE RESTRICTED AND PENDING FOR COMPLETION OF ONGOING PROJECTS



Staff Spotlight

MEET SHEEA

Sheea Johnson fulfills a crucial role as the Cradle's Housing Program Caseworker, partnering with each of the mothers in the transitional housing program to achieve their personal goals around employment, further education, housing and beyond.

What drew you to the Cradle?
I worked as a child and family educator doing home visits for pregnant women and young children for about 10 years, building relationships with the moms and helping them meet their goals, providing them with resources. I was drawn to the Cradle because they are a Christian-based organization. It seemed aligned with what I'm most interested in, which is helping women. I can't believe I've been here a year already!

"It's empowering to work with a group of strong women who want nothing more than to enhance the lives of other women. We at the Cradle are a team. We know how to roll up our sleeves and get it done."



What's it been like?
The experience has been great. It's a very intimate environment. Everybody's super close. One word to describe it would be warm. In my year here, I've supported 15 to 20 women who come from all walks of life. Doing this kind of work can be overwhelming and strenuous, and the Cradle team has been so helpful and extremely supportive. It's empowering to work with a group of strong women who want nothing more than to enhance the lives of other women. We at the Cradle are a team. We know how to roll up our sleeves and get it done.

Tell us more about the work you do with clients.
The clients seem to enjoy talking to me and open up fairly quickly because I hold space for them and provide a safe place for them to talk and be vulnerable about what they're going through and what their needs are. We've built a good relationship and are respectful of each other, but can also joke around.

The goal is for the women to have stable employment and be able to get a place of their own. However, there are significant challenges with today's cost of living. Even if they're working full time, sometimes it's unrealistic to secure a place of their own. Resources are constantly dwindling, so I'm that glimmer of hope for them, to let them know it's still possible, but you have to work extra hard.

I also connect the women with community-based resources and try to get the word out to organizations to form partnerships.

I'm about to experience one of my first clients graduate the program in February, and I'm really excited to reflect on all that we did together, the goals she met as a mother and a person.

What keeps you motivated?
Being a single mother myself and knowing what it feels like to have the whole world on my shoulders is my motivation. I think about the type of support I would have liked and what would have been possible if someone had supported me. And I try to provide that every day. It's a challenging yet rewarding position, and I wouldn't have it any other way. Even if the women don't meet all of their goals, they've benefited from their time at the Cradle and I'm happy to be a part of that.

Tell us a bit more about you!
I'm a mother of three children, aged 25, 14 and 5. My oldest son is deaf and has autism, so I am fluent in American Sign Language. My daughter is the youngest and the only girl, so she's our princess and it's fun seeing the world through her eyes. I love to shop, travel and read to take my mind off of life's challenges.

"Being a single mother myself and knowing what it feels like to have the whole world on my shoulders is my motivation. I think about the type of support I would have liked...And I try to provide that every day."

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

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

- MAKE A DONATION at www.cradleofhope.net/donate
- BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR
- HOST A DIAPER DRIVE
- DONATE UBER GIFT CARDS for client transportation
- VOLUNTEER
- HOST A FUNDRAISER
- SUBSCRIBE to our email list
- CONNECT with us on social media

@cradleofhope1 facebook.com/Cradle-of-Hope-Greater-Philadelphia

DONATE

NON-CASH GIVING

There are many ways to sustain the Cradle of Hope's life-changing work beyond cash donations.

- **Donor-Advised Funds** may offer tax advantages while supporting our mission.
- **Planned Giving**—such as including the Cradle of Hope in your will or trust—allows you to create a lasting legacy without affecting current financial goals.
- **Gifts of appreciated assets or stock**!

INTERESTED IN MAKING A GIFT?

Contact Executive Director Alissa Messina at 267-462-1769

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Maggie Zulauf | Volunteer, Cradle of Hope

STAFF MEMBERS

Khadiyjah Anderson | Program Participant Supervisor

Lisa Dawson | Program Participant Supervisor

Sheea Johnson | Housing Program Caseworker

Erin Livingston | CPRC Caseworker

Alissa Messina, MA | Executive Director

Rachel Mullelly | Development Coordinator

Catherine Richman | Financial Coordinator

Cheryl Sumitra, MSW | CPRC Caseworker

Cradle of Hope

A Home for Single Mothers and Children

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