



# Beginnings



## Taylor Finds a Family and a Future at Lifehouse

Taylor grew up in a small country town in the South. Her family was an upper middle-class family that lived a good life. Taylor recalls fun family vacations, a nice home and never really doing without anything she wanted or needed. She was a good kid growing up, always respectful of her parents. When she was around 14 years old, she was introduced to marijuana. She drifted toward the wrong crowd and started drinking and partying. Soon she was doing heavier drugs, and the drug use continued through high school.

Taylor graduated and headed to college. Her goal was to become a nurse, but she struggled because of the drug use. She just couldn't juggle everything. She would start classes but couldn't finish. She ended up dropping out of college.

Taylor continued to use drugs and then found herself pregnant. Despite knowing what drugs could do to a baby in pregnancy, she couldn't stop. She started seeing a counselor, and would get sober for a little bit, but then go back to using. She tried to enroll in a Teen Challenge program near her home but backed out. Her sister-in-law found a Teen Challenge program in Louisville, Priscilla's Place. Moving away from her drug-using friends is what Taylor needed to get clean. After finishing the treatment program at Priscilla's Place, they referred Taylor to



Lifehouse Maternity Home to finish her pregnancy and begin working on her goal to become a nurse.

Taylor loved Lifehouse, "It was so clean, and made me feel like I was back home, complete with a grocery list on the refrigerator where I could write down food I wanted. I felt safe."

At Lifehouse, Taylor found a community of women also facing an unexpected pregnancy. After having a healthy baby boy, Taylor enrolled in nursing school. "Balancing school, work and caring for my son, along with my responsibilities at Lifehouse can be difficult. But I see the bigger picture. It would be so much harder to do all of this on my own. At Lifehouse

I can focus on school and saving money. I don't have to worry about losing my housing and being on the street."

Taylor said that living at Lifehouse wasn't without challenges. "There are many different personalities with different participants and staff. I have had to learn conflict resolution and compromise. I learned it is not always all about me. I love watching my son play with the other kids. It is like an extended family at Lifehouse. Having other moms around helps me not feel lonely. There is always someone to talk to whether it is another mom, a House Mom, the Case Manager or other staff members. I love the personal notes we get from House Moms that are encouraging.

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# The Charm of God's Faithfulness

By Dolli Neikirk, Executive Director  
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*"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20*

Since early this year I have been wearing a bracelet with a small mustard seed charm on it. I started wearing it when some challenging circumstances entered my life as a reminder that even when I have doubts, if my faith remains even a tiny smidge, God will be in the midst of it. At one point, when one challenge resolved itself, I lost the little charm that held the mustard seed. While I was disappointed, I thought that God must be sending it to someone else who needs a "little" faith.

I purchased another bracelet, this time with a mustard seed charm that wouldn't fall off, and I have continued to faithfully wear this bracelet. I've worn it amid spiritual attacks I felt personally and professionally. I wore it as a hedge of protection for my friends, family, and co-workers. I wore it as Lifehouse saw challenges and sweeping blessings.

In this newsletter we share the story of Taylor, a Lifehouse participant who is overcoming her own challenges and witnessing God's blessing in her and her

son's lives. Taking each day one day at a time, growing in her faith and working hard toward sustainable stability for her family, Taylor is proof that hard work and consistency, as well as the abundant support she has received at Lifehouse, is the reason she will achieve her goal of becoming a nurse.



Help us continue to offer healing, hope and a home for pregnant and parenting women and children in crisis. Your gift will help them grow their faith and learn freedom through Christ. The best way to ensure that Lifehouse has the resources needed for food, utilities, household goods, and maintenance is through a recurring monthly gift or a one-time gift of any amount. If you are already a monthly donor, consider if you can make an additional one-time gift, or perhaps increase your monthly gift in 2025. If you have already given to

Lifehouse this year, prayerfully consider if you are able to make an additional gift to bless our moms and babies.

An envelope is included with this newsletter, or you may scan the QR code to make a secure donation through our website. We also accept ACH payments through your bank for one-time or recurring gifts. We covet your prayers, which is the greatest gift you can offer Lifehouse.

I will continue to wear my little mustard seed as a testament to faithfulness of God. I have often said, "God will continue to bless the ministry of Lifehouse as long as He sees fit." I will wear this little mustard seed as a testament that God will continue to provide for Lifehouse through the generosity and faithfulness of His people.

You are Lifehouse's partner in transforming lives! Thank you for your prayers and your generosity. I am truly grateful for all that you do to bless Lifehouse. May God bless you and keep you; may His face shine upon you and give you peace.

Thank you for your generosity during Give for Good Louisville on Sept. 12. Lifehouse set a big goal to raise \$35,000 in the 24 hours of giving. We are so grateful to have raised over \$34,000! This was our second biggest Give for Good day since Lifehouse began participating in 2017.



We want to acknowledge that many of you received our summer newsletter, which included details about Give for Good, too late to give on September 12. A miscommunication to the mailing house that sends our newsletter resulted in the newsletter being mailed later than we requested. However,

many donors gave generously in the weeks following Give for Good, and we are grateful those gifts made up for any shortfall that may have happened because of the mailing error.

Give for Good is just one opportunity to support the work of Lifehouse Maternity Home. The Unity for Life and "Tee Up 'FORE' Life" Golf Scramble set records this year. We are confident that you will continue to bless the ministry of Lifehouse. You will find several ways to support Lifehouse by using the enclosed envelope, scanning the QR code to go to our secure giving page, or with your prayers. Thank you!



# House Happenings



## Connecting with Partners

Lifeshouse has been a part of several activities to share about our program. Recently a story ran on **Spectrum 1 News** about the impact of the Dobbs decision on Maternity Homes. Here is the link if you would like to watch: <http://specne.ws/qHZRoH>

### Mission fair

Lifeshouse Executive Director, Dolli Neikirk and Development Director, Shelly Green, participated in the Mission Fair at **Christ Church United Methodist**. Ministry partners were invited to share about their organization and connect with members of the congregation for volunteer opportunities.



### Wesley Foundation

Dolli Neikirk spoke to the **Wesley Foundation** at the University of Louisville. The Wesley Foundation is a United Methodist Student Ministry. The purpose of the Wesley Foundation is to inspire college students to follow Jesus. Dolli shared about the Lifeshouse program, and encouraged students to share Lifeshouse as a resource should a friend find themselves with an unexpected pregnancy.

### Live broadcast

Dolli and Shelly also were a part of **Give for Good** Louisville's live Facebook

broadcast, sharing about the Lifeshouse mission and importance of supporting pregnant and parenting women in crisis.

### Fall festival

Lifeshouse would like to thank **Compass Christian Church** for being one of the beneficiaries of their Fall Festival benefit. Lifeshouse staff and participants manned a table sharing about Lifeshouse and proceeds from the event will be shared between Lifeshouse and Sparc Hope.

### Invite us!

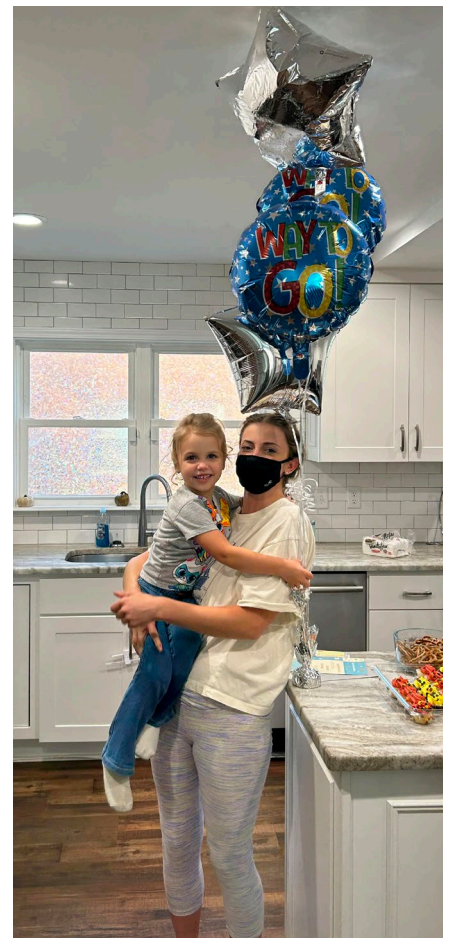
We would love to share about Lifeshouse with your church, mission committee, Respect Life committee, pastor, Sunday School class, Small Group, Youth Group, women's group, men's group, Young Adult ministry, radio program, picnic, festival or other event...basically anyone, anywhere! Contact us at 502-897-1655 or email to: [lifeshouse@lifeshouselouisville.org](mailto:lifeshouse@lifeshouselouisville.org).

### Volunteer of the year

**Connie Collins** was awarded the **2023 Mike Graham Volunteer Award** at Lifeshouse Maternity Home. Connie has been involved with Lifeshouse since December, 2020. She felt a calling on that special Christmas Day and has embraced the home's loving atmosphere. She is a devoted Monday night baby-sitter during Lifeshouse Bible study, among her many duties.



Lifeshouse participant D.G. was recently Baptized. We celebrate her commitment to Christ!



Lifeshouse celebrated participant Marlee's promotion at work and paying off her car with a party to recognize her hard work. Marlee will be graduating from Lifeshouse in the Spring. She is having fun looking at apartments and preparing for a new chapter for her and her daughter.

# Lifehouse Structure Leads to Nursing School Success



on the Bible by doing devotionals and attending Bible study. "I am passionate about learning about God. When life throws a curve ball, sometimes our faith is the first thing to go, but I know that God is always there for me."

## 'Truly God-led'

Taylor has one year of nursing school left. She believes if it wasn't for Lifehouse, she would have given up and never finished college. "Being at Lifehouse has gotten me farther than I ever would have been. I learned structure, and I needed structure. Without it things are ten times harder. I may have started drinking again, which could have led me to relapse in using drugs."

### Continued from front page...

My son and I get so much love from the staff and other women."

Taylor says she has also learned the value of hard work and consistency. "I never would have been this far in nursing school or saved money. I can find clothes for myself and my son in the clothing closet here. It is always fun when a donor drops off something or sends something. It is like getting a present! That has helped me so much in saving money when my son is growing out of clothes so fast. He has plenty of toys to play with in the playroom. Lifehouse has helped me worry less about making money to make ends meet and taught me more about budgeting and saving money."

Taylor says her faith has also grown. She finds time to reflect

Taylor is thankful for Lifehouse and the impact it has had on her and her son. "Lifehouse is changing lives. For someone who is looking to make a change in their life for the better, this is the place to be for a single mom. I believe it was truly God-led that I ended up here."

She plans to live at Lifehouse for the full four years. "I want to finish nursing school, and that is number one! I hope to start working as a nurse and save up more money. I want to move closer to family and buy a house."

"I will miss the way it feels when I come into Lifehouse after school or work and smell dinner being made, and the House Mom telling me to come and make a plate for dinner. It just feels so much like a home."

## Thank You For Being the Heartbeat of Lifehouse!

*Lifehouse is grateful for the churches, businesses, organizations and individuals who support the moms and babies served by Lifehouse. We want to give special recognition to those gifts made in honor or memory of loved ones.*

### Foundations & Grants

AR Hale Family Foundation  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth  
Forwith Family Foundation  
Carson-Myre Charitable Foundation

### Businesses & Organizations

Midlane Park Presbyterian Church  
The Marian Center

### UPS

Yum! Brands Foundation, Inc.  
ACTS II Mission Fund  
Johnson & Johnson  
Southeast Christian Church  
Chapel in the Woods  
UnitedHealthcare Group, Inc.  
Knights of Columbus –  
St. Gabriel Council #15699

### Memorial & Honorarium Gifts

In honor of Dave Moser by Carlton Moser  
In honor of Cathy Badgett by Karen Brown  
In honor of Connie Collins by Donna Spalding  
In honor of all the wonderful moms of Lifehouse  
by Dolli Neikirk  
In memory of Mary Patricia Burch by Mary Caudy  
In honor of Bryan T. Slades' birthday by  
Marty Slade Perlman



# Donations Urgently Needed

As the season changes and we face lack of fresh food sources from Dare to Care, we have an urgent need:

## URGENT NEEDS:

Kroger gift cards in any amount – some of our food resources for fresh meat, produce and frozen products have been greatly reduced. Kroger gifts cards will help ensure we have these vital products for meals

Diapers sizes 6 – we have three children under age two wearing this size

## Other important needs:

- Furnace Filters - medium grade (12x25x1, 14x25x1, 16x25x1)
- Stamps
- Copier paper
- Ethnic hair products (Shea Moisture)
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex tissues
- Toilet Paper



## \$5 gift cards for participants Earn While You Learn:

- Dollar General
- Kroger
- Gas Cards
- Coffee shops
- Restaurants



## Other items may be found on our Amazon Wish List.

Go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). In the search bar type "Registry." Then click the button "Search for a registry or gift list." (Yellow button) Type in **Lifehouse Maternity Home** in the search by name box and select "Gift List" from the pull-down menu, and click the search button. **Click on Lifehouse.** You may ship it directly to Lifehouse at 2710 Riedling Dr., Louisville, 40206

## Other ways to help Lifehouse:

- Include Lifehouse in your will.
- Add Lifehouse as beneficiary on your life insurance policy.
- At age 70 ½ or older, an individual can donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA to a charitable organization. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution meets the Required Minimum Distribution requirement dollar for dollar.

Always consult with your tax advisor before taking any steps described above. Please let Lifehouse know if you are taking any of the steps above.



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## Share our Mission



Maternity Housing COALITION



Sharing about Lifehouse at Compass Christian Church Fall Fest.

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."*

1 Corinthians 13

## 3 Easy Ways to Give



Mail your gift in the reply envelope provided



Call 502-897-1655 to give by phone



Give online quickly and securely

AIM your camera here and click to give.



[LifehouseLouisville.org](http://LifehouseLouisville.org)