



**Mater Filius**  
5924 S. 36th St.  
Omaha, NE 68107



**Mater Filius®**  
Nebraska



## A Letter from the Directors



Last year through OMAHA GIVES! we were blessed to receive enough donations to cover the cost of remodeling



our new Early Childhood Learning Center in the little yellow house. We hope our donors will support us again this year on May 20, 2020. We appreciate your generosity!



Dear Friends,

As this newsletter reaches your mailbox we find ourselves in this new upside down world with COVID-19. We thank God every day for our faith that reminds us Who exactly is in charge. We want to assure you and your families of our prayers for you. We are committed to serving our moms and families at

Mater Filius. We plan to keep our Early Learning

Childhood Center open for as long as our moms are able to work. We are monitoring the health of all in our care and grateful to our staff and volunteers who hold the needs of our families close at heart.

Speaking of families, between August 2019 and April 2020 there were 15 people (all ages) residing at Mater Filius. Our moms learned some immeasurable life lessons: They learned to swap cooking days when needed, to have direct conversations, and to resolve issues on their own. Bravery takes on a whole new meaning when you share a kitchen with four other women.

When our moms first enter Mater Filius they are skeptical towards us "friendly church ladies." Why would we help them and expect nothing in return? A few

weeks down the road they start to trust us and allow their guards to come down. They appreciate the opportunities afforded them. Eventually a rock gets in their way and they stumble. Wait a minute, they think, this is really hard. Is it worth it?

Some start to resent the rules and challenge all that they see that is unfair in this world and right inside Mater Filius. This is a painful, painful moment of truth. It is a courageous woman and valiant mom who will fight through her pain, own up to her past mistakes, vow to do better and, most importantly, ask for help when needed.

Thankfully more and more of our moms are willing to fight through this battle and go on to a better, healthier life. This is when the miracles pour forth.

Sometimes newsletters write themselves. We want you to hear from our moms in their own words regarding the impact that Mater Filius has had on their lives. We asked moms who moved out a year ago, six months ago and two weeks ago to share what they learned either while at Mater Filius or after they moved away.

We are in awe at the wonder of God and the way He orchestrates these amazing stories. Thank you for all of the support you give to our moms and their children! May you have a blessed Easter with your family!

Sincerely,  
Julie and Jim Mainelli

*"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like Eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." ~ Isaiah 40:31.*



dan



jet



hayden



daniel



logan

## michelle + hayden



Last May when I moved into Mater Filius, all the other moms were moving out. For awhile I was the only woman in the house. I got a lot of attention and support. They helped me get into the UNMC Neurology department where I was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease. I was devastated, but I was not surprised because it runs in my family. I appreciate the support everyone gave me.

I had not practiced my Catholic faith for years, but I enjoyed Rita's workshops on Spirituality. One night she was teaching us about Our Lady of Guadalupe and I felt a warm hug around my shoulders. I looked to see who hugged me, but no one was there. Rita was sitting across the room. I asked her if she saw who had hugged me and she gave me a strange look so I knew she didn't see anything. It was a real hug! I know it was our Mother telling me it was all going to be okay. She would be with me.

My daughter Hayden was born in October. I love my daughter so much and she is just so sweet. Hayden lives with my sister and her family, and I spend as much time with her as I can. In February I moved to a new home called Omaha Supportive Living. I am grateful that Hayden still gets to come to Mater Filius every day to ECLC.

I always wanted to be a mom, and now I am, but not in the way I had planned. Rita taught me about offering my suffering for souls. I had never heard of this before. It is something I try to remember every day. God had a plan for me when I came to Mater Filius, and I know he has a plan for me and Hayden now. I am grateful to everyone who helped me through this time, and I am thankful to still be a part of Mater Filius when I come back for Mass on Wednesdays.



## julia + logan



When I first came to Mater Filius I was in a bad situation. I thought it was a place for pregnant women in crisis who had nowhere else to go. Little did I know it was so much more. Before I came here I wasn't much of a functional person. Being here helped me learn how to clean, cook for a family, and take care of myself. I have pretty much learned how to be an adult and a great mom.

I enjoyed the workshops – parenting with EPS, group counseling, and Circle of Security. My favorite was Spirituality with Rita because she is a great teacher and I learned so much about the Catholic faith. I appreciate that I was given the opportunity to go to a Rachel's Vineyard retreat. It was a life-changing weekend and I will never forget it. The housemoms, Geri and Pam, were like second moms to me. They loved me but also held me accountable.

The help and support you get in a short time at Mater Filius is probably more than you would get in a lifetime. I will miss this place and the people here (all the volunteers!) It is like a big family and I will never forget my time here, and I am so thankful



Defending Life with Love

My name is Jayd. I'm a Mother of three and a Mater Filius graduate. Some may know what being a mother feels like, but few can share the empowerment of a Mater Filius graduate.

Before coming, I was a striving mother all on my own. But now, I am more than that. I am a Catholic, full-time student, proud vehicle owner, cleaning-and-cooking expert, and now a member of this delicate and prominent community.

Left and right are sets of good examples, the love of Jesus Christ, and smiles of volunteers, Imas, and directors Julie and Stacey. My family was taken into precious hands and we leave this house now with precious hearts.

Thank you and God bless.

Love,

Jayd, Shaynova, Svetlana, and Jet

## jayd, shaynova, svetlana + jet



I moved out of Mater Filius last June. When I first arrived, I was 18 years old and two months away from having my child. I had no idea what my future would hold. I knew I needed resources to overcome whatever obstacles would come my way. I ended up receiving and leaving Mater Filius with so much more than I expected.

The group therapy taught me how to properly handle conflicts with others and understand the importance of self worth. I was able to develop a personal relationship with God freely and I had access to a beautiful chapel a floor down from where I slept. I established a list of good habits that I follow today like daily prayer, making a good breakfast, being frugal, delighting in my child's experiences and nurturing her needs consistently. They are simple things, but the key building blocks to a good life.

I received a scholarship through the Christ Child Society with the help of Mater Filius. This money went toward my tuition at UNO and I was able to purchase my first car with the money I had saved working. I have made the Dean's List the last two Fall Semesters.

Lastly, Monica attends the ECLC in Mater Filius where she's been cared for and loved by the most amazing people I've ever met. Knowing that she is in good hands while I am at work and at school is very comforting.

I am not sure where I would be without the help of Mater Filius. I am a full-time student and an intern at the Union Pacific Railroad and on track to graduate a semester early. I look forward to a bright future for Monica and me, and I am grateful to Mater Filius for all they have done for us.

## marissa + monica

