



Mater Filiius
5924 S. 36th St.
Omaha, NE 68107



Mater
Filiius®
Nebraska



A Letter from the Directors



Twice a year Mater Filiius, Nebraska, sends out a newsletter to update you on the wonderful graces being poured out on the families we serve. We are a small organization with a big mission.

First, we are Pro-Life. Second, we receive pregnant women of all ages and backgrounds. The only requirement is that they are open to change. We walk this journey with them each day through much love and firm guidelines.

Because we are small, we have the opportunity to really get to know each of our mothers, understanding that no two paths are alike. Mater Filiius is blessed to have an amazing group of volunteers, full of love and willing to share their gifts. These volunteers mentor and model to the women and children in our care. Fr. Jindra, in a recent homily in our chapel, spoke on Apostolic Maximalism, the giving entirely of ourselves each day, for the sake of others, to "spend yourself entirely for Christ."

Thus far, we have been able, through the grace of God, to send out two newsletters a year that sustain us financially.

Our efforts go directly into our families, rather than spending time with fundraisers. We're asking for your continued support this fall by considering a donation to our Early Childhood Learning Center which is growing fast! Our babes spend weekdays in the ECLC while their moms work or go to school. The children are nurtured and loved beyond belief. Our ECLC staff are paid, but their hearts are mission driven.

The only other paid position at Mater Filiius is our housemother, and you can be sure that she is mission driven as well!

Please join us in this mission of generational change beautifully made possible through Building Lives Up!

Many blessings to each of you,
Jim and Julie Mainelli



Spotlight on Volunteers



The only number on speed dial at Mater Filiius belongs to Mary and Sarah Locati. This dynamic mother-daughter duo takes over the housemother position when Kathryn takes her monthly weekend off or goes on vacation.

Mary, a data analyst in Health Information Management at Methodist Hospital, started volunteering at Mater Filiius shortly after it opened. In

addition to substituting for Kathryn, she volunteers every third Sunday evening.

Sarah was still in college when she started volunteering alongside her mom. Now she is a kindergarten paraprofessional for Omaha Public Schools and works part-time at Hy-Vee as an on-line personal shopper. "One of the many special experiences of volunteering at Mater Filiius for me

is being able to see all of the women become strong and independent mothers," Sarah said.

Mary and Sarah run a tight ship when they fill in for Kathryn. They are dependable, kind and friendly.

Mary understands that the time she invests in Mater Filiius impacts lives. "I see the positive change over time in the women's attitude and behavior," said Mary.

Mater Filiius, Nebraska, is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. If you feel called to donate, please send checks or money orders to:

Mater Filiius, Nebraska
5924 S. 36th St.
Omaha, NE 68107

For your convenience, you can also donate through paypal on our website at:

www.materfiliiusne.org

Thank you for your consideration, and God bless you!



402.933.3466

Would you like to know more about Mater Filiius? For instance, why we wear these blue tilmas (because they are blessed like a scapular and they remind us that we are in the house to serve the moms). We invite you to listen to the foundress of Mater Filiius, Miriam Tejeda's testimony on youtube. She explains how the Virgin Mary called her to this pro-life ministry and more. It is a fascinating story!
www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TequSuRo4o



Where do our moms like to spend their free time? At our new BLU*tique of course!

Moms are free to shop for themselves and their children with the BLU bucks they earn throughout the week. This allows them to shop in a store-like setting surrounded by order and beauty.

Previously, moms would request items like shampoo or leggings on their weekly report. Now they take their BLU bucks and "purchase" the items that they

need or want for themselves. They shop for necessities, but they also save their bucks for when they transition into their own home. Big items like pots and pans, bedding and towels are always popular.

Angie Eidem and her volunteer crew decorate the BLU*tique according to the season. It was a little "Frosty" already in September with the new Husker T-shirts and red display.

Angie says it's rewarding to see the women

having fun while shopping. "The most popular items are dresses," she said. "Our moms love to find a pretty dress that they can wear to Mass. The icing on the cake is when they find accessories to match!"

A "crisis bag" is given to women who come into Mater Filius without anything because they are fleeing a domestic violence situation or they are homeless. The crisis bag contains new underwear, pajamas, two outfits and toiletries. A "homecoming bag"

awaits the moms when they return home from the hospital with their newborns. This bag includes baby clothes, a blanket for baby, a new outfit for mom, bibs, burp clothes, two baby outfits, diapers, wipes, a love and binkies.

One Saturday alone five women shopped in the BLU*tique and purchased over 156 items and spent 1,164 BLU bucks. Graduate moms are welcome to shop when they come back for our First Saturday breakfasts.

"My calling is to make the women feel amazing about themselves. We want to build them up," Angie said. "I learn more from them than they do from me. Even our toughest eggs have cracked open and smiled when they look in the mirror and they know they look good."

If you are interested in volunteering or donating new or slightly used items for the BLU*tique, please contact Angie at 402-639-4153.

Community Partner

FRESH START

Letter from a Mom...

"Growing up in a broken home wasn't easy. I wasn't taught how to love or care for another person. My trust for people has always been low. I've had plenty of people try to help me, from foster care to group home after group home. I was lost. The day I called Mater Filius, I was ready to give up. I had hit my rock bottom. It takes love, kindness and the grace of God to be able to take in a total stranger and love them like your own child."

Mater Filius didn't only teach me how to be a mother and independent. They taught me to not only love myself but to see myself as a child of God. There are so many benefits from Mater Filius and I don't know what I'd do without them.

The Early Childhood Learning Center is the best that a mother can have. It is hard to find child care that is trusting and reliable. Annie is a God-send who takes care of our little angels. I strongly believe that the reason behind my son's smile is not only because of me, but the women at Mater Filius. I thank God for them daily."

♥ Sophia & Benjamin



When our moms move into Mater Filius it is often challenging for them to find an employer who is willing to hire them if they have a criminal background or chronic unemployment. That is why the Heart Ministry Fresh Start Job Placement Program was a gift from God that would answer one of our most pressing needs: Jobs.

At Heart Ministries these problems aren't viewed as obstacles, but rather as opportunities for a second chance. As part of the program, moms volunteer 25 hours a week in the Heart Ministry's food pantry. To be accepted into the program and succeed, they must possess a strong work ethic, have a positive attitude and be reliable.

During the 15-week program, volunteers also work on personal development and job skills. In most cases, a job is lined up before they officially graduate from the program. Volunteers continue to participate in the program for up to six months after graduation.

Heart Ministries' Fresh Start Job Placement Program and Mater Filius share the belief that a woman can go far in life if she works hard and is open to positive change.



"Through our relationship with Mater Filius we are able to have a greater collective impact in our Fresh Start Job Placement Program participants' lives," Mark Dahir, executive director of the Fresh Start program, said. "Their expertise in dealing with single mothers is an invaluable resource to both the program and the mission of the Heart Ministry Center and we are very grateful."



"When I came into Mater Filius, I said I wanted to become independent and to be able to live with my kids without needing support from other people in my life. My life was a wreck. I had lost custody of my two older children, a three-year-old and a 10-month-old, who were living with my mother."

I was a week away from giving birth to my youngest daughter when I moved into Mater Filius. I was terrified of what life would be like without their father making all the decisions. I will never forget the day I moved in. It was a Thursday around 4 p.m. and I moved all my stuff upstairs and I was sitting on my bed. The Thursday night volunteer, Rita, came into my room and asked if I needed anything. I just broke down crying and told her I was scared. Her response was, "That's okay. I love you and it's ok to cry. Come downstairs when you're ready and we will have dinner." It was an unforgettable moment.

I think the best thing Mater Filius has to offer is the doula program. Lisa Terwilliger, my doula, came into my life at a very low point and she will forever be my "personal therapist." Having that one person who is just your support is great and something I never had before in my life.

Letter from a Mom...

After my daughter was born, I was given the phone number to the Heart Ministries' Fresh Start program. That program gave me courage to have a voice and make my own choices. I became a full-time employee at Fresh Start after I graduated from the program.



My two older daughters joined Adlee and me at Mater Filius in July. Emree and Adlee attend the ECLC (Early Childhood Learning Center) at Mater Filius and my oldest, Jovee, attends pre-school at Sts. Peter and Paul. She attends school there because Mater Filius gave a scholarship to pay a portion of her tuition. Many exceptions have been made for my children and me at Mater Filius. This is why I fully understand when Julie and Stacey say every woman's experience and needs are different, and there is a path for each of us.

I moved out of Mater Filius at the end of August. It is a relief to know I can drop my kids off at the Early Childhood Learning Center and not think twice about whether they will be taken care of or not. Mater Filius is truly a blessing. It was the best Google search I ever made! Thank you so much to everyone at Mater Filius. I will always pray for the Mater Filius family."

♥ Hailey, Jovee, Emree & Adlee



Early Childhood Learning Center Update

So who are these women watching over our children in the Early Childhood Learning Center? We call them the Dream Team.

Annie Murphy, the ECLC Director, hired two new team members in late summer. Toni Buckler moved to Omaha from North Carolina to help take care of her father. She called on Mater Filius to volunteer and walked out with a full-time position.

Toni has two daughters in college and said stumbling upon Mater Filius was a "Holy Spirit" moment. "I am here serving God through these moms and these children," Toni said. "I love



taking a baby and sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament. This is so much more than a job to me."

Terri Fagan listened to her good friend Annie Murphy talk about Mater Filius for a year before she actually came to see it for herself. She, too, left with a part-time job. Terri worked at her church's Parents Day Out program for five years before it was closed down. She missed working with children so when Annie offered her the position it seemed to be just the right fit.

"It is such a gift to work with children," Terri said. "It's good for your heart and soul."

welcome to the world!

