

Walking Through the HOPE Doors for the First Time

A Client's Story

Prior to coming to HOPE, I felt scared and confused about my pregnancy. [My] baby's father was abusive and had taken me to an abortion clinic, but when I got there I was unable to go through with it. I had no clue what HOPE was or did, but I came across HOPE as I was looking for some place or someone who would help me during my pregnancy.



Our lovely HOPE mom and her precious baby.

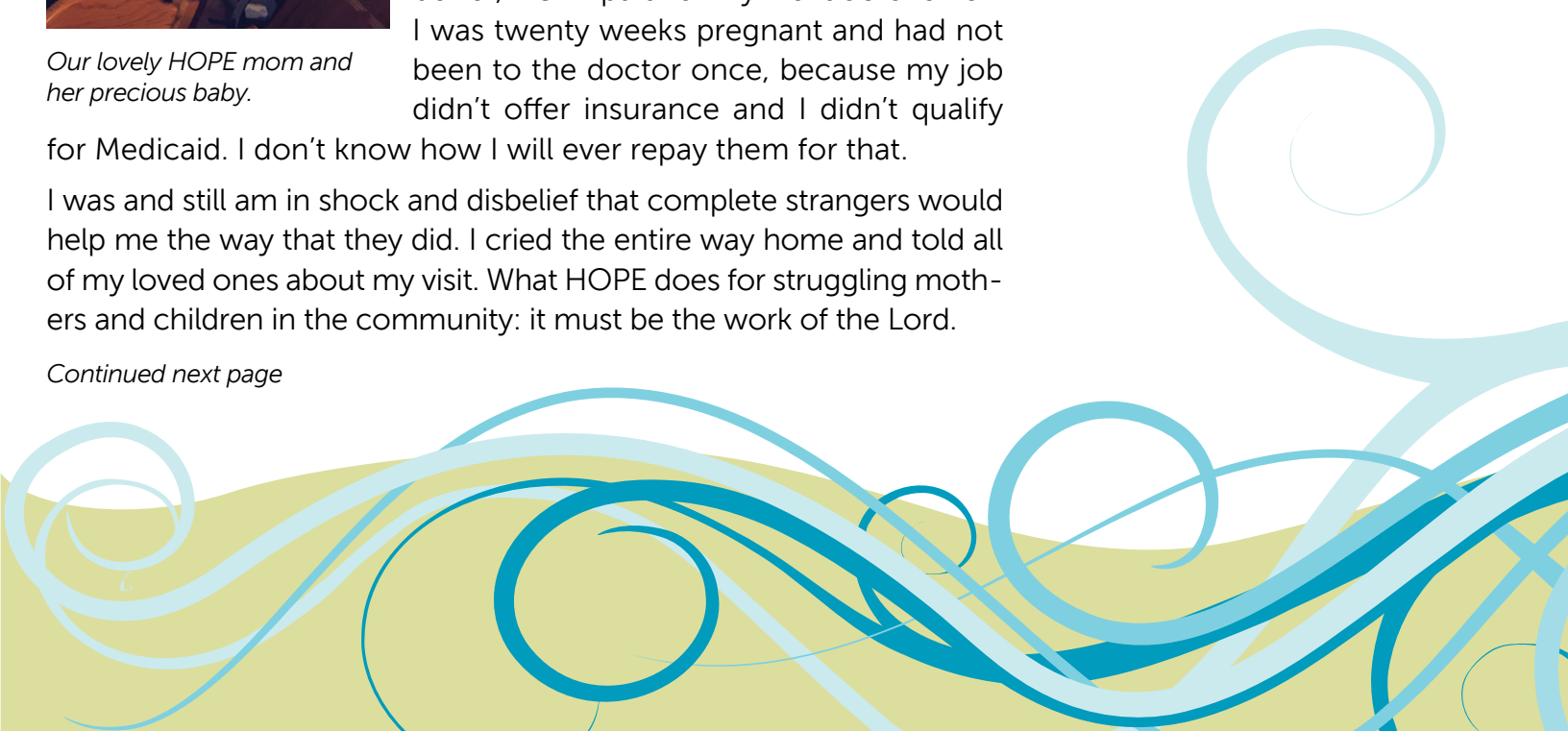
This was my first pregnancy, and I was desperate for guidance and support. When I first arrived at HOPE I met with one of the volunteers — or angels as I like to call them — and my initial sit-down with her literally changed my life. I was reassured that MY decision to keep my baby was one I could do, and that I wouldn't be alone. She made me feel brave and strong. As cliché as it might sound, I left the house full of "hope." I walked out with material items, but even better, HOPE paid for my first doctor's visit. I was twenty weeks pregnant and had not been to the doctor once, because my job didn't offer insurance and I didn't qualify for Medicaid. I don't know how I will ever repay them for that.

I was and still am in shock and disbelief that complete strangers would help me the way that they did. I cried the entire way home and told all of my loved ones about my visit. What HOPE does for struggling mothers and children in the community: it must be the work of the Lord.

Continued next page

To our Wonderful HOPE Friends & Family:

Thank you for ALL that you made possible for our clients and our ministry in 2018. We are so thankful for each of you! Whenever we've been low on baby goodies, or needing prayer and encouragement, you've always been there for us and the precious families we serve. God bless each of you and your households for all of your sacrifices for others. You've helped save more lives, hearts, and babies than you can imagine.



2018 Financial Snapshot

By: Amy Bigart – HOPE Treasurer

2018 was an excellent year for HOPE in Northern Virginia. Our income increased to \$109,000. The majority of our donations come from individual donors and church donations. Almost 30% of our income is from church baby bottle drives. We are blessed to receive material donations as well. We gave out baby and toddler clothes 630 times and maternity clothes over 200 times. We distributed more than 100 car seats, 650+ packs of diapers, 500+ cans of formula, 150+ strollers, and 300+ packs of wipes.

Our expenses were \$105,000. More than half of our expenses go to the salaries of our only two paid employees. Our Executive Director and Associate Director work tirelessly to meet the needs of our clients. They represent HOPE to the community and maintain relationships with local churches and agencies. They train and supervise our volunteers and coordinate with community organizations like the Girl Scouts, youth ministries and Bible study groups.

These two pie charts represent our income and expenses in 2018. We are praying to increase our income by 50% so we can hire a third employee and keep HOPE open during the evening hours to better serve our clients. If you aren't already, please consider becoming a monthly donor to help us reach our goal. You can sign up to be a monthly donor by using Mightycause.org: www.mightycause.com/organization/Hopeinnova

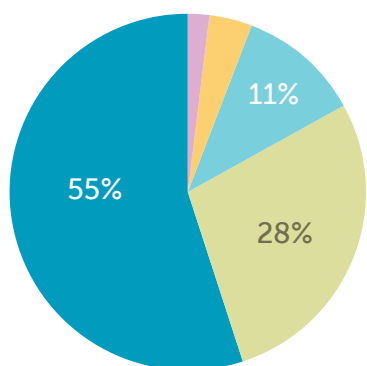
Walking through... (cont.)

Even more than the material support, HOPE has given me strength. I am reminded how strong I am and that my situation would be tough for anyone. But I can do it. I am a single mom who left her abuser, but I'm not alone.

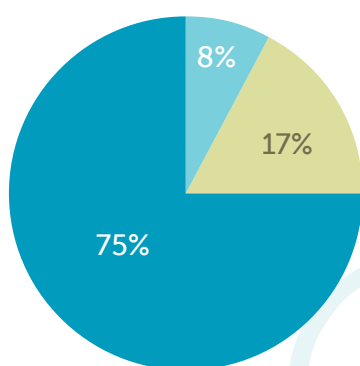
My son is now over four months old and the support from HOPE continues. I participate in the Friends in HOPE mentoring program and am matched with a beautiful single mom who has a son my age and has been with me every step of the way. A donor to HOPE provided a free photo shoot and I was able to get professional pictures of my son and me. My job had to cut my salary, and HOPE prayed for me and helped with extra baby items. Now I have a new job with benefits, praise God.

Because of your financial support to HOPE, there is a place for people like me to turn to when they have no where else to turn. A place where I gained a whole new family. A place where they do the work of the Lord and share His hope.

2018 Income



2018 Expenses



- Individual Donations
- Bottle Drives
- Church Donations
- Corporation Donations (4%)
- Facebook (2%)

- Salaries (2 employees)
- Administrative Costs
- Utilities



A Day at HOPE

Pregnancy center work can be hectic, unpredictable and very emotional — at times, more so for the servant than those being served. You see, working with vulnerable mothers — single or married; abandoned or supported; young or older — inevitably reminds one of the sacrifices our own mother and grandmothers must have quietly made to give us life and raise us. Serving our center's clients reminds me that all women are valued, precious and vulnerable, especially those facing an unplanned pregnancy.

The greatest needs of a woman facing an unplanned pregnancy are privacy and a listening ear. Such a woman is already overwhelmed, confused and stressed about her situation; and all she seeks is a place of solace and understanding while she tries to breathe and figure out who will unconditionally love her and her unborn child.

After spending a few minutes with a woman considering abortion, one quickly realizes that her circumstantial concerns are valid and her fears are very real. A person's feelings are always indisputable — we can't tell someone how to feel — especially when we haven't taken a moment to walk in their shoes. One of the greatest gifts we can give another person is the gift of empathy. What an honor and privilege it is to celebrate and serve mothers each day at HOPE. Thank you so much for making our work possible, dear friends!

Happy Mother's Day!

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Give HOPE

Donations can be made online to support HOPE. Contributions directly support service to our clients, including pregnancy support, adoption support, material needs (i.e. formula and diapers), housing references, and parenting classes.

Give HOPE online at:
hopehousenova.org

Help us share HOPE with others



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