



Welcome to Refuge Host Homes! We are SO glad you have found us and are excited to join you on your motherhood journey. The *greatest job you have right now is mothering your baby* and it starts now, while he or she is in your womb. No matter the reason that you reached out to us, you are taking good care of your baby by inviting other people into your life and your baby's life who will love and care for you both the way you deserve to be loved and cared for. We are so thankful and proud of the way you've taken a step to be cared for in a way that may be very unfamiliar to you. We know you probably have tons of questions and we want to help answer some of those!

#### *So what is a Host Home, anyways?*

A Host Home is a family, married couple, or individual in the Greater Akron, Ohio area who has committed to opening up their house and life to a vulnerable pregnant mother so she doesn't have to travel the journey into motherhood alone. They are committed to living life alongside a mom and her child in a practical and life-giving way.

#### *So I'll live in someone else's house? How much does this cost?*

Yes, you will live in their house with them and it's completely free! They have a private bedroom and bathroom that they would love to offer you and they want to feed you. They want to welcome you into their family and that means living with them, but also being treated like family. Meals together, running errands, celebrating holidays, dishes, laundry, ect all the things that make up family life, they want to include you in.

#### *How long will I live in a Host Home?*

We want to get you settled into a safe, comfortable place as soon as possible after you contact us (Move-in Date is usually about 2-3 weeks after you've been referred to us). These months before you give birth are some of the most vital in determining the health of your baby and living in one of our Host Homes is a wonderful way to ensure that you are not under extra stress that could actually harm your baby. You will live in a Host Home until your baby is about 6 months old and then we will help you transition into your own independent apartment after that.

#### *What's the process to get matched with a Host Home?*

After your Referral Questionnaire is received, we will call you to start the process. You will need to fill out a series of documents that will be emailed to you and you can email them right back to us. We will also need copies of your ID/Driver's license, Birth Certificate, and Insurance card if you have one. We will call your references that you list on your Client Profile. Once everything is turned in, we will match you with a Host Home and schedule a Meet and Greet (in-person with Hosts, Host Home Coordinator, and you). If requested, phone calls between Host and Mother may occur before the Meet and Greet. After the Meet and Greet, the Host Home Coordinator will call you the next day to see what you thought about the Host Home and to see if you would like to set a Move-in Date.

#### *What else does Refuge Host Homes do?*

We are also a connection to Community Partners who work with pregnant women and their children to ensure that all their needs are being met. Our wrap-around services aim to meet the physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental needs of our mothers and connect them to the vast resources that our community has to offer. This means that you will have a Case Manager who you will meet with regularly and she will help you get access to the things that you need and want as you build a life for you and your baby. She will help you set goals (maybe you want to own a car, need help getting diapers, want to get a job, ect.) and then help you learn how to obtain the goals you've set.

*What if I get placed with a Host Home and I don't like it?*

We work hard to create a match between you and a Host Home that will work for everyone. Living with people can be hard, though! We offer lots of support to you and your Host/s and will regularly check-in and see how it's going for everyone. Every 3 months you will sign another Host Home-Mother Agreement. If it's not going well and you would like to move out and exit the program, you may do so at anytime. You are not obligated to stay in our program but we want to make sure that you and your baby are safe and will continue to be.

*What happens after my baby turns 6 months old?*

When you are halfway through your first year of motherhood, we will help you transition to our Independent Supportive Housing phase. Our Case Manager will help move you into safe housing where you will begin to pay rent at a rate you can afford in a community that will be safe for you and your baby. Our Church Partners help with the housing in this phase and we are excited to offer you and your baby the ability to live in your own apartment but will continue to offer you the support of a Case Manager and relationship with your Host Family. This Supportive Housing Phase lasts up to 2 years until you are launched completely back into independence.

**More about the Host Home Experience:**

A Host Home...

- *Is a family to be a part of.*
- *Is a free, safe place to live.*
- *Is a place to learn how to be a mom and people to ask when you need help or are feeling overwhelmed.*
- *Is people to talk to, laugh with, learn with.*
- *Is a place to be fed (physically and spiritually).*
- *Is a place to try new things and pursue your job goals while not having to worry about where and how you and your baby will live.*
- *Is responsible to provide your food, linens, toilet paper, and laundry detergent.*
- *Is people who will have grace for you and need grace from you as you all live together and figure out how to solve conflict together.*

A Host Home...

- *Is NOT free childcare.*
- *Is NOT just a place to store your stuff.*
- *Is NOT responsible for all your transportation.*
- *Is NOT responsible for providing your clothing, toiletries, personal items or your baby's items.*
- *Is NOT a place to engage in unhealthy behaviors (illegal drug use, drinking or pre-marital sex).*
- *Is NOT perfect and will make mistakes from time to time.*

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us! We are excited to see what God is going to do in the life of you and your baby. He wants to meet your every need and we are so honored to be a part of that process. We fully believe Psalm 68:6 "God places the lonely in families; He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy." We are on a journey to JOY with you as you welcome your precious child into this world.

Grace and peace to you sweet Momma,

*Emilie*

Emilie Oxley  
Executive Director  
Refuge Host Homes



# Referral Questionnaire

*Help us get to know you a little bit so we can start the conversation to see if Refuge Host Homes is the right fit for you and your baby! If you can answer as honestly as possible, it will help us help you. We DON'T assume to know what you want and need. We DO want to understand the best way to support you and your transition into motherhood.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Weeks Pregnant \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have other children? \_\_\_ Do they live with you? \_\_\_ What are their ages? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Current address where you are staying \_\_\_\_\_

**Check the category you feel describes you best** (check all that apply):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking a support system      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In an unsafe relationship     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking adequate medical care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Experiencing unstable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Afraid to give birth          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-risk pregnancy           | <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic health issues         |

**Tell us a little more:** (None of these answers affect your eligibility. We would just like to know what services you may want and need. Please circle the answer.)


Do you speak and read/write English? **YES** or **NO** Do you have WIC? **YES** or **NO**


Do you have a driver's license? **YES** or **NO** Do you have a car? **YES** or **NO**


Have you graduated high school? **YES** or **NO**

Do you have a job? **YES** or **NO**, if yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a medical provider you have seen during this pregnancy? **YES** or **NO**

 Refuge Host Homes is a long-term Hosting program, which means you would be connected with a Host Family whom you and your child(ren) would live with for 9-12 months, rent free. Is this what you are looking for? **YES** or **NO**

 Refuge Host Homes is an organization that proclaims Jesus Christ as Savior and The Bible as the Word of God. Are you comfortable hearing about Jesus and The Bible in your Host Home? **YES** or **NO**

 Do you authorize the referring agency to release your information to Refuge Host Homes?

**YES** or **NO** Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for sharing a little about yourself. We look forward to talking more with you to see how Refuge Host Homes can support you on your journey into motherhood.*

Name of Referring Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Disclosure of Financial Need

Please check which description describes your situation accurately. (Check all that apply.)



### Experiencing Housing Instability

- I have moved more than 3 times in the past 6 months.
- I am regularly unable to pay my rent.
- I do not feel safe in my current housing situation.



### Experiencing Homelessness

- I have been living in a shelter or place not safe for human habitation.
- I have been "couch surfing", staying with different people for a few days at a time.
- I do not have a plan for where my baby and I will live when we leave the hospital after delivery.



### Insufficient Support System to Safely Parent

- I do not have family or friends to support me emotionally or physically.
- I do not know how to keep my baby safe and healthy.
- I do not have the financial resources to provide for my baby.

My current Income Level is below 100% of the Federal Poverty Line (\$18,310)

My current Income Level is above the Federal Poverty Line

Client's Name:

Signature:

Date: