

# New Life Center for Mothers and Children

**August 2024**

## *Christina's Story*



I am standing here today as living proof that we serve a God of second, third, and fourth chances. I can look back over my life now and see how many times He saved me. When I was a child, I moved around a lot because my father was in the Navy. Both of my parents are believers, so I was aware of God at a very young age. We were involved in a legalistic Baptist church, so I didn't know the difference between religion and relationship.

My parents divorced, remarried, and divorced each other again; stability was something I longed for. Co-dependency, rejection, and identity were struggles I developed early on. As a teenager I became very involved in school, playing sports and being a straight A student, but unfortunately that quickly changed after suffering multiple forms of abuse by authority figures in my life. They stole my innocence and robbed me of my joy! I stopped playing sports, and instead started hanging with the wrong crowd and began skipping school. I was in a downward spiral that eventually led to me attempting to take my own life. I was angry at God and the world! I didn't realize it then, but that was the first time God saved my life.

I ended up in an extremely toxic and abusive relationship with an older man. All my life I had been told I medically would not be able to have children, so imagine my surprise when I found out I was pregnant at 19 years old. We ended up having 3 children together. I thought the abuse would lessen, but it only got worse. I decided I needed to make a better future for myself and my children, so I enrolled in the local community college. While in school full time, raising 3 kids, and staying in the abusive relationship, I found out I had cancer. No matter how sick I got, I promised I would not give up on furthering my education and graduated with Honors from HACC in paralegal studies. By the time I met the doctor that could do the surgery, my cancer progressed to stage 3. After surgery, I was cancer free, and the Lord saved me again.

Years later I was brave enough to walk away from that abusive relationship. I thought I was finally free until reality set in that I had to pay the bills, raise 3 kids, and keep a roof over our heads all on my own. I ended up in another toxic relationship with someone who introduced me to drugs. I was using methamphetamines for about a year when God saved my life again, this time with a Holy Spirit arrest that landed me in jail; that is where He really got my attention. I realized everything I went through was not His fault, He never left me, He was there all along! I found my way to a Teen Challenge and was there for 8 months before transitioning to NLFMC on 12/5/2023. I immediately wanted to leave, but Rachel called and prayed for me over the phone, and I knew I was meant to stay. Since being at NLFMC, I have been transformed and my life has completely changed. God has restored the broken relationship I had with my 3 children, and they transitioned to live with me at the beginning of June. I have learned to set and respect healthy boundaries, and through the Freedom for Christ classes I have been able to identify lies I have believed from the enemy and replace them with the promises of God. My identity is rooted in who I am in Christ, and not how others view or treat me.

I can stand here today and say that I have broken generational curses that have plagued my family for decades! I recently celebrated two years clean and sober, and I am so grateful to be in a place where I can see and feel the Lord's hand working every day. I hope to one day give back and pour the love into others that has been poured into me.



## A Note from the Executive Director

Glory! Hallelujah! We are so excited because our graduation banquet is fast approaching, and it's not too late to register for your free tickets at [www.nlfmc.org](http://www.nlfmc.org). We are looking forward to celebrating our graduates with you on September 7th, 5:30 pm, at the New Freedom Community Center located in New Freedom, PA. That evening we will celebrate the lives that have been changed by the Power of Jesus Christ, through the ministry of New Life for Mothers and Children. The graduating families have worked very hard to get to this place in their walk with the Lord, and have persevered through very difficult trials and obstacles, all while parenting their children as they maintain their Biblical classes, receive counseling, and fulfilling all requirements to receive their certificate of completion. As each family walks down the aisle with their child/children to receive their graduation diploma we want you to join us in praying for them for success in their next season. Some families are staying in our intern program and will move over to the transition phase of the ministry for an additional year to prepare for their transition, and others feel the Lord calling them back home to be a light in their family and to their communities. This is our first official graduating class since opening the two additional phases of our program, and we believe this will be a day many will capture in their hearts for years to come! Graduating has been no easy task, and it has probably been the most difficult thing they have ever done, and yet at the same time the most rewarding. When Jesus comes into our hearts, transforms us from the inside out, it is worth the growing pains it took for us to arrive in the seasons of victory. The leadership is proud of the 2024 graduating class, and I know our supporters are just as excited to see this day finally arrive! Thank you for every prayer, every word of encouragement, every seed of faith that you have sowed, every moment of time you have sacrificed to minister, encourage, teach, pray, or volunteer with a project, we are thankful for the partnerships because it is His body that He uses to accomplish His will and His way here in the lives of His children.



## Needs List:

- Gas Cards
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Oil change gift card
- Trash Bags (13/33g)
- Computer Paper
- Stamps

## You're Invited

September 7, 2024

530pm

New Freedom Community Center

150 E. Main St

New Freedom, PA 17349

Join us for a joint graduation service and annual banquet! We are excited to share we have 8 women graduating from NLFMC!!

Tickets are FREE! RSVP today!

**Check us out on the web!! [www.nlfmc.org](http://www.nlfmc.org)**