

New Life Center for Mothers and Children

February 2024



Mandy's Story

My name is Mandy! I am 32 years young and was born right here in York county, PA. It may come as a shock to you but I actually had a pretty normal upbringing. I am an only child, and my parents divorced when I was too little to remember anything. I spent most of the time with my mom because my dad had his own struggles with alcohol and drugs as well. My mom was a single mom on and off but I have so many good memories growing up with her. She remarried when I was in 5th grade to a man that would later leave lasting scars and wounds on both of us. Did that turn me into an addict that was determined to destroy my life and everyone else's around me? Full of selfishness and self-loathing? I honestly don't know. I do know that I always felt not quite right on the inside and did everything I could to cover it up. Something was missing and I didn't know where to start looking for it. I did make it through most of school in one piece until the summer of 10th grade when me and my friends met a group of older guys from our high school. Before we knew it we were smoking weed every weekend. Once I told my dad I was getting high, we started using together. I was able to just smoke weed and drink for a couple of years and fly beneath the radar but really I see now that it was only a matter of time until I got out of control. Because the sickness was always right there just below the surface. I attempted college for a few years while working 2 jobs at the same time, but I was living a double life during the day. I would either be in school or at work and at night I would stay up all night studying and doing homework. I was 100% high all the time, and I hardly ever slept. I functioned like that until I got pregnant at the age of 22. It sobered me up, for a little while at least. In May 2014 I gave birth to my daughter Saiya who is 9 now. Unfortunately, I started using drugs again shortly after having her and went to my first rehab when she was just a year old. It was the first in a long list of rehabs that I frequented over the years because I just didn't take any of them seriously. I wasn't getting better; I was just getting worse. I started resorting to burglary, theft and forgery to support my habit. Nothing was too low for me anymore. I had gotten to a point where I had tried so many things to try and get clean, I just didn't have much hope anymore. Then at the age of 27 after only seeing a guy for a month I got pregnant again. I was getting high at the time. In March 2019 she was born on subutex maintenance and went through some withdrawal, and it was tough time. The doctors assured me it was much safer than her being born on drugs. It is only because of the Lord's goodness and grace, my family's steadfast devotion, and their fathers' help that my daughters are even who they are today. The couple years after Charlotte was born were probably the worst. I spent more time away from my kids than with them. Towards the end, my mom kicked me out of my condo and drove me to the psychiatric ward. I slept for days coming off of a methamphetamine binge. It was here my journey began. My pastor from my home church came to visit me in the psych ward and even though I was embarrassed, I listened to him. He convinced me to go to a Christian based rehab called Teen Challenge. Little did I know, I'd end up spending the next 15 months there. I showed up at PA Adult and Teen Challenge completely devastated due to my addiction. I was 31, not a dollar to my name and my children were being raised by other people. I had nowhere to go but up. I was in this utterly broken state where I was able to crawl to the Lord for help and he graciously accepted. I graduated the year program in May 2023 and felt the Lord calling me to stay as an intern to help other women in addiction to find Jesus. So that's what I did for over 3 months. However, I let myself get distracted and broke a rule, so I got discharged. I still know God had a plan for me, and I refused to throw away how far I had come. So, I agreed to transfer to NLFMC. It's been a long road. Never has it been easy. The days are long, and the mornings come too soon. BUT God has given me so much more than I can ever repay him. While here at NLFMC, I regained legal and unsupervised partial custody of my 4-year-old Charlotte and I will celebrate 2 years clean in May 2024. All I can really tell you is that I was one way before Jesus, and after Jesus I am now completely different. In Isaiah 53:5 it says "...with His wounds we are healed" and as a prodigal daughter, who went off and squandered her inheritance on frivolous living and came back hoping to find love and forgiveness, I have engraved this scripture on my heart and think of it often.



Director's Corner

Praise the Lord, the Mother's and Children's center is full at both locations! This is a wonderful problem to have, and it confirms what the Lord's vision is for the future of the ministry, KINGDOM EXPANSION and MULTIPLICATION! **Matthew 28:19-20:** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." The world thinks the people the Lord uses must come with it all together and should be perfect, but it is the total opposite! The Lord is seen greatly in the lives of those who have encountered hopelessness, because He knows that once they encounter Him it will show the world that all things are possible through Him! When the Lord gets ahold of a heart that was once trapped in defeat and darkness, it is a mighty and powerful thing!

Now, just because a church is full doesn't always mean that it is bearing fruit. We realize that just because we are full, that is not what makes us productive in the Lord's eyes! What confirms that the Lord is at work is the tangible transformation that is happening in the lives of the women and children. Women are walking through our doors broken, battered, and hopeless. After just a bit of time, the women are coming to know who Jesus is, and they begin to have life in them that is spiritually and physically seen! They begin to walk in a relationship with the one true King, and because of this there is true transformation of the heart. Transformation of the heart is indeed the Lord's work inside of us. **Revelation 21:5:** "Look, I am making everything new!" The Lord is the best cardiologist known to man and all of heaven! When our heart is changed, our mind follows. It is the Word at work in us that brings healing of the mind. Thank you, Father, that you have given us the mind of Christ. All the Glory and honor belongs to the one who sits on the throne! How can you help? We need your prayers! Please pray and believe with us as we continue in this journey together to bring more sons and daughters into the Kingdom of God through the power of Jesus Christ! Thank you for being a part of this ministry and allowing the Lord to use you mightily.



Beginning at 9pm on 5/2/24 and running for 24 hours only, you have the opportunity to GIVE BIG! In 2023, we raised over \$20,000 to help fund our mission throughout the year, and we are hoping for even more in 2024!! We are asking our entire supporting cast, to prayerfully consider being a matching partner! This means we will double every \$1 we raise! So far we have a gracious donor who is starting us off on the right foot with a \$5,000 matching gift! For details, please call Rachel or Teri at 717-942-2847.



2024 Women of Valor