

NEW LIFE NEWS

“FOR WITH GOD NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.” LUKE 1:37



THE CHILDREN'S LIFE HOUSE: A GOD STORY

In 2021, we were approached with an opportunity to buy a house located on the same block as our other ministry homes. Jimi Staton, the Executive Director of New Life Ministries, spoke with the individual selling the home but the asking price was a bit high for what we could afford at the time. As Jimi walked away from the home, he prayed, asking God to open a door if this home was part of God's bigger plan for New Life Ministries.

Moments later, Jimi knew God wanted him to not give up on the home. He went back to the man selling the home and asked him what the lowest dollar was that he was willing to sell the home for. \$65,000. This was the number we were working with and we only had 14 days to gather the funds.

Only by God were we able to secure the funds. By simply sharing the story, two donors, a grant, and some of our own funds helped us secure the \$65,000 in just four days!

This was only the beginning. After buying the home, we went back and forth on how God wanted us to use this home. Originally it was planned to be an extension of the Women's Life House, but as conversations were held with leaders in our community, we knew there was a bigger purpose for this home.

For months, Jimi began to meet with Huntington County's Department of Child Services and Youth Services Bureau. It was clear from these conversations that Huntington needed a home to help serve older children and teens in our community. It was also clear that God was calling us to use this home for this purpose.

After months of working on the home, working with the Department of Child Services and Youth Services Bureau, and properly licensing the House Parents, the Children's Life House opened its doors in 2024!

In February 2024, New Life Ministries welcomed the first children into the Children's Life House and opened this new ministry program to help serve children and teens in Huntington.

MEET THE HOUSE PARENTS

Running the Children's Life House is not a simple task. Early in the planning process, this young couple accepted God's calling to come serve in this home. We are excited to introduce you to the House Parents of the Children's Life House, Trevor and Tabitha.

Share a little about yourselves.

Tabitha: I have been a part of New Life Fellowship Church since I was in grade school and remember hearing the vision for the ministries for the first time when I was just a kid, and now I'm a part of that vision. I have a degree in social work and because of that, fostering has always been important to me as well as protecting kids.

Trevor: I started attending New Life Fellowship Church full-time in 2016 but have always had a passion for working with and helping kids, I have been a part of the Big Brother Big Sisters program. When the opportunity to be a House Parent came about, I felt this was a path God was leading me down.



Why did you decide to serve with New Life Ministries through the Children's Life House?

When the Children's Life House was first brought up, we were interested in helping and had been talking about it together. A week later, we were approached by Jimi (Executive Director of New Life Ministries) who asked if we might be interested in being the House Parents. At first, there was uncertainty, but the more we prayed and talked, the more the answer was clear. We knew in our hearts that this was a big commitment, but we had a lot of love for this ministry and wanted to be able to provide a safe place for kids.

Did you always want to foster?

We didn't have plans to have our own kids but had talked about the idea of fostering, just maybe in like ten years. We were always interested, but it was always for the future.

What are you most excited about with being House Parents?

We are excited for the kids we get to meet and the bonds we can make by being able to show them positive love and a positive view of a parent-type relationship. We are glad we can provide something for kids like this that also helps our community, and we are excited to meet kids who will touch our lives as much as we hope to impact theirs.

How can others pray for you and this new ministry program?

Pray that we have patience as we learn how to be parents to kids from different backgrounds and home environments, and that we can be supportive of the different life circumstances these kids come from. Also, pray for protection for the home so that it feels like a safe place for kids to express themselves and grow individually.