



REFLECTIONS

from Melany



Dear Friends and Supporters,
As we reflect on the joy of Easter, we are reminded of the incredible gift of new life and fresh beginnings. Just as Christ's resurrection brings hope and renewal, we see that same promise unfolding in the lives of the women and families we serve. This year has already been full of exciting growth, and we are eager to share how God is moving through this ministry.

- We have reimagined our parenting and pregnancy education program, launching **Baby Steps**, a dynamic and hands-on approach to equipping moms and dads with the tools they need to thrive. We've also launched a walking club on Wednesday evenings to provide even more community.
- Our teen & young parenting outreach continues to grow and remain strong, reaching young parents with the support, education, and mentorship they need to build a bright future for themselves and their children.
- We are rejoicing over a special Adoption Finalization Day, celebrating several families who have embraced the beauty of adoption, followed by our annual (APO) picnic- time of connection and encouragement for birth and adoptive families alike.
- Meanwhile, construction is officially underway on our maternity home, a place that will soon offer safety, support, and hope to student moms pursuing their education. We are putting the word out to new staff we will need to serve our residents. By the time our next newsletter arrives in July, we anticipate that the walls will be standing, rooms will be getting their final touches, and we will be one step closer to opening the doors to welcome the first moms and babies.

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With each new initiative, each family strengthened, and each life embraced, we see God's faithfulness at work. Thank you for walking alongside us in this mission—your encouragement, generosity, and prayers make all of this possible. - Melany

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These six babies' adoptions were finalized last week! We had a joyful day in court and a reception afterwards hosted by D'vine Cuisine. Shown with APO staff: Katie & Ashley.

**Zena Lyth, LMSW,
Counselor**



I am the Pregnancy and Adoption Counselor for APO. I feel privileged to be here to not only offer services to birth parents considering an adoption plan, but to offer post-adoption services to all parties involved for as long as they need us.

As an adoptee and birth mother myself, I have a deeply rooted passion for adoption. I would say it started the day the adoption social worker placed me in my dad's arms under the cross at Lutheran Social Services in Austin.

When I faced a crisis pregnancy as a teenager, I rested in the security of an adoption plan for my daughter. It was a gut-wrenching decision, but it was the best decision for both of us. I am most grateful that she has lived a beautiful life.

I can happily say that I recently heard her voice for the first time since the sweet baby coos I remember from holding her as a newborn. With all of the ups and downs and the heartache adoption can encompass, it has been a blessing in my life and ultimately molded me into who I am today.

I was in high school when I realized I wanted to make a difference in adoption and make it my career. When I started at DePelchin Children's Center in Houston, my position was in the Post-Adoption department. I worked with clients experiencing all stages of the post-adoption process, from immediately after birth and placement to years down the road when adoptees and birth parents requested search and reunion. This is where my passion for post-adoption began and remains rooted today.

I bring this passion to APO because I believe those of us living in the world of adoption need each other. We need like-minded support, ongoing access to adoption education, professional and knowledgeable guidance, and the availability of life long professional services.

My love for adoption runs deep and my commitment to birth parents and adoptive families has only grown stronger in time. I love what I do and can't imagine my world without adoption in it!

My husband, John, and I have two daughters who are the joy of our lives. Alea is a Kindergarten teacher in Navasota and Olivia is Office Administrator for a custom home builder in Bryan. They both love Jesus and make us proud every day. They have made parenting feel very easy, and they are my proudest and most joyous achievements. Oh, and I have my first grandbaby coming in a few months! The excitement is overflowing within our little family, as we wait for baby Colt to show us his sweet face! Thank you for hearing my story and heart.

I consider it a blessing to have met my birth mom when I was 18. I was always curious and needed to make sure my birth mom knew that I was ok and that I loved her. My birth mom was a wonderful person and I am grateful for the years I was able to spend with her before she passed away.

**This client was gifted an
Easter photo shoot by: EK
Simmons Photography.**





Clients enjoy Sonic treats & a beautiful day walking the trail, after attending a Baby Steps class with Ashley (APO staff), Izzy (APO intern), & Christy (APO Spiritual Care).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Plans for an upcoming digital campaign & VIP event to furnish Ally's Place is underway- watch for more details!
- 4/26-Delight Ministries 5K for APO on TAMU campus
- 5/8 - A special birth mom dinner

YOUR FINANCIAL IMPACT

- So far in 2025, we have received \$114,039.44 of our \$690,000 fundraising goal.
 - For comparison: Q1 of 2024 we received just over \$79,170.54/\$505,000 fundraising gap.

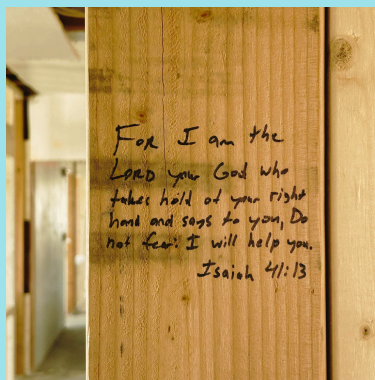
PRAYERS

- For protection over final Mama Club events of the school year; wisdom for summer plans.
- For continued provision & favor over the construction of Ally's Place.
- For the planning of more inclusive support groups for birth moms.
- For the search & hire of: 2 Home Life Coordinators (house moms for Ally's Place), Maintenance Technician, Childcare Specialist, & a Childcare Director.
- For the clients we serve now who may be future residents in Ally's Place.

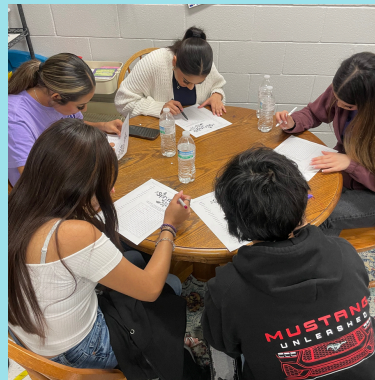
PRAISES

- For Baby Steps: our revamped educational program for pregnancy & parenting clients.
- For 2 valuable interns and the completion of their commitments. We are so thankful for all they added to our team and mission!
- For 2 new high schools who welcomed Parent Academy (now in 10 schools!)
- For friends of APO in the B/CS community who attended our annual luncheon at Texas Roadhouse, helping us reach our goal of \$35,000 for pregnancy clients.
- For 6 families beginning adoption journeys with their children & child's birth families.

Staff & APO board members wrote over 60 scriptures on the framework of Ally's Place.



Navasota High School students find support at Parent Academy.



This pregnancy client was gifted a maternity photo shoot by: Little Libra Photos.



LEARN MORE



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