

Shepherd's Watch



Fall 2023

Maternity Shelter: Strengthening a Mother and a Family

Armonie is the youngest of six kids, an honor roll student who grew up loving the color pink and having pretty things. Her mother was a role model, working nights so she could be there for the siblings during the day, and Armonie says, "She was superwoman to us. She made it happen."

Armonie had a job and was going to school when she found out she was pregnant in 11th grade. She was excited because she had worked in daycare and felt prepared, but her responsibilities became overwhelming and she left school just shy of graduation.

She did everything she could to provide the best life for her daughter, Amelia – moving between relatives' homes, taking jobs that would fit the childcare that was available. When she found out she was pregnant a second time with a son, Ja'Monie, she had to admit she needed help. She turned to Good Shepherd.

What was this time like for you?

Amelia was two when I found out I was pregnant with Ja'Monie. He was in the NICU for about three weeks, and I was back and forth between the hospital, my mom's house, my grandmother's house, and my sister's house. I wasn't working when I brought him home, and it felt like no one wanted me around because they had their own lives and families. I was so stressed, I was losing a lot of weight and my hair was falling out.



How did you find Good Shepherd's maternity shelter?

I knew it was time for me to find a stable place for us. I realized I needed help, and there was only one person I could go to, and that was God. I prayed and I cried a couple of nights. Then a friend told me about Good Shepherd. It was hard for me to come here because I never saw myself in this situation, but God told me it was going to be ok. He laid me here.

continued —→





What was it like when you arrived?

When I first entered Good Shepherd, it was a relief because they welcomed me and my babies. We had a place to be instead of jumping from home to home. I was grateful because they didn't judge me. They didn't look at me different because I was a young mom with two kids. They accepted us. It felt really good to be wanted and to know that I was going to get help.

How has Good Shepherd been helpful?

I cried for about two weeks when we first got here. But it started getting better because I got the help I needed. I got Ja'Monie on bottles so he could be away from me. Miss Maria helped me find daycare and a job. I was so thankful for that because I hadn't been able to work since I had my son.

It was so good to see and know someone wants to help you, cares about you, wants to see you doing better for your babies. They're my motivation. I always want to keep a smile on their faces because they mean the world to me.

Tell us about your babies.

My oldest is Amelia. She's four and she's sweet, she's kind, she's goofy. She's always telling me she loves me. Ja'Monie is one and acts like he's a grown little man. I love their bond. I want them to always be close, and to not go through what I went through.

What goals have you achieved?

My #1 goal when I walked through the front door was to get a job, and I made it happen. I was working hard every day, taking bus routes during the heat and cold and rain to get the kids to daycare and myself to work. But it was ok because I knew what I wanted and what was going to get me there. I kept going, and Good Shepherd helped because I had a place to stay, someone helping with diapers, everything.

I'm a saver, and now I have a car. Good Shepherd gave me my big start to get me on my feet to get where I want to be for me and my babies.

What's next for you?

My journey at Good Shepherd is coming to an end – I'll be moving to my own apartment in a few weeks. I've got a job I love, my kids are in daycare, I have a car, and things are getting better. It's just the beginning. I'm so ready for life. I'm ready to look back and say, "I did it. Look how far I came with the help of Good Shepherd."



Save the Date October 19 & 20 for Good Shepherd's #Safe4ANight virtual campaign: Will you consider supporting Armonie and many other moms and children in our Maternity Shelter? Scan the QR code to make a #Safe4ANight lasting donation. Thank you for being a critical part of our mission.

The Good Shepherd Purpose Statement

Connecting children with families and keeping families connected by providing pregnancy and parenting support, foster care programs, and adoption services.

Adoption | Foster Care | Treatment Foster Care | Pregnancy & Parenting Support | Maternity Shelter

