

## **Everything about Zelig's Home You Need to Know**

Mission: Zelig's Home is a caring community that empowers pregnant and parenting women to take positive and effective action on behalf of themselves and their children by providing physical, emotional, spiritual, and professional support.

### Core Values:

#### **Human Dignity**

At Zelig's Home we value all persons as children of God and treat them with love and respect. We strive to ensure that each member of the community has a voice in how we share life together. We support the establishment of healthy relationships and boundaries.

#### **Supportive and Collaborative Community**

The staff, AmeriCorps members, volunteers, and Board of Directors of Zelig's Home work together to achieve our mission and do it with love. We encourage our moms, both current and alumnae, to come together in supportive ways for each other. We utilize and share resources with other community organizations in support of our common goals.

#### **Commitment to Growth**

We foster growth both in our staff and in our moms. We encourage the moms, both current and alumnae, to set goals for themselves and their babies, celebrating with them every step forward along the way. Our staff learns and grows with the moms and babies, because life flourishes when we all become our best selves.

#### **Safe Learning Environment**

Zelig's Home fosters a caring and loving environment. No one is judged for past mistakes. Each mom receives guidance and tools for making good choices for themselves and for their children.

#### **Resiliency and Creativity**

We encourage our moms to be creative in achieving their goals. Our moms learn skills for moving forward even when they encounter obstacles and setbacks. We desire that each mom leave our program with a strong sense of resiliency and empowerment.

Zelig's Home provides for the immediate physical and emotional needs of our moms including shelter, food, clothing and a supportive community.

#### Services provided:

- A nurturing and stable home environment and nutritious food
- Maternity and infant supplies
- Weekly therapeutic counseling
- Bus passes
- Informal mentoring from other new mothers

- Case management through an one-on-one interaction between the mom and staff in what we term the “contact person” relationship
- Weekly life skills courses on topics such as childbirth, healthy nutrition, budgeting, communication, and child rearing.
- Referrals to community agencies including parenting classes, adoption counseling, job training, and low-cost housing.
- Access to education programs including high school equivalency, community colleges, and vocational training through referrals and a scholarship program.
- Knowledge of state programs including health insurance, day care subsidies, food stamps, child support and cash assistance.
- Informal modeling of healthy family life including conflict resolution, facilitating decisions for the common good, upholding expectations and consequences as needed, and celebrating goals achieved.
- Seeking Safety Curriculum
- Opportunities for prayer and spiritual development (i.e. participation in community prayer, invitations to join the staff). Please note: while the house is rooted in the Catholic traditions, the moms come from a wide variety of religious background and participation in spiritual opportunities is by invitation, not expectation.

## **History**

On July 1, 2020 Zelig's Home renewed its commitment to women in need of shelter and support during pregnancy and early parenting months. First established as The Zechariah House in Parma, Ohio on June 24, 2009, the house was part of the Maggie's Place family based in Arizona. It operated on the strong foundation of that organization's mission and practices. In 2016, The Zechariah closed for an anticipated renovation. With recurring delays, we realized that Providence was inviting us to look at other options. In 2018 The Zechariah House moved to Garfield Heights, Ohio with an increased capacity to welcome and offer services for up to 12 women at a time.

To better serve the needs of women in Northeast Ohio, the Board of Directors of The Zechariah House decided in the spring of 2020 to establish a home independent of Maggie's Place, Arizona. In a matter of two months, the staff, and Board of Directors, along with a group of dedicated volunteers, worked tirelessly to create this new entity. Zelig's Home embodies the spirit of Maggie's Place while responding to the unique needs of moms and babies in the Cleveland area.

It is free of charge to live at Zelig's Home. In exchange, Zelig's Home asks that moms take effective steps to better themselves through a certain amount of productive time each week (e.g. job searching, working, attending school or classes, etc.) and expects moms to follow community guidelines to make it a mutually beneficial experience for all involved. The hour requirement ranges for moms depending on their unique situation but is typically 40 hours per week. Productivity time looks different for each mom since each mom's situation is unique – it might involve going back to school, applying to jobs, substance abuse classes, educational workshops, working, etc.

At Zelig's Home, we incorporate a unique approach. We live in community; our moms and Corps members sharing a home and living life alongside one another. Pregnancy, by design, is meant to be experienced in the context of family and in our own way, our homes offer a dynamic and vibrant family life. Each member of the community, regardless of their role, is changed profoundly by the experience. Corps members carry out the heart of our work by serving the moms and babies in our homes. They commit a year of their lives to service at Zelig's Home.

Corps are expected to embrace and uphold the mission and core values of the community. They should be in robust physical, mental, and emotional health, and be able to lift and carry at least 30lbs, hold babies, respond to emergencies in the home, and operate a vehicle. They must be at least 21 years old with a college degree or equivalent life experience. Training is provided. Duties include:

- Living in community with pregnant women, new moms, newborns and other Corps for one full year, with the option to recommit for another year
- Participating in community functions, including celebrations, house retreats and weekly house meetings
- Providing daytime and overnight house coverage by answering the phone, welcoming visitors, offering tours, receiving donations and responding to the duty of the moment
- Providing one-on-one support and accountability to 1-2 moms at a time as a contact person
- Transporting moms and babies to and from classes, workshops, appointments or job interviews when needed

#### Volunteer at Zelig's Home

- Babysit
- Assist with house coverage

- Sort donations
- Cook a meal
- Serve Saturdays

Donations such as food, clothing, toiletries, baby items, and mom items go a long way in helping the moms and babies who call Zelig's Home. We accept new and gently used items, household articles, clothing, small appliances, and many other items.

Zelig's Home is funded entirely by the generosity of individuals and families like you, as well as civic-minded foundations, corporations, clubs, and faith communities. With a financial or material gift, you give moms in desperate situations a chance to start again and build a bright future for their children. As a recognized 501(c)(3) organization, gifts made to Zelig's Home are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Zelig's Home was created in the spirit of the Catholic Worker tradition of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin as an expression of the founders' faith. Following Catholic social teaching, we recognize that we are responsible to and for one another. This foundation is at the core of implementing our mission and running our home.

We are named after St. Zelig, wife of St. Louis Martin and mother of St. Therese of Lisieux and eight other children. It is common in the Catholic tradition to invoke the intercession of a patron saint. The founding community of Zelig's Home chose St. Azalie Martin because she was ordinary yet extraordinary in her motherly ways. She had a great love for her children and is a great maternal figure to emulate. St. Zelig had some poignant quotes, one being "The good Lord does not do things by halves; He always gives what we need. Let us then carry on bravely." This is our motto as we transition and carry on bravely for the women and children of the Cleveland area.

#### Events:

##### Birdies for Babies - June 2023

- Golf Outing
- Held annually in June
- Sleepy Hollow

##### Embrace Gala - September 16th, 2022

- Held at the beautiful Shoreby Club
- Dinner, drinks and testimonial from moms
- Wine pull, silent auction, live auction, fund a need

- Held annually in September
- Shuffleboard Event
- Shuffleboard tournament
- Held annually in February / March

#### Social Media

- Facebook: @zelieshome1
- Instagram: @zelieshome
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTNYJTexT7D35i3CVUoOYbA>

## **General Speech Format**

Zelie's Home is a caring community that empowers pregnant and parenting women to take positive and effective action on behalf of themselves and their children by providing physical, emotional, spiritual, and professional support.

First established as The Zechariah House in Parma, Ohio on June 24, 2009, the house was part of the Maggie's Place family based in Arizona. It operated on the strong foundation of that organization's mission and practices. In 2016, The Zechariah closed for an anticipated renovation. With recurring delays, we realized that Providence was inviting us to look at other options. In 2018 The Zechariah House moved to Garfield Heights, Ohio with an increased capacity to welcome and offer services for up to 12 women at a time.

To better serve the needs of women in Northeast Ohio, the Board of Directors of The Zechariah House decided in the spring of 2020 to establish a home independent of Maggie's Place, Arizona. In a matter of two months, the staff, and Board of Directors, along with a group of dedicated volunteers, worked tirelessly to create this new entity. Zelie's Home embodies the spirit of Maggie's Place while responding to the unique needs of moms and babies in the Cleveland area.

Zelie's Home provides for the immediate physical and emotional needs of our moms including shelter, food, clothing and a supportive community.

Women can join the Zelie's Home community at any point in their pregnancy and stay until their child is nine months to a year old (and sometimes longer depending on circumstance). The backgrounds of our moms, who are often in difficult and complicated situations, might include previous drug use, rape, abusive relationships, lack of understanding of self-worth, no employment experience, limited education, strained relationships with family members, poor support networks, or mental illness.

In our home, we incorporate a unique approach. We live in community; our moms and Corps members sharing a home and living life alongside one another. Pregnancy, by design, is meant to be experienced in the context of family and in our own way, our homes offer a dynamic and vibrant family life. Each member of the community, regardless of their role, is changed profoundly by the experience. Corps members carry out the heart of our work by serving the moms and babies in our homes. Corps members

commit a year of their lives to service at Zelig's Home and are often young women just out of college.

Both current and alumnae moms can access many resources here including parenting classes, educational workshops, holiday events and more.

*(Depending on the circumstances of the speaking engagement, can give personal story (why did you get involved?), thank for their support, invite for tour, talk about volunteer opportunities, share mom story, etc.)*

*If doing a donation drive/interested in donating (can tweak examples of donations):*

Donations of gifts such as food, clothing, toiletries, baby items, and mom items go a long way in helping the moms and babies who call Zelig's Home home. Zelig's Home is funded entirely by the generosity of individuals and families like you, as well as civic-minded foundations, corporations, clubs, and faith communities. Your generosity gives moms in desperate situations a chance to start again and build a bright future for their children.

*If interested in general volunteering:* Zelig's Home relies on the generosity of volunteers to keep our homes functioning and to enrich the lives of our moms and babies. Whether it be through public acts of service or quiet acts of love, you are vital in carrying out our mission of hospitality. There are many different ways to get involved! Some tasks that you can assist with at Zelig's Home are babysitting, assisting with house coverage (assisting the Corps with house operations; house coverage also puts you in a unique position to get to know the moms and babies as well!), sorting donations, cooking a meal or Serve Saturdays (a monthly event where volunteers assist in deep cleaning and basic maintenance).

## FAQs

*Q: What are the qualifications/criteria for moms to live at Zelig's Home?*

A: In order for a pregnant mom to be considered for Zelig's Home, she must be:

- Over the age of 18
- Without other children in her custody
- Able to provide proof of pregnancy
- Free from recent drug and alcohol use
- Not fleeing a current domestic violence situation
- Willing to live in accordance with the established guidelines
- Committed to working on goals of self-improvement

\*unique cases do arise so always try and apply!

*Q: What happens to the moms once they leave Zelig's Home?*

A: Throughout their stay at Zelig's Home, the moms are asked to set and achieve their goals (i.e. furthering her education, finding a job, saving money.) Therefore, when it is time for a woman to leave Zelig's Home, she has prepared herself to move on to independent living. Our involvement continues in the moms' lives once they leave the home through our Programs Coordinator and alumnae mom programming, which has special programs and ongoing outreach activities. We consider our guests to be an extension of the Zelig's Home family and we continue to have close relationships with many of them.

*Q: Are the moms single?*

A: The situation of every mom is different; however most of our moms are single. What all of our moms have in common is that they have no support system to turn to during difficult times. When moms reside in Zelig's Home, significant others are not allowed on the property.

*Q: Where do the moms hear about Zelig's Home ?*

A: Each situation is unique but our moms hear about us from counselors, nurses, case managers, rehabilitation facilities, online searches, frontline services, Unite Way first call for help, and shelters.

*Q: Do they place their children for adoption?*

A: Some of our moms do chose adoption; however most do not. Special accommodations can be made for moms who do place their children for adoption with the support and space they need in order to heal.

*Q: How old are the moms usually?*



A: Moms vary in ages from 18 and up – the average age of our moms is around 26 years old.

*Q: Do the moms have other children? Is this their first child?*

A: All of our moms' situations are unique. For some moms, this may be their first pregnancy and for others, it may not be. In order to live at Zelig's Home, a mom cannot have any other children currently in her custody.

*Q: What do the moms do all day?*

A: Zelig's Home asks that moms take effective steps to better themselves through a certain amount of productive time each week and expects moms to follow community guidelines to make it a mutually beneficial experience for all involved. The hour requirement ranges for moms depending on their unique situation. Productivity time looks different for each mom since each mom's situation is unique – it might involve going back to school, applying to jobs, substance abuse classes, educational workshops, working, etc.

*Q: What is a AmeriCorps?*

A: Zelig's Home AmeriCorps carry out the heart of our work by serving the moms and babies in our homes. They commit a year of their lives – and sometimes more – to the mothers and families, to the upkeep of the homes, and to an intentional community life.

*Q: How are you funded?*

A: Zelig's Home is funded entirely by the generosity of individuals and families like you, as well as civic-minded foundations, corporations, clubs, and faith communities. With a financial or material gift, you give moms in desperate situations a chance to start again and build a bright future for their children. As a recognized 501(c)(3) organization, gifts made to Zelig's Home are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

*Q: Are you affiliated with a certain religion?*

A: Zelig's Home houses of hospitality were created in the spirit of the Catholic Worker tradition of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin as an expression of the founders' faith. Following Catholic social teaching, we recognize that we are responsible to and for one another. This foundation is at the core of implementing our mission and running our homes. Our homes have chapels and daily prayer is a part of the community. Moms, staff and volunteers are welcome to participate in this but it is not an expectation or requirement.

*Facts that people are surprised to hear:*

- Zelig's Home provides the same services that are provided to current moms (except housing) to alumnae moms (educational workshops, parenting classes, counseling, family coaching, events, bus passes, etc.)
- Everything is free for moms
- Corps live in the homes with the moms
- Moms are all ages, education levels, backgrounds and have a wide variety of experiences
- Zelig's Home is privately funded and doesn't receive any government funding
- The Eucharist is present in some of the chapels at the homes (might be surprising specifically to Catholic groups)