The ARM/ Agape
PULSE
www.adamsrescuemission.org
Christmas 2025

A Christmas With New Hope

December 24th, 2016. The whole family was gathered at her grandparents' house. "It really feels like Christmas this year," she remembered thinking. Presents sat under the tree for her brother, her sister, and for her. All she had hoped for was a pair of wireless headphones.

Her family was gearing up for their traditional Christmas Eve football game—lining the yard with lights and playing after dinner. But she stayed inside, wanting to listen to music alone in her room.

Sometimes she still blames herself for staying behind that night, or for making excuses for her abuser—telling herself he had simply had too much to drink. But the truth remains: the destruction was the same. That Christmas Eve, she lost something precious. He stole her trust, her sense of love, and her belief that family meant safety.

At fifteen, she found herself pregnant and felt completely unable to tell the truth. She invented a story about a boyfriend and "going too far," trying to protect the only stability she and her siblings had—their grandparents who were raising them.

Shame began to erode everything. It led her to steal her grandmother's pain medication, which grew into a heroin addiction. She was exploited by the men she met in "the life." She believed she didn't matter—that she was dirty and unworthy. "In some sick way, I felt like this was love," she said through tears. "The way they used me and mistreated me felt normal… sometimes even exciting, because it was tied to the high."

Shortly after her son was born in 2017, her grandfather passed away. Her grandmother blamed her for his heart attack and forced her out. She remembers walking through the snow, carrying her child, waiting for a dealer friend to pick her up—the same man who would later "loan her out" just so she and her baby had a place to stay.

She attempted suicide multiple times. In 2023, she became pregnant again and didn't know who the father was. With the dealer now incarcerated, she was left couch surfing, exhausted and hopeless—until she heard about a place that helped women and children in situations just like hers.

By God's grace, she said, one bed had just opened despite a long waiting list. "All I could do was tell the truth. This was my last chance."

In February 2025, she entered a program created to walk alongside the hungry, the homeless, the abused, and the addicted—a program dedicated to accelerating healing, recovery, and restoration for the least, the last, the lonely, and the lost.

Today, this young mother is thriving. She is intelligent. She is drug-free. She is an extraordinary mother. She has a Christmas tree. She has gifts for her children. She has food, safety, and hope. And this year, she is excited for Santa to visit her kids.

She often says, "God is my dad, and He loves me so much He became human so He could come rescue me, my kids… all of us."

This is the work we do at ARM/Agape—and we cannot do it without your support.

It is overwhelming to imagine someone rediscovering the meaning of Christmas after surviving what she has endured. Yet she has hope again. She has dignity again. She has a future again.

Because someone cared.

Because someone gave.

Because someone believed restoration was possible.

If you or someone you love is struggling with thoughts of suicide or self harm please seek help you are not alone. Call 988 Lifeline is available 24/7/365. Your conversations are free and confidential.

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WAYS TO GIVE

We have been hard at work improving the lives of our neighbors in Adams County. Through strong partnerships with organizations, nonprofits, and local churches, we have expanded our support for those most in need.

This year, we have:

- In the process of acquiring a building to house **30 single women**
- Through partnering with local landlords, community donors, Safe Home, and CYS we were able to provide 16 transitional housing opportunities for our Resident Guests
- Opened our first day care in partnership with Chapel Hill Church of God in York Springs
- Begun plans to refurbish the former York Springs parsonage to shelter up to **5 families**
- Served over 30,000 meals

We continue to provide housing and jobs for men at our York Road facility.

To sustain these efforts, we invite you to support our Annual Appeal with a gift of cash, check or appreciated stock. We **NOW** accept stock donations through ACNB Bank; please follow the instructions at the link below to make a transfer:

Scan QR code for options

Donate Today:

You may designate your gift in the memo line to:

- Men's Shelter
- Single Women's Shelter
- Agape House Family Shelter
- Little Ones Childcare, LLC.

Your generosity keeps the Mission strong. Thank you for your support.

Sneak Peek at what the Single Women's Shelter could look like!

A huge thank you to the incredible individuals who show up each week to support the work we do for our community.

From driving our trucks and helping in the sorting room, to lending a hand with pick-ups, cleaning, leading Bible studies, and so much more — your willingness to serve makes our mission possible. We are deeply grateful for you!