



HEALTH * HOME * MATERNITY * GABRIEL HOUSE

MARISOL SERVICES

Marisol Services is a comprehensive health, housing and human services network built by Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Denver to meet the urgent and ongoing needs of individuals and families in crisis. The name Marisol evokes the beauty and essence of nature with "mar" meaning sea and "sol" meaning sun. It is also a shortened form of "Maria de la Soledad", "Our Lady of Solitude," referring to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Focused on serving women, Marisol Services provides an integrated model of services to reach vulnerable women who may be living in poverty with children, who may be victims of domestic violence or may be experiencing an unexpected pregnancy with no family support. Such women are in need of a continuum of care that includes women's health services, mental health counseling, social services, child care and housing resources.

Marisol's goal is to engage with women who seek services through any of the many programs of Catholic Charities and provide a seamless, well-coordinated range of services to meet their individual needs. At Marisol we believe that women are unique, capable and strong. They deserve to be listened to and cared for in a way that's confidential and empowering. Marisol Services are built on the belief that women deserve support to make important decisions about their sexual health, pregnancies, relationships and other areas of their lives. There simply is not a more comprehensive support system to help women explore all of their options. We want women to know there is a community that will support them throughout their lifetime.

MARISOL HEALTH

Marisol Health operates two medical centers on Colorado's Front Range that are fully equipped to help women make informed decisions about their reproductive health. Marisol Health embraces individuals and families in need with life-affirming medical care and social services. Through a special partnership with Bella Natural Women's Care, Marisol Health provides a full range of women's health and family health services.

Marisol Health's medical team and social services staff work hand in hand to provide women with dignified, holistic care. The medical clinics are based on a unique continuum of care model that leverages existing resources within Catholic Charities, including shelter and housing services, family and children's services and counseling.

Medical services provided include no-cost or low-cost options for testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy testing, comprehensive ultrasounds, gynecology, obstetrics including prenatal care, delivery and post-partum care, abortion pill reversals, care of adolescent girls, fertility awareness education, infertility care, problem gynecology, menopause and confidential counseling. Marisol Health does not provide, or refer for, birth control, sterilizations or abortion.

Social services include pregnancy counseling and support, parent mentoring, relationship education, home visiting to support new parents and connecting women and families with additional needed services through the Marisol and Catholic Charities continuum of care.

Counseling Masters level pregnancy counselors help clients explore all of the options available to them. Whether a client is considering parenting, adoption or abortion, her questions will be answered and she will be given the information she needs to make the best choice for her pregnancy. For those who have experienced an abortion, support groups led by peer counselors are available for both women and men dealing with trauma. For individual psychological counseling needs, Marisol Health partners with Regina Caeli Clinical Services, a ministry of Catholic Charities.

MARISOL HOME

Marisol Home, initiated in 2005 at The Father Ed Judy House, is an interim community-based home for homeless women with children. In addition to providing food and shelter, Marisol Home provides case management, family advocacy and peer support services that help these families become more self-reliant. The ultimate goal of the program is to have the women and their children recover from homelessness and move into, and maintain, secure and stable housing.

Marisol Home families find themselves homeless for a variety of reasons, but the majority of them became homeless because they had no place to go after extricating themselves from a domestic violence situation. The children in these families have rarely known stability in their lives. Most of the families who come to Marisol Home are referred by safe houses, emergency shelters and county human service departments.

Marisol Home serves nine single women with children who are experiencing homelessness by offering a continuum of care. We provide interim housing to families for an indefinite amount of time while they actively participate in the program. Once they have successfully completed this program we will then continue to work with a family in the greater Denver Metro Community. Marisol Home is located in southwest Denver on the state-owned Fort Logan campus but will be relocating to the Saint Bernadette Campus in Lakewood. There will be 16 rooms, to serve up to 55 women and children per day, with new and updated furnishings.

The first phase of the program begins at the house. It consists of individualized case management that addresses the two primary goals of housing and financial stability. While a family must have an income prior to entering Marisol Home we look to ensure that the income can support the family separate from a homeless or transitional housing program. All mothers must save 90% of their income after expenses and complete monthly budgeting. Families can add in any other goals they may have. We have a Children's

Coordinator who provides school and monthly parenting support for each family. There are two life skill classes each week that address interpersonal skills and overall parenting education.

Upon completion of the House program the family is then eligible to voluntarily participate in the Alumni Program. This Program continues to provide case management and works to maintain stable housing and income. Case Managers work with families that are actively engaged and provide food, transportation, advocacy, resources, referrals, and much more. We also offer 3-4 Community Re-Integration Activities monthly for families whether they are engaged in case management or not. This is to help build new and healthy relationships amongst each other. This on-going support prevents chronic family homelessness by *building relationships, not case files.*

This Alumni Program of post-Shelter Support Services includes

- **Comprehensive discharge planning** that includes review of benefits, children's educational needs, plans for safety and assistance anticipating the basic logistics of moving to a new home.
- **A Move-In Kit** that includes new sheets, towels, pots and pans, dishes, silverware, cleaning supplies and pantry food.
- **Voluntary Case Management**, with Marisol Home personnel available to talk to families, encouraging them to remain stable and self-sufficient.
- **One-on-one counseling**, at no cost to families, offering appointments with our domestic violence resource counselor.

We also invite former residents to participate in leadership development and advocacy opportunities in the larger community. They have an opportunity to directly educate the community about the barriers that homeless families face and to break down stereotypes surrounding the image of homelessness, poverty reduction and affordable housing.

MARISOL HOME – Garrison

Marisol Home is a transitional home in a quiet neighborhood for up to 7 mothers with children. Many of these mothers are referred from Marisol Maternity, Marisol Home or other Catholic Charities Ministries. There is a live-in staff member who is the House Mother. She provides emotional support, order, cleanliness, safety and upholds the structure and policies of the program. The moms continue with off-site case management and work on the primary goals of financial and housing stability for their family. There is only one group a week that covers parenting and life skills. Mothers do pay rent, so all mothers must have an income to live at the home and therefore have more freedom as they work toward self-sufficiency. The mothers cook each night for the community and have one dinner as a household. The House Mother helps in building a strong Christ centered community and family dynamic for all the residents.

MARISOL MATERNITY

Marisol Maternity provides two safe and caring homes for up to 7 mothers who are pregnant. We walk with a mom through our program to help her find a stable place for her family. During her time there she works one-on-one with a Catholic Life Coach to set goals. The goals can cover a variety of areas but focus on financial and housing stability along with caring for her unborn or newborn child. This is communal living so there are times set aside for community dinner, chores, and prayer. There is a life skills group offered so the

mothers can work together on improving a number of skills and overcome barriers in their life. The homes are staffed with a House Mother. This mother is a single woman who lives with the pregnant moms and helps uphold the structure, order and policies of the program. Relationship founded on Christ's love guides the work we do at Marisol Maternity.

GABRIEL HOUSE PROJECT

Gabriel House Project is an outreach ministry of Catholic Charities committed to helping pregnant women and families with young children in need. A network of parishes and volunteers come together to assist families at parish and community locations throughout the Archdiocese of Denver. Trained volunteers staff the Gabriel Houses and work one on one with families to provide diapers, wipes, clothing, bottles, blankets, group classes, resource information and referrals as well as spiritual and emotional support. Families are connected with services within the Marisol network, Catholic Charities and agencies within their communities.