



# MOM'S HOUSE OF PHOENIXVILLE

BY JENNIFER HETRICK, CONTENT COORDINATOR



or college degrees when pregnancy and the prospect of having a child might otherwise make that goal difficult.

The first Mom's House location opened in 1984; today, there are 7 locations in total across 4 states.

“Each Mom's House is responsible for its own funding and operates independently,” explains Wendy McKeon who serves as the executive director of the Phoenixville location.

Wendy became involved after volunteering, then acting as the interim director in 2009, taking on her current role in 2010.

The organization provides free state-licensed weekday childcare for infants and preschoolers to low-income single parents who are full-time students.

Wendy describes this offering as a hand-up and not a hand-out.

“Clients are required to do 2 hours of service time

**Mom's House of Phoenixville** joined the area in 1987 as a nonprofit focused on ensuring that its clients are best able to complete their high school



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each week, like cleaning or office work, and to participate in all fundraisers,” Wendy adds.

Another aspect which sets the nonprofit apart is its funding approach.

“Mom’s House does not receive any government funding,” she notes. “We operate our programs solely on private donations, foundation funding, and fundraising events. Donations in particular are crucial in helping us to be able to stay in the community and operate our mission.”

Wendy spends most of her time identifying funding sources and writing grant applications to secure funding from private and community foundations.

“Childcare is the largest obstacle for a single parent who wishes to return to school and complete their education,” she says. “By providing free childcare in a small and caring environment, our clients know their children are safe and happy while they attend classes. Since 2013, we have remained open all summer to accommodate non-traditional educational programs. Mom’s House also provides support to parents in the form of monthly educational seminars, referrals to other agencies when needed, gas cards, and material donations. Children receive a free, nutritious breakfast and lunch each

day, and all supplies, diapers, etc. which are needed.”

While eligible single mothers and fathers are both welcome, most Mom’s House clients are women. In 2015, Wendy and her staff served their first single dad, and they served two single fathers in 2017.

Because teen parents’ families often tend to help them, most clients have been women in their 20s, some in their 40s. The youngest served in the past was 14.

“We once had a grandmother who had full custody of her grandson and wanted to go back to school so she could make a better life for them both,” Wendy notes.

With the expensive and often unaffordable cost of childcare today, even more so for single parents, this local resource plays a vital role.

“In many cases,” Wendy says, “our clients are the first in their family to pursue higher education. This may not be a priority in their family, so the Mom’s House staff becomes an important source of encouragement and support of their goals.”

**To learn more, visit [www.momshouse-phoenixville.org](http://www.momshouse-phoenixville.org).**

