You can help us be ready to say "yes" to a girl that needs us.

For more than 40 years, Open Arms Christian Ministries has been a safe place for children and youth facing difficult and traumatic circumstances. At the Miriam Home for Girls, we provide Emergency Shelter Care for girls ages 10–18 who need immediate protection, stability, and support. We can care for up to 10 girls at a time.

We remain committed to girls placed through the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), and we also welcome private placements from families who reach out for help.

At Miriam, a girl receives far more than a bed and meals. She receives caring adults, structure, therapeutic support, nursing and medication management, life-skills training, and opportunities to learn healthy ways to cope and move forward. When appropriate, we also work with families through family therapy and support.

KATELYNN IS NOT ALONE

Katelynn's story is just one story. There are more girls like Katelynn who need someone to see them, believe in them, and help them find a way forward.

Recently, Open Arms received 13 requests for private placements from families seeking help for their daughters. These families are reaching out because their girls need more support, structure, and care than they can provide on their own.

THE NEED IS GREATER THAN YOU MAY KNOW

Quality residential care is costly. When a girl is placed through DCS, public funding helps cover a significant portion of her care. Families seeking private placement often cannot afford the full cost.

We believe a family's financial situation should not determine whether a girl has access to a safe place to heal.

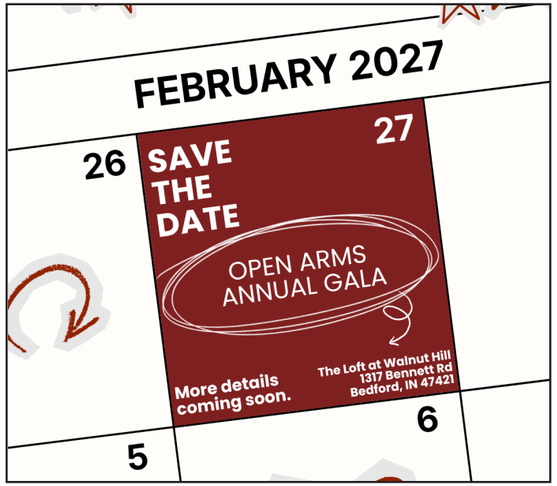
As we look towards a new year, we want to be ready to say "yes" when a child needs us, regardless of a family's financial circumstances. We don't want a family's inability to pay to be the reason a child misses out on the safe, supportive care they need. Your generosity helps us care for each child in the way they need most, and reminds them that they are seen, valued, and not alone.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

GIVE to provide hope and stability.
VOLUNTEER your time and talents.
WORK with us and become part of the mission.
CONNECT Open Arms with churches, businesses, and community partners.
SHARE our story and help others see the need.

THE NEED MAY LOOK DIFFERENT.

OUR MISSION IS THE SAME.
To see the hurting.
To meet the need.
To provide hope.



Scan the QR code to give online or mail a gift.

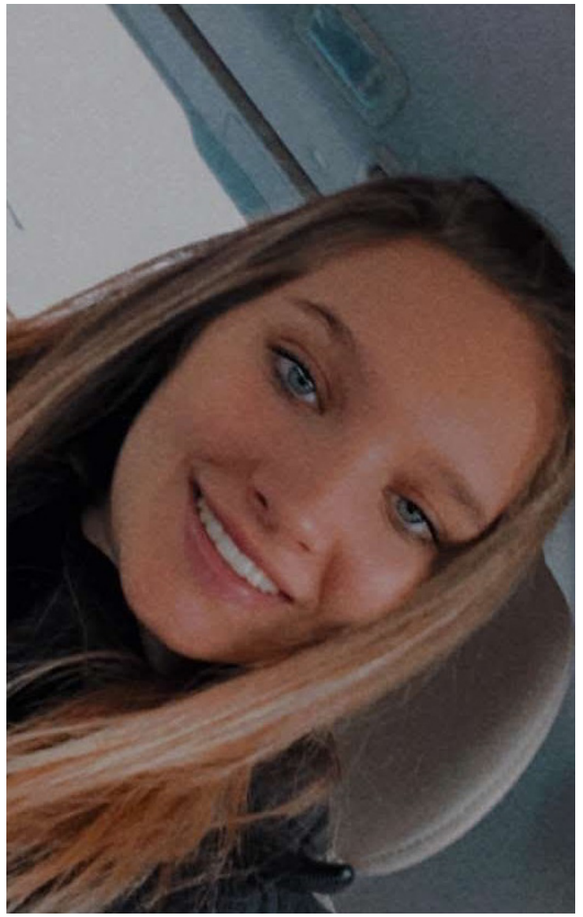
To learn more about The Miriam Home, how to get more involved, or take a tour contact Paul Rick: paul@openarmschristian.com or 812-659-2533 ext. 230

OpenArmsChristian.com

FALL 2026

Outreach

THE GOD WHO SEES
Every hurting child has a story.
Every story deserves to be seen.



Katelynn (former Miriam Home resident)

Open Arms serves the forgotten children and youth of Indiana. The ones who feel faceless. Unnamed. Unheard.

Their stories can feel like Hagar's story in Genesis 16. Alone in a desolate place. Cast out. Unsure of what comes next.

But God saw Hagar.

He met her in her desert place, and she gave Him a name: "the God who sees me."

"She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me.'"
Genesis 16:13

Sometimes, healing begins when someone finally knows they are seen.

Inside this newsletter, you will read about Katelynn, a young girl who came to Open Arms carrying hurt, anger, and fear. She arrived not knowing what her future would hold. But God saw her.

And through Open Arms, Katelynn began a journey toward healing, hope, and a new future.

Read Katelynn's story and see what God can do when a hurting young person is finally seen.

"They didn't just see an angry girl who was always getting into trouble….they saw someone who was hurting and needed someone to believe in her" – Katelynn on Open Arms

"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." -Genesis 16:13

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WHEN SOMEONE SEES YOU

Katelynn's story of hurt, healing, and hope

Open Arms
CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

By: Katelynn Scarbrough

I remember being scared, confused, and feeling so alone. I didn't know what to expect. I was being taken away from everything I knew and placed in a place with people I had never met. But when I walked through the doors of Open Arms, my life began to change in ways I couldn't possibly understand.

My name is Katelynn. I want to take you back to when I was 12 years old—a little girl who felt lost and didn't know where she belonged. I wasn't always an angry or troubled child. I was just young, hurting, and growing up in a difficult home where there was a lot of anger. Anger was what I knew. It was the only way I knew how to express the feelings I didn't understand. That anger followed me into school and into my home life, and before I knew it, I was constantly getting into trouble.

"Looking back now, I realize I wasn't a bad kid. I was a hurting child who didn't know how to ask for help."

Paul was the first staff member I met. I remember sitting at the table while he asked me a few questions. I was nervous and didn't know what to say. All I could do was shake my leg and sit there quietly, trying to process everything that was happening around me. But Paul didn't rush me. He didn't get frustrated with me. He was kind and patient and gave me the time I needed until I was ready to talk. That moment may have seemed small to him, but to me, it meant everything.

Open Arms wasn't always easy. I had my ups and downs. I struggled, I made mistakes, and there were days when I didn't know what I was feeling or how to handle it. But throughout those years, I met so many incredible staff members who showed me something I desperately needed to learn—that I was worthy of love, patience, understanding, and compassion.

They didn't just see the angry girl who was always getting into trouble. They saw the little girl underneath it all. They saw someone who was hurting and needed someone to believe in her.



Katelynn during her time at the Miriam Home

"They saw me."

So many of Open Arms staff members cared for me and loved me like I was their own. They stood beside me during some of the hardest moments of my childhood and helped me through things I didn't think I could get through. They gave me a place where I could feel safe. They gave me people I could trust. Most importantly, they helped me understand that my past didn't have to determine my future.

Before Open Arms, I didn't know much about God. I didn't really understand the power of prayer or what it meant to turn to God when life felt overwhelming. But somewhere along the way, I learned about faith, prayer, and having someone to turn to when I felt like I couldn't carry everything on my own. To this day, God is who I turn to. I give Him my worries, my fears, and the things that feel too heavy for me to carry. That is something I will always be thankful Open Arms helped introduce into my life.



Young Katelynn before entering foster care.

When I look at myself today, I sometimes think about that little 12-year-old girl sitting at that table, shaking her leg and not knowing what to say. If that 12-year-old girl could see me now, I hope she would be proud. Because I am no longer that little girl who felt completely lost. I am a young woman, and I am an incredible momma. I have a life and a family that I am so thankful for. I have learned, grown, and become someone that little girl never knew she could be. And I truly believe that without Open Arms and all the people who poured love, patience, guidance, and support into me during those years, I wouldn't be the young woman or the momma I am today.

To every staff member who was there for me throughout those years: thank you. Thank you for loving me when I didn't know how to love myself. Thank you for being patient with me when I was difficult. Thank you for every conversation, every hug, every lesson, every second of your time, and every moment you chose to show me that I mattered.

"Thank you for seeing something in me when I couldn't see it myself."

I am also incredibly thankful for every foster parent and volunteer who gave their time, heart, and home to children who need love and support. You may never fully understand the impact you have on a child's life. To you, it may feel like something small, but to a child going through what may be the most difficult time of their life, your kindness can become a memory they carry forever.

And for every boy and girl at Open Arms: I know life may not feel easy. You may feel scared, angry, confused, or completely alone. I know you may not understand why you are going through the things you are going through. But please don't give up on yourself.

I was once that scared 12-year-old girl. I didn't know what my future would look like. I didn't know where I belonged. I didn't know that one day I would look back and realize that those difficult years were not the end of my story.

There is always light at the end of the tunnel.

Keep going. Keep believing.

"Keep your heart open to the people who are trying to help you."

Most importantly, remember that your circumstances today do not have to define who you become tomorrow. You are worthy of love. You are worthy of a future. And there is so much more waiting for you beyond this chapter. I know because I lived it.

"With all my heart, thank you, Open Arms, for being a part of my story and for helping a lost little girl find her way."



Katelynn opening Christmas presents at the Miriam Home