



Frequently Asked Questions

Why a recovery program for mothers with children? Our community sees thousands of drug and alcohol related hospitalizations and child maltreatments each year. Families impacted by substance use, domestic violence, housing instability, and other traumas need a safe, loving place to heal. Starlight at Tamassee provides families with a life-changing community so they can rebuild their lives and families.

How do you find families to serve? Families come to Tamassee through a wide network of referral sources, such as other recovery programs, behavioral health providers, physicians, counselors and therapists, school officials, detention centers, social workers in state agencies, churches, and family and friends. Mothers may also self-refer. Starlight happily serves its home community of Oconee County, SC but accepts applications from across SC and surrounding states.

How long do families participate in Starlight? Each family lives on campus for approximately 18 to 24 months depending on their unique needs and goals. Starlight provides a transitional program to support families for another 6 to 12 months after they complete the residential program.

How many families are served at a time? While the number of families in residence at any one time varies, Starlight's capacity is 20 or more mothers and their children at a time, including those residing in transitional housing. We hope to reach full capacity by 2025.

What ages of children are served? Starlight serves mothers with infants through elementary school age children. Pregnant mothers may also apply.

Do moms have to be sober when they enter the program? Yes, moms must pass a drug screening to enroll in the program and continue to pass screenings while in the program.

Is Starlight at Tamassee accredited and evidence-based? Yes, Starlight is accredited by the Council on Accreditation. All program models and components are evidence based and trauma-informed with data-driven outcomes.

Why is the program faith-based? Because a relationship with Jesus in a community of his love leads to greater healing and freedom. Infusing every element of the program with Jesus' grace and truth sets mothers and children free to be who God made them to be.

How do you help moms recover from substance use? Tamassee has a team of experienced recovery staff who lead our program. The Genesis Process and the Change Companies' MEE Interactive Journaling Series have a proven track record of success in recovery. Starlight utilizes local 12 Step recovery groups and resources. Living in community and engaging these resources with supportive staff, mothers find lasting recovery and freedom.

How do you help children and their moms heal? Tamassee employs a Counselor and a Child Life Development Specialist to work with moms and children to heal from trauma and a Parenting Coach to support moms as they bond with their children and learn to parent them. We use Circle of Security and Love and Logic for our parenting curricula.

How do you educate Starlight children? Infants to preschoolers attend Tamassee's Early Childhood Learning Center where the foci are stimulating brain development, social-emotional learning, and kindergarten readiness. Elementary age children attend Tamassee-Salem Elementary and receive academic tutoring and enrichment in our Navigators Afterschool program.

What educational services are provided for moms? Tamassee supports each mom's education with remedial instruction, GED attainment, vocational rehabilitation services, and college scholarships. Education for moms will empower them to have family sustaining jobs upon completing our program.

What other services do you offer? We offer a variety of life skills which families need to live independently, productively, and happily. Interpersonal skills, healthy cooking, exercise, home management, financial literacy, time management, and more are taught and modeled.

When a family completes the program, what comes next? Tamassee supports each family's transition into the community, including finding housing, jobs, and recovery and support networks. When a mother graduates from the Starlight program she is offered transitional housing and voluntary aftercare support.

How do you measure success? Tamassee uses several measures of success, including sobriety, program completion, parenting protective factors, educational attainment for children and moms, emotional intelligence for moms and children, life skill assessments, securing housing and employment, and relapse prevention. However, success comes in all shapes and sizes and is uniquely determined with each family as they progress through the program.

How does the program benefit the community? The program empowers families to become contributing members of their communities and society, including improved educational outcomes, higher employment rates, increased personal income and tax revenue, greater community service, and reduced involvement with criminal justice, social services, and government assistance.

How is the program funded? Tamassee is primarily funded by the generous donations of our friends and supporters. To learn more, visit the Ways to Give and Donate Now pages at www.mytamassee.org.

How can I get involved? There are numerous opportunities to impact mothers' and children's lives through prayer, referrals, donations, and volunteering. Visit www.mytamassee/starlight.org or call 864-944-1390 to learn more.