



FROM FIRST-TIME MOM TO CUNA GROUP LEADER: A FULL-CIRCLE JOURNEY OF CARE AND CONNECTION



When she first walked through the doors of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, she was expecting her first child—nervous, excited, and full of questions. Today, she stands at the front of the room, leading the very program that once supported her during that life-changing time.

"I came to CHS while I was pregnant with my first baby," she recalls. "I was a first-time mom, excited and completely clueless about babies." A friend of her mother's had told her about a program that offered free childbirth preparation classes in Spanish and gave her the contact information for Vilma Aguirre. That's how she discovered CHSofNJ—and the CUNA program.

The experience left a lasting impression. The classes helped her prepare for motherhood, but the impact went much deeper.

“EVERYTHING I LEARNED, THE KIND AND THOUGHTFUL TREATMENT, THE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT WE RECEIVED—IT WAS ALL AMAZING. THE REFERRALS, THE PEOPLE I MET, AND THE GUIDANCE I RECEIVED CHANGED THE WAY I THOUGHT AND HELPED CALM MY FEARS AND WORRIES DURING PREGNANCY.”



Now, she's come full circle, serving as the facilitator of the CUNA group and supporting other expectant moms in their journey—just as she was once supported.

"From the moment I joined and observed my first class, I knew it was something I could and wanted to do," she says. With a natural calling toward health and maternal care, and a deep desire to help others, CHS turned out to be the perfect place for her.



WHAT MOTIVATES HER MOST IN THIS ROLE?

“The moment of giving,” she says without hesitation. “I love seeing the look on our moms’ faces when they receive a basic item for themselves or their babies—something they truly needed. Their gratitude and happiness are everything.”

And beyond the tangible items, it’s the empowerment that stays with her—the ability to help mothers gain knowledge, confidence, and a strong voice in advocating for themselves and their children.

**“IT FILLS ME WITH PRIDE AND GRATITUDE...
KNOWING I’M HELPING ENSURE A HEALTHY AND
LOVING START FOR A NEW BABY—THAT’S WHAT
THIS WORK IS ALL ABOUT.”**



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



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