

## Profile Story - Joann Jackson & Brianna Butler

Joann Jackson (50) and her daughter Brianna Butler (21) are currently raising the newest baby in their family. Ms. Jackson is a single mom of five children who works at the hospital and helps to support her seven grandchildren. Ms. Butler is a new mom of a beautiful two-month-old, however she has been around young children for several years as she has six nieces and nephews. She is currently looking for work and hopes to use her passions of working with children and cooking.

Ms. Butler has a case worker that referred her to Family Advancement Ministries, one of the many nonprofit organizations that is part of Macon AIM. She describes the process of connecting with a Macon AIM representative as very quick and useful. They have connected her to many of the resources she needs, including rent assistance, help with schooling and GED classes, as well as direction in finding and maintaining employment.

As a new mom, Ms. Butler has goals to get a job to earn money for an apartment and transportation, so that she is able to fully provide for her baby. Her long term goals are to attend college following her GED and find a career that employs her interests. Their hope for Macon AIM in helping her to achieve some of these goals is that she will connect with individuals who can point her in the right direction to find the tools they need to be successful. Specifically, they believe some advice in financial planning and maintaining money will be a necessary resource in to help them grow their family.



Joann Jackson (left) and Brianna Butler (right) with the newest baby in their family.

**"These services have been a huge help."**

## Profile Story - Shelby Ortiz

Shelby Ortiz is a 27 year old woman living in Macon, Georgia with her three children, ranging in age from 4 months old to 3 years old. She grew up in the foster care system beginning at the age of five until she signed herself out of care at the age of eighteen. She had her first child at the age of 23 and she describes feeling a great sense of purpose and meaning through becoming a mother. She currently works night shifts at Waffle House and takes care of her children during the day.

**"I want to give my kids everything that I didn't have —not in materialistic things, but in family and wisdom and support."**

Upon getting connected with a representative from Macon AIM, she has received help with baby items(such as clothing, diapers, and wipes), counseling services and finding a primary care doctor. Ms. Ortiz stated that each of the organizations assisting her have been very helpful to her and her family.

**"Each time when I think there's no other option, she finds something for me."**

Ms. Ortiz has goals of one day becoming a correctional officer when her kids begin to attend school. She wants to work hard to ensure her children grow up happy and healthy, equipped with everything they need. She is very glad that organizations like Macon AIM exist, so she can be pointed in the direction of countless services and tools.. She stated that this assistance has helped her to keep going and remember that she is not alone.