



February 26, 2026

We are writing in response to the alert posted on Charity Navigator regarding recent media coverage related to Vista Maria. We understand that this coverage has raised questions, and we take all concerns very seriously.

Given the sensitivity of these matters, and the limited information available, we are not able to comment further. Our leadership team and board are working closely with legal counsel to ensure appropriate governance, oversight, and review processes are followed.

While we are limited in what we can share at this time, we want to provide accurate context about our work. Vista Maria no longer operates the residential youth mental health program referenced in the coverage, as many of the youth assigned to our care required increasingly acute and complex mental health needs that we are not licensed to provide. Vista Maria continues to serve hundreds of youth and families in the community, providing trauma-informed care through foster care, adoption, juvenile justice services, and transitional housing for young people aging out of foster care.

Our charity status has not changed. In 2025, Vista Maria received accreditation from the Council on Accreditation (COA), reflecting our adherence to nationally recognized standards of governance, quality, and program delivery, following a comprehensive review process. While accreditation does not replace ongoing review, we believe it provides helpful context for donors regarding our organizational standards and oversight.

For more than 140 years, we have served the community by supporting people during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Today, Vista Maria remains focused on fulfilling our mission and providing trauma-informed care to youth and families who have experienced trauma, instability, and exploitation.

We are committed to transparency and believe it is important for our community to have current and accurate information about Vista Maria's operations. When there are updates we can share, they will be publicly available at www.vistamaria.org/announcements.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.