

Mary's Mantle

Every child is a gift, every soul has a purpose.



Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Justice...

Greetings to all of our beloved supporters,

It has been such a blessed year at Mary's Mantle. We ended 2012 with three tiny babies lined up under the Christmas tree and we will end 2013 the same way. Christmas morning will be a celebration of life, as our new moms swaddle their beautiful newborns in a home built out of love. Praise God!

This year we've had a full house. Not only a full house, but a house full of women determined to change the path of their life. I can't help but think that God has asked us to be their voice in a society that often disregards the plight of the poor and homeless. We must work for justice in their name. **A justice that allows every child to be born and a justice that ensures the dignity in how they live.**

- Have you ever burnt candles in your home because you could not afford light bulbs?
- Have you ever had to rush your baby to the emergency room, because your low income apartment was infested with bugs?
- What about the smell of garbage? Have you ever had to keep two weeks worth of garbage piled up in your kitchen because someone stole your garbage container and the City of Detroit will not pick up your garbage without it. It costs \$40 for a new one, which is 6% of your monthly income.



These are true stories of our past residents. Through the grace of God we now have the start up funds to employ a part-time Aftercare Coordinator. We can assist our 30 plus past residents by offering them ongoing support, encouragement, assistance with material items, counseling, resource referral and even make certain that each and every one of them will have a Christmas. Yes, and buy them light bulbs, help clear out the garbage and make the necessary arrangements for better housing. To prepare for their independence our current residents participate in a variety of educational and spiritual opportunities. Childcare, parenting, nutrition, Bible study, Life Coaching, faith formation, the Sexual Integrity Program, and daily prayer are some of the programs we have instituted.



This Christmas, as we all reflect on the journey to Bethlehem, I often consider the reality that Mary and Joseph were homeless too. I often wonder in today's world where Jesus would be born. Would it be in an abandoned house or car, maybe in a homeless shelter, or in a cardboard house on the streets of Detroit? And if they knocked on our door, disheveled and dirty from their travels, are we prepared to offer them a place to stay? Yes, it is exactly what we have planned for with the arrival of each of our moms at Mary's Mantle.

May the Lord bless you for all of your kindness and support. You are making a difference in the lives of the women and babies we serve. Merry Christmas!

Beth Collison, Executive Director

PRAISE BE JESUS CHRIST

If there is one word that has rooted itself in my heart about life at Mary's Mantle, it is healing. As we continue to grow, we have been so blessed to have our women and babies stay with us for longer stretches of time over this last year. We know we are just a small step on their journey, but we hope that we can fill them with enough love and faith that it will carry them through once they leave. It is always with joy and sadness that we say goodbye, though they truly never leave our family. While a few of our veteran residents have now moved into their own places, at this time, we have a full house again, with two newborns and two more soon on the way! It is always an adventure! These are exciting times as we continue to grow with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. With some new staff who bring their unique experiences and gifts we are able to offer new opportunities for learning and healing. We have made new connections in the community that will help us provide better resources for our residents. We are now more intimately connected with the Church of the Transfiguration so we can begin to fashion a Church home for the women who are not connected to a faith community. Each day, God provides a new blessing and new opportunities for our residents to embrace the grace He lavishes upon us while recognizing their inherent beauty and potential. We appreciate all your prayers and support as we help these women heal and begin a new life with their children.

Rakhi McCormick, House Manager



Fr. Joe Lang

NOW AND FOREVER



Fr. Alex Kratz



Fr. Luigi Gubris



Fr. Eric Fedewa



Fr. Moses Muttai

WAYS YOU CAN HELP THIS CHRISTMAS



-Help Tiffany, one of our residents, build her own jewelry business. Purchase a "Pandora-like" bracelet or necklace this Christmas. Email her at tiffanystreasures13@gmail.com.

-Follow us on Facebook, especially this Christmas. We frequently will post the needs of the house and our Aftercare Program participants, as well as Christmas wishes from the residents.

-Visit www.kroger.com/community/Pages/commuity_rewards.aspx. Pick Mary's Mantle as the charity recipient of your reward pts.

-Visit our Baby Boutique resale store at Faith @ Work, 1977 East Wattles, Troy.

Above: Holy Mass is celebrated monthly at Mary's Mantle to pray for the needs of the residents and the ministry.

Left: Fr. J.J. Mech and Fr. Ben Luedtke at a presentation on the Blessed Mother which benefitted Mary's Mantle.

ASKGZUS...Huh? Did I not use spell check?

Actually “ASKGZUS” is the letters on my license plate, it translates to “Ask Jesus”...do you see it now? It’s a reminder to me that Jesus is always present, always listening and always prepared to answer...if we’d only ask. Through humility, we at Mary’s Mantle, have realized that we certainly do not have all the answers to the unanticipated questions needed to successfully minister to our residents. However, we have learned that asking our Lord, and allowing Him to navigate, is the only way to accomplish our mission. One question I have personally run by the Lord is “how should we convey love charitably within Mary’s Mantle?” Acceptance is such an important part of the equation, but to really show love it seems to need something more. That’s when the Holy Spirit guided me to the words of Pope Benedict XVI “...only in truth does charity (love) shine forth. Without truth, charity degenerates into sentimentality. Love becomes an empty shell...”. At Mary’s Mantle we strive to balance accepting our residents where we meet them in life, but we also realize that we must complement this by illuminating the truth. The world can be very misleading; if we don’t love with truth we risk morally abandoning our residents.

As we approach this Christmas season, we at Mary’s Mantle wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and ASKGZUS to fill your heart with love and truth.

Barry Doherty, President



Bishop Michael Byrnes celebrated Holy Mass at our annual Keepsakes of the Kingdom Gala in October. A beautiful evening hosted at Sacred Heart Major Seminary raised nearly \$40,000 for Mary’s Mantle.

Vision Statement:

Mary’s Mantle exists to provide spiritual, emotional and physical development in order for expectant women to fully realize their potential as children of God and mothers.

Mission Statement:

Mary’s Mantle is a Catholic residential program for homeless expectant women at risk of having an abortion. We provide a safe, spiritual and caring environment to allow for transition into motherhood and personal growth. We focus on vocational, educational, spiritual, emotional development, and the physical well-being of mother and child.

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Mary's Mantle

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TRUE BEAUTY BREAKFAST MAY 10, 2014

Come join us at our 4th Mary's Mantle True Beauty Breakfast.

- * Special Guest Speaker, Claire Culwell
- * Addison Oaks, MI
- * Wonderful fellowship and food
- * Tickets \$35.00 per person
 - * Purchase online at www.marysmantle.net or
 - * Call #248-941-7408



Waterhouse Photography

Mary's Mantle is a Catholic residential program for homeless, expectant mothers. It costs an average of \$98.60 a night to house a mother and her baby. The cost includes 24 hour staff, clothing, classes, transportation, counseling, and case management, all done in a Christian environment. We rely on your generous donation.