

NOVEMBER 2016

Mary's Mantle

EVERY CHILD IS A GIFT, EVERY SOUL HAS A PURPOSE.



Greetings Mary's Mantle Supporters!

While the last six months have been a busy time at Mary's Mantle as always, we continue to be blessed in many ways. If you were able to attend our 7th Annual Keepsakes of the Kingdom event in October, you know that we spoke about the privilege we feel as staff to serve at Mary's Mantle.

We spoke of the quote by Saint Mother Teresa, "If you can't feed 100 people, then feed just one." What beautiful, yet simple, words to live by. Often times, I know personally that I feel overwhelmed by all of the wonderful organizations and ministries I want to support. The list is long; however, my time and finances are not endless.

When you support Mary's Mantle through a donation, through volunteering your time, by attending an event, or offering your prayers, you are doing exactly what Saint Mother Teresa said: you are *feeding just one*. We "feed" the women at Mary's Mantle in many different ways. Yes, we provide them food and meet their other basic needs. But we also feed them spiritually and emotionally. We feed them through education, classes, and training. We feed them by loving them and supporting them far beyond the birth of their baby.

As we enter this Advent season, please continue to lift Mary's Mantle in your prayers. If you are able, you will find other ways to support our ministry in this newsletter; by purchasing items to donate, providing financial gifts, or volunteering your time.

Our ministry relies on the support of individual donors like each of you. We do not receive any

government assistance to run our programs. We do our best to keep all of our costs down, but we want to offer our women so much, and your donations help us do that.

The faces pictured below are just a few of the beautiful women that Mary's Mantle has the privilege to serve. These are the women that you are supporting through your time, prayers and donations. They are hardworking, committed mothers, who come to us seeking to change their lives for themselves and their children. They have all suffered in some way, and we are called to serve them.

As Catholics, through the corporal works of mercy, we are asked to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty,

shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. We know that people can be poor in more ways than one. Caring for people who are less fortunate has been part of the Christian tradition since the beginning. The Gospels give us many accounts of how Jesus lived in solidarity with and ministered to people who were poor and vulnerable. As Christians today, we are asked to do the same.

Thank you for your continued support to Mary's Mantle. On behalf of our entire staff and Board of Directors, I wish you each a blessed Advent season and a Merry Christmas.

Blessings,

Katie Monte,
Executive Director



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CHERYL MAZZARA



Dr. Cheryl Mazzara has been a dedicated volunteer with Mary's Mantle since 2013. With an MD specializing in psychiatry and child psychiatry as well as a certificate in spiritual direction, Cheryl has been an invaluable resource. She began her involvement at Mary's Mantle by meeting with the residents for spiritual direction on a weekly basis.

Of this experience, Cheryl says, "I see my spiritual direction sessions as an opportunity to meet with the women as a group to discuss where they are spiritually and how they see God working in their lives. We discuss their personal prayer and ways of praying. I try to help increase their awareness of God's love in

their lives. We pray for each other. We discuss how to deal with specific emotional problems such as anxiety, anger and issues with interpersonal relationships, as well as past traumatic events. I see this as one small piece in the overall picture of what everyone is doing at Mary's Mantle."

Cheryl has also begun to administer psychiatric evaluations for our residents upon admission and after the birth of their children, as well as for After-Care participants as needed. The information gained from these assessments becomes a valuable tool in order for the staff to ensure that the needs of each person we serve are being met. The ministry and our residents are forever indebted to Cheryl for her generosity in sharing her time and knowledge with us.

"For it is in giving, that we receive." ~ St. Francis of Assisi

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE MANAGER

Hello! My name is Joanna Willis and I am the House Manager at Mary's Mantle. I have been a part of this wonderful ministry for about a year and a half. I began my professional pro-life journey after I graduated with my bachelors in Psychology from Oakland University in December of 2003. I volunteered as a counselor at Mother and Unborn Baby Care from 2004-2008. While there, I counseled abortion-minded women, prayed with them, gave them resources, and provided them with support as they received free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds at the center. It was a blessing to serve MAUBC in this capacity. I obtained my Masters in Counseling in 2008.

Prior to coming to Mary's Mantle, I worked as a social worker in child welfare for 12 years. The majority of my career has been spent supporting, encouraging and empowering young mothers, which is where my heart lays. I was excited when the opportunity arose to become a part of the Mary's Mantle team. As a woman of faith, I have a heart for women's ministry. I understand that I am only one person and cannot reach the whole world, but I have an open heart and desire for the Lord to use me and help me to reach those in my community. While we may not serve large numbers at Mary's Mantle, the work we do with the

women is long-lasting, and can affect generations to come. By assisting the women with goals such as obtaining their GED or enrolling into college, establishing employment, and assisting them with securing housing, we help the women establish long-term change.

As a woman of faith who has a personal relationship with the Lord, I consider it an honor to be able to talk to the women at Mary's Mantle about the Lord on a daily basis. I enjoy sharing my testimony and reminding the women that the Lord loves them and is with them always. To bring about life-long change, we know that the women must develop a personal relationship with the Lord. The day staff facilitates morning devotions daily with the women and the House Mother has evening prayer with the women every night. The women attend weekly bible studies, monthly spiritual events, meet with a Spiritual Director, and attend church services on Sundays. One of my favorite scriptures is Psalms 147:3: "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Our women have been through trauma; they've been abandoned and let down. What a blessing it is to be able to pray for and with them, love on them, and cheer them on. God is love, and every day we strive to show God's love to all the women at Mary's Mantle.

*Precious
children of
Mary's Mantle*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have the heart to serve at Mary's Mantle? We have a lot of different ways you can support the wonderful work that we do. We currently have immediate needs for the several volunteer opportunities! For more information about these and other opportunities, please contact Rakhi McCormick at Rakhi.McCormick@MarysMantle.net.

- * An individual to assist with our computer/technology needs;
- * A mechanic (or individual with knowledge of cars) to provide assistance with maintenance and give advice regarding our van;
- * Individuals willing to transport our women to/from appointments.



In January 2017 we will be holding two volunteer events (one on the East side and one on the West side). The evenings will provide an overview of the ministry, detailed information on upcoming volunteer opportunities, and fellowship. Refreshments will be provided.

Please stay tuned to our website www.marysmantle.net, Facebook page, and e-mail for more information on dates and locations!

DEDICATED GIVING:

- \$25.00** for a Christmas gift for a child in After Care
- \$50.00** to spiritually adopt a resident (prayer book, Bible, and Rosary)
- \$100.00** for a week of groceries for the house
- \$250.00** toward one month of utilities at the house
- \$500.00** to sponsor one week of the After Care program

Checks made payable to Mary's Mantle can be mailed to
P.O. Box 115, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303.
Or, go to www.marysmantle.net to donate through PayPal.

DONATED ITEMS:

Cleaning Supplies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laundry Detergent - Dish Washer Soap - Bleach Wipes - Windex - Bathroom Cleaner 	Gift Cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meijer - CVS - gas stations
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Diapers (size 1-5)

Baby Wipes

To arrange a donation, please contact Katie Montes at katie.montes@marysmantle.net or call 248-376-5338.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<p>Barry Doherty, <i>President</i></p> <p>Becky Reynolds, <i>Vice President</i></p> <p>James Kempa, <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Mary Anne Napolitano, <i>Secretary</i></p> <p>Father JJ Mech, <i>Chaplain</i></p>	<p>Beth Collison</p> <p>Deacon Don Baross</p> <p>Deacon Dom Pastore</p> <p>John Carey</p> <p>Sheila Breen</p> <p>Toni Conley</p>
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STAFF MEMBERS

<p>Katie Montes, <i>Executive Director</i></p> <p>Joanna Willis, <i>House Manager</i></p> <p>Kat Cotton, <i>Case Manager</i></p> <p>Beverly Anglin, <i>House Mother</i></p> <p>Angela Clark, <i>Temporary House Mother</i></p>	<p>Monica Bihar-Natzke, <i>After Care Coordinator</i></p> <p>Rakhi McCormick, <i>Volunteer and Spiritual Coordinator</i></p> <p>Claire Horton, <i>Support Staff</i></p> <p>Linda Franklin, <i>Support Staff</i></p> <p>Elxiea Stokes, <i>Support Staff</i></p>
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Mary's Mantle ♥

P.O. BOX 115
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303
248-376-5338



Mission Statement

Mary's Mantle is a Catholic residential program for homeless expectant women. We witness the love of Christ by promoting the dignity of life. We provide a safe, faith-based, and caring environment that supports the transition into motherhood, including extended aftercare for continued personal growth and integration into the community. We focus on the spiritual, emotional, physical, educational, and vocational well-being of mother and child.

WWW.MARYSMANTLE.NET • MARYS.MANTLE@COMCAST.NET

Mark your calendar

