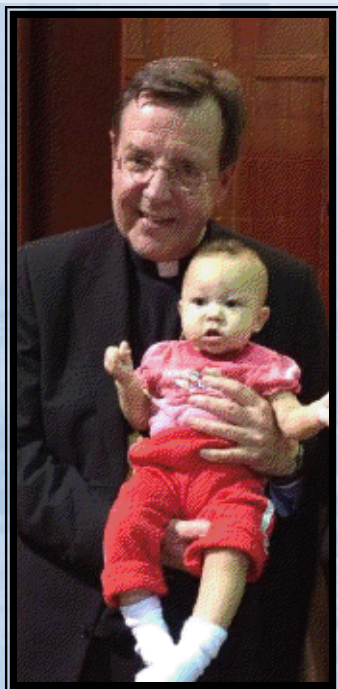


# Mary's Mantle

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

## RESPONDING TO GRACE



Archbishop Allen Vigneron holding baby Malysa at the Annual Seminarian Lenten Fish Dinner.

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you..." (John 13:34).

We have perhaps heard this many times, but interestingly Jesus didn't "ask" us to love one another, He "commanded" we love one another—a pretty clear and unambiguous message. How can we best obediently respond to this charge to love one another? One sure way is to respond to the grace that He continually provides each of us. Love is the ultimate expression of the virtue of charity. Loving others outside our family may feel awkward, out of our comfort zone, unfamiliar

and perhaps more than we think we can handle. It can be difficult to respond how God is asking us to show our love. But the important question is do we make the effort to respond? Do we have the faith in God, and the understanding, that He is responding right along with us? The beautiful women who choose life for their baby, and ultimately reach out to Mary's Mantle are responding to God's voice. They are choosing to let God love them, and in turn showing their precious love to their unborn babies.

Our staff and our volunteers have been blessed with incredible gifts from God, but more importantly they have

unconditionally responded to our Lord's request to love one another through these gifts. If the fruit that Mary's Mantle continues to bear, speaks to your heart, don't doubt for a moment that God is actually the one placing that thought on your heart. Our Lord needs you to share in this most important ministry. He is overjoyed that each and every one of you is choosing to share your gifts to help us weave this beautiful tapestry of love; through respect for the dignity of life.

May the Lord continue to drench you with His graces, and may you find the joy in responding.

Barry Doherty, President

## BOARD MEMBERS :

Rev. J.J. Mech  
Dcn. Don Baross  
Dcn. Dominic Pastore  
Sister Monica Blazuk  
Dr. Ray & Fran Bauer  
Lynn Coburn  
Beth Collison, Executive Director  
Barry Doherty, President  
James Kempa, Treasurer  
Tom Murray, Secretary  
Becky Reynolds



## MARY'S MANTLE IS SPRINGING INTO GARDENING!

We have been blessed at Mary's Mantle this year to have some generous volunteers help us with exciting home projects. Through the generosity of the gentlemen at Galway Construction, our basement was more fully equipped with much needed storage space, including shelving and clothing racks. More recently, thanks to Envicore Services, all the carpets in the house were given a long overdue steam cleaning (environmentally safe, might I add)! While these do not sound glamorous, they were very exciting moments for the house. Last, but not least, we are preparing to begin our very own garden at Mary's Mantle. The hope is that our women will learn to tend, harvest and use the fresh vegetables during their time with us so they may carry that skill forward to their new homes, whether in a yard or containers. It's a great way to boost nutrition in a cost saving way! Thank you to all who have been involved!



Rakhi McCormick, House Manager



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP



- Visit our resale store featuring beautiful baby clothes, toys, and baby necessities including strollers and swings. All money benefits Mary's Mantle and the women we serve. Located in Faith @ Work, 1977 E. Wattles, Troy. Please call 248-250-9210 to donate or for further information.
- Give a birthday, anniversary or memorial gift of hope by sponsoring a mom and baby in residence for one night for only \$98.60. Please visit [www.marysmantle.net](http://www.marysmantle.net) for more information.
- Visit [www.kroger.com/community/Pages/commuity\\_rewards.aspx](http://www.kroger.com/community/Pages/commuity_rewards.aspx) Pick Mary's Mantle as the charity recipient of your reward pts.

Left: Our residents enjoy on the job training while participating in a paid internship program at Faith @ Work Catholic Book & Gift Shop.



# OUR JOURNEY

## Mission:

It has been nearly 3 years since the doors of Mary's Mantle opened welcoming in our first homeless, expectant mothers. Thirty-six months later, blessed with thirty-two women and their babies, we continue to grow in our mission of love. The Lord promises us that the poor will always be with us. What a gift they are. How much we learn as we serve, and how much we grow closer to the Lord by meeting Him each day in these women. I am convinced through this experience, that the road home is paved with simplicity, poverty, sacrifice and love.

## What we do:

Mary's Mantle focuses on educating, enriching and encouraging our young moms to become the women God created them to be. Our programming includes: Sexual Integrity classes, Life Coaching, Bible Study, Basic Living Skills instruction and so much more during their year long stay with us. They learn how to parent, how to trust, and how to love and be loved- unconditionally.

## New at Mary's Mantle:

We are launching an aftercare program. This program will offer a safety net to those that have completed the program and have transitioned into independent living. It will be an extension of our services focused on preventative and supportive assistance. Home visits, resource referral, small group sessions, counseling and advocacy are just a few things that will be offered to past residents.

## Thank you:

We greatly appreciate your support whether it is financial, spiritual or a gift of your time. They are all essential to the work being done. Recently one of our residents thanked us, "for saving her and her daughter". She said if it wasn't for Mary's Mantle they would not be together. In turn we thank you, on behalf of her and all the women and babies we serve.

## May God richly bless you!

Beth Collison, Executive Director

### *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.



## Mary's Mantle Staff

Standing: Michelle Collier, Beverly Anglin,  
Pat Parker, Beth Collison, Sheila Lewis, Lynnette Mitan  
Seated: Claire Horton, Rakhi McCormick



Fr. Ben Luedtke is speaking at St. Anastasia on August 22, 2013 @7pm in the Church. No cost to attend, but a free will offering will be taken to benefit Mary's Mantle.



### **Mary's Mantle**

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[marys.mantle@comcast.net](mailto:marys.mantle@comcast.net)  
Phone:  
248-376-5338



## **KEEPSAKES OF THE KINGDOM MARY'S MANTLE GALA EVENT OCTOBER 26, 2013**

**Come join us in our 3rd Mary's Mantle Gala Event at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.**

- \* Mass 6 p.m.
- \* Celebrant Bishop Michael Byrnes
- \* Strolling Dinner and Silent Auction 7:30 p.m.
- \* Tickets \$75.00 per person
  - \* Purchase online at [www.marysmantle.net](http://www.marysmantle.net) or
  - \* Call #248-941-7408



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.