

DECEMBER 2020

# Mary's Mantle

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



## Safe at Home

In the midst of a challenging year, there has been no greater gift than to provide a safe home for these five beautiful babies.

Thank you for being part of the ministry at Mary's Mantle this year. Because of you, these babies and their brave moms have a tangible example of Christ's love.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Mary's Mantle Supporters,

What a year 2020 has been. It is hard to find the right words to describe what this past year has looked like at Mary's Mantle: challenging, stressful, constantly changing, the list goes on. We have had to change nearly everything about the way we run the day to day ministry to keep our moms, babies, and staff safe. It has been hard.

But one constant has remained through it all - God has provided. We have seen God provide in so many ways this year - by bringing staff to the ministry when we needed it most, through the health of our moms (past and present) and staff, financial security through grants and donations, and continual answers to our daily prayers.

Mary's Mantle provided a safe home for 5 moms to prepare for the birth of their baby this year. During all the uncertainty of 2020 - there has been no greater gift than to witness 5 babies come safely home from the hospital with their moms to Mary's Mantle.

Although it looks different right now, ten moms and their children have continued to receive support through the Mary's Mantle After Care Program this year. Virtual appointments and social distancing became the new "normal" - but continued support of these moms has remained part of the ministry of Mary's Mantle.

We thank each of you for your support, especially during the uncertainty of 2020 - we simply would not have been able to accomplish these things without your financial support and prayers. Thank you for being part of the ministry of Mary's Mantle.

From the Mary's Mantle family to yours, we wish you a very blessed Christmas.

Blessings,

Katie Montes  
Executive Director

## RENEWAL MASS



On a bright, sunny, Wednesday, October 7th, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, several board members (past and present), staff, volunteers and residents gathered in the back yard for a Mass of Renewal.

The Mass, which was celebrated by our chaplain, Fr. John McKenzie, was the culmination of a beautiful nine-day novena, written by Board President Barry

Doherty, in which we prayed for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit and for Mary's intercession to lead us in the ways of love and service to all those who the Lord brings to our doorstep.

Although it was a bit windy, the wind served to remind us of the presence of the Spirit; and Fr. John's homily reminded us that like Mary, we are all handmaids of the Lord called to do His will in whatever ways that manifests itself in our lives and in service to Mary's Mantle.

May the Lord continue to richly Bless Mary's Mantle.



## LOOKING AHEAD

At Mary's Mantle we have weathered many storms. Our family, like yours, has clung to Jesus as our boat was tossed about on the sea. But He is faithful and good, and has provided many blessings for which we are so grateful.

As in many families, we like to take time to sit back and reflect on "where we've come" and "where we're called to go." The past 10 years have laid a foundation of relationships that help us serve moms and babies in a unique and amazing way. Founders, board members, volunteers, and staff have laid a solid groundwork of care and concern for our moms and babies. As we look back and celebrate these 10 years, we are also looking forward to the next 10.

Over the next several months the board and staff will be discerning how best to move the ministry forward. This is such a blessed time for Mary's Mantle and we want to continue this mission of mercy with passion and commitment. Please join us in praying that Our Blessed Mother will lead and guide us forward with joy and love for those who are most vulnerable, our little ones.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Mary's Mantle would like to recognize youth volunteer Danny Bart, who recently completed much-needed renovations to the home as his Eagle Scout Project.

Danny, a member of Scout Troop 1705 out of Troy, headed up a crew of volunteers who downsized one of the resident bedrooms in the lower level of the home to expand storage space. Danny created a beautiful new bedroom with a new closet and

nearly doubled the storage space in the basement – which was very much needed.

The project was monumental and involved planning, fundraising, effort, and time. In addition to all his hard

work, Danny supervised helpers on this renovation project, honing his leadership skills.

Due to his outstanding budgeting and fundraising, Danny had leftover money, which he used to purchase some much-needed supplies for the home!

When asked why he chose Mary's Mantle to be the recipient of his Eagle Project, Danny responded, "I wanted to help those who make a real difference."

Thank you for the beautiful work, Danny, and may God bless you abundantly for your service.



# CHRISTMAS GIVING

Christmas will look different for most families this year, and the Mary's Mantle family is no exception. In a normal year, we love to host a big party for the past moms of Mary's Mantle, complete with dinner, gifts, games and even a visit from Santa.

Although that won't be possible this time, through the generosity of donors, Mary's Mantle will be able to provide gifts through our Christmas Giving Program. Although we are extremely disappointed that we will not be able to gather in person, we are extraordinarily grateful for the generosity of so many that make this possible for the past moms and children of Mary's Mantle.

**If you would like to support us with a Christmas Donation this year, please return a check (made out to Mary's Mantle) in the enclosed envelope. Alternately, you may donate at [marysmantle.net](http://marysmantle.net).**

**The donations our ministry receive at Christmas are vital to our operations. As with all donations we are blessed to receive, every dollar is carefully budgeted and stretched to last the entire year.**



## THANK YOU TO OAKLAND COUNTY

In July 2020, Mary's Mantle was blessed to receive a grant from the Oakland County Community Response & Recovery Fund for COVID-19 Relief.

With this \$46,000 grant, Mary's Mantle was able to:

- Support staffing costs;
- Make crucial technology upgrades;
- Replace carpet in two resident bedrooms;
- Purchase PPE and cleaning supplies for the ministry.

Because of this generous grant, Mary's Mantle could press on and continue to provide for the moms who rely on us.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mary's Mantle♥

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### 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](http://WWW.MARYSMANTLE.NET) • [INFO@MARYSMANTLE.NET](mailto:INFO@MARYSMANTLE.NET)

MAKE A *difference*

## at Mary's Mantle

Mary's Mantle is looking for individuals who can be "on call" for various projects/tasks that come up at the home. This could be a number of things - assemble a crib, outdoor help, help move furniture, fix a leaky faucet, etc. Typical household projects that everyone has from time to time!

The only commitment is to agree to be on the list of "helpers"! When the ministry has a need come up, an e-mail will go out to the "Handy Crew", and if you can help, you let us know!

This is a great way to support the ministry, but during times that work for you! The majority of the jobs will be at the MM home in Southfield.

Have questions or ready to get on the list?  
Contact Nancy Steele at [nancy.steele@marysmantle.net](mailto:nancy.steele@marysmantle.net) or  
248-469-8334