

Mary's Mantle

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

Expectation

At our recent staff retreat, our retreat leader Mary Wilkerson joyfully reflected on the profound beauty and tremendous work breathing within our Mary's Mantle mission statement.

The first line of our mission statement declares that we are a "Catholic residential program for homeless expectant women." During Advent we immerse ourselves in a season of waiting, it could be a great time to ask ourselves: are we, in solidarity with these moms and with Mary, the Mother of God, truly expectant?

When I was little, our home's single-paned windows would feature a considerable layer of frosty ice on the inside around this time of year. I used to love peeking out at the streetlights, headlights, and Christmas lights through the sparkling rainbows that I could create by scratching at the ice, or breathing on it, or just leaving it alone. (I bet you can hear my mom: "MARIAN DONNA! Leave those windows alone!")

I would most often find myself stationed at those front windows, fidgeting with joyful anticipation, when we were expecting an arrival: the UPS truck, or party guests, or - best of all - a big sibling coming home from college. One Christmas Eve, I promise you, I even spied Rudolph's nose. I simply couldn't resist the joy of the waiting, and the pure appropriateness of being on hand for The Big Moment.

Are we like that, still, this Advent? Are our souls dancing with anticipation? Are we unable to resist the idea of "soon!"? I hope so. Because the Holy Family is drawing closer. Their sparkling radiance invites our wonder. Their infinite beauty encourages our awe. The truth, love, and mercy they bring can increasingly make us, in the best sense, childlike again.

So let's continue to be on our tippy toes, friends; not turning them away, as did the poor innkeeper who missed his chance, but throwing open the doors of our hearts so as to give our own Redemption a home.

Marian Bart
Spiritual Coordinator, Mary's Mantle

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.

~ Sirach 2:9



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

For more than 10 years, thanks be to God and the love of our gracious supporters, Mary's Mantle has been blessed to serve more than 85 moms and their babies through pregnancy, birth and after care. We pray that all have been blessed by their stay with us, as we have been by serving them.

Our mission has always been to provide a safe, faith-based, and caring environment; throughout our history we have never turned anyone away because of race, religion, or ethnicity. As a result, women from all walks of life have graced our doorstep. We are thankful and humbled that, at such a time as this in our world, where the vast majority of abortions are being perpetrated on minority women (and men), God has chosen us to this ministry.



Whether you are a financial supporter, volunteer, prayer warrior, and/or staff member, thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

May God continue to richly bless you this Advent and Christmas season; and may the coming of our Lord and Savior as a precious baby into the caring hands of Mary and Joseph be a holy inspiration to protect and promote the sanctity of life, always and everywhere. God Bless You.

Deacon Dom
President Pro Tempore

WELCOME MARY JO WISNESKI



My name is Mary Jo Wisneski and I started working at Mary's Mantle in November. I am so excited to be a part this agency's life affirming mission!

I am working as the new Director of Client Services at Mary's Mantle. For the past six years I served as the director of a non-profit private adoption agency, but my heart was calling me to seek a position with

a faith-based organization. I found my way to Mary's Mantle, and am looking forward to this new opportunity, especially working directly with the moms in the program.

I have an Associate degree in Child Development and

a Bachelor of Social Work from Ferris State University. My past experience includes working for ten years at the Department of Social Services, primarily in Children's Foster Care and Adoption.

My husband Ken and I have two boys, Jonah and Aaron, who are both in college, and an American Bulldog named Primrose.

We are parish members of National Shrine of the Little Flower, and our sons attended Shrine Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. In my spare time I enjoy reading, watching movies, taking walks, and scrapbooking.

I feel happy and blessed to be a part of Mary's Mantle's compassionate and dedicated team.

PROGRAM UPDATES



Mary's Mantle continues to stay in touch with moms who were previously in the residential program at Mary's Mantle. One way we have been doing this is through monthly zoom meetings. Once a month, MM staff and past moms gather

to have conversation, prayer, and support.

After a recent meeting, one mom, who is going through a particularly challenging time in her life, said, "Thank you for doing these, that just made me feel way better."

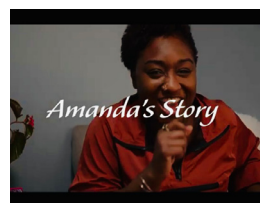
The topic from that evening was "Too Blessed to be Stressed," and was presented by a past staff member, Ms. Linda Franklin. Ms. Linda even delivered mugs after the meeting to each mom who participated. The pandemic has been an isolating time for many people, but even more so for many of the women we serve. We are thankful for the technology that allows us to continue to be connected in this way with our moms!

Please join us in prayer as we look for more moms to serve at Mary's Mantle.

Father in Heaven, we hear Your promise and we know You are faithful. We wish to work with You to provide peace, security, and quiet rest in the Mary's Mantle home. We pray that You send us those of Your daughters in need of Your care.

In Jesus' name and wrapped in Mary's mantle, we pray. Amen.

AMANDA'S STORY



Scan this QR code to hear from Amanda, one of the moms we served this year! Open the camera on your cell phone, hold it over the code, and tap the window that appears to watch the video!





While we hoped to be back to “normal” this year with the annual Mary’s Mantle Christmas party for past moms and their children, we just are not quite there yet. We are pleased to share however that through the generosity of donors, Mary’s Mantle will once again be providing Christmas gifts for past and present moms once again this year.

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. 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.



DID YOU HEAR THREE OF OUR WONDERFUL MOMS PERFORM AT KEEPSAKES OF THE KINGDOM ON OCTOBER 8TH?

IF YOU MISSED IT, YOU CAN CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.MARYSMANTLE.NET. THEY DID A BEAUTIFUL JOB SINGING “I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME.”

THANK YOU DENISE, LEXI AND MILEAH!

ANIMA CHRISTI FUND

We are thrilled to share a new opportunity to support Mary’s Mantle moms. The Anima Christi Fund was announced at our Keepsakes of the Kingdom fundraiser in October.

One hundred percent of the funds in this donor-directed initiative will be used for direct support to Mary’s Mantle moms, current and past. The Anima Christi Fund will focus heavily on supporting past moms, bridging the gap when special needs arise in their lives.

The fund guidelines and application process are in the final stages of approval; we will begin accepting applications at the start of the year. Through our generous supporters, we currently have more than \$7000 in the fund. We look forward to sharing how these funds will be used to share Christ’s love to our moms.

EXAMPLES OF HOW THE ANIMA CHRISTI FUND WILL BE USED TO HELP MARY’S MANTLE MOMS

- Education
- Driver’s training classes
- Day care assistance
- Rent assistance
- Transportation/car repairs
- Home repairs
- Appliances
- Medical needs

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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 • INFO@MARYSMANTLE.NET

Save the Date

TOP GOLF FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022
AUBURN HILLS

TRUE BEAUTY BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022
LOCATION TO
BE ANNOUNCED