

It's time for Mary's Mantle \$30,000 in 30 days!

Goal: 1,000 supporters willing to donate \$30 each
during the month of September.

Mary's Mantle, a Catholic Residential Program, lovingly takes care of the lost and forsaken of our community. Homeless, pregnant women are given shelter during their time with us, but most importantly they find hope and are truly loved.

We can all make a difference by just giving a little. Mother Teresa once said "do small things with great love." We greatly appreciate each dollar that is donated and we understand it to be a sign of your love for these young mothers and their babies. One child at a time, it matters!

Please consider donating through paypal on our website
marysmantle.net - donate tab, or drop off a donation at
Faith@Work Catholic Bookstore,
1977 E. Wattles in Troy, or mail a check to
Mary's Mantle, P.O. Box 115, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303

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www.marysmantle.net

Mary's Mantle

A Catholic Residential Home for Expectant Mothers

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Happy 2nd Anniversary!



Father J.J. Mech blessing our Baby Boutique on May 12th. Many gently used items, such as clothes, strollers, and baby care supplies are sold for a donation, which in turn goes directly back to support the women and babies at Mary's Mantle. The Boutique also provides job training for our residents, who intern there weekly.



We have served over 28 women to date. Through our after-care program, we provide ongoing support services to our past residents. This includes case management services and assistance with baby items such as diapers.

It is amazing when we reflect back over the last two years and see the work that has been done in the Lord's Name. It began with our first resident who came to us from the streets of Detroit, where she was sleeping in doorways.

Today the house continues to be full, with four expectant moms in residence. Each day we provide them with many opportunities for personal growth. I just spoke to Nicole (past resident) and she is graduating in September from the medical assistant program she started while at Mary's Mantle. Praise God! On behalf of all the women and babies we serve—THANK YOU for caring!

Beth Collison, Executive Director



Staff members—Beverly Anglin, Kelli Kienitz, and Pat Parker—celebrating the Boutique's grand opening.

Mary's Mantle
P.O. Box 115, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
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From the President of our Board of Directors

A wise friend once told me it is perfectly fine, in fact encouraged me, to take notes in my Bible. Once I got beyond the awkwardness of defacing my Bible, the very first passage of Scripture that I underlined was Luke 1:41:

"And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb."

Now many things I read in Scripture can leave me scratching my head, but this verse was clear as day. There was no question in my mind that life within the womb is in fact a living, feeling person.

The baby that was joyfully leaping in Elizabeth's womb was of course John the Baptist. Not only was John alive, but he was communicating with the world from his mother's womb. He sensed the presence of Jesus (who Himself was in Mary's womb), and more revealing, John demonstrated human emotions as he rejoiced, and danced in the presence of Jesus and His blessed mother. Is a baby able to connect with the world outside the womb, the Bible tells me so...and I bet most mother's also arrive at that conclusion.

This passage indicates that God knows us while we are in the womb. Scripture further teaches that God personally knows each of us well before we are born, and that He has a designated special purpose for each of us.

At Mary's Mantle we believe and emphasize that the baby our mothers are carrying has a great purpose, a special destiny and a deserving dignity...and equally as important that God has a special unique purpose for the mother. This purpose existed when they were the fruit of their own mother's womb.

Keep our mothers, past, present and future in your prayers that they grow in love with Lord, and never doubt how precious they are to Him.

Barry Doherty, President of the Board



Michelle Collier, our Case Manager, working with two of our residents.

Michelle Collier joined Mary's Mantle in March of this year. She brings to the program a wealth of knowledge related to vocational training and development. Since joining our staff, Michelle has been instrumental in finding employment for all of our current residents, as well as securing their transportation needs.

Ways you can continue to help Mary's Mantle:

1. Visit our Baby Boutique Resale Shop. It is located within Faith @Work, 1977 E. Wattles in Troy. Call 248-250-9216 or email Pat Parker at marysmantlehelpers@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer in the Boutique or with any aspect of Mary's Mantle. Also contact Pat if you would like to donate clothing or other items for the Boutique.
2. Participate in our \$30,000 in 30 Day Campaign in September. We need 1,000 people to send in \$30 to help us reach our goal.
3. Donations of gas cards, grocery cards, and paper products are greatly needed.
4. Pray for us and spread the word about Mary's Mantle.



Deacon Don Baross baptizing a Mary's Mantle baby.

I am thrilled to have been given the great blessing of helping serve the women and children who come into our midst. Though I have only been with this great ministry since mid-December, every day brings with it the sight of God's unwavering promise for each of us – "I am with you," and "I make all things new." Through the dedication of the staff, volunteers and prayer warriors who make sure our moms are never forgotten, we see little miracles before our eyes. As we begin our third year, much is new at Mary's Mantle, and continues to grow as we help the mothers who come to us to rebuild their lives to reflect the promise that is in them and their children.

Over the last six months, we have been evaluating the programs available for the women in our care. While the heart of the home resides in Christ alone, the practical necessities of helping our moms start anew require an equal share of attention. Our program now *formally* aspires to address the residents' needs with workshops and classes in:

- spiritual growth,
- educational/vocational needs,
- physical/psychological care,
- practical life skills and
- social needs

Through the generosity of a few business owners, our women are now able to serve as interns in two businesses in the Troy area to build up their work experience, with the hope that more placement opportunities will arise in the future. Through a grant from the Lions Foundation, we have also been able to improve our workroom with new technology and additional computers to expand the resources we have for the women who are in need of tutoring, as well as those who are job hunting. Thanks to a generous family, we now have a van to use to help transport the women and their children to appointments, work, and other activities. With the help of the youth from Ss. Cyril and Methodius, our Mary's Mantle prayer garden is also underway. Finally, we are initiating a Nurse Mentor program that will pair a resident with her own mentor nurse to accompany her as she navigates her way through pregnancy and new motherhood. These are but a few of the many developments that are taking place here at Mary's Mantle.

God bless each of you for your prayers and donations. With your help, we continue to do our best to show our mothers that God does indeed have a plan for them and their children, and intends to lead them into a new life of hope.

-Rakhi McCormick, House Manager

Board Members:

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