



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.

May 2015

Mary's Mantle

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



Welcome HOME. Welcome to our NEW HOME!

I can only imagine the women who will cross the threshold into our new residence and the crosses they will bear.

What that simple step across the threshold represents is beyond our comprehension. It is stepping away from the reality of pain, suffering, isolation, and despair into a reality that the Lord has prepared for them—a home filled with love, hope, support, encouragement, and most importantly, filled with His presence, mantled in the loving protection of our Lady.



Fr. J.J. Mech incensing Our Lord.

We praise the Lord for the gift of this new home and for all those who made it possible. Before moving, Mary's Mantle Board of Directors decided it was important to host three days of Eucharistic Adoration at our new home to rededicate the ministry, our work, and to pray for the moms and babies whom we have been blessed to serve. What a powerful time of prayer it proved to be.

We remain in Southfield only a few miles from our previous location, but our new setting is a slice of heaven on earth. Mornings include deer roaming in the back yard and birds singing, all nestled on two acres of pure serenity. Our new home will allow each mom to have her own bedroom, in addition there will be much more space for class instruction, counseling, and fellowship. We can more fully live the mission which God has blessed us with.

We thank you for your generous support and ask for your continued prayers. We also ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation to assist with the purchase of the new house and all the moving expenses. Mary's Mantle is truly making a difference in our local community...one soul at a time.

Beth Collison, Board Member

No child should ever lose their life because of poverty, inside or outside of the womb.



Fr. J.J. Mech blessing Mary's Mantle with Pam Pipas.



Keepsakes of the Kingdom

November 7, 2015

At Sacred Heart Major Seminary

5:00pm Holy Mass with Bishop Hanchon officiating

Buffet, Silent and Live Auction

\$55 per person or \$250 for a table of 8



Mary's Mantle has three new sets of notecards for sale by local artist Marianne Boukamp.

Pack of 7 is \$10

Available at Faith@Work
1977 East Wattles, Troy, MI

Volunteering at Mary's Mantle

As we rejoice in Christ risen over the Easter season, I can't help but think of all the ways in which we experience new life again and again at Mary's Mantle. There is certainly the obvious – the cry of the newborn baby in one of our mother's arms. It is a sight and sound that never grows old. If we look beyond the birth of our new babies, though, we can see so many other ways life is breathed into the ministry of Mary's Mantle. Whether it is a kind word of encouragement, the sacrifice of time to spend with the ladies in residence, the sharing of knowledge and wisdom with a new mom, the prayers for our mission, or the sweat and labor that has gone into making it possible for us to relocate to a new home – our volunteers and donors are constantly bringing new life into our midst. For your faithfulness, we are deeply grateful.

We have recently launched a dedicated website to make it easier to interact with our volunteers. You can find all the forms you need to keep your volunteer records current, ideas on how you can help Mary's Mantle, and updates on our program and needs. If you haven't visited the site, please take some time to stop by. The website is <http://marysmantlevolunteers.blogspot.com>. You will see some new

things coming for volunteers once we are settled from the move. Thank you again for your service to Mary's Mantle.

Rakhi McCormick,
Coordinator of Volunteer Services & Spiritual Formation



Bishop Foley Teens helping out at Mary's Mantle

"Well Done Good and Faithful Servant..." Matthew 25:21

The Lord blesses each of us with gifts and talents, and these talents have been in full bloom the last few months as we prepare to move the ministry to our new home. The Board members of Mary's Mantle are once again astonished, filled with joy and gratitude and inspired as we see so many of you become a part of this next chapter of Mary's Mantle. Under the coordination of project manager Mike Merlo, construction engineer Terry Hanigan and our staff, the new Mary's Mantle residence has been transformed and waiting the arrival of our most precious residents. Dozens of faith filled men and women have donated their talents, time, treasures, and prayers in so many ways to ensure that this new house becomes a welcoming home. Everything from donations, advice, ideas, doors & locks, window treatments, landscaping, painting, dry walling, electric, ceilings, packers, movers, furniture, snow removal, setting up utilities, and cleaning. The tasks are many, those of you contributing seem endless. It is so important that each of you know that you have placed your personal mark of love; in this home, you are indeed family. We sincerely thank each and every one of you.

Barry Doherty– Board President



Natzke family praying.



Mike Merlo and Terry Hanigan



St. Hugo's Ladies of Charity

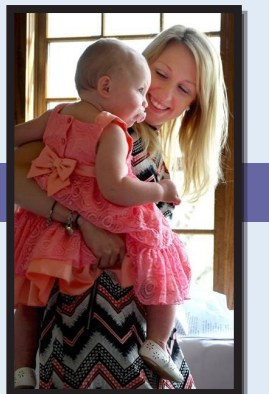
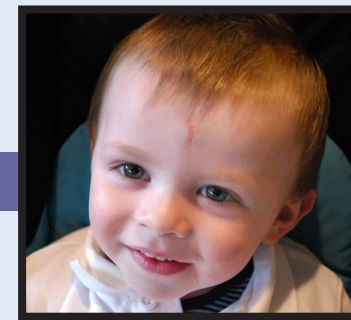
Mary's Mantle After Care Program

Our After Care (AC) program was born out of the acknowledged need of our women after they leave the safe haven of the Mary's Mantle Residential Program. Given the ordinary challenges of society and with only old, sometimes unhealthy relationships to depend on, our women found it very difficult to practice the new positive skills that they had learned in the Residential Program. AC is a way for us to support them as they continue their journey into independent, self-sustaining lives.

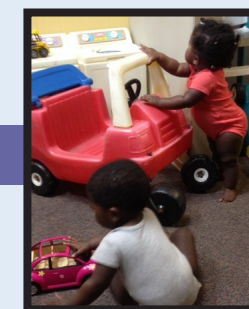
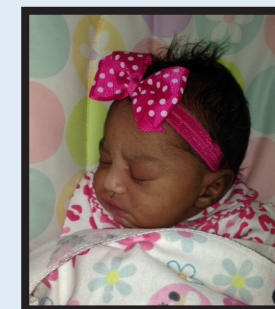
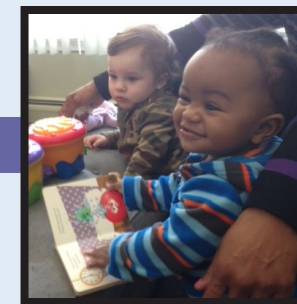
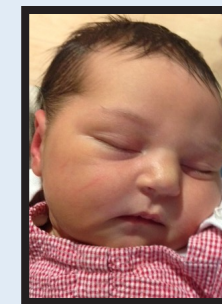
While the focus of the Residential Program is to assist them in the transition into motherhood, it is the focus of AC to assist them in maintaining their self-sufficiency and enable them to help their child(ren) to develop appropriately until the child is ready to enter Kindergarten. We are committed to the healthy development of each child by ensuring the continued support of the mother through education and empowerment to raise her child in a dignified manner.

One of the ways we do this is through our play groups. Part of our time together is spent in reviewing short DVD videos involving *Love and Logic* strategies, then we discuss current frustrations, and facilitate discussion on handling their children in stressful situations. After these sessions we spend more time with the toddlers all together and try practicing some of the new strategies before going home and continuing with new parenting skills. A secondary, but equally powerful piece of these play groups, is networking. These mothers are often still isolated from positive influences and socializing with and coming to trust and rely on each other (other moms who have been through what they have and have the same struggles) is a great comfort. We help them form bonds with each other so that they have a support group within themselves. It is a beautiful thing to see moms support one another and grow together while their children play and learn social skills.

Monica-Bihar-Natzke—After Care Coordinator



Mary's Mantle After Care Program



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