

MARCH 2017

# Mary's Mantle

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

Dear Mary's Mantle Supporters,

While Spring has not quite fully peaked here in Michigan, I am eagerly anticipating that it will be here soon! We await for the beautiful property around Mary's Mantle to turn green, watch the flowers bloom, and spend some time outside!

Despite the cold, the women in residence have been hard at work this winter. Two of our women recently finished an eight week continuing education course in nursing, and another young woman just secured a job at a day care! Our case manager works one-on-one with them each day of the week to help them set and achieve their goals. Our moms are always working hard, and we are very proud of their accomplishments!

The moms in our After Care program have been busy as well. All women in the program have regular home visits from their Mary's Mantle worker, who helps them continue to set and achieve goals once they move out of the residential program. Recently, one of our After Care moms received a promotion to a management position at the direct care company where she works. Two other moms have enrolled in courses to further their education. Yet another mom secured a new job and purchased her own vehicle.

While we are always focused on and committed to achieving these "concrete" goals, helping the

women set spiritual goals remains equally important in the work that we do.

As we entered this Lenten season, our Spiritual Coordinator spent time in prayer to develop a Lenten experience for all of our



moms. Using the principals of "Fast, Pray, Give," she developed three images with ten ideas each for ways to practice fasting, praying or giving. They are simple suggestions, such as fasting from smartphone use, giving compliments, or praying for others in need. What we want our moms to know is that Lent is for THEM - it is for all of us. Lent can be powerful for

anyone who is open to it, even using the most simple principles. John 10:10 says "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." We want our women to understand that Jesus died for them, and all of us, so that we can all share in the fullness of the life that He intended for us.

*"I have come  
that you may  
have life and  
have it to the  
full."*

- John 10:10

As always, we thank each of you for the support of our ministry. We say it often, but we simply could not do the work that we do without each of you.

Blessings,

Katie Montes,  
Executive Director



Mary's Mantle 

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Friends of Mary's Mantle,

He would be seven years old. He probably would be sitting in a second grade classroom today, exploring new sports, learning new things, and running around the playground. This is the heartbreak of abortion, he will never have those experiences and his mother and father will forever grieve his loss. But because our God is a God of redemption and a God of hope - his life, though he never took a breath, has born great fruit.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> Mary's Mantle will celebrate our 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We praise God for calling us to this work. We thank God for the 55 beautiful women and children we have been blessed to serve. We honor the baby whose death inspired our mission and we ask God for His continued blessing on our work. Seven years later, Mary's Mantle continues to be a ministry rooted in the love of Jesus Christ. Seven years later, Mary's Mantle continues to care for the temporal needs of our moms and babies while nurturing their souls.

This Lent please consider adding us to your daily prayers. Prayer is the catalyst for real change. Prayer has made all this possible. Prayer is the greatest gift you can give our moms, children, staff and board. Thank you for your continued spiritual support and for all the other ways you assist us in living our mission.

Lastly, as I step into the role of president of the board I want to thank Barry Doherty who served in this capacity for nearly 5 years. Barry's dedication, faithfulness and hard work were a tremendous blessing to the organization. He is man of great virtue and we are all blessed by his example.

Beth Collison  
Mary's Mantle Board President

## MARY'S MANTLE AFTER CARE PROGRAM (MM-AC)

Greetings from After Care!

My name is Catina Polk and I became the After Care Coordinator in November 2016. The previous Coordinator, Monica Bihar-Natzke, remains involved as an After Care Case Manager and I am grateful for her support and knowledge as I learn my role. Monica continues to be a beautiful blessing the Mary's Mantle ministry.

As many of you know, the After Care Program at Mary's Mantle offers support to our moms until their baby reaches the age of five. Any woman who has completed the Mary's Mantle residential program can enroll in the After Care Program.

There are many areas of focus in the After Care Program; however, continuing education, employment, parenting, and spirituality remain at the top of our program goals. We know that through Christ all things are possible. Therefore, keeping Christ at the forefront of our services is key in all that we do. As we enter this Lenten season, we continue to teach the women in After Care the importance of prayer in their daily lives. We believe that encouraging them to be believers in the Word will give them stronger stability in all other aspects of their lives.

I am sincerely grateful to be a part of the Mary's Mantle family. The women that we have the privilege to serve are extremely brave and loving. I have a deep admiration for them as they have all decided to choose LIFE, despite the different adversities they have faced. Thus, we have made it our responsibility to assist in their success. The scripture says, "the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:4-5). At Mary's Mantle, we truly understand that every life has value and is a blessing from God. Therefore, we cherish the ability to serve, and we do it with a pure and open heart.

Sincerely,

Catina Polk  
After Care Coordinator

**CONSECRATE THEM IN TRUTH.  
YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.  
-JOHN 17:17**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: "THE OLGC LADIES"

Over the last three years, a group of women from Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth (who have become affectionately known as the "OLGC Ladies") has been dedicating their hearts, time, and culinary skills to serve the women and children of Mary's Mantle.

What began as an earnest desire to share the love of Jesus with the women in residence through their acts of service has turned into a monthly opportunity for the moms of Mary's Mantle to relax and enjoy a delicious dinner, fellowship, and prayer with sisters in Christ - something they all look

forward to each month!

This dedicated and loving group of volunteers celebrates the mothers who live under our roof. Whether it is a bouquet of flowers when babies are born, visiting mothers when they are hospital or bed bound, or just offering words of encouragement and a moment of rest, the love of Christ is tangibly present through their unconditional love, kindness, and selfless service. Thank you, one and all - we are blessed beyond measure by you!

*Please join us at our next two events!*

### True Beauty Breakfast



We are pleased to welcome Jaxon Buell's parents as our speakers this year. Jaxon's life and story is a powerful witness to the dignity of every life, and will inspire us all to live our lives with at least as much beauty and purpose.

Cost: \$35.00

Register On-Line at [www.MarysMantle.net](http://www.MarysMantle.net) by May 1

Reserve a Table of 10 by calling 248.475.0158

5/13/2017

Addison Oaks

1840 West Romeo Road

Leonard MI 48367

For more information

contact

Maureen Dierkes

248.475.0158



4th Annual  
*Mary's Mantle Golf Outing*  
Saturday, June 17, 2017



Registration 7:00 AM  
Shotgun Start 8:00 AM

\$125.00 per golfer

\$500.00 per foursome

Sponsorship opportunities available

To register or for more information,

visit [www.marysmantle.net](http://www.marysmantle.net)

Questions? Contact Katie Montes at  
[Katie.montes@MarysMantle.net](mailto:Katie.montes@MarysMantle.net)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Linda Franklin**  
Support Staff

**Ellexia Stokes**  
Support Staff



Mary's Mantle♥

P.O. BOX 115  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303  
248-376-5338



### 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) • [MARYS.MANTLE@COMCAST.NET](mailto:MARYS.MANTLE@COMCAST.NET)

## LENTEN DRIVE

Share your Lent with the women and children of Mary's Mantle.

As we prepare to focus and grow in our fasting, praying, and almsgiving during these forty days, consider offering part of your Lenten sacrifices for Mary's Mantle. Here are some ways you can pray, fast, and give with our ministry in mind.

### LENT 2017



WITH MARY'S MANTLE

PRAY  
FOR OUR MOMS

Sound sleep & energy  
Consolation & peace  
Wisdom & good discernment  
Solid community of support  
Conviction of Truth & Self-Worth  
Good health  
Joy & healing  
Mercy & forgiveness  
Financial providence  
Stable housing  
Gainful, long-term employment

FAST  
FROM

Buying coffee  
Sweets  
Television  
Social Media  
Gossip  
Meat  
Soda and/or all non-water drinks  
Shopping for non-staple items  
Online Shopping  
Snacking  
Eating out

GIVE  
TO OUR MOMS

#### EXAMPLES OF HOW YOUR DONATION(S) MAY BE USED:

\$5 to provide one meal  
\$10 Bus fare to work or school  
\$20 Formula for a week  
\$25 items for the babies at Mary's Mantle  
\$50 Spiritually adopt a resident  
\$75 to fill the gas tanks of the MM vehicles  
\$100 for a week of groceries at the house  
\$250 toward a month of utilities at the house  
\$500 to sponsor 1 week of After Care program  
Please visit [www.marysmantle.net](http://www.marysmantle.net) to donate.