

APRIL 2016

Mary's Mantle

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



Greetings Mary's Mantle Supporters!

As signs of Spring are peeking out all around us, I am reminded of the beautiful gift of new life. Here at Mary's Mantle, we are gearing up to greet two new babies this spring. What a wonderful blessing they will be to all those that come to know them. Each of their moms have been busy preparing for their birth, and it is an exciting time for all of our women and staff!

While we joyfully celebrate every new baby that enters our home, we know that the work we do with our women before and after their baby is born is equally important. For this reason, Mary's Mantle is very committed to having a personalized program that each of our women follow. Our hope and prayer is that every woman that departs from Mary's Mantle leaves in a stronger position than when they came. We want our women to leave with lifelong change that will continue to follow them once they are on their own.



First, we want to establish or strengthen each woman's love for Jesus Christ. As believers, we know that lifelong change has to start with Him. Our women come from all walks of faith, and our Spiritual Coordinator meets

with them after they arrive to begin this journey. We start where they are, at their own personal comfort level. All of our women spend time daily in morning and evening prayer, participate in Bible Study, and attend church services on Sundays. We want to create an open and loving environment where they can learn about God's love.

Programming continues as our Case Manager works with each woman to form educational and vocational goals. This may include GED or college classes, job readiness skills, internship opportunities, resumé writing, job searches and interview preparation. The Case Manager works with the women to help them create budgets and learn money management skills. Our goal is for each woman to leave here with a job and budget in place that will meet her needs, and those of her baby.

*Blessed is she
who has believed
that the Lord
would fulfill His
promises to her.*

Luke 1:45

Programming also includes classes on various topics such as Nutrition, Parenting Skills, Self-Esteem, Relationship Building, Cooking, Home Maintenance, and Spiritual Growth. Again, our hope is that each woman leaves with skills that they may have never been taught before. We ensure that each woman's emotional and health needs are being met through regular therapy and medical appointments.

We know that the Lord has big plans for each woman that we serve, and we are happy to walk alongside her in her journey. With our generous supporters, committed staff, and board members, we are able to offer each woman so much more than simply a place to sleep. Thank you for your continued prayers for our ministry and the women and babies we serve.

Blessings,

Katie Montes
Executive Director

Mary's Mantle 

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CINDY GAUS



Since the summer of 2013, Cindy Gaus has been a regular volunteer at Mary's Mantle, helping an average of 5-10 hours per week. Cindy has quietly worked behind the scenes to help our ministry, serving the women God brings our way. Cindy manages our donor software, is

on the Keepsakes of the Kingdom fundraising committee, and oversees the design, printing, and sales of the Mary's Mantle greeting cards. She often volunteers for special projects, like assisting our After Care Program in sorting and organizing their donation room. Her generosity has enriched the lives of the women who are with us, though they have rarely known how much she has done and given.

We thank you, Cindy, from the bottom of our hearts!

"Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 19:14

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

To be pro-life means so much to us at Mary's Mantle. For us, being pro-LIFE means supporting our women and babies far beyond just the birth of the baby. The women we are called to serve are parents; they work, they pray, and they need food and encouragement. The After-Care program supports our women to be the best possible parents to these beautiful souls that God created.

Some people say, "You are where you come from." Yet, each of our women struggles every day to overcome their past, and most of them are succeeding with our support. However, Mary's Mantle does not offer a hand-out; we provide a hand up.

We are there to fill in the gaps of need for the mom in Detroit who takes four buses to get to her job and works a full day, yet still doesn't have enough money to buy diapers at the end of the week. We are a hand up to this family who struggles and works hard, but is still unable to make ends meet.

When another mom across town gets laid off from a full time job and loses her home while she searches for a new job, Mary's Mantle is there to help her find temporary shelter for herself and two children. We are there to support her with food, clothing and necessities, until one of her interviews pan out. We are a hand up to this mother, to help keep her babies safe and to keep her focused on standing on her own feet again.

A mom recently explained that she "was making it" but still felt alone. "Have you ever been with your kids, safe in your own home, but felt alone?" Isolation is a difficult thing to overcome. MM-AC visits these moms and babies to help alleviate this. Many of our alumni are thankful for our free counselors who provide additional mental health support.

Other mothers are now more established with homes, jobs, and transportation of their own. For these mothers, we offer support through helping them focus on growth and family goals. Some of them wish to focus on job skills; in those cases, our home visitors may go through interviewing techniques and dealing with conflict at work, while also pointing them toward classes in the community. Some are working to pay off bills or buy a car; home visitors help them develop a financial plan and saving schedule.

There are no handouts here, but instead an earned hand up - no matter what that looks like for the individual family. At MM-AC, we have learned firsthand that being pro-life not only means supporting the birth of the baby, but that the child's LIFE is precious. We are determined to be the vessels from which the love of Jesus and Mary flows into their lives, assuring that they will have a good beginning.

Monica Bihar-Natzke
After-Care Coordinator

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As a play on What Would Jesus Do, I like to ponder What Did Jesus Do (WDJD)? And, more simply, what did He do through the normal course of the day with His disciples?

We know they did lots of walking, probably spent most meals together, enjoyed silly banter, certainly fished, sought shelter and warmth from the weather, and watched sunrises and sunsets together. But all in all, Jesus spent time with His disciples, talked with them, told the greatest stories, challenged them, encouraged them, offered them tough love, and sowed seeds in their hearts that would continue to grow their faith and sustain them in their journey after He went to join His Father in heaven.

For Mary's Mantle this is, in fact, the same model that we strive to use. Through our programs with our residents, we seek to engage the women on a

daily basis, providing them with life tools that help to build a foundation of dignity and confidence that will last beyond the doors of Mary's Mantle. Our programs not only exist during their stay at Mary's Mantle, but for years following through our After-Care program.

As with the disciples, fishing for men was something they learned through grace and their walk with Jesus; so, too, do our mothers learn to understand their precious dignity, and start to embrace joy and hope through the ministry of Mary's Mantle, the presence of our blessed mother, and the grace of God. Because this is what Jesus did, I think that is what He'd do.

In His Peace,
Barry Doherty
248-410-9916



*Precious children
of Mary's Mantle*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barry Doherty, President
Becky Reynolds, Vice President
James Kempa, Treasurer
Mary Anne Napolitano, Secretary
Father JJ Mech, Chaplain
Beth Collison
Deacon Don Baross
Deacon Dom Pastore
Lynn Coburn

STAFF MEMBERS

Katie Montes, Executive Director
Michelle Collier, House Manager
Joanna Willis, Case Manager
Beverly Anglin, House Mother
Angela Clark, Temporary House Mother
Monica Bihar-Natzke, After Care Coordinator
Rakhi McCormick, Volunteer & Spiritual Coordinator
Katie Morasso, Support Staff
Claire Horton, Support Staff
Pat Parker, 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 • MARYS.MANTLE@COMCAST.NET

Mark your calendar



Mary's Mantle Golf Outing
Saturday June 18, 2016

Inn at St. Johns Plymouth

Shotgun Start at 8:00 AM

\$125.00 Per Golfer

\$500.00 Foursome

Register online at

www.marysmantle.net

Call for more information:
248-376-5338

Hole and Other Sponsorship
Opportunities Available