



### Mission Statement

*"Mary's Shelter saves lives by empowering and equipping homeless pregnant young women for lives of dignity, hope and self-sufficiency."*

# Mary's Shelter

*"Saving lives two at a time."*

*Resident Care for Young Pregnant Women*

*Spring 2013*

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As Easter fast approaches, we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you what has been happening at Mary's Shelter as well as wish you and your family a blessed Easter season!

We have been keeping very busy at the Shelter! As you know, Florida has a short season when all the "snowbirds" return and so it is a busy time of the year for fundraising for all charities in our area. Inside this newsletter we will share with you all the work we have done in order to keep Mary's Shelter up and running, as well as up-date you on what has been happening in the lives of our residents, current and past.

We do not receive any money from the government. We rely solely on the generosity and prayers of people in our community who support us financially as well as those who give of their time and talents to carry out our mission; saving lives, two at a time! We invite all of you to come by anytime just to see the shelter you support or if you are interested in getting involved, to find out what the opportunities are. Our needs are many and we love to show people how their money is being used and how hard our residents work so that they can become independent, responsible members of society. On any given day you will see classes going on at the Shelter, be it parenting classes, sewing or budgeting and finance. You might stop by to find only staff at home because our residents are either at school or volunteering somewhere in the community. You never know unless you stop in! You are more than welcome.

Please pray for us as we pray for you and have a very blessed Easter!

Gina S. Thompson

Executive Director



# Mary's Shelter... Saving lives two at a time

## Shelter News

Things here at Mary's Shelter are busy! We had a new baby boy born in January 2013. Cute as a button!!!



We have five residents right now, two of which are completing their final classes in order to receive their college degrees; one in cosmetology and one in the culinary arts! Needless to say we have all put on a few pounds here at the shelter as our culinary student brings home all her projects from school.

We just helped two more women enroll in college and will begin their first semester in April. We are very excited to have so many of our residents enrolled in college. We also have one resident working hard to complete her GED so that she will be able to join everyone is attaining a college degree. Our residents are busy working on educational goals, as well as our life skills program which includes birthing and parenting classes, classes in breastfeeding, budgeting, decision making, sewing and so on.

Two of our residents have just moved in to the "nursery" rooms, which means their due dates are fast approaching. We are looking forward to having a full house!!!

We love when former residents of Mary's Shelter stop in to give us an up-date. Especially when they bring their children and we can see how much they have grown since moving out. Lately we have seen quite a few. We continue to help those young women who we consider our own in any way we can.

## Volunteer Support

Mary's Shelter is presently looking for a volunteer bookkeeper. At this time we are also interviewing candidates for our volunteer board of directors. If you are interested in either of these positions, please call our board president, Nick Grubbs, at 772 287-3570.

We wish to thank our many volunteers that help us on a daily basis. We are so blessed to be able to give our residents exposure to the many talented volunteers that assist us with programs and teach the life skills.

*David from Healthy Start* is doing a program on parenting and provides support through a law forum.

*Stephanie from Grace Place* teaches a weekly Step Study program.

*Jack from Magellan Health Services* is teaching Loving and Caring.

*Courtney from American Debt* provides support with credit issues and debt management.

*Nancy* is teaching the women to sew. They currently are working on pillowcases for a hospital for children with cancer.

*Linda* is showing the women how to make beautiful jewelry.

*Pam and Christine* cook weekly.

*Gaston* teaches a weekly bible study.

*Jodi from Workforce* does a class on breastfeeding and helps with job placement.

*Yvonne and Kim from Walgreens* teach a class on nutrition.



## Fundraising News

**The Third Annual Mary's Shelter Golf Tournament** was scheduled for December 14, 2012. We were so disappointed on the morning of the tournament, when Willoughby had to cancel the! It had rained pretty heavily during the week leading up the tournament but even as late as the night before we had our fingers crossed. At about 4am, a thunder storm rolled in to town and we knew at that point we would have to cancel; the course was just too wet! We want to thank all of you for your understanding. Almost no one asked for a refund but the disappointment for everyone involved was huge. All local golfers were offered a credit at Willoughby. We thank all the sponsors and golfers for supporting Mary's Shelter and making the event a financial success.



**The Third Annual Mary's Shelter Fashion Show** was held Tuesday, January 22, 2013. What a great success! With over 230 women in attendance, and Kelly Dunne of Chanel 5 news as our mistress of ceremonies, we all had a nice time and raised a



great deal of money for our cause. We were entertained by Opus, the choral group from Martin County High School, we shopped at vendor tables and had a silent auction. We offered attendees an opportunity to become an "angel" of Mary's Shelter and lots of people jumped at the chance. It was a great luncheon.

**First Annual Mary's Shelter Evening Event "Live, Love and Laugh!"** was held at the Sailfish Country Club on Sunday, March 3, 2013. What a night!!!! We started the evening with cocktails and a very up-scale Chinese auction. Winners left with some very nice and different items. We then had a lovely dinner and heard about



Mary's Shelter, its mission and how our program works. We heard and met a former resident who has left Mary's

Shelter and is making it on her own. We ended the evening with some great entertainment from Jimmy Keyes!!!! You won't want to miss this event next year.

## Thrift Store News

The Thrift Store is always looking for new volunteers who are interested in working 3 to 4 hour shifts, one to two times a week. It is a great atmosphere, friendly staff and lots of fun!! Please stop by anytime, if you might be interested.

We are always looking for donations. We offer free furniture pick-up. Just call 772-220-7888.

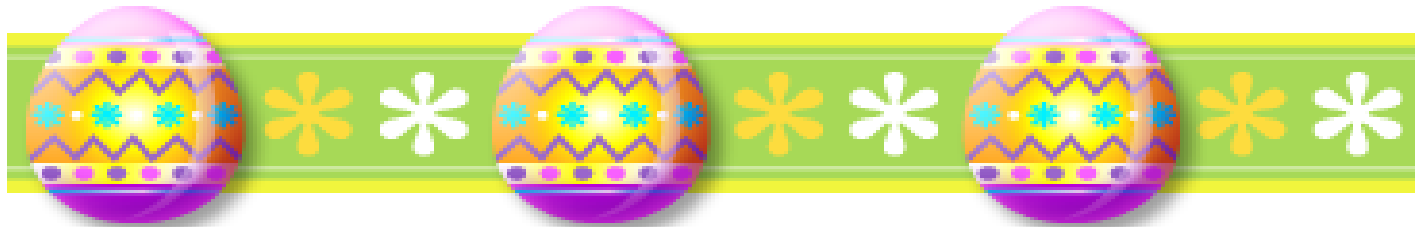
Thank you to all who give of your time and talent and to all those that have donated in the past.

*Our web site is now up and running!  
We hope that you will visit it often so we can keep you informed. Contact us at [info@maryssheltert.org](mailto:info@maryssheltert.org)  
or by phone at 772-223-5000*



P.O. Box 958 • Stuart, FL 34995

Please Forward



*Save the date...*

## **The Knights of Columbus**

Are hosting a golf tournament to benefit Mary's Shelter

Please join us on Monday, April 15th at The Yacht and Country Club in Stuart

Shot gun format, 4 person scramble

Fee: \$100/golfer, \$400/foursome

Includes full up-scale breakfast 7:45- 8:45am, Green fees, Cart, Driving Range,

Sleeve of golf balls, plus an Awards Luncheon after Golf at the

Knights of Columbus in Stuart. Lunch by Enricos Catering plus Beer & Soda

Make checks payable to Knights of Columbus #6241

Mail your checks to Knights of Columbus #6241 - Attn: Ron Robinson

7251 SW Gaines Avenue, Stuart, FL 34997

Call the Council for an entry form at 772 286-7507 or Ron at 772 781-5023