



# Mary's Shelter

*"Saving lives two at a time."*

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Resident Care for Young Pregnant Women

Fall 2017

## Dear Friends,

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to share with you all the news at Mary's Shelter! We have six women in our home and four babies. We are awaiting the arrival of two more babies any day. One of our residents gave birth to twin girls. This will be the first time we have had six babies in our home at the same time. We will need volunteers to assist us around the house as all our new mom's will be on "maternity leave" which means their main focus for the first two weeks after giving birth will be to bond with their new child. Household chores of cooking and cleaning will take a back seat as these new mom's help their infants to get their days and nights figured out, settle into routines and start to feel back to normal. If you are interested in helping us with household chores during this temporary period of time, please call us and we will get you on our schedule.



Born 9 lbs 8 oz

One of our newest residents born August 29th

Inside this newsletter you will read, in their own words, some of the things these women have accomplished while they have been in our care. From spiritual healing to career readiness, Mary's Shelter endeavors to meet women where they are when they come through our door and support and empower them in all aspects of their lives, to become the best version of themselves. Through God's grace and guidance, we see our residents' lives begin to transform and blossom and that's what makes Mary's Shelter so unique. We may not touch hundreds of lives each year, but the lives we do touch are changed dramatically and these changes will impact not only the woman but her child and the generations to come.

In addition to all the babies coming home, we are also working on both the inside and outside of our newly purchased home. As you will read inside this newsletter, with the help of many volunteers, we have a new workspace for our residents and staff including newly painted walls, cubicles and flooring. It took a village of people to support us in this project, but it is almost complete and it looks great. On the outside of our home there will be a new brick paver walkway and lots of tree trimming in our parking lot and all around our home. Many of our donors have purchased bricks and had them engraved for family members, friends or in memory of loved ones who have passed away. If you would like to purchase a brick and have it engraved, please contact us and we will send you the order forms.

Please continue to keep Mary's Shelter's residents, their babies and our staff and volunteers in your prayers. We look forward to this up-coming season, our seasonal volunteers returning and our fundraising events. Please mark your calendars with the dates for our upcoming events listed on the back of this newsletter.

## Shelter Resident News

It has been an enjoyable summer for our residents who have been able to enjoy the beach outings with our weekend resident advisors. Our mentor program has been established and we are so grateful for the volunteers who have stepped in to be a part of our residents' support system and they continue to build their partnership through community resources, life skills and spiritual guidance. Over the past few months, we have completed the Armor of God series during bible study & preparing for baby certificate. Guest speakers have presented car seat safety & family reading resources. In the near future, our guest speakers will provide information on identity theft and internet safety. Residents have been challenged to work on forgiveness, communication and their purpose while at Mary's shelter for the quarter. Now, the residents will share with you what they have accomplished since they have arrived "in their own words"....

“Mary's shelter has helped me in the past month with my GED testing and getting everything I need to pass the test. Mary's shelter has also helped me acquire the baby items and supplies I need for when my baby arrives. My future goals are to finish my GED and take courses to become a vet tech. Which I'm very excited about, I have plenty experience from volunteering at the treasure coast wild life hospital and I've learned a lot of new things ...my mentor has also helped and supported me by getting me out into the community and learn about my surroundings that I now call home.”



“I am in the process of working on my GED and I have always wanted to be a horse trainer. Mary's Shelter has given me the opportunity to have connections within the community to hopefully achieve my career goal. I have struggled with anxiety which has been an enabler for me in the past and grateful for the counseling services offered at the shelter. I want to personally thank my mentor for taking time out of her day to help motivate me to get out of the shelter and listening to me without being judgmental.”



“Mary's Shelter has been a life saver. In the past month, my baby and I have had the opportunity to spend quality amounts of time together as we bond and the staff here at the shelter have been very accommodating in making sure I have everything I need for my new baby. While it's important for mommy and baby to establish a routine, all the advisors have been helpful”

## Community Outreach



Sheila Carpenter & Gina Thompson

It has been a busy end to summer and beginning of fall. Mary's Shelter was invited to present at the Sexual Assault Response Team meeting, our Outreach Director educated members on Mary's Shelter programs, answered questions and learned a lot about the services the SART team provides to help victims of sexual assault in our community. Mary's Shelter's outreach efforts reach five counties in our area (Martin, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Indian River and Okeechobee) to market our programs to these communities and seek resources for our residents. We have established very helpful community partnerships that have increased opportunities and resources for our residents. This increases their successful transition to self-sufficiency. Sheila Carpenter (*pictured left presenting Gina Thompson with a check*) and the Port Salerno Church of God's Women's Ministry raised funds for Mary's Shelter. We are blessed to have the support of their Women's Ministry. We are reaching out to you to ask you contact us if you, your business or a club you belong to would like Mary's to come make a presentation or if you'd like to come (individual or group) for a tour to learn more,. Please help us make these connections—contact Madeleine at [madeleine@MarysShelterTC.org](mailto:madeleine@MarysShelterTC.org) or phone 772-223-5000 .

# Shelter Resident News (continued)

with assisting me with all our needs and offering support whenever needed. My goal now is to continue to look for employment in the medical field and secure a promising job that can help me advance my career. As I am finishing up some remaining classes here in Mary's Shelter's program, I am looking forward to being part of our community. I venture into my independence knowing I will have the continued support of everyone here at Mary's Shelter. I'd like to thank some of the volunteers that have always been so kind to me in making me feel welcome and a part of the Mary's Shelter family, Diane R., Nancy P., and Little Christine. Thank you ladies so much for being here for all of us new mothers."

“Mary's Shelter has helped me prepare for the birth of my baby providing necessary supplies. They have also given me shelter, which helps in many ways; as in lifting a huge burden off of myself so I can focus on my baby and own health. My future goals are to obtain financial & housing stability. Additionally, being a productive member of society.”

“Mary's Shelter has assisted me this past month with my spiritual and emotional growth. With the help I've received so far I have come to the realization that I am worthy and capable of parenting. With the help and support of my new and loving community family I have the confidence knowing I am not alone. I'm currently working on healing from past hurts. I've also been working on renewing my Esthetics license and looking forward to returning to the workforce. Mary's Shelter has been a major force in helping me restore my faith in God and His people. Through this ministry I have been blessed to connect with Donna Gardner who has such a beautiful and caring soul. She's been able to guide and hold my hand through the process of giving and receiving forgiveness. “

“We would like to welcome our new mom in shelter who is due September 4<sup>th</sup>. She is currently training to become employed through Express Scripts. Our newest mom has her GED and would like to focus on her business degree. In addition, this would help her to own a business with her passion for photography.”



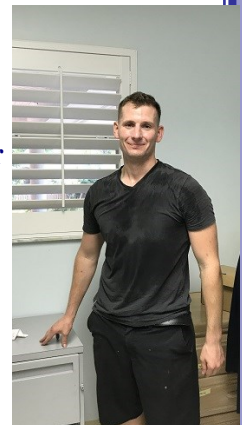
Volunteer Lois McGuire reads from her book "Don't Be That Kid" to shelter residents

## Volunteer Support

Welcome to our newest volunteers since our last newsletter: Kathleen, Eric (pictured right), William, Michael, Lucia, Becky and Tony! We appreciate you joining our team and looking forward to working together!

Lois McGuire, Author of the book 'Don't Be that Kid', came to the shelter and read her book to the residents and followed with a discussion session about positive parenting, setting goals for your family from the start. The girls completed an activity from the accompanying workbook, creating a family crest highlighting future goals for their new family. Lois is also a volunteer grant writer for Mary's Shelter.

Special thanks to the Martin County Chamber of Commerce for donating office furniture to Mary's Shelter! Thank you to John Nielsen and to Jim O'Hara and the parishioners in St. Mary's Parish in Pahokee, Gilbert and Franz, for helping with the pickup and delivery of the furniture to the shelter. Thanks to Patrick Stracuzzi from Remax Realty in Stuart for letting us borrow a truck for moving the furniture and Christine Mulrooney from NisAir provided temporary storage for the furniture we will use at a later date! We appreciate



## Save the Date!



**Dedication of  
Mary's Shelter**  
Bishop Barbarito  
November 9, 2017  
3:30 PM



**Fashion Show**  
January 16, 2018

Be sure we have your e-mail so you will receive our early e-mail invitations and on-line registration opportunity. Contact: [madeleine@MarysShelterTC.org](mailto:madeleine@MarysShelterTC.org)



**Annual Gala**  
March 3, 2018

**Mission Statement** "Mary's Shelter saves lives by providing a transitional, caring, educational, spiritual and supportive housing environment for pregnant women and their babies offering a pathway to self-sufficiency and a life of dignity and respect."



P.O. Box 958 Stuart, FL 34996

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## Volunteer News

Continued



volunteers Laurie and Renee (shown in photo above) for all their hard work prepping and painting our program room, it looks beautiful!!

Thank you to our volunteers that are on a recurring weekly schedule to cover reception and help with admin and other needs: Renee, Rose, Carol, Eileen, Helen, Laurie, Christine, Nancy, Sue, Julie and Jessica! We are looking forward to our seasonal volunteers that will be returning to Florida in the next few months. All of our volunteers are true blessings to both staff and residents, and we thank you so much for your love and support! Please contact Kim Gaudet regarding volunteer opportunities at 772-223-5000 or email: [kim@maryssheltertc.org](mailto:kim@maryssheltertc.org)

## Thrift Store

WOW Customers are thrilled with the "New Look" at Mary's Shelter Thrift. The reaction, especially from our numerous repeat customers, has been positively wonderful. Once again, we thank our volunteer board members and volunteers from local AT&T stores.

During these long hot summer days 14 Non-Profit Thrifts sponsored the Summer Thrift Shop Hop! August 17, 18, and 19th. Customers visited each shop, received store discounts, and had a chance to win \$100. Lots of thrifting fun for all!! Mary's Shelter relies on proceeds from our Thrift Store to help keep our shelter programs running smoothly. Please donate your gently used items to Mary's Shelter Thrifts inventory and don't forget to stop by and shop at our Thrift!!

**STORE PHONE**—772-220-7888 **LOCATION**—Downtown Stuart—410 S. Colorado Ave. Like us on *Facebook*, search MarysShelterThrift.

**Newsletter On-Line** If you would like to receive the electronic version of our newsletter via e-mail instead of the printed newsletter, please contact the shelter. This will help us cut down on printing and postage costs. Call 772-223-5000 or e-mail: [madeleine@MarysShelterTC.org](mailto:madeleine@MarysShelterTC.org)