



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

Summer 2014

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Dear Friends,

Summer is upon us and Mary's Shelter's staff and volunteers are very busy. Unlike many other places in our area, things do not slow down during the summer months. Women are still moving in and babies are due to arrive in June, July and August.



Since my last up-date in March, I'm am pleased to announce the birth of three new babies. All boys. All born healthy and happy. They have all moved out and begun their new lives.

One of the babies was adopted into a loving home in Boston while her mom has gone on to finish her education and return to her family and friends.



As you know, our mission here at Mary's Shelter is to provide a safe and supportive place for women who found themselves in their situation of an un-planned pregnancy but know in their hearts that they cannot end a life. Mary's Shelter supports women in whatever choices they make, whether it is to parent their child or place their child in a new home through adoption.

To all of you who have been so passionately dedicated to our mission — I extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued support. We could not carry out our mission of saving lives, two at a time if it were not for the generous hearts of people like you. One of the things that makes working at Mary's Shelter so fulfilling are the many people who knock on our door to give of their time and treasure. I have had the pleasure of meeting some of the most loving, non-judgmental and giving people I've ever known in my life.

As always, please keep us in your prayers and have a wonderful and peaceful summer. Stop by anytime if you are interested in knowing more about our program, want to see how you can get involved, or have something you want to share with our residents. Our supporters are always welcome in our home.

Gina S. Thompson, LMHC

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

Shelter News

This is a story about a woman who recently moved in to Mary's Shelter. When she moved in, she already had her high school degree and had her certification as a home health aide. While living at Mary's Shelter, she signed up with a home healthcare agency. Shortly after moving in she received a call from the home care agency for a temporary job nearby. That job has turned into a full-time, live-in position for her. We are so excited for her and for the family she will be assisting. I wanted to share with you a letter she wrote to our staff and the volunteers she met while living at Mary's Shelter.

Dear Mary Shelter Family,

It feels amazing to refer to every one of you as part of my family. I just want to take the time to say **thank you** (Kim, Gina, Nancy, Karen and the volunteers). I came in here as a lonely, confused, as well as stressed person; but thanks to you guys, I am leaving as a very happy, strong, hopeful and well rested woman. You guys are my miracles and an answer to my prayers during this journey to motherhood. I appreciate everyone for their love and support of me. I am and will be forever enriched for the time spent here. I am blessed having you guys as my family. I look forward to sharing the joy of my baby's arrival with all of you.

I share this with you so you can see the impact Mary's Shelter can have on just one life. Sometimes a woman just needs a break, support, and some rest in an environment where people are supportive of her choices and believe that with God's help and hard work it is possible to pick yourself up, break the negative cycles of life and start a new path to independent living.

Other News: We were so honored to be awarded the Martin County's Rising Star Award by 211 Helpline. The criteria for being considered a Rising Star was: a non-profit organization physically located in Martin County, which is 5 years old or less, demonstrates the potential for significant growth, and can have a significant impact in the community they serve in the coming years. We are so proud to have received this recognition!

Volunteer Support

We are excited to welcome our new **Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Basilick**. Linda has been volunteering at Mary's Shelter for over a year. Recently she approached us about taking a more active role in our volunteer program and offered to be our Volunteer Coordinator.



Linda has been working as our new coordinator for about 2 months now. Linda is another answer to our prayers for Mary's Shelter.

Volunteer needed. Volunteers are needed in several areas including administrative work such as answering the telephone, greeting people at the door and computer data input. We also have a need for people who would like to be drivers for the residents. This usually involves local driving in our immediate area. Anyone interested in becoming a driver, please call Linda at 772 223-5000. We do a driving records check for all our drivers. Linda is interested in expanding our volunteer opportunities to include some fundraising activities. If you would like to volunteer for fundraising or if you have some terrific fund raising ideas, please contact Linda.

Mary's Shelter would like to thank Midge and Gene Popp for creating "Midge's Movie Night." The Popp's come to Mary's Shelter every Friday with dessert and share a recent movie with our residents. Gene is also an accomplished piano player and will often play a song or two for our residents. We are looking for volunteers to create more of these fun activities, especially on the weekends.

We'd also like to acknowledge Matt Stradler from 561 Carpet and Tile Cleaning & Restoration. Matt volunteers his time to clean all the tile flooring in our shelter. If you need any carpet/tile cleaning and restoration please call Matt at: **561-277-8211** or visit www.561carpetandtile.com for the "The Cleanest Clean You've Ever Seen"



Fundraising News

We are excited to announce that Mary's Shelter is now the proud owner of a mini-van. St. Mary's Episcopal parish raised \$10,000 to put toward the cost of a vehicle, insurance, gasoline and maintenance. In addition to the money raised by St.



Mary's, we had a resident in Willoughby Golf Club who was planning to sell his mini-van for \$6,000. When he heard we were in need of a vehicle he spoke to two of his neighbors and said he would be willing to take \$3,500 for the van and give it to Mary's Shelter. The two neighbors paid the \$3,500 and the van was donated to Mary's Shelter. The \$10,000 donation from St. Mary's will be used to fund insurance, gas and maintenance. When people say "it takes a village" sometimes they are right!

Other highlights:

- The Knights of Columbus Martin County Council #6241 have been strong supporters of Mary's Shelter. In April they presented us with a donation of \$5,140.
- St. Vincent de Paul (St. Andrew's parish) has been helping to feed our residents through a monthly donation of \$200 to help pay for basic food staples.
- The Loblolly Foundation has started an Education Fund for Mary's Shelter with \$5,000 to be used toward continuing education for our residents.
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church continues to accept monthly donations from its parishioners for the support of Mary's Shelter.
- Eileen Kelly, parishioner of St. Bernadette's parish in Port St. Lucie has been donating gift cards on a monthly basis. This past month we received \$500 in visa cards.

As always, we are grateful to these and so many other supporters without whom we would not be able to carry on our mission.

Thrift Store News

Exciting things are happening at Mary's Shelter Thrift Store. On April 15, the Thrift Store celebrated it's second anniversary. As part of that celebration, we were able to announce the expansion of the store and dedicate the new space in memory of Ann Jones, a long-time board member and original manager of the store. It was one of Ann's dreams to increase the size of our store and we thought it fitting to name it "Ann's Boutique and Gallery." We celebrated this milestone with a small gathering of staff, board members and volunteers as well as some of Ann's children and grandchildren. Father Noel was in attendance to bless the store and our new expanded area. If you haven't seen our new, updated and expanded Thrift Store,



Diane Berrian-Viola, Cora Meyer, Joanne Kelly, Pat Sealander

we hope you'll stop in and shop in our new boutique and art gallery at 510 Colorado Avenue in Stuart.



Don't forget, Mary's Shelter Thrift Store has sales every Wednesday and we are full to the rafters with all kinds of furniture as well as home décor, and clothing for men, women and children. We also provide furniture pick up so, just call us at 220-7888 to schedule pick up.

With the summer months upon us we have had to say goodbye to many of our dedicated seasonal volunteers. We are always looking for new volunteers who are interested in helping at our thrift store in order to support our mission of Saving Lives, Two at a Time. One of our new volunteers recently told me she really enjoys her volunteer time at our store. She devotes 4 hours, one day a week and looks forward to her time with the other people she volunteers with and supporting the mission of Mary's Shelter. If you are interested or would like more information about the volunteer opportunities available at Mary's Shelter Thrift Store please call Kathy at 772 220-7888.



P.O. Box 958 • Stuart, FL 34995

It's not too early to **Save the Date** for our upcoming events:

Our events will be held at the **Willoughby Golf Club** in Stuart
and are as follows:

5th Annual Mary's Shelter Golf Tournament

on Friday, December 12th

5th Annual Mary's Shelter Fashion Show and Luncheon

on Tuesday, January 20th

3rd Annual Mary's Shelter Banquet

On Saturday, February 21st