



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



Fall 2014

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Dear Friends,

The summer months are over and the kids are back to school. We are now eagerly awaiting the opportunity to welcome back our seasonal volunteers and tell them how much we have missed them!



For the women we serve, this is a big month for us. We are expecting four babies to be born in September and October and ask for your prayers for these new moms - for healthy birthing experiences, healthy babies and for the strength and support they need to become independent parents. As you will read in the pages that follow, they are well on their way. As always, we appreciate your support. We could not exist if it were not for our volunteers and benefactors.

For me, one of the most satisfying aspects of my role at Mary's Shelter is seeing God's hand at work each day. In large and small ways, things happen and you just know it is not a coincidence - it is divine intervention. One example of this is Mary's Shelter's recent acquisition of a mini-van thanks to several individuals in the Willoughby Golf Community and a generous \$10,000 donation from St. Mary's Episcopal Church to fund gas costs and major repair work.

We are excited to announce that Michael DiTerlizzi, owner of Highway Tire and Auto has committed to donate the cost of regular maintenance of the van. In addition, he has also offered to serve as a drop-off location for items on our Mary's Shelter "wish list" at his business located at 3584 SW Armellini Avenue in Palm City.



Gina Thompson



Shelter News

The residents have been busy at Mary's Shelter! One resident moved in with her Home Health Aide Certificate, and we helped her continue her education. She completed a training class and passed her state exam for the Certified Nursing Assistant License ("C.N.A.").

Another resident already had her C.N.A. when she moved in. Thanks to a \$5,000 education grant we received from The Loblolly Foundation, we were able to provide both of these women with the opportunity to take classes in Phlebotomy, EKG and Patient Care Technician. Both residents have also been volunteering at local nursing homes to gain experience and increase their likelihood of becoming employed.

We have added new programs at Mary's Shelter!

Happy Brain: Taught by Ms. Diane Reagan. This program shows that by training our brains to think in a more positive way we can increase our baseline of happiness and change the way we respond to negative things in our lives. This class was opened to our staff and volunteers and was well received by all who attended.

Birthing Classes: Licensed Midwife, Tammy Dieffenbach and her support team from Abundant Life Birth Center spent four hours a day in a two-day class helping the women learn about birthing their babies in a relaxed state of mind.

Women's Group: LouAnne Linekin is a life coach and addiction specialist. She comes to Mary's Shelter on a weekly basis to provide a support group for the residents as well as individual counseling to residents struggling with addiction issues.

Stuart Lodge: We are excited to have Stuart Lodge Assisted Living open right next door. Our residents and theirs have the opportunity to help each other, leading to valuable work experiences and fulfilling life enrichment. A win-win scenario!

Volunteer Support

Mary's Shelter could not exist if it weren't for the many volunteers who come and support us with their time and talents. For the first 7 months of 2014, the shelter has received a total of over 1,040 hours contributed by 67 volunteers. These data are valuable when we apply for grants and to help us measure the direct economic value of our volunteers to our shelter. We thank each and every one of you for making this program so successful.

Our volunteer orientation was held on August 20th. All Mary's Shelter volunteers must attend one of our new orientation programs which provides us with an opportunity to review our new policies and procedures, as well as address any questions that volunteers may have.



Orientation: Gina Thompson, Kim Gaudet, Diane Reagan, Midge Popp, Diana Raysor

On September 6th The United Way of Martin County held their annual Day of Caring. Mary's Shelter was the recipient of some wonderful volunteers who painted a resident's bedroom. To date, because of the United Way and their Corporate Sponsors, we have had 4 of our bedrooms newly painted. Thanks to everyone at United Way for their generosity of service to our community!

People often ask us: "How can I help?" Here is a list of some basic staples we are always in need of. All items can be dropped off at the Shelter from 9:00- 4:00 Monday thru Friday.

Postage stamps Household cleaning products
Laundry Products Paper Towels

If there are any organizations that would like to be involved in helping Mary's Shelter with items from fundraising to organizing community drives, call Gina Thompson at 223-5000.



Fundraising News

Each year we host three different fundraising events to appeal to our different supporters. We are excited to begin working on these events and hope you will attend at least one of them. **They all take place at the beautiful and centrally located Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart.**

- **5th Annual Golf Tournament.**

We begin our season with our Golf Tournament to be held on Friday, December 12th. Each year it is



Gerry Knebels, Gina Thompson, Michele Reilly, John Glynn

a sell-out, with about 100 golfers playing a scramble. We have lots of fun competitions and we end the evening with hors d'oeuvres, an awards ceremony and a fantastic Live Auction.

- **5th Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon.**

Our ever-popular, always sold-out Fashion Show & Luncheon takes place on Tuesday, January 20th. This exciting event begins with some



Kelley Dunn, Jan Lindsay, Gina Thompson

fabulous shopping opportunities with our vendor supporters and a Chinese and Silent Auction. The highlight of the event is the Fashion Show and Luncheon with Kelley Dunn as our Mistress of Ceremonies. It is always a fantastic afternoon!

- **3rd Annual Banquet.**

Finally, we end our season with our magnificent Banquet. The Banquet takes place on Saturday, February 21st. This year we are moving the



Jan Lindsay, Ann Biek, Nancy Sbordone

Fundraising News Cont'd

Banquet to Willoughby Country Club. The evening is a special time for us to gather together with great food and musical entertainment while we celebrate the year's achievements and listen to the accomplishments of our resident's life who will come and share her success story with us.

Tickets to our events can be purchased by calling Gina Thompson at Mary's Shelter at 772 223-5000. Sponsorships are available for all three events and are an impactful way to show your support for Mary's Shelter and promote your businesses.

Thrift Store News

They say the summer months are slow, but not here at the Mary's Shelter Thrift Store! Our new, expanded floor space has been "chock-a-block" full of furniture, lamps, artwork, and clothing.



Kathy Cischke, Katie Bowse, Kathy Carmody

We continue to be complimented on the quality of our donations and we want thank all of you who have made those donations to us. Not a week goes by when we do not get in new items. We have many repeat customers who come on a weekly basis because they know that our inventory turns over very quickly. Our savvy, summer shoppers have responded favorably to our "Special Sales!" We continue our ever popular Wednesday Sale Days.

Remember we offer free furniture pick-up and volunteer opportunities. Please call Kathy Carmody at 772 220-7888 for information.



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