



Mary's Shelter

"Saving lives two at a time."

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Resident Care for Young Pregnant Women

Summer 2017

Dear Friends,

The summer is here, the heat is on, the kids are out of school and our seasonal volunteers have left for cooler temperatures! At Mary's Shelter we have twin boys, our first set of twins to live at Mary's Shelter. Learn more about "The boys" as we affectionately refer to them inside this newsletter.

We are excited to up-date you on our Capital Campaign. We are almost 90% on our way to our goal of \$800,000. With our building purchased, we are focused on raising the additional \$90,000 needed to begin the renovations necessary to take Mary's Shelter to the next phase of its journey. The new and improved Mary's Shelter will have separate work environments for staff and residents, it will have single rooms for pregnant mom's and larger rooms for parenting moms. We hope to have a prayer room and more storage space. We will keep you up-dated on our progress and want to thank you for your support. Please help us to make our goal of \$800,000 by donating what you can. Every dollar counts and together we can make our dream come true.

We are launching a new program here shortly which will extend our current program and increase dramatically the success of our residents. As residents graduate from Mary's Shelter and move into their own place, we will now be able to help support them with a rent subsidy. In exchange for this subsidy, residents will have to continue to follow a case plan, a budget and attend appropriate programs. By continuing our program outside of Mary's Shelter we will help our residents to continue to use the life skills they learned while living in-house in an independent living situation. I am so excited about adding to our already very successful program. It is amazing to see the change in our residents from when they first move in to when they are ready to move out. Our structured living environment and our in-house life-skills program really gives them a new way to live. However, keeping up those skills once they move into their own independent situation is not easy and many of them backslide into old habits. This new program will help our residents to learn how to integrate these new skills into their lives as independent working moms. It will also give us an opportunity to be in their lives longer and track their success. Stay tuned for more stories about our graduates and their successes out in the real world!!!



Resident with her twin boys

Gina Thompson

Shelter Resident News

Oh BOY, oh BOY at Mary's shelter we are quoting snips and snails and puppy dog tails with our twin boys born April 15th (6 lbs 5 ounces, 18 inches & 6 lbs 10 ounces 19 inches) and a baby boy born May 24th 7 lbs 8 ounces 20 inches. We started off with 4 residents in house this past month and we had our 5th mommy move in last week who will be expecting TWIN GIRLS!

This quarter shelter Residents had the opportunity to meet with local bank representatives that offered insight on banking App's, online navigation through Mint.com and credit scoring. AT&T stepped in to speak to our mom's about career paths and interview readiness. In the near future, we would like to expand our in house programs to include individual career planning, advanced computer skills and a new mentor program. Here is an update on all our residents:

In the beginning, it was a rough start getting the twins in a routine and mom was so grateful to all the volunteers who gave a helping hand each day to allow her to start her college classes. The twins have started their first week in daycare and now their mommy can focus on her Master's Degree in Clinical & Mental health counseling. She is hoping to hear back from Martin County or Port St. Lucie school districts after applying for a teaching position this coming school year.

Our second mommy is anxiously awaiting the birth of her daughter in mid-July. She has a CNA & LPN background and has started working towards her EKG certification. Her long term goal would be to work as an RN for Martin County Memorial hospital and reunite with her 2 daughters. Our third mommy has recently taken maternity leave. Before delivery, she was busy volunteering at our thrift store and plans to take her driver's test soon. When the baby starts childcare, she is eager to look for employment as a bank teller. While working on her GED, our fourth mommy has also been volunteering at the Treasure Coast Wildlife hospital. She is excited to know that this could be a potential place of employment since her passion has been to work with animals. Her baby girl is due in August. Our fifth and newest resident will be expecting twin girls in September. She will be focusing on her education in Esthetics, Cosmetology and nail technician. One thing she is looking forward to receive from Mary's Shelter is learning how to manage her money better.

Shelter Needs We are continuously looking for volunteer opportunities for the residents in order to help them gain valuable work skills. If you know of any organization that might be interested in having our residents volunteer their time, please call April Young at 772-223-5000.



House Call

Rob Gluckman, Esq. is the CEO of Treasure Coast Urgent & Family Care. Rob has provided pro-bono attorney services to shelter residents on numerous occasions. When Rob was awarded the first place prize for his Board involvement at chamber member events by the Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce Gala this past year, he donated his winnings to Mary's Shelter. Rob's team headed by his wife, Dr. Michele Libman, offer a variety of treatment options to injured clients and can serve as an alternative to the ER. Dr. Jacqueline McLaughlin, M.D. Gynecologist at Treasure Coast Urgent & Family Care made a house call to Mary's Shelter and spent the afternoon chatting with shelter residents and answering their questions about pregnancy and childbirth. Dr. McLaughlin's background and years of experience in Obstetrics provided shelter residents with a wealth of useful information. We are grateful for the assistance and support provided to Mary's Shelter residents by Treasure Coast Urgent & Family Care.



Ryan Strom, Rob Gluckman, Esq., Gina Thompson

Events & Community Relations

EVENTS *Great Give 2017*

On May 17, 2017, from midnight to midnight, Mary's Shelter participated in the Great Give Palm Beach & Martin Counties, a 24-hour online giving event led by the United Way of Palm Beach County, Achieve, Nonprofits First and United Way of Martin County. Great Give is designed to raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits in just one day! Last year, thanks to generous donors like you, non-profits in Palm Beach and Martin Counties raised more than \$3 million collectively for 504 local nonprofits. This year the event was still a big success despite starting later in May than in years past, overall giving was just over \$2 million between the two counties. We're happy to say Mary's Shelter raised over \$13,000 before receiving bonus pool dollars and had over 70 people participate. We did not reach our new goal of \$20,000 (we originally set our goal at \$10,000 but we decided to go big and upped it to \$20,000). Thank you to all who endured the barrage of e-blasts and participated to help us save and forever change lives! You helped us get so much closer to reaching our campaign goal to renovate our shelter to better serve women and babies in our community.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

BB&T Volunteers at Mary's Shelter: BB&T selected Mary's Shelter to be the recipients of their community volunteer program. BB&T staff volunteered their time and resources to spring clean, the shelter, as well as landscape and spruce up our garden. They purchased and planted beautiful plants and mulch. They also purchased cleaning supplies and got to work cleaning the shelter. Mary's Shelter long-time volunteer Renee Gould weeded and brought our back flower beds back to life with mulch and lovely flowers. BB&T also provided resident bathrooms with brand new shower curtains, bath mats and bedrooms with new mattress covers and shelter residents with grab bags of hygiene products.

Project Homeless Connect: Mary's Shelter was present with a booth at Project Homeless Connect's annual event to connect the homeless to area services. It was also a great opportunity for the non-profits in our area that serve the homeless to network and make new connections for more community resources to help our clients.



Volunteer Support

We have a few new volunteers since our last newsletter. We welcome Mandi, Laurie, Christine and Madeline! We are excited they have joined our team and we are looking forward to working together.

Our volunteer appreciation brunch in April was AMAZING!! Thank you to all the volunteers who came and enjoyed our wonderful visual presentation through art and music by Patty Brent from Coastal Life Church!!!

Many of our Volunteers have left for the summer. We sure do miss them, but wish them all a very blessed summer! If you would like to fill in and help, please call Kim. Mary's Shelter staff roles are evolving as we create new programs. Kim Gaudet will be the new contact person for our volunteer program. April is the new case manager for the resident program. Please contact Kim regarding volunteer opportunities at 772-223-5000 Email: kim@MarysShelterTC.org.



Patty Brent and her artwork

Save the Date!



**Re-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



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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Mary's Shelter Thrift Store News



Mary's Shelter Thrift Store closed temporarily while staff and Board volunteers cleared old inventory, spruced up by cleaning, painting and reorganizing

the store with a new lay-out to create a more efficient and enjoyable shopping experience for our customers. We had a grand reopening on June 14th. A special thank you to Steam Shark Cleaning Services for the beautiful job cleaning our floors.

Mary's Shelter relies on proceeds from our Thrift Store sales to help keep our shelter programs running. Please donate your gently used items to Mary's Shelter to help us improve our inventory and be sure to shop at our Thrift Store. Come by and see our new look! Tell your friends and family all about us. We hope to see you soon!

Thrift Store

DONATE—We pick up gently used furniture for free. Please call us! **SHOP**—We have a great selection of "sale" items every day. Come on in and shop! **VOLUNTEER**—We have volunteer hours available! We have fun! Monday-Friday 3 1/2 hours a day (10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) **STORE HOURS**—M-F 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **PHONE**—772-220-7888 **LOCATION**—Downtown Stuart—410 S. Colorado Ave. Like us on *Facebook*, search Mary's Shelter Thrift. *Daily Deals! Daily Deals! Daily Deals!*

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