

Mary's Shelter Press Release—Events & Raising funds for New Building 2016

This year alone, more than 22 women in our community found themselves in the unfortunate situation of being pregnant and homeless, without support from family and friends and nowhere to turn.

Fortunately, their lives - and the lives of their unborn children took a more positive turn thanks to Mary's Shelter of the Treasure Coast.

Mary's Shelter is a transitional home that provides residential and non-residential services for pregnant women and women with newborns. Mary's Shelter is a place that allows women the choice to seek an alternative to abortion when faced with crisis during their pregnancy.

Those who seek assistance from the local nonprofit organization are often in need of a supportive environment because they lack suitable housing or favorable family relationships and have nowhere left to turn.

Since opening in 2010, Mary's Shelter has assisted over 120 women improve their lives.

Residents have worked hard to receive their GEDs and certifications in a variety of programs including Certified Nursing Assistant and Child Development Assistant.

Others have chosen to pursue internships, study for programs through Indian River State College and gain skills to become employed through training provided by Career Source.

To provide and expand its programs and reach more mothers in need, Mary's Shelter is in need of a new building. They are leasing at their current location where the rent increased significantly. Mary's Shelter would like to own their own building to better serve pregnant women and pregnant and parenting women.

They receive no government funding and rely solely on donations, their thrift store and fundraisers to support their cause. Mary's Shelter holds two annual fundraising events each year, a Fashion Show and a Gala. It is crucial they raise the funds needed to expand and these events help them do that.

Mary's Shelter's Fashion Show takes place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Jan. 19, at Willoughby Golf Club. Ashleigh Walters of WPTV NewsChannel 5 will serve as event emcee.

Annually, the Fashion Show proves to be a huge hit with attendees and the community. Models strut down the catwalk showcasing fashions from shops in Sewall's Point Harbour Bay Plaza and from boutiques in downtown Stuart. For \$75 per person, guests will enjoy the fashion show, lunch, a silent auction and the opportunity to visit and shop with vendors who will be selling fashion accessories. Last year the sellout fashion show raised more than \$38,000 and the committee is striving to surpass that amount.

The 2016 Valentine's Gala will be from 5:30-10:00 p.m. on February 13th, also at Willoughby Golf Club and will include an open bar, dinner, live auction and entertainment by the The Flashback Four. Tickets are \$200 per person.

To donate, sponsor, or participate in any of these Mary's Shelter events, call (772) 223-5000 or visit www.maryssheltermc.org, or go to www.facebook.com/maryssheltermc.