



Resident Care For Homeless Pregnant Women



Mary's Shelter  
Saving lives two at a time.



Spring 2019

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## Dear Friends,

As of today, we have seven residents and two baby boys living in our home. Both of our new moms have secured employment and are now juggling the responsibilities of working and caring for their newborn babies. We are very proud of them and how hard they worked to secure employment and daycare. As with all new babies going to daycare, they have caught colds and have had to stay at home off and on during this beginning period of time. Our residents wish to thank all our volunteers who came in to watch their infants so they could continue to work. We are so happy to be able to provide babysitting assistance to our new moms during this period of time so they are able to keep their new jobs.

As you will see inside this newsletter, we had a few fundraising events this season, which were all successful. We want to thank all our donors for their support of our events. The funds generated at these events make up about a third of our overall operating budget and as such are a vital part of our success in carrying out our mission, Saving Lives, Two at a Time. We know that there are so many worthy charitable organizations in Martin County and we are so thankful that you choose to support our moms and babies.

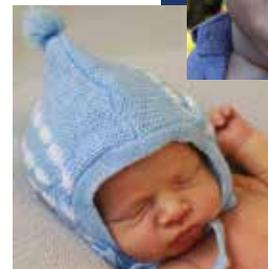
We are excited about the renovations taking place inside of our shelter. Plans for a new program room for our residents, a large pantry/laundry room, two new offices, a counseling room and a chapel/prayer room are all taking place and hopefully will be complete by the beginning of the summer. These changes to our facility will allow us to work more efficiently, provide our residents with more privacy and more space to work on their education and goals.

We have added three new members to our Board of Directors. We are excited to welcome these new members and are so excited about the time and talent they will be adding to our organization. Ademil C. Castrillo, comes to us from Wells Fargo and is the current Campaign Chair of the United Way of Martin County. Mark Miller will be stepping in as our legal advisor in place of Beth Alcalde who will be joining our Advisory Council. Mark comes to us from Pacific Legal Foundation and is a Senior Attorney there. Mark's practice focuses on environmental law, property rights, administrative law and the First Amendment. And lastly, Amber Woods, is coming to us from Treasure Coast Toyota as the Executive Administrator of Treasure Coast Lexus, Fort Pierce & Stuart Florida. Please join me in welcoming these three new members. All three new members have impressive resumes with their current employers as well as extensive support of nonprofits from all over. We are honored to have them join our board of dedicated men and women who are extremely passionate about our mission.

In addition, we have added a new Advisory Council which will replace our Advisory Board. You will see the names listed here on our newsletter. We are again honored that these individuals share the same commitment and passion that we do regarding our mission. We believe this group of people will provide Mary's Shelter with guidance and support which will help us to reach our growing potential and new heights.

As you can see, God continues to bless Mary's Shelter and we ask that he bless each of you, please keep all of us at Mary's Shelter in your prayers.

*Gina Thompson*



### RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT

Instead of our focus being on a specific resident this quarter, let's take a moment and highlight our "working" pregnant moms who enter the shelter already employed. Some of our residents have debt from court fees, tickets, medical bills and vehicle expenses. Often times, this has kept them from moving forward. Residents in this situation have expressed they wish to keep working so they can maintain their transportation and continue working on decreasing their debt. If they can manage their debt, this makes a huge difference when they begin to save for housing. The only downfall is that they are limited in attending certain programs and going back to school right away. Each resident who comes through our doors has many hurdles in their life. Together we help them find a path to get on their feet. We have two tracks, One includes residents who are unemployed and need to complete educational course work in order to graduate and additionally college/vocational-career training. The other track is residents who come to us who are employed but lack suitable housing or supports to make ends meet, they may need to further their education to get a higher paying job or need counseling and financial training in addition to parenting skills and other life skills training. Each woman's background is different. Mary's Shelter is unique because we are able to examine each resident's strengths, weaknesses and needs which allows us to individualize their goals so they can become successful.

### IN HOUSE UPDATES:

**June** Since our last newsletter, her son was born! He has struggled with quite a few health issues and some hospitalization but doing much better now. This month, he has started daycare and mom already has her first interview scheduled. This will be her 3rd month with us.

**Athaliah** Her baby has started daycare! In the middle of a work day, you can hear his giggles throughout the house. Mom has been offered a part time position and will begin saving money for housing. She is also finding out more information for part time classes through IRSC. This will be her 4th month with us.

**Anna** Moved in at the beginning of December, she has already found full time employment and half-way to her first savings target. When you meet her, she always has the warmest smile and stays focused on the positives. She is always kind and thanking everyone for the support she has been given. Anna's baby girl is due in April.

**Leah** Another new mom who moved in at the beginning of December and just delivered a healthy baby boy in January. She is now on maternity leave and will start to focus on GED courses once she is able to begin working on her goals.

**Tirzah** Another working mom-to-be who has been with us since December. She has started to cut back her hours due to the strain on her body. She will be slowing down until her delivery date in May and begin working on college courses to complete her nursing license.

**Wilmine** Moved into her apartment and is doing well. Baby has been able to visit more with her daddy and enjoy family time. She was with us for about 10 months before she was able to become self-sufficient.

### WOMEN IN TRANSITION UPDATE:

**Jessica** continues to succeed with her job and spending quality time with her daughter. Jessica's siblings have been able to have visits with their sister since she's been in her new home, which has been rewarding.

**Dejah** has changed directions and decided to stay close to home with her daughter. Instead of the military, she will focus on the police academy. Daddy has been enjoying visits with the baby and supporting mom with babysitting while she works long hours.

## Volunteer & Community Outreach

### Trinity United Methodist Church Baby Bottle Drive:

A special thank you to Pastor Singh and the parishioners at Trinity UMC for hosting a bottle drive in December and January. Like our other supporting congregation so far—St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Trinity UMC is looking to form a relationship with Mary's Shelter for long term support, prayers and active participation where residents may attend and become involved at Trinity and parishioners from Trinity UMC will volunteer at the shelter.



Pastor Singh and Hendrix

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS

Jane H., Janet H., Susan K., Connie M., Deana, Melinda R., Pat B., Karen G., Dawn C. These volunteers will be assisting in the areas of mentoring, driving, organizing, special events, marketing, reception coverage and admin help and more. We are blessed to have and continue to add to a wonderful group of volunteers.

**Farewell** to volunteer Carol S. who has volunteered for over two years each Monday afternoon at the front desk. She is moving out of the area and will be missed by all!

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

**Car Mechanic:** Some of our residents have vehicles and we are looking for mechanics to help us if issues arise. **Spring Cleaning:** We would love to have a few people come and do a Spring cleaning in the house.

THANK YOU FOR GOING THE EXTRA MILE

St. Bernadette's, St. Joseph's, and St. Andrew's Catholic Churches, RV Johnson Insurance, Jane from the Greg Norman Company, St. Joseph Catholic School, Pat, Conrad and Chris, Pat and Monroe, all event volunteers, Lionel Lamoureux, Toyota of the Treasure Coast, all the volunteers that have come to help with organizing the closets in the shelter and our resident "store". Thank you to all our volunteers. We are so blessed to have you as part of our team.

Event Fun, Almost Done!

We have had a whirlwind event schedule for the 2018-2019 year beginning with our new Room at the Inn event in Downtown Stuart in early December, to our Mary's Angels Giving Circle Welcome back Cocktail Party and Show at the Lyric in early January to our two Annual major events: our Ninth Annual Fashion Show Luncheon and our Seventh Annual "Joy" Gala. We're not done yet—the Monarch Women's Golf Association is holding a members only charity golf event to benefit Mary's Shelter in April and Mary's Angels Giving Circle is having our new annual fundraiser—Dinner, Cocktails and Comedy on April 11th. We thank you all so much for supporting us each year, we know we are one of many charities you are connected with and it means a lot to us that you continue to participate—you are our family!



**Room At the Inn** Image 1: Ashley and Steven Vitale with Aidan Vitale Image 2: Marlene Filer, Pat Borg, Jeanne O'Neil and Jo Cavelli Image 3: Anna Gandy, Dana Godfrey and Debbie West



**Joy Gala** Image 1: Doug and Carol Goin with Gina and Peter Thompson Image 2: Linda and Robert Allard Image 3: Brian and Kristen MacConnell with Vicki and Michael Bloomenfeld



**Fashion Show** Image 1: Erika Scherbaum, Ellen Moody, Susan Carnasiotis and Charlotte Richardson Image 2: (Seated) Charlene Roberts, Sally Lazarus, (standing) Mimi Boulden and Toni MacDonald Image 3: Gerry Murray, Jan Lindsay (founder of Mary's Shelter) and Linda Allard Image 4: Fashion Show stylists Collen Schram and Kerri Caruso Image 5: Karen Bidosky, Marilyn McMahon, Pat Corwin, Nancy Bollo and Rosemarie Weed



Mary's Shelter

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