

Mary's Shelter

Winter 2010-11

Changing lives two at a time

Out of the Darkness Comes a Bright Light



There is nothing like the wonder of seeing your own newborn's face after nurturing him or her in the womb for nine months. Nothing triggers awe in all of us like gazing into the cherubic face of a baby, so full of promise or the curious eyes of a toddler, eager to explore the world. These precious children are **bright shining lights** in the darkness of the very demanding lives of their teen mothers.

This joy is especially apparent this time of year at Mary's Shelter, where teen mothers are creating holiday memories for their children: the first Christmas tree, the first visit with Santa Claus, singing Jingle Bells and Silent Night, stockings hung over the fireplace, the baby Jesus in the manger with Mary, his teen mother.

Mary, our namesake, is a wonderful role model for our teen mothers of a girl who said "yes" to her unplanned pregnancy – just as they have. And so at this season of new birth, of following the light of Christ out of the darkness, may each of us wonder anew at the Light of Life present in every person, from the moment of conception through natural death, as we all proceed on our journey to eternal life with the living God. *Merry Christmas to you and to all you love!*

Too many of the girls living at Mary's Shelter have lived in darkness – a world of neglect, poverty, abuse, abandonment, being passed from family to family, moving from motel to shelter to car and so on. Then, as a result of various circumstances, the girl becomes a mother herself at a tender age. These girls may have lost some innocence, yet their spirits remain intact, each young girl longing for love and joy and a sense of belonging.

While teen pregnancy certainly will bring each young mother enormous challenges, the child also **brings her great joy!**

Mission Statement:

Mary's Shelter empowers and equips vulnerable teen mothers and their babies for lives of dignity, hope and self-sufficiency.

SAVE THE DATE:

2011 GALA

*"A Midsummer
Night's Dream"*

Friday, April 8

Hyatt Regency Irvine

December 31 is Coming:

Your Last Chance to make a Tax Deductible Donation in 2010

We know you care about our teen mothers and their babies, or you wouldn't be on our mailing list.

If you have already made your year-end gift to Mary's Shelter – thank you so much!

If not, be sure to take a minute NOW to make your last donation for this year. It's easy:

- Use the enclosed envelope
- Call 714/730-0930, Extension 15
- Visit www.teenshelter.org

Also, talk to your Tax Advisor about the advantages of making a direct gift from your IRA to a charity.

Tax receipts with the total for all donations made in 2010 will be sent before February.

Donate or
RSVP on-line
www.teenshelter.org

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Mary’s Shelter

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Non-profit Corporation:
Tax ID #33-0203768

Group Homes licensed by
the State of California
Licenses #306000793
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EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

This year there was a tie when the 34 paid employees at Mary’s Shelter voted for the most outstanding member of our team. Congratulations to “the two Amy’s.”



Amy Braun

Amy has worked with the teen mothers at Mary’s Shelter since we opened in 1994, first as a volunteer and then as an employee. She has filled most every role over the years, depending on what needed to be done. This includes everything from coaching girls through labor and delivery and teaching them how to care for sick babies through coordinating volunteers and fund raising events. Since they live nearby, Amy and her husband also help with numerous night and weekend problems – such as plumbing breaks.

Amy graciously stepped down from being Associate Program Director to assume the Facilities & Volunteer Coordinator position as one of the cost-saving measures taken this year. In her new, very demanding role Amy makes sure our houses and four vehicles are safe, attractive and in good working order, and that we have ample food, supplies and furnishings in our homes. In addition, she works with our volunteers and recently coordinated with donors to make sure each resident receives donated Christmas gifts.

It was appropriate that Amy be voted Employee of the Year by her peers for ‘going the extra mile’ whenever any of the staff need assistance, whether driving a girl to an appointment or helping calm a resident who is upset. Mary’s Shelter is effective in changing lives, two at a time, because of people like Amy Braun.

Fiscal Year End

An independent financial audit is underway at Mary’s Shelter for the fiscal year which ended September 30. The audited financial report will be summarized in our Annual Report newsletter in February at which time the full reports will also be posted on our website for your review.

Amy came to Mary’s Shelter almost six years ago as our Child Development Coordinator, bringing her education and experience directing pre-school programs to Mary’s Shelter. Amy designs a structured curriculum for our weekday morning childcare staff (while teen mothers are in school) to assure that infants and babies are developing their large and small motor skills, and verbal and social skills. She personally runs a stimulating program for our toddlers at the same time. Amy also monitors attainment of developmental milestones and arranges for assessments and interventions if a child is not meeting norms.



Amy Goodshaw

A recent visitor from Head Start commented that the children at Mary’s Shelter are ahead of the developmental curve – thanks to the stimulating environment created by Amy! In the afternoons Amy teaches Parenting Classes geared to Infant and to Toddler stages of development. She also works individually with each teen mother, coaching girls on their particular parenting skills and challenges.

Our staff voted for Amy Goodshaw as Employee of the Year because of the attention she gives to each child and for her unwavering patience and calm demeanor with children – no matter how a child is screaming or if paint or other substances are getting on her! We are grateful that Amy Goodshaw is helping each child at Mary’s Shelter reach his or her full potential.

At this time we are grateful to report that consistent, generous donations from hundreds of donors, in addition to sacrifices by our staff, enabled Mary’s Shelter to cover operating expenses for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2010. This ministry is stable and has continued to change lives, two at a time, even during the recession. Thanks be to God and to You!



Holiday Season Giving Highlights

Hundreds of individuals, families and organizations are making **end-of-year** donations to Mary's Shelter, which is greatly appreciated and necessary to provide the services that change lives, two at a time.

At **Thanksgiving** time, Albertson's provided a turkey dinner for our current residents and the former residents who came to our annual Reunion. Thanks also to the nine companies that provided merchandise for a gift bag given to each teen mother who attended.

The following Friends of Mary's Shelter have gone out of their way to make sure our teen mothers and babies know that somebody cares this **Christmas**, even if they can't be with their own families.

- Black Dot Wireless Inc. employees – Holiday Party with Santa, gifts, lunch and games
- Cranberries The Salon – Haircuts for residents
- Cross Community Church – Scrapbooking party
- Peggy Holmes – Disney on Ice tickets
- Kristine Howlett – Movie Tickets
- The Konop Family – Santa punch bowl plus outdoor lights purchased and installed
- Mariners Church, Psalm 139 Group – Christmas Party and gifts
- Make a Pledge Foundation – Holiday dinner out in a restaurant with gifts
- Mom's Club of Newport Beach – Fresh Christmas Tree for Transition House
- Morency Family and Friends – groceries and baking supplies
- Mulvaney Family – Photos with Santa Claus at Fashion Island
- Red Hill Lutheran School – Filled stockings
- Sharyn Sakamoto – Keepsake Christmas Photos
- Sts. Simon & Jude Men's Club – Fresh Christmas Tree for Main House
- Tustin Assistance League, Assisteens – wrapping all Christmas gifts
- The Wek Family – Filled Stockings

The following adopted items from girls' and babies' Christmas Wish Lists:

- Cindy Albright
- Andrea Arellano
- Color Us Gone
- A Foundation for Kids
- General Monitors Employees
- Gentry Family
- Hillsborough Preschool, Yorba Linda
- Knights of Columbus and Ladies, Council # 6020
- Mariners Church, Bunko Group
- Sandy Pitman
- Rock Harbor North OC Life Group
- St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Serra Club
- Julie Speisak
- St. Bonaventure Catholic Church employees
- St. Juliana School, Fullerton
- St. Thomas More Catholic Church
- St Timothy Catholic Church
- Tina Van Dam

PLUS . . . other families and organizations that will bring gifts in days before Christmas. **Thank you to everyone** for making sure our teen mothers know someone cares about them!

Many Ways to Give

Monthly or Quarterly Gifts – of any size really add up over time. Simply, contact Christine at Mary's Shelter to authorize a gift automatically billed to your credit card or sent directly from your bank account, or arrange it on our secure website. Inquire at (714) 730.0930 ext. 11 or christine@teenshelter.org

United Way – You can designate Mary's Shelter as the recipient for your charitable payroll deductions using our United Way number: **MAR705**.

Matching Gift – Leverage your gift by applying for a matching charitable gift from your employer.

Estate Plans – Most people can make only modest gifts during their lifetime, but can leave a more sizable donation to their favorite charity from their estate when God calls them home. Simply designate a specific asset, dollar amount, or percentage of your estate to "Mary's Shelter, a nonprofit California Corporation". Your current gift, or a planned estate gift, can be placed in the Mary's Shelter Endowment at your request, where it will generate operating funds for years to come.

Examples of How Your Gifts to Mary's Shelter can be Used

\$25	Formula for one baby for four days	\$250	Child Care for one morning while mothers are in school
\$50	Car seat for Infant	\$500	Costs for one weekend – allowances & activities
\$75	Car seat for Toddler	\$750	Monthly electric bill
\$120	Bassinette	\$1,250	Diapers for one month
\$135	High Chair	\$2,500	Run four shelter vans two months
\$150	Baby Crib	\$5,000	Monthly groceries for 18 girls and 12 babies



*Mary's
Shelter*

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*Changing lives
two at a time*

*Christmas Greetings
from the Girls & Babies
of Mary's Shelter.*

Thank you for caring!