



Mary's Shelter

Spring 2009

changing lives two at a time

Mission Statement:

Mary's Shelter saves lives by empowering and equipping homeless and at-risk pregnant teens, and minors with babies, for lives of dignity, hope and self-sufficiency.



Baby girl and baby boy born in the first week of February.

SAVE THE DATES:

March 7, 2009

Annual Gala

Emerald Enchantment

Radisson Hotel

Newport Beach

September 16, 2009

Annual Golf Tournament

Black Gold Golf Course

Yorba Linda

**NEW - DONATE
ON-LINE!
www.teenshelter.org**

Highlights of 2008

Mary's Shelter is beginning its **15th year** of support for pregnant minors who choose life for their babies. *Thank YOU* for helping Mary's Shelter to reach this milestone! Following are some highlights of the Annual Report inside this newsletter.

Mary's Shelter provided a safe home and loving care for a total of **45 teen mothers** and **28 of their children** in 2008. Not only did Mary's Shelter residents deliver healthy babies, but our girls matured into nurturing mothers and acquired skills to help them succeed on their own as single parents. This was accomplished through our dedicated professional staff, largely funded by our generous donors, and by our wonderful volunteers.

The summary of the audited financial report shows that for the first time since 2003, Mary's Shelter fell short of meeting operating expenses. The Financial Notes on page 3 provide some explanations. Still, Mary's Shelter survived a challenging year because so many caring individuals and organizations generously

gave of their money, in-kind gifts, time and talents to support this ministry.

The Board and Management took steps to assure financial stability during an extended recession, which was a challenge since Mary's Shelter already runs a "lean" operation. They instituted a series of cost-containment measures (including reducing employee benefits) and Directors committed to cultivating many new supporters, to sustain Mary's Shelter through 2010. (However, if government funding is cut significantly, Mary's Shelter will have to take additional, more drastic steps.)

The long term goal is to increase private donations to move Mary's Shelter away from reliance on government funding, and to encourage supporters to include the new Endowment in their estate plans so that Mary's Shelter can serve pregnant and parenting minors in need well into the future.

Passing the Baton

At our Changeover Meeting on January 13th, **President Berni Neal** extended appreciation to five valued Directors who completed their terms on the Mary's Shelter Board of Directors.

Father Leo Celano served as Spiritual Director to the Board since 2005, but has been closely associated with Mary's Shelter since it's inception in 1985. He allowed Mary's Shelter to make him our first Honoree at the 2006 Gala.

Sherri Butterfield also joined the Board in 2005, applying her government experience to increase the professionalism of our board meetings when she served as Secretary.

Patrick Bartolic was also elected in 2005. His marketing experience enabled him to offer helpful suggestions to raise our visibility in the community.

Jason Gorsuch made a big impact in his four years on the Board, serving as President and then Chairman, taking the lead in

developing our Investment Policies, negotiating the purchase of a new shelter van and introducing many new donors to Mary's Shelter at our Galas and Golf Tournaments.

Joe Nedza served 5 ½ years, helping guide Mary's Shelter through some daunting challenges and helping make major decisions, ranging from selling property to preserve our core mission to establishing an Endowment to secure our future. Joe served as President, and extended his term another year to serve as Chairman of our Board, providing leadership continuity.

At this Changeover Meeting, we also welcomed four new Directors to the Board to provide leadership and governance for the next three years. Welcome to **Roger Chaix, Monique Gonzalez, Father Loc Tran and Dr. Richard Van Meter**. Thank you all for stepping forward to continue the tradition of helping Mary's Shelter change lives – two at a time!

Automatic Donations

Please prayerfully consider how supporting this effective ministry for pregnant minors and their babies fits into your charitable giving plans for 2009. The comprehensive services at Mary's Shelter for teen mothers in need depend on contributions from individuals, churches, groups, businesses and foundations, and the people who support our annual Gala and Golf Tournament.

You can help change vulnerable young lives and put your pro-life beliefs into action by making regular monthly or quarterly gifts, no matter what size. Either call or go to our website to arrange a monthly or quarterly donation to Mary's Shelter from your bank account or credit card. How easy it is to make a difference in lives that will last a lifetime!

*Let us know if you would like to receive our tri-annual newsletters via email.
Write info@teenshelter.org, typing "e-newsletter" in the subject line.*

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Mary’s Shelter

P.O. Box 10433
 Santa Ana, CA 92711-0433
 Tel: 714/730-0930
 Fax: 714/730-3487
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 info@teenshelter.org

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Featured Employee



Amber Davies

Social Worker Amber Davies recently celebrated her five year anniversary at Mary’s Shelter; hers is an “up from the ranks” story.

Amber was hired as a House Manager in October of 2003 while she also pursued her graduate degree. Because of her excellent work performance Amber was promoted to Medical Services Coordinator.

After earning her Masters in Social Work Degree in 2007, Amber took a full-time position counseling youth at Community Service Programs (CSP, Inc.) to gain experience. But since she liked working with our teen moms so much, she remained employed by Mary’s Shelter on an on-call basis, working three to four shifts each month as needed on nights and weekends. She also assisted with interviews and focus groups for the *Study of Services for Pregnant and Parenting*

Teens in Orange County Mary’s Shelter conducted that year.

When a Mary’s Shelter social worker position was vacated in early 2008, the first call we made was to Amber. She has been a real asset in our social services department ever since.

Amber is not only a skilled counselor for the teen moms in her caseload, and on top of the many paperwork and reporting responsibilities of the position, she is also a wonderful team member, committed to our pro-life mission and dedicated to high-quality care for our girls and babies.

We are delighted that Amber has grown with us over these five years and hope she will continue to help us change lives – two at a time – for many years to come.

Volunteer Opportunities

To find out how you can help make a difference as a Mary’s Shelter volunteer, call Amy at Mary’s Shelter, (714) 730-0930, extension 17.

Drivers – Drive our girls and their babies to their doctor and other appointments once or more a week, depending on your availability.

Receptionists – Take calls at the Shelter reception desk, greet and sign-in visitors and do clerical tasks as needed to assist the staff one-half day per week.

Mentors – Matched to a particular girl, mentors maintain a relationship with the teen mother, serve as a friend and help her clarify and achieve her dreams.

Child Care – Watch our precious babies grow and help them flourish while teen mothers are in school or job training.

Garden – Tend to our raised bed gardens introducing teen moms to the joys and benefits of gardening.

NOTE: *To work in direct contact with our minors, volunteers must be at least 21 years old, fingerprinted for a background check, be tested for TB and receive basic training in such areas as confidentiality. In some cases first aid and CPR training is also required.*

FINANCIAL REPORT*		
For the 12 months ended September 30, 2008		
<i>*This is a brief summary of the independent financial audit.</i>		
<i>Donors may view a copy of the complete audited financial report on our website.</i>		
Revenues	Expenses	Balance Sheet
Govt. – AFDC \$ 877,632	Resident Program \$ 1,533,616	Assets
Govt. – Other \$ 22,559	Administration \$ 93,036	Current Assets \$ 433,970
Private Donations \$ 219,926	Fund Development \$ 106,846	Fixed Assets \$ 805,808
Corp. & Fndn. Gifts \$ 239,208	Net Operations \$ (144,300)	Total Assets \$1,239,778
Special Events \$ 139,815		Liabilities
Donated Services \$ 61,492		Current Liab. \$ 102,360
Investment Income \$ (33,817)		Long-term Liab. \$ - 0 -
Other income \$ 5,785		Total Liabilities \$ 102,360
Total Revenues \$ 1,588,165		Net Assets \$ 1,137,418
		Total Liab. & Net Assets \$1,239,778

Note: *Donors will appreciate that 89 cents of every dollar was used directly for program expenses to care for teen mothers and their babies.*

ANNUAL REPORT

Mary's Shelter in 2008 – *Changing Lives Two at a Time*

PROGRAM SERVICES The comprehensive services at Mary's Shelter address the physical, emotional, spiritual and educational needs of teen residents and their babies. We also stress parenting education and teach independent living skills, including job preparation, to intervene in the negative cycle typical of teen pregnancy.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES – In 2008, Mary's Shelter *counseled 194 teens*, their families or friends who called Mary's Shelter for guidance and referrals when they were faced with the pregnancy of a minor. We provided loving care for a total of **45 girls and 28 of their children** in our homes. Their length of stay varied from a few weeks to the entire year depending on their circumstances. During the year, 23 of our residents were reunited with a family member (always our goal) and we assisted five young mothers as they legally emancipated at about age 18.

Four healthy babies were born to residents while living at Mary's Shelter in the last year (and many more babies were delivered to girls after they left.) All were full term, had healthy birth weights (6 lb. 1 oz. to 7 lb. 3 oz.) and APGAR scores of 9,9. Our very positive birth statistics for teen mothers were the result of 52 pre-natal visits, 19 sonograms, 10 hospital visits and 94 pediatric appointments we arranged during the year, plus 11 Childbirth Preparation classes and the day-to-day supervision of healthy prenatal behaviors by our attentive staff.

We also scheduled appointments and took our girls and babies to a total of 242 other medical appointments during the year for non-maternity purposes, such as physical exams, sick visits and for dental and vision care. This year our staff acquired the special skills needed to care for a teen with insulin dependent diabetes and another with hypertension.

To help **foster healing and develop coping skills** Mary's Shelter Social Workers provided our teen mothers, many of whom have experienced traumatic backgrounds, with 507 hours of individual therapy, 34 hours of family and couple counseling plus facilitated two weekly therapeutic groups all year. Additionally, we took residents to 210 appointments with Psychologists and Psychiatrists as needed.

To **promote spiritual formation**, build self-esteem and instill hope, we provided a weekly bible study and offered transportation to various church services and church sponsored youth activities to all interested residents.

To break the cycle of child abuse and neglect, Mary's Shelter emphasizes **positive parenting skills**. In 2008, 14 pregnant girls participated in Prenatal Parenting classes, 22 residents attended weekly Infant Parenting classes and 12 teen mothers learned age-specific parenting techniques in weekly Toddler Parenting classes. In addition to individual counseling with pregnant girls, we arranged eight guest speakers to educate our girls about the loving parenting option that is adoption, although none made that choice this year.

We monitored the **development of all of our infants and toddlers** and took eight children to the Regional Center for developmental assessments. One child required extensive interventions to maximize his physical development: 51 Physical Therapy sessions at CHOC, 23 Occupational Therapy sessions, 21 Communication/Infant Stimulation sessions and twice weekly participation in the ICEC program. Our staff takes the child to most appointments so his mother can finish school and achieve her career goals. (He is responding well and is walking now!) Seven toddlers (babies over one year old and walking) thrived in our weekday Toddler Program to help them become preschool ready while their moms were in school.

To help prepare teen mothers for successful independent living and prevent a life of poverty, the first step is to **complete their education**. In 2008, 34 of our residents made progress in an independent course of study in our own Mary's Academy, whether at a Junior or Senior High level, and eight others were enrolled in a public high school primarily to benefit from the ESL program. We arranged for tutoring as needed. Two Mary's Shelter residents graduated from high school in 2008 and one obtained a GED.

Mary's Shelter stresses **independent living skills** once a girl turns 16 years of age. In 2008 we sent seven teen mothers for vocational testing and one girl completed a job training class while eight others attended on-site computer classes led by a volunteer. Partnering with Orangewood Children's Foundation, we sent 15 girls to Health and Nutrition classes, 13 to Personal Financial Management classes and 10 to an Orientation to Community Services. As residents approached emancipation, our Case Managers helped two girls get a job, five obtain child care and one secure transitional housing.

After-Care: We initiated contact with 51 former residents during 2008 in order to provide guidance, referrals to resources and encouragement to single moms without family support, as well as to measure the long-term success of our program in areas such as education, employment, housing status, parenting, repeat teen pregnancy, marital status and family relationships.

HUMAN SERVICES The Mary's Shelter administrative staff includes an Executive Director, Development Assistant and Bookkeeper. The program staff includes a Program Director, Associate Program Director and five Coordinators with specialties such as medical services, parenting, etc. Social services are provided by two Social Workers and two Case Managers. The continuous care and supervision of our residents is provided by 22 House Managers, over half of whom have college degrees in human services fields. An indicator of the dedication of our staff is that 16 of our 35 employees have worked at Mary's Shelter five or more years. About 20 volunteers supplemented our paid professional staff by providing services directly to our residents, and another 80 volunteers provided indirect support (Board and special events), totaling nearly 4,000 volunteer hours in 2008.

FINANCIAL NOTES This was the first year since 2003 that Mary's Shelter had an operating loss. Yet without the following two significant events that were largely outside Mary's Shelter control, net operations would have been positive by \$14,799, essentially breaking even. First, a reduction in AFDC receivables (or write-off) of \$125,282 had to be recorded in fiscal year 2008 as it was discovered to be uncollectible this year, even though the invoices were for services in 2006 and 2007. Second, there was a \$33,817 loss in the market value of our invested reserve funds. On a positive note, this was the year the Board established an **Endowment** for Mary's Shelter. We hope to build this Endowment primarily through estate gifts from donors, to ensure we can continue to provide these vital services in the long term. For now, the ongoing challenge is that Mary's Shelter needs at least **\$60,000 per month** in private donations to provide our staff-intensive services for pregnant and parenting minors and their babies. Our faithful donors have demonstrated time and again that our mission is dear to their hearts and that they will continue to rise to the occasion.

DONORS CHANGE LIVES ALL YEAR LONG

Many caring individuals, organizations, churches and companies brought smiles to the faces of our pregnant teens, teen moms, babies and toddlers last year with gifts of cash, merchandise and love. We regret any errors or omissions on this list.

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*Newborn boy on
mom's shoulder*

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St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare
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Sycuan Resort & Casino
Synergy Technical Sales

T.G.I. Friday's
Tactical Training Solutions, Inc.
Tannins Restaurant & Wine Bar
Target, Huntington Beach
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Traditional Jewelers
TROY Group, Inc.
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Mesa Verde United
Methodist Church
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Catholic Church
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Salem Lutheran Church and School
San Antonio de Padua del Canon
Catholic Church

San Francisco Solano
Catholic Church
St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
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St. Denis Catholic Church
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Catholic Church
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Blessed Sacrament Church Outreach
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Catholic Daughters of
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Knights of Columbus Council #13111
Knights of Columbus Council #5385
Knights of Columbus Council #6332
Knights of Columbus Council #7985
Knights of Columbus Council #9195
Knights of Columbus Council #9487
Knights of Columbus Council #9511
Ladies Auxillary, Knights of
Columbus #6020

Mesa Verde United
Methodist Women
Moms Club of Portola Hills
Prayer Adoration Learning &
Sharing (P.A.L.S.)
Psi Beta Psychology Club
Red Hill Lutheran Church
Women's Group
San Francisco Solano Church
Womens' Circles
Soroptimist International of
Laguna Beach
St. Cecilia Women's Prayer Group
St. Michael's Abbey
Stitches from the Heart
Water from the Rock
Women Creating Community
Women in Business Orange County

FOUNDATIONS

Ahmanson Foundation
Croul Family Foundation
Frome Family Foundation
K. Madrienne Florance Trust
George Hoag Family Foundation
Joerger Family Charitable Foundation
Beatrice F. Kroesche Foundation
Kaiser Permanente Foundation
Marisla Foundation
Reso Foundation
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Margaret Oser Fund for Women
Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare
Foundation
Sweet Bay Foundation

SCHOOLS

Foothill High School
St. Columban School



... to all who extended themselves to make sure the girls and babies who call Mary's Shelter home felt loved, with all the personalized and thoughtful gifts they received on Christmas morning. The gift cards were especially appreciated, not only so girls could shop for their own clothes - which teens love to do - but also for household needs for the shelter such as humidifiers, mattress pads, cookware, etc. May God bless all of you individuals, families and organizations who made a difference in the quality of life of our girls during the holidays!

Current Wish List

In addition to cash (which is always in short supply) the girls and babies of Mary's Shelter need:

- **Flat Screen Computer Monitors** – when you replace yours, please give us your old ones which will fit on our new workstations for teen mothers.
- **Disposable Cameras** – so residents can take pictures for their scrapbooks and baby books.
- **Household Supplies** – paper towels, tissue, toilet paper, D batteries, energy efficient light bulbs or Gift Cards for Albertson's, Smart and Final or Home Depot.
- **Baby Care Products** – Diapers, especially in sizes 3-5, baby wipes, formula and baby food.
- **Gift Cards** – for Target, Mervyn's or CVS which make great gifts for our girls' birthdays.
- **Locksmith** – to replace three file cabinet locks.
- **Car Detailing** – Wash, wax and detail our four shelter vans.



*Mary's
Shelter*

P.O. Box 10433
Santa Ana, CA
92711-0433

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*Changing lives
two at a time*



You Are Invited to an Evening of Irish Merriment

*A Gala to support teen mothers and their babies at Mary's Shelter
and to honor Evie Pilkington.*

Saturday March 7, 2009 • 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Radisson Hotel Newport Beach

**Come have FUN while helping pregnant minors who have chosen life for their babies:
Silent Auction, Pot O' Gold Raffle, Live Auction, Dinner, Dancing, Irish Entertainment**

For information please contact Christine at (714) 730-0930, Extension 15 or Christine@teenshelter.org
An invitation can be downloaded from [www.teenshelter.org/Donor Events](http://www.teenshelter.org/Donor%20Events)