



Mary's Shelter

Winter 2008/09

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.



FOR YOUR 2009 CALENDAR:

Underwriters Party
Balboa Yacht Club
January 25

Annual Gala
Radisson Newport Beach
March 7

Golf Tournament
Black Gold Golf Course,
Yorba Linda
September 16

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

Courageous Choices by Pregnant Teens



adoptive family.

For some pregnant teenagers, the choice is even more heart-wrenching – if that is possible! Imagine being a girl who is put in the unthinkable

We hear so much about women having the legal “right to choose” when they have an unplanned pregnancy. Usually that means the mother is choosing to either go through with the pregnancy or “terminate” the pregnancy. It may also mean determining if she can parent her child herself or choosing instead to give her baby the gift of an

position of choosing between being able to live at home with her family only if she ends the life of her unborn baby, or choosing instead to give life to her own child but having no family to help her through the challenges of pregnancy and becoming a mother.

Mary's Shelter is here for young girls who have faced that very dilemma and have courageously chosen to place the love of their own children even higher than their basic need to be loved by their families. It is only through donor support that Mary's Shelter can offer girls in this particular situation a concrete, life-affirming “choice.” Thank you to our faithful donors for making it possible for teen mothers to make such excruciating and courageous decisions for themselves and their children.

Opportunity

Current news reports and projections about the economy can easily trigger negative and fearful emotions and reactions. The challenges are real, but if we listen only to these outside voices, it is easy to forget that God is in control and provides enough of everything we *need*, though not necessarily what we *want*. This is the time to reevaluate our priorities.

In a recent article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy, Scott Bidle and Jean Johnson wrote: *“Hard times are the test of any society. It's easy to be humane, generous and democratic when there's plenty of money around. It's when times are tough that you find out what a society really values. And it's in times like this that philanthropy can lead the way”*

What does our society really value? What do you really value? If you are fortunate enough to have your health, a job, a place to live, food to eat – you are blessed! And more than ever before, you have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others who lack these basic necessities. This is the time to show what you value by being more, not less, generous. You can “lead the way” by promoting your values through your charitable donations.

I believe that the many faithful friends of Mary's Shelter place a high value on this ministry to homeless pregnant teens, and that they will make sure it weathers this economic cycle as we begin our 15th year of changing lives – two at a time.



Barbara Nelson
Executive Director

Today's Abolitionist

The young mothers of Mary's Shelter live the pro-life message in a way that speaks volumes to the courage and love that defines motherhood and the miracle that is pregnancy. This is in contrast to our desensitized culture that values personal choice over a person's life. The pro-abortion stance of the new administration calls for an even more urgent and vocal pro-life response. Just when we thought we were giving it our all, we must now give more. A human life depends on it.

I am in awe of the Mary's Shelter community that has been serving on the front lines of this battle. Thank you for your commitment, inspiration and enduring support. However, we must now engage others too, to storm heaven with prayer, write our legislators, sign petitions, and provide volunteer and financial support for agencies that are living our pro-life beliefs, like Mary's Shelter.

My husband and I support Mary's Shelter's mission of changing lives, two at a time; the loving staff who are family to us all; and especially the disadvantaged girls who stand on behalf of the child in the womb, choosing life and living their lives without a safety net, save Mary's Shelter.

We of the pro-life movement must double-up our efforts. We are the abolitionists of our time. Be heard on earth and in heaven! And thank you – because your prayers, financial contributions and time spent thus far, have already saved lives. Together, we will Abolish Abortion and we shall settle for nothing less.



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Mary’s Shelter

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Summer FUNdraising Fiesta

Mary’s Shelter supporters gathered for a Fabulous Fiesta at the Capistrano Beach home of Board President Berni Neal and her husband Rob on August 10th. Gifts totaling \$12,600 were made by guests at the casual gathering where donors and board members got to know one another better. The Fiesta featured margaritas, mexican food, cool ocean breezes and ended with a spectacular sunset. *Muchas Gracias* to Hosts Berni and Rob Neal, Party Underwriters Erica and Jerry Sheehy and all the other supporters.



NEW Mary’s Shelter Endowment Fund

In September the Board of Directors opened the Mary’s Shelter Endowment Fund, using the gifts received in memory of Chairman Emeritus Paul R. Peek, which totaled \$11,070. This endowment is a mark of the fiscal maturity of Mary’s Shelter, which has served pregnant teens and their children since 1994.

An endowment is a legal financial instrument for non-profit organizations with unique regulations and specific purposes. Our Endowment Fund was opened in the Orange County Community Foundation, giving Mary’s Shelter the advantages of professionally managed pooled funds. As it grows over time, the Mary’s Shelter Endowment Fund will provide a reliable source of future operating revenue, support our mission into the future, aid in long-term planning and honor the legacy wishes of Mary’s Shelter donors.

Gifts directed by donors to an endowment are held in the fund in perpetuity; that is, forever. Only the earnings may be withdrawn and used by the non-profit, so the corpus (amount donated) never decreases and actually increases over time. As a result, donors are assured that their favored charity will continue to benefit from their generosity “forever” making this gifting instrument attractive to many people as part of estate planning. Unrestricted major gifts received by Mary’s Shelter may also be placed in the Endowment Fund at the direction of the Board of Directors.

Generally up to 5% of the earnings of an Endowment Fund can be spent each year so the principal account can grow to keep up with inflation and retain the purchasing power of the original gift. Assuming that long term investment growth exceeds 5%, the corpus – and therefore annual proceeds – will grow over time.

According to a policy established by the Board of Directors, no distributions will be made from the Mary’s Shelter Endowment Fund until it reaches \$1 million. At that point it will generate \$50,000 every year toward operating expenses. An Endowment Fund eventually built to at least \$5 million is our long-term strategic goal, to enable Mary’s Shelter to reduce reliance on government funding.

Mary’s Shelter continues to need an average of \$65,000 per month in donations to cover its operating expenses, so donations for current operations remains a priority. But most people can make much larger gifts from their estate than they can on a monthly or annual basis. Planned gifts are therefore the primary focus for building the Mary’s Shelter Endowment Fund. If you are creating or updating your estate plans, please consider naming the Mary’s Shelter Endowment Fund in your will, trust or insurance policy, making it possible for generations of vulnerable pregnant teens to bring a healthy baby into the world.

Many Ways to Give

- **Monthly or Quarterly Gifts** – of any size really add up over time. Call Christine at Mary’s Shelter, write a note or go on-line to www.teenshelter.org to authorize a gift automatically billed to your credit card or sent directly from your bank account.
- **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, such as Boeing, Ingram Mico, Pimco, Sun Micro Systems, Wachovia and others.

Fall Golf Tournament

The 14th Annual Mary's Shelter Golf Tournament on September 17th was a great success! Nearly \$27,000 was raised to support pregnant teens and their babies thanks to Chair Pete Lauder and his committee, and the support shown by the 67 golfers who enjoyed the Coyote Hills Course plus the generous sponsors:

Gold Sponsors:

McCombs-Wall, Inc. and FLW. Inc.

Bronze Sponsors:

Harrington Geotechnical Engineering

Kitchen Renovations

Knights of Columbus Council #9599 ~ John Paul II Polish Center

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Knights of Columbus Council #5385 ~ Bishop Thomas J. Conaty



McCombs Sponsor



FLW Sponsors



Tournament Winners



Womens 4-Some



Pete & Patty
Tournament Chairman

GOT HOUSE?



The Strategic Plan for Mary's Shelter calls for creating a Transitional Home for two or more 18 year old single mothers and their children when they transition from Mary's Shelter into independent living. This will require either a house or condo somewhere in central Orange County so we can extend our services to help these young moms get on their feet.

Opportunities abound in the current housing market! Could you contact the lender of a house or condo that was foreclosed on in your neighborhood and inquire if it could be donated? We can find volunteers to make even a "fixer-upper" into a safe and inviting home.

Or are you in a position to purchase such a home or condo at a bargain-basement price and rent it to Mary's Shelter at a discounted rate, donating it to Mary's Shelter at a later time when your property (and your tax deduction) has appreciated?

We know the right Transition House is out there – can you lead us to it?

NEW IRS RULES

As part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Congress extended the ability for those at least 70.5 years old to make tax-free distributions up to \$100,000 directly from IRA accounts to charities – such as Mary's Shelter. Consult your tax advisor to determine if this is the most advantageous way for you to make a year-end, tax-deductible charitable donation to Mary's Shelter.

SPECIAL FRIENDS

Several friends of Mary's Shelter recently made it possible for our teen moms to experience a variety of cultural events. Thanks to **PIMCO** for providing tickets to view the "Terra Cotta Warriors Exhibit" at the Bowers Museum, to **Troy Group, Inc.** for hosting an evening at Opera Pacifica for our girls, and to board member **Peggy Holmes** for taking our girls to a performance of "The Magic of Christmas" at the Crystal Cathedral. These experiences greatly enrich the lives of the disadvantaged girls at Mary's Shelter.

Thanks also to **Paul Amort** and his son **Steve** of **Amort Construction Inc.** who rebuilt one of the support columns on our house that had succumbed to wood rot.

Many individuals, families, companies and church groups have adopted the girls and babies at Mary's Shelter for the holidays and will be providing gifts and activities to bring joy to our girls during their holiday season away from home. For example, thanks to **Marilu Morency** who held her sixth annual open house at which her friends brought donations for Mary's Shelter.



*Mary's
Shelter*

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*Changing lives
two at a time*

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: VOLUNTEER!

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