



Mary's Shelter

Fall 2011

changing lives two at a time

Mission Statement:

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

SAVE THE DATES:

Tuesday, October 11

Pediatrician Dr. Jim Sears
7:00 a.m. Breakfast Talk
Radisson Hotel
Newport Beach

Friday, February 24

Eric Genuis Concert
The Pavillion, Santa Ana

Reflections on the Precious Gift of Life

As October is Respect Life Month, may I share some interesting reflections with you?

First, per "Hidden Choices" newsletter, every year in America about 1.5 million couples participate in IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) trying to conceive a child. At the same time, about 1.5 million babies are aborted by women who don't feel they can, or want to, parent a child. **The win-win-win solution is adoption!** Birth mothers can get on with their own lives without guilt and become a hero for giving a child to a waiting couple, couples ravaged by infertility can become loving families, and children can live out the life for which God created them.



Of the 10 babies now at Mary's Shelter, three are less than eight weeks old. The action never stops - 24 hours a day!

The second reflection is from Timothy Kieras, S.J. for the Magis Institute. The Catholic Church commemorates the "immaculate conception" of Mary - through her unspotted nature, God created a fitting instrument to bring about the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. **Mary's conception seems more important than her birthday**, since on the former day she came into existence, whereas the birthday is something more subtle. On a birth day, the life that has been growing quietly and hidden suddenly becomes public. The child only the mother has felt can now be held and seen by all. Every parent, and grandparent, knows that the joy begins as soon as it is known that a child has been conceived!

There are so many ways to nurture and protect the miraculous gift of life, from "womb to tomb." Taking care of our own physical and emotional health and that of our family members is only the beginning. We can also donate blood, marrow or organs for others; make sure everyone has sufficient food and clean water; advocate for basic healthcare for all; make loving accommodations for those with disabilities and the aged; stand beside those society would execute; and make possible a place like Mary's Shelter for pregnant women who have no where to live and no one to care for them when they choose to give birth to the precious new life within.

Cy Pres Gifts

Mary's Shelter was the recent beneficiary of an extraordinary gift, thanks to the advocacy of donor and attorney James P. Stoneman II, Esquire. This is the third *Cy Pres* Remainder gift Jim has directed to Mary's Shelter - a total of \$132,000 over three years!

Jim's practice specializes in employment law, which sometimes includes a class action suit on behalf of employees. When the court finds for the plaintiff, the defendant (company) must set aside funds from which members of the class may make a claim. Any funds that remain in the settlement fund after a specified period of time (*Cy Pres* Remainder) are distributed by the court to an appropriate charity, usually at the recommendation of the plaintiff's attorney. In three such cases, the court approved Jim's recommendation of Mary's Shelter as the recipient of these funds.

Thank you Jim for advocating for the teen mothers and babies at Mary's Shelter! Others in the legal community who have the opportunity to recommend the recipient of a *Cy Pres* Distribution are also asked to consider Mary's Shelter as a way to support homeless teen mothers and their babies in our community.



Executive Director Barbara Nelson receives check from Jim Stoneman.

Donate or
RSVP on-line
www.teenshelter.org

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Mary's Shelter

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Serving those Who Serve

The important work that is done at Mary's Shelter, changing the lives of both teen mothers and their babies, is accomplished by dedicated and very loving women who nurture and form our residents every hour of every day. Mary's Shelter recently honored eight of these employees, those who have served our young residents for ten or more years (for a total of 95 years!)

First, they were treated to a fabulous dinner at the Balboa Bay Club's First Cabin Restaurant. They were served "like queens" and enjoyed perfect weather on the outdoor patio overlooking the bay. Next, they enjoyed a leisurely harbor cruise on the 45' yacht Nauti Holiday, courtesy of Linda and (Board member) Roger Chaix. In addition to viewing the sights from the water with a commentary of the OC's notable homes and history by Captain Roger, they saw sea lions up close and God blessed them with a fabulous sunset. These very special guests finished up the evening at the dock with dessert and a keepsake gift, reminiscent of the nurturing mother of Jesus, our namesake Mary.



Honored for their years of committed service were:

- Amy Braun (16 years) ~ Facilities & Special Projects Coordinator
- Liz Mojica (14 years) ~ Lead Social Worker
- Margaret Smith (12 years) ~ Shift Lead on the all night shift
- Maria Minjares (11 years) ~ House Manager on weekdays
- Sandy Ta (11 years) ~ Program Coordinator
- Liz Stamps (11 years) ~ House Manager on the all night shift
- Lisa Tomlinson (10 years) ~ Shift Lead for daycare
- Kari Humphrey (10 years) ~ Case Manager

Volunteer Opportunities

To find out how you can help make a difference as a Mary's Shelter volunteer, call Christine at (714) 730-0930, extension 15.

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

Drivers* - Drive our girls and their babies to their doctor and other appointments.

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

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

Fund Raising - Enjoy working with other volunteers to produce fund raising events such as our Spring Gala, to benefit our girls and babies.

Board of Directors - Make long-term strategic plans while helping raise funds and friends for Mary's Shelter. Talk to the Executive Director to be considered for this three-year commitment.

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

Community Funding Partners

Mary's Shelter is grateful to the following community partners for their recent gifts:

- \$10,000 Anonymous
- \$4,000 Red Hill Lutheran Church
- \$99,026 Two *Cy Pres* Gifts courtesy James Stoneman II, Esquire
- \$30,000 Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation Grant
- \$40,000 Anonymous Family Foundation



Volunteer Project

Thanks to members of the Sts. Simon and Jude Church Men's Club for their loving labor, keeping the hedges trimmed on our large property to keep gardening costs down.

Guardian Angels



To make sure that no pregnant girl in need is ever turned away from Mary's Shelter due to a lack of funds, Mary's Shelter is building an Endowment Fund. Supporters who make at least a \$10,000 gift to the Endowment Fund now, or who plan a gift of any amount from their estate in the future, become Guardian Angels for Mary's Shelter. These Angels receive special recognition and an exclusive event with our residents each year. **Already ten Guardian Angels have stepped forward!**

If you already named Mary's Shelter in your estate plans, or if you would like more information on becoming a Guardian Angel, please call Executive Director Barbara Nelson so we can include you in the earthly rewards of being a Guardian Angel for teen moms who chose life for their babies!

Many Ways to Give

- **Monthly or Quarterly Gifts** - of any size really add up over time. For simplicity, call Christine at Mary's Shelter, write a note to authorize a gift automatically billed to your credit card or sent directly from your bank account or arrange it on our secure website.
- **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.
- **Alternative Gift** - Having a special birthday or anniversary? You already have more "stuff" than you need, so ask people to make a donation to Mary's Shelter in your name instead.

Current Wish List

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

- **Household** - new refrigerator (call for details), flatware/silverware, toaster, pots and pans, child gates, alarm clocks, laundry baskets
- **Supplies** - paper towels, tissue, toilet paper, batteries: 9 volt, D,A,AA
- **Baby Care** - newborn through size 4 diapers, formula: Enfamil Lipil, Enfamil Premium Lipil, Enfamil Next Step Lipil, infant toys/ rattles, plastic baby bath tubs



*Mary's
Shelter*

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two at a time*

Mary's Shelter Presents **Dr. Jim Sears on Healthy Kids**



**Just as Mary's Shelter promotes a healthy start
in life for the children of teen mothers,
Pediatrician Jim Sears M.D. from
The Doctors TV Show shares his wisdom on rearing
"The Healthiest Kids in the Neighborhood."**

**Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Radisson Newport Beach Hotel
\$25 includes breakfast – bring friends!
RSVP: (714) 730-0930 X15 or
www.teenshelter.org/donate**