



# Mary's Shelter



## Our Mission to End Youth Homelessness

For years I have heard the young women say they feel “completely alone and isolated” when they first find out they are pregnant. Now, I talk to homeless kids who say exactly the same thing. Yes, there are people around, but does anyone truly understand? Does anyone even care?

During the height of Covid, we all could relate to the feelings of isolation. Seclusion for two or three days was a pleasure, but those feelings quickly turn to frustration and short fuses when stretched out over time. Smiling when you'd rather cry, staying focused when no one is there to listen or help, and getting up each day to more obstacles is incredibly overwhelming.

Homeless kids live in this world of isolation, loneliness and anxiety that threatens any hope of ever experiencing joy and happiness. So how do we help? How do we break through the protective walls they have created to keep from getting hurt again? How do we build trust?

It starts with simple acts of kindness; providing food, clothing, and a safe place to sleep. All of that leads to open and honest communication so that the healing, trusting connection can begin. Each day we open our doors, our hearts and our “home” to young people who have nowhere else to turn. Those feelings of isolation and loneliness are replaced with loving care and compassion. New friendships are formed, dreams are created, and the seeds of hope are planted.

The staff provides guidance, support and encouragement. The volunteers tutor, assist, and genuinely care about the young people. Just like any family – together we can overcome!

Thank you for being a part of our family. Your support gives us strength, your prayers give us hope, and together we are changing lives forever.

**Christine Folk, RN**  
*Executive Director*

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Getting to Know Our Programs

A board member recently said, “The question is not, have we done enough – it’s can we do more” ..... to provide the foundation for a successful transition to adulthood, and independence, while breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

Our Maternity Home Program helps expectant young women prepare for the awesome responsibilities of motherhood through a comprehensive program focused on education, employment, healthcare and future housing. We provide housing and social services for homeless expectant youth ages 16 to 22. Additionally, we provide material needs (diapers, clothing and formula, etc.) and social services to low-income families through our two community outreach programs. Each year, we help over 1000 families in these programs.

- Each month we see 150+ families with more than 325 children (newborn to age three)
- In 2018 – a 2002 program graduate earned her master’s degree in psychology and became a new home-owner
- Every September since 2004 grandparents of a former resident send a letter, photos and monetary donation on the baby’s birthday – saying thank you for our grandchild!

Our YESS Youth Program helps homeless and run-away kids between the ages of 14- 17 address the immediate concern of sleeping on the streets, through short-term housing, family mediation, assistance with schoolwork and attendance, and long-term mentoring. 167 youth served since the program opened in February 2019

- 2019 – 52 overnight youth and 10 drop-in youth with intensive case management
- 2020 - 38 overnight youth and 11 drop-in youth with intensive case management
- 2021 – 35 overnight youth and 21 drop-in youth with intensive case management
- 2022 January to March – 24 overnight youth and 31 drop-in youth with intensive case management
- Program successes:
- 2021 – 1 high school graduation, 14 advanced a grade level
- 2020 – 2 high school graduations, both accepted into postsecondary programs, 10 advanced a grade level

Our STRONG Transitional Living Program offers a longer-term housing option to youth ages 16-21 by providing safe and stable housing as they finish high school, prepare to join the workforce, or enter post-secondary education and trade programs. The program just opened in February 2022.

Host a Collection

Throughout the year, businesses, groups, congregations and individuals coordinate collections to help keep our pantry cupboards full of supplies for our residential programs and for distribution to our community families.

Call 610-376-1973 and ask for Sue for more information



Consider hosting a Baby Bottle Campaign to support the Programs at Mary’s Shelter. The Baby Bottle Campaigns have a dual purpose. First, collecting your spare “change” will help change the lives of the mothers, babies and teens. Second, raise awareness for Mary’s Shelter by displaying the baby bottle and open the door for conversations about the courageous and amazing young people who seek our help.



BABIES BORN IN 2021-2022

Mary’s Shelter provides community outreach services through a Mother/Baby Pantry for expectant and newly parenting moms and a Diaper Bank for women with children between the ages of one and three. These services and much needed supplies are provided through the generous donations from our supporters. Thank you!

Daniel	12/1/21	7lbs 3oz	Benson	1/9/22	5lbs 7oz	Levi	3/1/22	8lbs 9oz
Jefferson	12/1/21	6lbs 2oz	Alonso	1/12/22	8lbs 5oz	Eliab	3/3/22	7lbs 6oz
Raeliyah	12/6/21	6lbs 5oz	Joanny	1/14/22	5lbs 8oz	Darleny	3/12/22	6lbs 13oz
Mikayla	12/9/21	6lbs 4oz	Abhnel	1/17/22	7lbs 10oz	Jacob	3/15/22	7lbs
Luis	12/9/21	5lbs 10oz	Anayeliz	1/18/22	8lbs	Amanda	3/17/22	5lbs 12oz
Easton	12/14/21	7lbs 13oz	Za’laiiah	1/20/22	5lbs 8oz	Zamirah	3/18/22	5lbs
Ava	12/21/21	5lbs 9oz	Jassel	1/22/22	6lbs	Maria	3/21/22	7lbs
Madison	12/22/21	5lbs	Ismael	1/22/22	6lbs 3oz	Jandrely	3/27/22	7lbs 3oz
Robert	12/27/21	9lbs 1oz	Fautyna	1/26/22	6lbs	Sheilyn	4/4/22	8lbs 4oz
Victoria	12/28/21	7lbs 11oz	Aleysh	1/27/22	7lbs 4oz	Fernand	4/8/22	6lbs 8oz
Corey	12/31/21	4lbs 9oz	Albert	2/4/22	6lbs	Ocean	4/30/22	7lbs 2oz
Jiriaya	1/6/22	9lbs 9oz	Bella	2/11/22	7lbs			
Danielys	1/8/22	5lbs 6oz	Michael	2/28/22	5lbs			

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

WHEN  
Thursday  
August 11th  
10:00 am - 2:00pm  
  
WHERE  
Mary’s Shelter  
615 Kenhorst Blvd.  
Reading, PA 19611

Mary’s Shelter, in conjunction with Drexel School of Medicine, Western Berks Free Medical Clinic, and the BCIU are hosting a Health and Wellness Fair. There will be resource booths, games, free giveaways, and back to school supplies for kids.

We are also giving away free backpacks to the first 50 attendees



# WALK, RUN

Mary's Shelter Summer 5K Fundraiser

*Stroll*

Virtual, from June 12th - 18th

Find more information on our website at [marysshelter.org](https://marysshelter.org)

