



Mary's Shelter



What Are You Thankful For?

This is the latest topic of conversation after a recent class for our young clients. My favorite answer by far was, **“You, well not just you Chris, but all of you, for making me a better person”** -17 year old

I believe this one simple sentence has so many truths. First, no one person could do this work alone. It takes a team approach. I am thankful for the staff members and their commitment to providing compassionate care 24/7. I am thankful for a board of directors who have the vision and desire to continue expanding the program and services. I am thankful for all of you – individuals, businesses, faith based and civic groups, who continue to support Mary's Shelter in so many ways. Together, we are one dynamic team, working to make our community better.

It was only the last part of his sentence that brought a tear to my eye, because this young man was already a good person. He was just never told that by any adult in his life.

His self-confidence and outlook on life were at rock bottom when he arrived. But with the constant encouragement (from staff), small acts of kindness (from board members) and hearing he has a whole community (all of you) on his side, we saw him flourish!

I reminded him that we did not make him a better person – he just finally started to realize what an amazing young man he already was! Thank you for making Mary's Shelter stronger in 2021.

Thank you for believing in Mary's Shelter and the awesome young men, women and children in our programs. It is an honor and a blessing to work with you to change their futures.

May the joy and happiness of the Holiday Season stay with you throughout the New Year!

Christine Folk-Orth
Executive Director

OPEN HOUSE

On October 8th we had the pleasure of hosting an open house to show the community our recent renovations and newest service. In addition to our emergency youth housing, we will now be able to have long term housing for homeless youth ages 16 to 21. The new expansion was a dream of the staff and the board. Through hard work and a coordinated community effort, we were able to bring this dream to life. We held a design contest in the spring for local high school students to design the "perfect bedroom" for a homeless kid.

The winning designs were used by community and business partners to paint, furnish and decorate the rooms. Each room has its own unique feel and style to make the youth feel like they have a true home. There is also a large kitchen with many tables to work and socialize, and two living rooms with plenty of games and movies.

The day was filled with joy of all kinds. We were able to give some of the student designers tours and they were so amazed to see their designs in person. We were able to give tours to our local State Police, Mayor Moran, and State Senator Judy Schwank who are excited at what we will be able to do. We were also pleased to have so

many visitors from all over the community come to celebrate with us.

I am a new board member for Mary's Shelter and due to the pandemic, this was the first event that I was able to attend. After all of the recent struggles it was so heartwarming and uplifting to see just how appreciated we are by the community and how willing so many people are to come together to make a project like this work.

Even though most of the hard physical work is now completed, once we are able to open the housing for homeless youth the real work will begin. There are going to be new continual needs for these young adults which will be different than our maternity clients. We are confident in our neighbors to help meet these needs and get our clients the help they need and the start in life that will make them successful adults.

Thank you for all of your continued support. If you would like to help in any way please visit our website, add us to your Amazon Smile list, or just help us spread the word about who we are and what we do.

- Natashja Szortyka and Development Committee

BABIES BORN IN 2021

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!

6/1	Emil	8lbs	8/10	Aaliyah	7lbs	9/14	Eliam	6lbs 8oz
6/4	Adelyn	6lbs	8/13	Odonis	8lbs 4oz	9/30	Kirtan	7lbs
6/17	Annelys	7lbs	8/14	Sara 7lbs	9oz	10/5	Liz	6lbs 5oz
6/28	Aaliyah	5lbs	8/19	Noemi	8lbs 4oz	10/8	Joseph	6lbs 7oz
6/21	Jeneviah	7lbs 10oz	8/27	Rose	6lbs	10/13	Elinelys	9lbs 2oz
7/2	Jan	9lbs 9oz	9/1	Adelany	7lbs 5oz	10/13	Sophia	6lbs 3oz
7/11	Jasmine	7lbs	9/3	Julissa	5lbs 15oz	10/29	Dylan	7lbs
7/25	Diana	5lbs	9/6	Lean Jose	7lbs 5oz	11/02	Nehemias	5lbs 9oz
7/27	Gabriel	8lbs 2oz	9/6	MaxJoan	7lbs 4oz	11/07	Salma	7lbs
8/6	Mylah	8lbs 6oz	9/9	Eithan	6lbs 8oz			

OPEN HOUSE (cont.)



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*The question is not “have we done enough”,
it’s “can we do more?”*

Thank you

FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT 2021
AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We look forward to doing more in 2022!