

Opening Our Home



Making a Difference Through a Comprehensive and Loving Approach to Supporting Moms

BY JULIE OVERLEASE

You are likely familiar with the starfish on the beach parable in which an old man is puzzled when he comes upon a young boy throwing starfish after starfish back into the sea while the beach is covered in tens of thousands of them. When the man asked what the boy was doing, he replied, “Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can’t return to the sea by themselves. When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water.”

The old man told the boy he couldn’t possibly make much of a difference, to which the boy responded with a smile as he picked up yet another starfish and flung it into the ocean, “It made a difference to that one.”

And so, we open our doors and begin at St. Mary’s Home for Mothers, helping one woman and her precious baby at a time. Their lives matter. Each child is a unique gift from God of immeasurable worth which will never again be repeated. American societal problems of unplanned pregnancies out of wedlock, abortion, poverty and homelessness are of great magnitude and threaten to overwhelm our resolve to impact change. Pro-life advocates are often called “pro-birth” by the opposition, however that is a false narrative.

IN THIS ISSUE

Making a Difference Through a Comprehensive and Loving Approach to Supporting Moms

Volunteer Spotlight: Joan Bellinghausen

Current Needs

Deacon's Corner

What's Happening at St. Mary's

The over 2700 pregnancy help centers in the US provide needed and valuable services to help vulnerable expectant women grow and thrive during pregnancy and as parents.

God has been moving in the hearts of many to unite people with shared purpose for the future good of area women and babies. St Mary's Home for Mothers will provide homeless, unwed mothers in the greater Kansas City metro a safe residence with personal services aimed at enabling women to develop skills and advance toward independence for their families. This is life changing for the women and children who will be served. This has the potential to break negative, dysfunctional, generational cycles. With trust in God's will, St. Mary's Home for Mothers is forging ahead to inspire hope and a promise of a better way forward for residents. Generous benefactors are blessed with the opportunity to give of their time, talent and treasure to comprehensively and wholistically save and change lives.



Up to 15 residents, including infants and children, will enjoy a 16,000 sq. ft., holy, tranquil, beautifully renovated facility on 15 acres in rural Liberty, Missouri. Case management from a clinical social worker, evidence-based modality for individual counseling and group therapy from licensed professionals, mealtime fellowship, on-site chapel, opportunities for medical/dental resources, future walking trails, trade skills/education and daily prayer time are part of the remarkable and comprehensive support plan.

Women of all faiths or no faith are welcome, but the Catholic environment is designed to add peace and enhance spirituality in residents' lives. Research-oriented approaches shown to produce positive outcomes will be the foundation of treatment to reduce anxiety and improve emotions and coping abilities in moms who are struggling. St. Mary's Home for Mothers is not a band-aid fix, but a life enriching opportunity. "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."

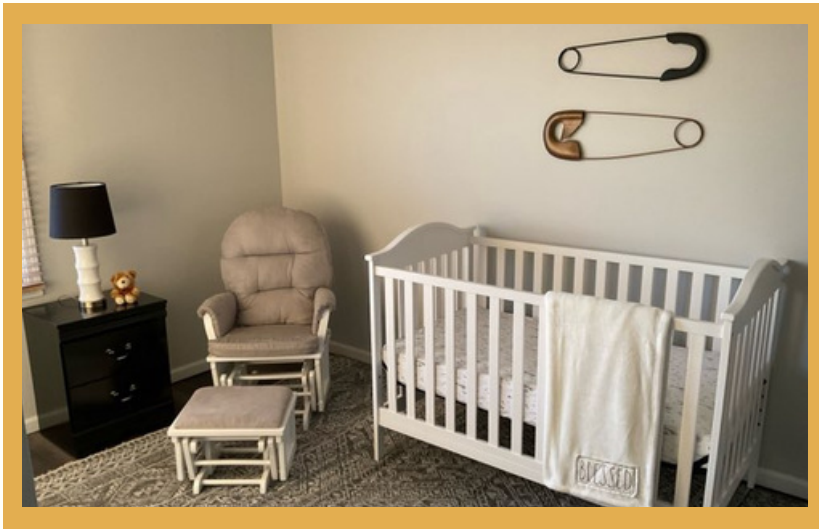
As Matt Loehr, Ph.D., a Clinical Social Worker and Executive Director of St. Mary's Home for Mothers, succinctly shared about the unique setup and deliberate atmosphere, "This is where hope lives. We are going to foster hope." Please join us in supporting the pro-life movement in a most meaningful manner. Changing hearts and minds about the difficult and lasting consequences of an abortion experience involves empowering moms to instead choose life and building meaningful relationships one personal connection at a time. St. Mary's Home for Mothers is poised to change lives for the better and your support and

financial contributions will help struggling women and their babies. Like the kind boy tossing starfish, we will make a difference and we won't be deterred.

Thank you!

Interested in Donating?
PO Box 322
Liberty, MO 64069

Have faith. Hope on! God is good.



Volunteer Spotlight: Joan Bellinghausen

What was your vision for the physical space at the home?



I wanted to create a comfortable and inviting sanctuary for these women, a place to call home that fosters a sense of peace and tranquility. The goal was to curate a beautiful and fresh “look” that blends together new and old furniture and furnishings.

The décor features a current color palette (think grays, whites, blues), striking patterns in fabrics and pops of color throughout the house. Each bedroom has its own personality by using different furniture (headboards, nightstands, dressers), bedding and wall art.

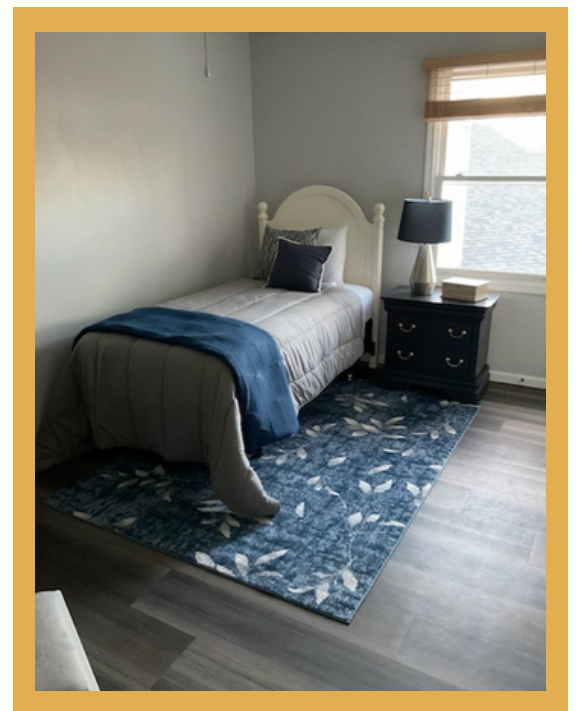
Of course, we furnished the home on a shoestring budget. While we purchased some new furniture, we became proficient at scoring fabulous finds via Facebook Marketplace, garage sales and HomeGoods. We also appreciated the generosity of others who donated furniture and other items.

Furnishing and decorating a house of this size was a huge undertaking and was a team effort. I was happy to volunteer side-by-side with two good friends – Laura Jaworski and Michelle Sexton. We were also grateful for volunteer Kent Schuler who made numerous trips to St. Mary’s with his pick-up truck loaded with furniture.

What do your days look like when you are not volunteering for St. Mary's Home for Mothers?

As an interior stylist, every day is different. I enjoy working with clients to “refresh” their space by adding in the finishing touches to make a house a home. I might be hanging a gallery wall, rearranging furniture or creating eye-catching fireplace mantels and bookshelves. I love pulling together a new look by shopping for lamps, pillows, rugs and accessories.

I enjoy spending time with my husband, Jim, and son, Matthew, as well as entertaining extended family and friends. I like to read, write (am working on a book), putz around in the yard and tweak the décor in our own home. My volunteering gigs include helping decorate our church (Curé of Ars Catholic Church in Leawood), doing various hands-on assistance in the community through the Junior League, and taking our black lab, Gus, into nursing homes and schools as a volunteer with Pets for Life.



CURRENT NEEDS

- Prayers
- Gift Cards for Gas and Groceries
- New Colored Pencils and Sharpeners
- Coloring Books (kids and adults)
- New Crayons
- New Markers

Please contact Mary Rinne for drop off: maryrinne@outlook.com

Deacon's Corner

BY DEACON KEVIN CUMMINGS

As St. Mary's Home for Mothers welcomes our first moms to our beautiful facility, I would like to thank ALL of our volunteers and benefactors that have been so formidable in making this a reality! The Holy Spirit has led us, from day one, with support and talents that were nothing short of miraculous. Those who have gone "all in" are too numerous to mention in this short newsletter, but I know each and every one of you, and will pray for you daily. Your prayers and gifts have allowed us to break ground on renovation of a former convent in rural Liberty, Missouri to take care of God's most fragile.



Dr. Matt Loehr, the Executive Director, and I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and commitment shown every step of this opening process. We often talk about how no woman should think she has to choose abortion due to homelessness. St. Mary's Home for Mothers is answering the call to care for life. Although our journey has just begun, we feel the blessings and determination created for this mission appear to have no bounds. We are both humbled and prayerful at the thought of those we are honored to serve.

We intend to keep everyone involved in this ministry updated and intricately apprised at each level of our progress. Should you have ANY suggestions or ideas on how to better serve our moms and their children, we implore you to contact us immediately. We cherish your input and cannot succeed without YOU!

May God bless each of you and your families, and please continue to pray for us!



What's Happening at St. Mary's?

Here are some events coming up at St. Mary's Home for Mothers:

- Representative Chris Brown is hosting a food drive.
- St. Mary's University will be visiting us for a second time to complete projects around the house.
- Kansas City Community Gardens and The Giving Grove Orchards will continue visits to plan out vegetable gardens and an orchard on our land.

CONTACT INFO

Matthew Loehr, PhD, LCSW
Executive Director
816.325.0381
maloehr@outlook.com

Mary Rinne, LCSW
Clinical Director
816.529.9632
maryrinne@outlook.com

Website: <https://smhfm.org>
Facebook: St. Mary's Home for Mothers

HOW TO DONATE

Mail: PO Box 322,
Liberty, MO 64069

We are currently working on building our website to accommodate donations. Please be on the lookout for a DONATE button soon!