

Blessings Abound



A Tranquil Setting for Moms

BY JULIE OVERLEASE

I know personally, as is the experience of most people and families, that life is often messy. Our choices have consequences and a series of happenings may lead us to an unintentional destination. Sometimes we push against the twists and turns of life, rather than surrendering control to our loving Father.

Women in the midst of an unplanned pregnancy are overwhelmed by fear, complicated relationships, various forms of instability (financial, emotional) and face countless pressures that make them vulnerable to seeking abortion as a solution. Pro-life advocates care deeply about these women and their babies.

Pregnancy help centers provide education on options, information on resources, and loving encouragement to support women navigating the journey of pregnancy when it is their heart's desire to carry the baby. Pregnancy tests, sonograms, and counsel are offered to clients without charge to help women see their unexpected situation with eyes filled with hope. Babies, regardless of if they arrive on one's desired life schedule, are irreplaceable. Each human life is an incredible blessing. Pregnancy centers are invaluable for step one, a woman making the choice to give life to her baby by carrying the pregnancy.

But then what?

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Enter St. Mary’s Home for Mothers (SMHM) in rural Liberty, Missouri. When expectant mothers walk through the front door, they enter a tranquil environment with a beautiful, warm aesthetic – a serene, nurturing haven in their time of need. I felt at peace at the dining table of the home during a delicious lunch with a lovely resident. Through an expanse of windows we enjoyed a view of leaves stirred by a gentle breeze as we engaged in conversation. The home is most inviting.

SMHM offers women a way to bless their babies with the light of life. It provides a way forward. When our most basic needs are met, we experience security, relief and comfort. This special place is a brick and mortar home filled with love and kindness – truly the moms are cradled in the loving arms of Christ through his disciples on Earth – those serving the residents.

SMHM intentionally provides case management and therapy to navigate a pathway for women to achieve their goals for a more secure, stable and empowered future. SMHM meets residents where they are, with professionals assessing their physical, emotional and spiritual needs to accompany them with steadfast encouragement. The residents will certainly face challenges, but the “total person” concept of staff serving the moms is life-changing, not a stop-gap approach. The vision is to support and guide pregnant women to realize their dreams and create a bright future and a wonderful life for their babies.

A chapel just off the living room, complete with a recently-tuned, 1932 Kimball, baby grand piano offers a place for quiet reflection. Here moms may experience the grace of the Mass and occasions of Eucharistic Adoration. Although residents of any or no religion are welcome at St. Mary’s, a benefit of the presence of Sr. Anita and Sr. Doris is the availability of spiritual guidance for moms open to it.

Residents are enjoying all that SMHM has to offer and new moms are being screened for admission weekly. One woman at a time, blessings abound. Each woman SMHM helps is a victory for the kingdom of God. Thank you for your prayers and support of this unique pro-life mission in the Kansas City area. St. Mary’s Home for Mothers is doing strong work. Partner with us in any way you are able as we collaborate to help moms and their precious babies.



Have faith.

Hope on!

God is good.

**Interested in Donating?
PO Box 322
Liberty, MO 64069**

Staff Spotlight:

Sister Anita Helgenberger

St. Mary's Home for Mothers Residence Manager



Please share your background to help us get to know you.

I am from the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. I've been here in Liberty for 29 years; but visited 28 other states besides Missouri. I came here and joined the Benedictine Sisters of Kansas City, the former Queen of Angels Monastery. I left my home island at the age of 18 for the purpose of pursuing my religious vocation. I've been a vowed religious sister for 26 years. I am from a loving and close family, so I value and love to spend time with my relatives that are here in the area. I have six sisters and one brother and many nephews, nieces, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

I attended college and graduated with a B.S. in accounting from William Jewell College and a Masters in Management from the University of Phoenix. I am currently self-employed doing bookkeeping and accounting for several small Catholic churches in the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese.

I still operate a public charitable foundation that our outreach ministry is through. I am blessed with great volunteers who actively do the work and I oversee the administration part of it. I am also a board member for two other charitable organizations.

What do you most eagerly anticipate when you contemplate building relationships with residents?

My hope and prayer for building relationships with the mothers, is to be someone that can exemplify peace, trust, stability, joy, and love. I want to be CHRIST like to and for them. Of course, it is not going to be easy; and I will fail at times, but there is nothing impossible with the help of God.

Please tell us about returning to this location.

I lived at the house when it was a monastery for 18 years, so coming back to live at the house still feels like home to an extent. In other words, I am a residence manager now, and it is not mine as when it was a monastery. There is also a different feel with living with nuns vs living with pregnant women. Having the chapel and the Blessed Sacrament back is the key for making me feel so much at home. The area and the building itself are familiar, so that helps me feel at home.

A Big Thank You!

St. Mary's Home for Mothers would like to express a big THANK YOU to individuals and groups who have held donation drives or worked at the house. A few of the groups who have helped recently are:

The University of St. Mary, Rockhurst High School Freshmen, St. Paul's Catholic School in Olathe, KS, Church of the Santa Fe & 3rd Order Franciscans, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, St. Charles Catholic Church, St. Ann Catholic Church, St. James Catholic Church, St. Andrew the Apostle Parish and their American Heritage Girls Troop.

CURRENT NEEDS

- Prayers
- Hair Brushes/Picks/Combs
- New Women's Socks
- Gift Cards for Gas and Groceries
- Hair Ties and Clips
- New Women's Underwear

Please contact Lori Rauber for drop off: rauber8@yahoo.com

Deacon's Corner

Getting Involved as a Volunteer

BY DEACON KEVIN CUMMINGS

Our greatest need at St Mary's will ALWAYS be daily prayer and involvement in our spiritual formation as we journey with moms who want to make a real difference in the lives of their children. However, should you feel called to contribute financially, we have a generous match happening between now and the end of the year.



All new donations will be matched up to \$100,000!

We appreciate your prayerful consideration of a gift.

One of the most frequently asked questions of our staff at St Mary's Home for Mothers pertains to our Volunteer Services and how one may become involved in this aspect of the home. In the past we've had volunteer sign-up sheets available at presentations for Gabriel Project and Angel trainings. Fortunately, due to the number of interested participants, we've been able to schedule weekend projects and outreach participation



in collecting needed supplies and furnishings. Since our opening, we are still in the process of putting together job descriptions that better identify the specific positions required to serve our moms and maintain our facility. We have the names and contact information of those whom have already volunteered; but, we feel the need to continue to expand our volunteer census to cover all our future needs.

Fr. Michael Volkmer celebrates beautiful Masses.

We utilize volunteers at St Mary's for a number of reasons. First and foremost, the services provided by volunteers help offset the cost of paying full time employees. We may use the savings to better meet the needs of our moms! Secondly, the experienced volunteer will support and mentor the moms during their time at St Mary's, which will better prepare the mother for successfully entering family life at the completion of her program at St Mary's.

All of our programs for mothers are individually prepared to provide the full scope of experiences required to allow our moms to establish confidence in themselves and their parenting skills. Volunteers are essential for our day to day activities which promote the learning of skills and practices that are invaluable for our moms' growth.



Should you have skills that you feel could be used at St Mary's, or simply would like a list of available positions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Lori Rauber, rauber8@yahoo.com. Thank you to the clergy who give their time for us to experience Mass at the home in our own chapel! God bless you and your families for your continued support of those most vulnerable!

What's Happening at St. Mary's

BIG NEWS!

A Baby! A mom living at the home welcomed a beautiful gift from God on 5/31/22, a baby boy (6 lbs., 10 oz., 18"). Please keep this family in your prayers!



It's a Match! St. Mary's Home for Mothers needs *your* help! We have a generous offer to match new donations received between June 1st and December 31st! Please consider making a financial donation this month.

HOW TO DONATE

Mail: PO Box 322,
Liberty, MO 64069

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