

The Next Right Thing



Along for the Ride - Loving Support Matters

BY JULIE OVERLEASE

The days of summer are fading as all around us families transition back to school. Whether hesitantly taking a firstborn child to kindergarten or dropping off the family's youngest at college to return home to an empty nest, many experience heightened emotions and a level of added stress at this time of year. Even expected transitions challenge us. The birth of one's baby is among the greatest changes that occurs in life. The arrival brings profound, joyous, maternal love to offset fatigue and all that comes with the total, sacrificial shift required of newborn care and postpartum recovery.

I recently returned from a 2-day, 1636 mile (but who's counting...) cross country drive with my eldest daughter

Olivia from outside DC to Texas A&M in College Station, Texas. We went through Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas – whew! I then rode to Fort Worth to catch a flight home to Kansas City, but my 9 pm departure was “delayed” to leave DFW at 10:30 am the NEXT day. The airline made the decision close to midnight. That was fun. Through all of the adventure, from the big, burly, incredibly patient DC Metro station manager who kindly assisted my inept attempts to get my SmartTrip app to work at the subway gate, to a couple I had just met going to extraordinary lengths to help me get home after my flight plans took a turn for the worse, I had support.

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Life often takes an unexpected turn and everyone hits bumps in the road. Not everyone has the blessing of a supportive safety net, yet sometimes we truly benefit from having someone alongside us on the journey.

The women who find themselves at a major crossroads with an unplanned pregnancy who choose to reside at St. Mary's Home for Mothers are the recipients of the generous help of countless professionals and volunteers. Some of you support the mothers and babies financially, others through your in-person time and labor, and many through the incredible blessing of fervent prayer. SMHM exists because of the community that has formed around this beautiful ministry that provides incredibly valuable services to moms who find themselves struggling with

homelessness and related problems. The women have the freedom to choose life for their pre-born babies because others extend outstretched, loving hands. Every pregnant mom's story is unique; what they share is the complexity of the challenging circumstances and a true need to be wrapped in the loving arms of Christ. SMHM is special because the people who serve the moms are the boots on the ground doing the good work of the Lord. Thank you for partnering with SMHM to positively impact lives, one mother and baby at a time. Wherever life takes you, may you be blessed with sunshine, beautiful scenery, music in your ears and someone who loves you by your side. And when you encounter a storm or the road is long, may you feel God's grace and steadfast love. Hope on!

We've Rebranded!

St. Mary's Home for Mothers has officially rebranded for a more unique, refined and professional look. Sticking to the inspiration of blues and golds, we added shades of pink as well. We kept the house, but added the reason the house exists.

We also have a brand new, more user-friendly website just for you with up-to-date photos, events, and more ways to get involved. **Check it out at www.stmaryshomeformothers.org.**

Our original website is being updated with our new branding and will be more focused for pregnant moms and client referrals.



Staff Spotlight: Ruby Hamline

Client Advocate



A co-worker described you as a Client Advocate who is "the glue." What role do you play at SMHM?

My role at SMHM is to be support for the Executive Director, other staff, and our residents. I perform clerical duties, I am the keeper of the gate, help with food service duties, wash dishes, provide transportation, and even provide childcare if needed.

Please share about your personal and professional background?

The single most important thing to know about me is that I am a follower of Jesus Christ. He is my Lord and Savior, eternal King, Redeemer, and friend. I am a sinner saved by His grace and strive every day to love Him more, serve Him more, and know Him more. I was born in Kansas City but grew up in small towns in Missouri, Kansas, and Texas. My father was a Southern Baptist minister and my mother was the epitome of a pastor's wife and homemaker. I am the third child of four and the only girl (and, yes, I was probably spoiled). My career includes 15 years of clerical experience in insurance, medical, and legal fields, 21 years of teaching, 5 years working in the foster care system, and 14 months here at SMHM.

I am passionate about studying God's word, especially prophecy and eschatology. I am about all things feline and I am also a big Elvis Presley fan.

How did you become involved in SMHM?

While working in the foster care system I met Mary Rinne. When she took a position with SMHM she invited me out to have lunch, tour the facility, and we discussed SMHM's mission. I was very intrigued and, at the time, not working. She called a few days later and said SMHM needed a receptionist. Mary and I both believe that God opens doors and we just have to listen and be obedient to follow His calling.

When you contemplate SMHM through a wide lens, what are the far-reaching outcomes you envision?

Ultimately, the outcome I envision for SMHM is for God to be glorified. I believe we will do that by providing a safe and nurturing alternative to abortion. His word tells us that He knew us before we were formed in the womb and He has a plan for each individual. Who knows? One of "our" babies might be the next Billy Graham, Annie Armstrong, or Lottie Moon!

CURRENT NEEDS & DONATIONS

Donate:

- **Mail:**
9508 El Monte
Overland Park, KS 66207
- **Online:**
www.stmaryshomeformothers.org
- **Registry:**
Find us on Babylist.com & Target.com

Volunteer:

Contact Lori Rauber
lori@stmaryshomeformothers.org



St. Mary's Home for Mothers Happenings:

MOMS & BABIES

Two healthy baby girls were just born the last week of August! One baby girl due any day! Please continue to keep our moms and babies in your prayers.

YOU'RE INVITED!

- **Angel Volunteer Training**
 - Date: September 23rd
 - Time: 8:30 am
 - Location: St. Mary's Home for Mothers
 - Cost: Free!

- **Christmas Open House**
 - Date: December 18th
 - Time: 4 pm
 - Location: St. Mary's Home for Mothers
 - Cost: Free!

Deacon's Corner

BY DEACON KEVIN CUMMINGS

a sower went out to sow...

Greetings! I hope all are having a blessed end of summer and renewed your family ties during these months. We at St. Mary's have been staying very busy since opening the new, Our Lady of Angels Activity Center on campus. At our Grand Opening we celebrated Mass with Fr. Mike and filled the chapel and facility with many well-wishers and benefactors. Sister Anita and Andrea Ross-Spencer were our Honorary Ribbon Cutters, and Fr. Mike sprinkled holy water aplenty for blessings during a heavily attended reception. We are so blessed, yet, we are not finished! We are in the process of opening a new thrift store at 72nd and North Oak, named Mission Thriftstore, as an income stream to help sustain St. Mary's well into the future.



Thus, with the phrase at the beginning of this update, "a sower went out to sow," it's obvious that the SMHM farm's orchard and gardens are literally overflowing with growth. But, the real growth is being seen in our mothers; as they grow daily in maturity and knowledge. Our moms have put in the time and preparation necessary to

be ready to welcome their newborns into this world. With the help of our staff and volunteers, we have planted the seeds that will take root in our mothers' lives; to guide and support them as they become the skilled parents that they know they can be in God's perfect timing. This does not happen overnight. It usually requires planning and preparation, along with instruction and repetition, to instill a level of confidence in our moms that will serve them throughout motherhood.

"The sower who went out to sow," may not always get to see the fruits of the labor and harvest. Yet, the sower knows, with good seed and rich soil, cultivation and faith, the first fruits will come. Then, we'll all be grateful to the sower! God bless all of you and your families, and please keep St. Mary's Home for Mothers in your prayers!



For more information on events and how to donate to St. Mary's Home for Mothers, contact: Eileen Lambert, Donor Relations Manager, 913.336.8486 eileen@stmaryshomeformothers.org

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