



St Mary's



Franciscan Shelter for Homeless Families

"Family and home go together. As a family, it's very difficult to move forward, without a home. I call on everyone: individuals, social entities and authorities, to do everything they can to assure that every family has a place to live."

--Pope Francis

Director's Report

It's beginning to look a lot like...

The atmosphere at Saint Mary's is bubbling with activity these days. Part of this excitement is the approach of Christmas and the great anticipation of Santa's arrival. With your support and generous care for us, we believe he will be coming down our chimney on December 25, 2015!

Our house has been bustling with people everywhere. We have had a full house with a total of 13 adults and 21 children sharing our home during the past 3 months. Each has adjusted to the blessings and concerns of communal living. The issues being addressed are varied – mainly finding jobs, housing, daycare, new schools, and the financial support needed to gain the next step. Independence is an elusive dream for those who have nothing to start with and no family to reach out the helping hand that is so needed. Thank you for being with us on this journey.

Autumn days at Saint Mary's have been both beautiful and challenging. Our outdoors have been cared for by volunteers who offered their time and talent to clean up and ready the grounds for their "long winter's nap."

A surprise phone call announced the arrival of a talented carpenter – our



Sr. Bernadette greeting our residents

own Saint Joseph. Along with multiple smaller tasks he built some much needed shelves in our basement and restored the outside of our beautiful stained glass window.

Thanks to Steve and Brent our young, strong volunteers, two rooms formerly used for storage have been cleared, cleaned, painted and readied. We are now planning to use them as an additional office and bedroom.

We are immensely grateful to all of our helpers who with us keep a watchful eye on this charming old mansion.

Christmas is all about surprises and we have a few planned for our families!!! Don't tell but we heard that on December 10th the Women's Network at Siemens in Malvern are coming to the shelter and transforming our home into a Christmas wonderland. They are planning to surprise the women living here with a decorated home and maybe a gift or two. They are very aware of our homeless Mothers and the limited attention and support that they receive. Imagine the fun and delight that our families will experience when they arrive home to find that Santa did truly visit! ... a great gift to them and to us! It is truly beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Our hearts and prayers and all good wishes to you as we pray our good and gracious God blesses each and every one of you during the holiday season. You are in our prayer daily and your intentions remain on our small altar in front of the magnificent stained glass window. The intention books are always open so be sure to let us know of your hopes and desires during this Christmas Season and into the New Year.

--Sister Bernadette



Season of Giving: Volunteers Giving Time to St Mary's

Over the past few months, we have had a number of amazing individuals and groups assisting us making our shelter even better. We are grateful to our regular and weekly volunteers as well as those who come to us to assist for the short term. Without them, it just wouldn't be the same around here.

Following pics include individual volunteers helping us create MORE bedrooms!



"Allow the way to your great work to be guided by your service to others." --Mollie Marti

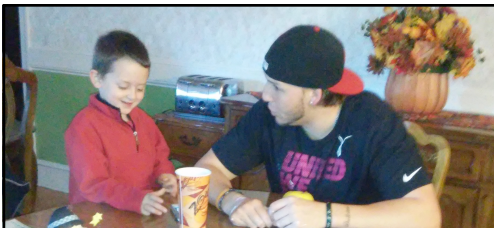
High School Student Clara serving her community service hours by cleaning and organizing our play closet. Pictured here with Sister Bernadette.



CYO Youth Group helping us make the best first impression by doing our yard work!

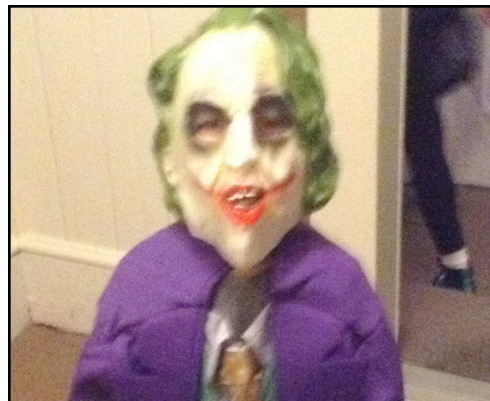


The following include our volunteers who assist our children with playtime and craft activities!



Children's Corner

The children had fun during Halloween this fall and are even more ready for a festive Holiday Season. Check out the costumes!



SMFS Board of Trustees 2015

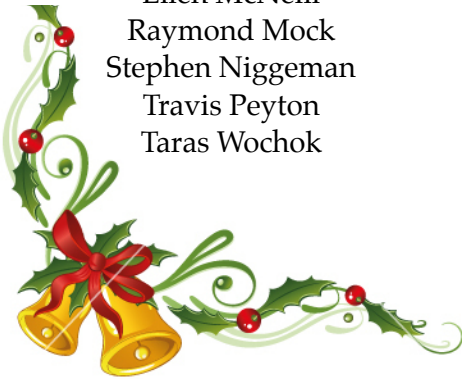
Sr. Anne Lupita McNamara, osf
 Sr. Eleanor Moore, osf
 Mary Ann Bursich
 Jill Chamberlain
 Michele Giacomucci
 Cindy Mastrangelo
 Regina McCann Hess
 Ellen McNeill
 Raymond Mock
 Stephen Niggeman
 Travis Peyton
 Taras Wochok

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**Mission-St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter**

Guided by the Gospel and the spirits of Francis and Clare of Assisi, we provide temporary shelter for homeless families. We create a community environment which fosters the dignity of each person, and we perpetually seek innovative ways to help families move toward independence.

Needs List-Wish List

We are always grateful for your loving care for the families who share our home with us. Your prayerful support and generosity is crucial and very appreciated. Although many of our day-to-day needs are met by our partner organizations and churches in our area, our families have an ongoing need for:

- * Children's puzzles and toys
- * Small and medium left over containers
- * Postage Stamps
- * Gift cards for food or retail stores
- * Gift cards for Toys R Us, Best Buy, the Dollar Store

We are very grateful to all who include us in their workplace giving programs. These donations give us the monetary support so critical to keeping the shelter warm and safe for our families as these winter days come upon us. God bless you for your caring ways.

Please remember us. Our United Way Donor Option # is 9208.



Once

*For a blessed moment
Peace touched the world
Hope was born again
And Love prevailed
On earth.*



*The Staff and Guests at Saint
Mary's Franciscan Family Shelter
Pray our gracious God to give you
Peace and Joy during this holy
time.*



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