



## CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

### Changing Lives

A residence personal testimony with Mary's Place, expressing her journey of finding herself, God and learning how to be the best mother she can be.  
p. 02

### Incorporating Faith

As Sister Veronica and Sister Agnes spread their missionary spirit to all at Mary's Place, many blessing abound and moms and babies continue to thrive.  
p. 03

### Your Support Matters

Your support sustains the ability to empower our mothers with stability and independence, while promoting the inherent dignity of both mother and child. Read about the impact YOU make on our most vulnerable.  
p. 04

### A Year in Review

Due to your generous support, we were privileged to be able to provide not only a home, but also basic needs, essential life skills and emotional support for 10 mothers and 7 babies in 2021. Read about a year in review from our Board President, Rich Hetland.  
p. 05

## FOCUS EVENT

### *Mother's Day of Giving*

*Our biggest online campaign!*

Mother's Day of Giving is an opportunity to recognize and support those who chose life. Our biggest online campaign, where supporters and the community come together to give back. Our community can leverage the energy of Mother's Day to build a movement for Mary's Place.

One Event! One Day! So Much Giving!

*Sunday, May 8th*  
*[marysplaceph.org](http://marysplaceph.org)*



## CHANGING LIVES

"My experience with Mary's Place has been a journey of finding myself, God and learning how to be the best mother I can be.

Coming from a place where I had no hope, Mary's Place provided me a support system that ensures I will never feel alone again. They have helped me gain the confidence to pick myself back up... begin a new chapter in life... full of faith... love... and a deep appreciation for this BEAUTIFUL life God has given me.

I feel that I have never been so close in my relationship to God. My daughter was recently baptized, and I am on my way to making my Catholic confirmation this Easter. I will graduate from High School this June!

My hope is that every mother who walks through these doors is able to fully understand the level of care and compassion this mission has for them. Thanks to Mary's Place, I feel for once in my life, I have a chance to give my daughter the life she deserves.

This is just a steppingstone in my journey to be able to find independence and go out into the world unafraid.

I truly feel blessed to be a part of this family"

-Holly



**"MY HOPE IS THAT EVERY MOTHER WHO WALKS THROUGH THESE DOORS, IS ABLE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE LEVEL OF CARE AND COMPASSION THIS MISSION HAS FOR THEM."**

## INCORPORATING FAITH

When Chris and Molly McMahon, co-founders of Mary's Place, see an opportunity to advance the mission of Mary's Place they did not let it slip through their fingers. In 2021, Chris learned about a unique, new partnership that was formed between Keenan Fitzpatrick, founder of AVODAH Farms, a home that provides space for women and young girls healing from human trafficking, and Fr. Jeffery Bayhi, a priest from Louisiana who runs a house for survivors of human trafficking. Keenan and Fr. Jeff joined forces and brought religious sisters from Nigeria to the United States to minister to these women and provide a safe haven for them while they healed. Chris and Molly recognized the value of what the sisters brought to these women and were confident the sisters could not only foster a nurturing, secure family environment, but also encourage self-respect and independence for the pregnant and parenting women at Mary's Place. Chris and Molly made arrangements to bring the Nigerian sisters to Pittsburgh, and on November 1, 2021, they went to the Pittsburgh airport, picked up Sister Veronica and Sister Agnes and the next chapter in their lives began.

They quickly learned that life in Pittsburgh was a bit different than life in Nigeria. Their biggest adjustment was to the cold temperatures and all the snow. In Nigeria, temperatures in December to February average around 85 degrees, so when they arrived with only lightweight coats, no boots, no gloves and facing temperatures in the teens, it was very challenging. It was also an adjustment being away from their families and the Nigerian food.

It didn't take long for Sister Veronica and Sister Agnes to make their mark on Mary's Place as they joyfully work to spread the Gospel to our moms. They are members of the religious order of the Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel, a congregation of 150 nuns, founded 36 years ago by Bishop M.O. Fagun in Nigeria. The mission of their order is to evangelize in any culture they find themselves, whether it is a school, a hospital or a home such as Mary's Place; always witnessing with compassion and serving women who have been traumatized or who are vulnerable.



Monday through Friday the sisters work daily with each mom to help build her faith and to better express herself. Sister Veronica and Sister Agnes help the women understand the different virtues and through examples in the Bible the moms come to understand the great worth and dignity of their lives. By building the virtues in the women, the sisters slowly bring them out of their past. The women learn how these virtues will have a positive impact on their lives and the lives of their babies when they leave Mary's Place. In February, two of the moms chose to have their babies baptized into the Catholic Church. The sisters instructed the moms about the sacrament of baptism and that as parents of a baptized child they must raise their babies in the Catholic faith and lead by example.

As Sister Veronica and Sister Agnes spread their missionary spirit to all at Mary's Place, many blessings abound and moms and babies continue to thrive.

**By Barbara Davidson, Mary's Place Board Member**



# Impact

## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Your support sustains the ability to empower our mothers with stability and independence, while promoting the inherent dignity of both mother and child.

27  
mothers & babies  
served since  
inception

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Contributions | \$406,151

Contributions= \$384,151

Grants=\$22,000

Expenses | \$306,327

Program Expenses= \$194,441

Administrative and General= \$111,886

142  
Volunteers

Based on 2020 financial audit

Giving Back  
Provided those in need  
in Ukraine  
blankets, diapers, wipes  
and socks

Gold  
Transparency  
2022

Candid.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



Upon reflection,

I cannot help but feel tremendous joy and gratitude for what we were able to accomplish in 2021, with so many blessings to be thankful for. Due to your generous support, we were privileged to be able to provide not only a place to call home, but also basic needs, essential life skills and emotional support for ten mothers and seven babies, with witness to baptisms to three.

After some planning and through the Grace of the Holy Spirit, we were able to welcome Sister Veronica and Sister Agnes to our organization, which will be instrumental to our focus on spiritual development within our programming.

In spite of the pandemic, we were able to host several beautiful and uplifting functions, highlighted by an outdoor Mass with our very own Bishop Zubik, followed by a Fall Gathering with featured speakers Michael and Alecia Hernon (The Messy Family Project) and culminating with the Light of Our Lady campaign for a glowing end to the Christmas season.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Board, the Executive Committee, our Executive Director and staff for their outstanding dedication and service in these trying times.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you, as without your continued prayers and support, none of this would be possible.

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam,

*Richard Hetland*

Richard Hetland, President

# We thank you!



## ABOUT

### Mission

Mary's Place is a home for pregnant and parenting women that provides support in an environment of reverence and love. We welcome women of all faiths and strive to empower them with stability and independence, while promoting the inherent dignity of both mother and child.

### Ways to Give

Your support provides us with the ability to live our mission and help vulnerable pregnant women achieve emotional and financial stability. By donating to Mary's Place, you'll give a mother and child a new life through the love, care, and life skills training they will receive.

### Ways to Connect

Be a part of the everyday happenings at Mary's Place and stay up to date by joining us online. Stay connected, share stories and pass along to your friends, family and community.



## WE CAN HELP YOU!

**An unexpected pregnancy can happen to anyone regardless of background.**

Are you facing an unplanned pregnancy and feel as if you have no support or the basic needs to provide for yourself or your baby? Connect with us. We want to help.

### Contact

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