

Spring 2020

# Heart to heart

News and Announcements from Mary's Inn



**MARY'S INN**  
MATERNITY HOME

[marysinmaternityhome.org](http://marysinmaternityhome.org)

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## MARY'S INN MATERNITY HOME

**DIRECTOR:**  
Colleen Pasnik, M. Ed.  
(563) 552-6288

**EMAIL:**  
director@marysinnmaternityhome.org

**WEB:**  
www.marysinnmaternityhome.org

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## OUR MISSION

Mary's Inn is a maternity home dedicated to the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of single pregnant mothers and their developing babies. It is a safe haven where they can stay while learning the skills they need to make a better life for themselves and their babies.

## Director's Message

Dear Friends,

Well this has certainly been a spring to remember! The COVID-19 pandemic impacted all of us, including us here at Mary's Inn. Erring on the side of caution, we decided to have the residents self-isolate here, going out only when necessary



and prohibiting visitors for the time being. While it is definitely an inconvenience, the residents are surviving with flying colors. While isolated they continue to maintain order here in the house and they are becoming experts at disinfecting! They have cut out material for face masks as a way to help during this crisis. Morale is good, and I'm proud of the way they are weathering this storm. They are true

survivors, having survived many storms in their lives up to now, all of which were worse than COVID-19. The staff has also been troopers, self-isolating if they were not feeling good and holding Zoom meetings to keep in touch.

We continue to be committed to offering parenting skills, life skills, and faith-based messages of hope during this time. This outbreak won't last forever, and when we come out of it we pray our faith in God will be even stronger. No matter what the future holds, we know Who holds the future.

God bless you and your loved ones, and God bless Mary's Inn!

*Colleen Pasnik*

Colleen Pasnik  
Director



## Homeless Stat:

While the whole country is dealing with COVID-19, women who are homeless suffer in other ways. Common health problems among the homeless include malnutrition, parasitic infestations, dental and periodontal disease, degenerative joint diseases, venereal diseases, hepatic cirrhosis secondary to alcoholism, and infectious hepatitis related to intravenous (IV) drug abuse.

Source: "Health Problems of Homeless People," The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).

## Women of Hope Canceled



Due to the COVID-19 outbreak we have canceled the *Women of Hope Luncheon* scheduled for May 6. However, our expenses haven't been canceled, so if you would like to make a donation please use the enclosed envelope.

*We thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.*



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to share some of our thoughts regarding the coronavirus.

Our focus continues to be the health, safety, and security of the women we serve and the staff who serve them. Colleen and our team are on the front line as we battle this silent enemy. On a day-to-day, and a case-by-case basis, they are demonstrating a fearless commitment to the core values and mission of Mary's Inn Maternity Home.

Colleen and her team are to be commended for their rapid response in implementing, monitoring, and fulfilling the recommendations of the CDC guidelines to mitigate the spread of the virus within and outside our home.

Please continue to include the mothers, the babies, and the staff in your prayers. Though there is great fear surrounding the threat of disease, we can rest assured that we have a Father in Heaven who is with us in all things. This truth is true especially today with the spread of the coronavirus.

Thank you for your continued support. May God bless you richly.

*Tim Duggan*

Tim Duggan,  
President of the Board of Directors

# Past Resident Update.....



## Hello, my name is Mercedes (Sadie) McKenzie.

I lived at Mary's Inn from April to July 2017. While I was there I was employed at Fareway as a meat clerk. I volunteered in my free time as well, helping Mary's Inn any way I could. I got back into therapy and joined a women's recovery group for drugs and alcohol. I got to know myself all over again, and prepared for Abel to make his entrance. He arrived August 26th, 2017.

My advice to anyone in a similar situation as myself – pregnant, homeless, jobless and hopeless – is to not be afraid to reach out. There are so many people who would love to help you and your child(ren). The entire program at Mary's Inn - and staff - saved my life and my sons' lives (Abel and Jace). Without being able to experience what Mary's Inn offered me and taught me, I honestly do not know where Abel and I would be. There is nothing they cannot help you with, whether you are pregnant or already have a young child.

Since I left Mary's Inn, I have maintained employment for 2 years. I have also maintained my home for the same amount of time. I bought a 2014 Chevrolet Cruze and took a few college courses. Abel is 2 and a half years old now, he'll be going to preschool this year. I work three jobs: I deliver food for Doordash, work at Laundry Maxx in my area (Clinton, Iowa), and I am a server at Wapsi Willy's in Long Grove, Iowa. Abel and I have a beautiful German shepherd/St. Bernard mix named Kain who just turned one. Mary's Inn helped me make a better life, and I'm grateful they were there for us.



# New Staff.....



## Amanda Jones

Hi I am Amanda Jones. My husband and I have 3 boys. I started at Mary's Inn Maternity Home in January 2020. I am very passionate about all things pregnancy, post-partum and lactation. I plan on becoming a Certified Lactation Counselor and Doula. I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family and homeschooling our children. I feel so blessed to be a part of the residents lives and empowering them to be the best version of themselves.



## Brittany Edgmon

Hi I am Brittany Edgmon. I have two daughters, Chloe and Maria and I'm engaged to David. I started at Mary's Inn in February of this year. Working with the residents to do the program and empowering them is great. I really enjoy being with them. My training in the military has taught me much in the area of discipline and respect. I will be starting the nursing program in the fall. I'm very happy to be working at Mary's Inn.



## Joanne Wagner

My name is Joanne Wagner and I am excited to be part of the Mary's Inn team. I am an Iowa native and moved to Dubuque last summer after living in West Bend, Wisconsin for 28 years and having a 21-year career with Washington County, WI. I relocated back to Iowa to be closer to family. I have two grown sons, one living in Minneapolis, MN and the other living in Madison, WI. I am glad to be part of a team doing such important work in our community!



## Wartick Photography

Shelby Wartick is the photographer of our beautiful pictures on the front and back of this newsletter along with the above Mother's Day photo. If you are interested in having Shelby work her magic for you, contact her at 563-542-7441, shelby@wartickphotography.com, or visit her Facebook page, Wartick Photography.

**IN HONOR OF:**

JoAnn Deacon from Dick & Jean Mescher  
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 from Mary Neiers  
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 Vivian Zalaznik, from Tony & Janice Krapfl

Special thanks to iSolved for their monthly In-Kind donations.



**INNKEEPERS** *Who are the Innkeepers?*

The Innkeepers are the people who keep the Inn open by committing to a monthly donation. Levels of support start at \$10/month. Mary's Inn needs people willing to become an Innkeeper. Call Colleen (563-552-6288) to get started as an Innkeeper!

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**MARY'S INN**

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PO Box 3338

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