



# LIFE *Lines*

Newsletter of Mother Seton House, Inc.

Mother Seton House PO Box 673, Fryeburg, ME 04037 [www.mothersetonhouse.com](http://www.mothersetonhouse.com) Fall/Winter 2011 No. 4

## Ham Foundation Brings Mother Seton House Home

Our dream is becoming real! A \$65,000 gift from the Kendal C. and Anna Ham Charitable Foundation of North Conway will secure the purchase of our home! Our core mission is coming to life: to shelter pregnant women and new mothers with their babies, while they develop skills and resources for independence. We are coming home with this bequest, coupled with another from the Gibson/Woodbury Foundation, headlined below.

The Ham Foundation seeks "...to promote equity and access to opportunities" in the communities of western Maine and the Mount Washington Valley. Executive Director Robert J. Murphy announced, "The Foundation is happy to help support the Mother Seton House and its mission."



This sentiment makes us ecstatic beyond words.

A potential home came to our attention last year. Since then, pledges, donations, and fund-raising have produced a viable nest egg. In June, we signed a purchase agreement allowing us to seek specific financing.

Now we begin, using the Ham Foundation award to finalize our purchase, the Gibson/Woodbury grant to make necessary improvements, and donations from you, our loyal supporters, to provide furnishings and operating expenses. We are so grateful to all who have made this possible and we pray for your continued support as we prepare to make the beds and light the lights.

## Gibson/Woodbury Gift Opens the Door

In June the Advisory Board of the Gibson/Woodbury Charitable Foundation (GWCF) concluded its first year of operation by awarding Mother Seton House (MSH) a gift of \$30,000 toward a home in Fryeburg, Maine.

Mark Butterfield, GWCF Executive Director, explained that the MSH grant request among all others accepted in 2011 by their Board, exemplified the core values of its founders, the Gibsons and the Woodburys, that education should begin as early as possible and then be nurtured throughout childhood in a stable learning environment to

form positive learning habits and to develop a strong work ethic. Coincidentally, the MSH mission of providing education, counseling, referrals, and physical, emotional and spiritual support within a caring community to new mothers and children was one of the guiding principles that the founders envisioned when they created The Gibson/Woodbury Charitable Foundation.

MSH thanks Mark and GWCF Advisors, Tom Smith and Ken Cargill for opening the door to our house.



*Joy Voter photo*

# A letter from the director

Dear Friends,

It has been a fruitful summer for Mother Seton House. There were many enjoyable hours with mothers, babies and volunteers at the Cooking Matters classes, where inexpensive, wholesome food was prepared and shared. Mothers, babies and I joined other Veggie Volunteers of the NH Extension Ser-

vice picking tomatoes, lettuce, corn and other produce at Sherman Farm. I have happy memories of summer days with Robyn and Keira in their living room at Grace House. One special day I arrived to the fragrant aroma of cream of broccoli soup, made from Sherman Farm broccoli, simmering in Robyn's Cooking Matters crock pot, with other ingredients provided by the Breadbasket Food Pantry of the River Church.

The work of the Grant Committee yielded two sizable grants (see front page). Through your efforts and support, we are within reach of the goals set three years ago, when this idea of helping mothers and infants in need was a tiny kernel in our hearts and minds. Father Koury remarked to me recently,



"See, see what can happen when you plant a seed." With your generous help, we will continue to yield an abundant harvest in this work together.

In faith, with hope,  
Cyndi Broyer  
Director

*Thank you*

We send a special Thank You to Joy Voter for her professional Mother's Day photographs of MSH mothers and babies.  
[www.eclecticartisanemporium.com](http://www.eclecticartisanemporium.com)

## Thoughts from a Donor

We both believe in giving. I will periodically discover that John has been making donations to some cause, through his office, without my knowledge. Mother Seton House is one of those cases. Apparently he read about it in the bulletin and felt this was a need that he could support. Promoting the healthy growth of children has always been a priority for both of us. Being able to do it locally, at such a basic level, where you are giving mothers a positive option for themselves and their child just makes sense.

Grace House, (see page 5) was John's vision. As owner of the park he knew there was a unit that was empty and suggested that I contact Mother Seton House. Cyndi's enthusiasm made things blossom. Our hope is that this "transition" house could give young mothers the opportunity to get their feet under them to a point where they are able to support themselves and settle their family in a place of their own. I hope

Grace House can be that opportunity for those who live there.

The house was basically an empty shell. The park community is a close knit group whom we expected would welcome the mothers. We knew they would want to be involved but our initial meeting with the residents blew us away. After hearing Cyndi's presentation they were immediately supportive, making donations from tables and chairs to lamps, bedding, towels and children's toys. For many it was that grandparent instinct but for a few it was just the goodness of their hearts.

We are grateful for what we have, but learned from our own families that being able to help others is much more gratifying. Our daughter and her husband came to make sure the curtains were hung and all was ready while we were away. That is another generation that has discovered the satisfaction of helping others. In fact, I believe that

*"...giving mothers a positive option for themselves and their child just makes sense."*



we all realize that doing for others may be good for them, but it also leaves the giver with a "high" that you just can't buy.

Lynn Schiavi  
Hales Location, NH

# Maine and New Hampshire Knights unite to help mothers and babies

The Knights of Columbus and Mother Seton House is a match made in heaven.

As Mother Seton House supports pregnant women, new mothers and infants in need, the Knights "show love for their neighbors by ... supporting, both

spiritually and materially, mothers who choose life for their babies."

We have had the good fortune to partner with three councils: #11376 in Bridgton/Fryeburg, #10020 in Windham and #7575 in North Conway. Grand Knights Bob Pelletier, John O'Brien and Jim Hartigan have presented numerous donations over the past three years. There have been dinners, golf tournaments, diaper drives and sales of Mothers Day flowers to benefit our work. They've delivered appliances, taught

moms how to build bookshelves, and logged over 160 volunteer man hours at the house that we are in the process of buying.

Edward Cochran, District Deputy of the Maine State Council, successfully presented Mother Seton House as a candidate for the Maine State Charity Fund Award.



Knights recognize that their mission, and their faith in God, compels them to action. They believe there is no better way to experience love and compassion than by helping those in need, a call they have answered by the many ways in which they have shown their support of Mother Seton House.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alan Broyer, Chairman  
Linda Hutchinson, Treasurer  
Joan Newton, Secretary  
Gene Bourque  
Loretta Chauvin  
Reverend Joseph J. Koury  
Rick Luksza

## DIRECTOR

Cyndi Broyer

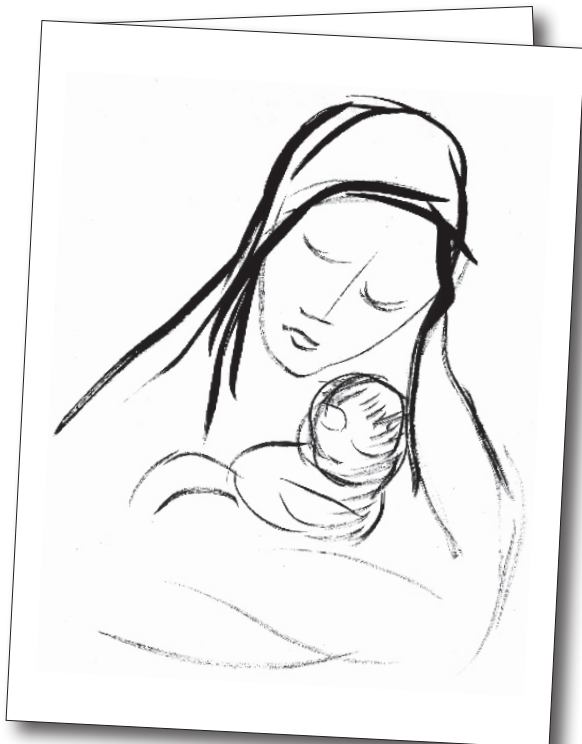


*Joy Voter photo*



*If you are finished with this newsletter, please pass it on or recycle it.*





*We have received a generous contribution  
to the Mother Seton House in honor of*

*from*

*This gift will be used to help support  
pregnant women in need who have  
said yes to life.*

*(inside card)*

## *Celebrate* Commemorate Contribute

A memorial gift is a wonderful way to honor a deceased loved one, a baby's birth, a birthday, an anniversary, or any special occasion.

As Christmas approaches, thoughts turn to a young mother delivering her child far from home and comfort. A gift to Mother Seton House is a thoughtful Christmas gift for everyone on your list.

**Available only from Mother Seton House, an elegant Thomas Merton Madonna linen textured card will be sent to the person you specify.**

clip & send



Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Honored: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) living ( ) deceased

The Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Card To: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of donation: \_\_\_\_\_ (check or money order please)



Kindly mail the above information in the envelope provided to:  
**MOTHER SETON HOUSE, INC, P.O. Box 673, Fryeburg, ME 04037**

*All donations are gratefully accepted. Mother Seton House is a 501(C)3 corporation  
serving pregnant women, new mothers and infants in need.*

*Drawing by Thomas Merton. Used with permission of the Merton Legacy Trust and the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University.*

# *in the* **spot** *light*

*Robyn and Keira*



*Joy Voter photo*

## Looking up – paying back

Robyn is wise and mature well beyond her nineteen years, giving clear priority to excellent care for two year-old Keira. She also is planning her own education, seeking out resources to help her as a parent and as a student.

Due to her respect for the programs and people which have been of aid to her through the years, Robyn has chosen courses in Human Services at White Mountain Community College. “I really look up to them,” she said. A new driver’s license will help in her education and job search.

While expecting Keira, she met Sunni, another mom, who recommended MSH. Robyn confided that the diapers, the baby clothes and interacting with other young mothers helped her survive. She took full advantage of MSH classes such as Baby Food Basics and Cooking Matters to Maine, both geared to low cost, good nutrition.

With a desire to “pay back,” she is active in many MSH activities. One summer day, “Veggie Volunteers” Robyn and Keira picked fresh produce at Sherman Farm for herself and other MSH mothers. The next day, she shared the produce and organized a diaper distribution, offering additional

diapers on one of three facebook pages she has created for low income young parents. One site lists MSH classes and activities; a second helps parents share baby items and parenting advice and a third allows parents to connect for play groups. Her sites are models for other agencies.

“Robyn is a most thoughtful young mother, always putting Keira first”, stated Director Cyndi Broyer. Her level of involvement shows in Keira’s positive interaction with others and in her obvious experience with books as she leads a visitor through the pages.

Robyn and Keira are the first residents of Grace House (see page 2). In her initial tour, Robyn’s interest was clearly Keira’s comfort and safety, watching as she explored the space and noting the need to install outlet covers. Robyn says, “I am so grateful for Grace House. I have been bouncing between several places and with my parents. Keira loves having her own space. The neighbors have been wonderful, donated furniture, filled the cupboards, and brought gifts for Keira.”

If the past is an indicator, they likely will soon benefit from return favors along with smiles and waves from Keira.

## *Time and Talent*

# *Our Volunteers*

Denise Kwasnik’s ardent belief in family as the base of society has led her to embrace the mission of Mother Seton House (MSH). With her she brings Master Degrees in Community Counseling and Psychology, as well as Pastoral Ministry.

In the Candidacy phase to become a member of the Secular Franciscan Order, she hopes to profess her vows this Fall. Daily striving to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ, she performs chaplaincy duties for Bridgton Hospital in Bridgton, Maine, as well as Memorial Hospital and Merriman House Intermediate Care Facility in North Conway, NH.

Initially serving as Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, Denise will be the Facilitator of Grace House (see pages 2 and 5), holding weekly meetings with the two resident mothers. In this role, she will guide their community relationship as they develop skills for parenting and independent living, witnessing first hand not only the mothers’ evolution, but also the great generosity of donors that make it possible – the things she most likes about MSH.


Whatever your talent, whatever your time, please join us. Call Cyndi at 207-925-2322, or email [info@mothersetonhouse.com](mailto:info@mothersetonhouse.com).



**Mother Seton House**  
**PO Box 673**  
**Fryeburg, ME 04037**



*Drawing by Thomas Merton. Used with permission of the Merton Legacy Trust and the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University.*



*To your homes, in the true  
spirit of Christmas,  
we send our hopes for  
peace and joy, through the  
holidays and the New Year.*