



# LIFE *Lines*

Newsletter of Mother Seton House, Inc.

Mother Seton House

PO Box 673, Fryeburg, ME 04037

[www.mothersetonhouse.com](http://www.mothersetonhouse.com)

Spring 2013 No. 7

## Home at Last!

We are home at last. After five years of praying and planning, sixteen months of researching, contracting and organizing, and hundreds of hours of elbow grease applied by members, service groups, and other volunteers, Mother Seton House is a reality, renewed and ready for full time use.

We have cleaned, patched and painted every surface and have passed every test. We finally have a home to provide safety, security, and other services to pregnant women and new mothers and their infants in need of a home.

While we are happy with the new cabinets and wide counters for efficient workspace in the kitchen, the real value is not the sunny yellow paint, but the table near the window which invites company and conversation while feeding babies or enjoying a simple meal. The original appliances in good working order have been rearranged more efficiently, but their real benefit is that they help us show new moms how to prepare nutritious foods from local garden produce and simple ingredients.

The adjacent diningroom with its large table, pine wainscoting and warm melon colored walls invites community with ample room for our recent sewing class, homework, meetings, and larger group meals. The living room, a nurtur-

activities which make up the heartbeat of a household, helping young mothers learn the value of routines that promote confidence and allow creativity.

Three bedrooms on the second floor glow with colors chosen to feed the spirit. Set up to welcome two mothers in each, they encourage rest and reflection, a quieter oasis away from the activity downstairs.

The best feature of the upstairs bathroom is not the inviting shower or the sweet pictures of children playing at the beach, but the close bonds that develop while a mother plays with a baby in the bathtub.

We are so grateful to the Knights of Columbus, the Rotary, the Masons, and other volunteers who cleaned up the yard, plowed and mowed, installed new windows, painted, cleaned, and moved furniture. However, their enduring gift is that they show us a caring community that is not limited by village boundaries or state borders.

We know that home is where you hang your heart; ours is a real heartwarmer.



ing green, reflects the cooling shelter of the large tree just outside, as the house itself gives shelter and calm so important for a contented baby. A bathroom and laundry, just off the kitchen, complete the circuit of the first floor which provides everything needed for all those



## A Garden of Welcome

With the help of the Mountain Garden Club, the Mother Seton House has a strategy for landscape improvements which will fulfill building code requirements, provide additional outdoor living spaces and place the house in a garden environment, making it a good neighbor to the

Fryeburg community. The plan was developed with the help of Ralph Lutjen, a New Hampshire Master Gardener, and Jeanne Ouellette, a registered landscape architect, both members of the MGC. All landscape materials and labor are being donated.

# A letter from the director

Dear Friends,

Baseball fans know it: Opening Day is the best day of the year. Starting the season there is an optimism, a belief that anything is possible. At Mother Seton House we are enthusiastic about the promising future ahead of us as we begin a new season, a new era, in our mission to

## Thank you

We send a special thank you to Phil LeBlanc at the Country Picker for collecting and storing furniture for Mother Seton House for the past three years.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alan Broyer, Chairman  
Sue Perry, Treasurer  
Joan Newton, Secretary  
Gene Bourque  
Reverend Joseph J. Koury  
Rick Luksza  
Bonnie Marsh  
Claudia Everett

**DIRECTOR**  
Cyndi Broyer



serve pregnant women, new mothers and babies in need.

The long awaited Opening Day has arrived. This house, this home, has been lovingly renovated. We are filling our roster with volunteers, ready to provide support and guidance to the moms who choose to live here.

Through the financial support of so many of you, we have a cash reserve for one year's operating costs. Our ongoing fundraising will ensure that our home will continue to be sustainable for the future.

Thank you for your faith in our commitment to provide hope and security to pregnant women and infants in difficult circumstances.

## Thoughts from a Donor

What my dear childhood friend found at the home where she spent her "visible" pregnancy and her baby's birth was an organization that concealed her from public shame and helped her through the birth and adoption process. She experienced her son for only a day or two. Decades later she still mourns her loss.

I too have carried her loss, and other friends' heart-breaking stories of abortion, debilitating poverty, societal dictates, pregnancy from rape, lack of education; the list of their losses and traumas is so very long. These losses drove me to support Mother Seton House in its Capital Campaign.

What a young mother-to-be finds at Mother Seton House is vastly different. Help and safety are critical, but concealment is not. Pregnancy is a time of anticipation and learning and sharing in community with others, including other pregnant women, new mothers and experienced advisors. Ideally, pregnancy is a time to be embraced by family, friends and community.

I have been especially impressed with MSH's commitment to excellence in its clarity of purpose, its overall management, its use of skilled volunteers and its



In the past five years we have often cited that baseball classic, and now we can say with assurance, "If you build it, they will come."

In faith, with hope,  
Cyndi Broyer  
Director



financial management. The educational programs are impressive, a broad range of topics for mothers-to-be and new mothers: nutrition and health, mentoring, job skills, educational guidance and opportunities, social skills, life planning skills.

MSH's Director Cyndi Broyer, its board of directors, volunteers, and all the mothers have birthed an organization to be very proud of. New Englanders know well the concept of DIY-do it yourself. MSH embodies that, and with enormous heart and caring for our youth. I offer you my congratulations on beginning your sixth year of life.

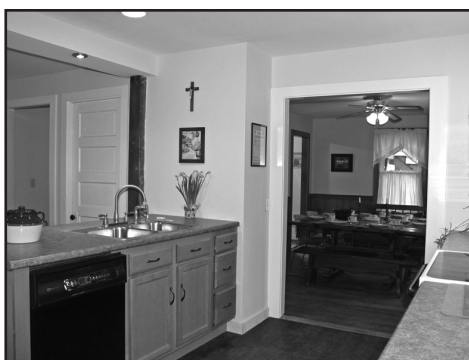
Dell Foss

# Mother Seton House *Renovations*



*The Lights Are On and  
The Hearts Are Warm...  
Thanks to You!*

We would love to have invited each of you to an Open House to see first hand all the good you have done. It seemed prudent, instead, to protect the security of the house. We know you will understand.



# Mother Seton House *Wish List*

Our primary need continues to be building a dependable revenue stream to support the renovations and operations of Mother Seton House, so we persistently ask for pledges, donations and grants. However, as we set up housekeeping, we also need practical items. As always, we are so grateful for your support in bringing us to this exciting threshold, and we pray for your continued participation. Please check [www.mothersetonhouse.com](http://www.mothersetonhouse.com) for updates to this list.

## **Bedrooms and bath:**

waterproof twin mattress pads  
8 new twin blankets  
6 new pillows  
4 new bath towel sets  
2 bath mats, neutral  
4 bedroom mirrors, about 18" x 24"  
small bedside tables  
bedside table lamps in good repair  
low under-bed plastic storage tubs  
collapsible dorm type laundry bags

## **Kitchen and Dining:**

good quality knife set  
good quality stainless flatware (we have place settings for 4)  
toaster oven  
colander  
trivets  
heavy duty mixer on stand

## **Living:**

small computer armoire with doors  
floor lamps in safe working order

## **General:**

metal utility shelving  
deep utility storage tubs  
rechargeable flashlights

tool box with household tools  
vacuum cleaner in good working order  
white board with markers  
cork bulletin board  
new or clean area rugs, wool or good quality synthetic  
4' x 6', 8' x 10, 9' x 12'  
unscented laundry detergent, Dreft  
gift cards to WalMart, Lowes, Home Depot, Amazon, Visa, Shaws, Hannafords  
postage stamps

## **BABY ITEMS:**

fitted compact crib sheets  
baby swing  
baby gates

Donating to support pregnant women and new mothers in need is easy with your smart phone. Simply scan our QR code for a direct link to our FirstGiving page. Or, use PayPal or FirstGiving at [mothersetonhouse.com](http://mothersetonhouse.com). As always, we welcome your check sent to PO Box 673, Fryeburg, ME 04037 and direct deposit into our Norway Savings Bank account. On behalf of the mothers and babies we serve, thank you for your generosity.







*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.

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  
supporting pregnant women, new mothers and infants in need.*

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

## Emily + Eleacea = *Enchantment*

A common reaction among our young mothers is being caught up in the magic of their babies. Having made the enormous and positive decision to complete their pregnancies, they are affirmed by the love affair that ensues. We hear repeated in different words but with equal emphasis that they are struck by the awesome beauty, captured by the cuteness, impressed with the brightness of these fascinating little beings. It brings them joy and encourages them to set goals and take on new challenges to be good mothers.

We have not had much time with our newest mom, Emily, due to an upcoming plan to move out of state, but she, is clearly captivated by her tiny Eleacea.

When asked what she enjoys, the first answer was, "...Spending time with my new baby girl." Over and over she told how they like to cuddle.

When Eleacea was three weeks old, Emily exclaimed, "I love her so much, she is the most beautiful little girl I have ever seen. I can't wait to see what color her eyes and hair are going to be,



they look like they are changing.

On Eleacea's one month birthday, Emily expressed pride in the fact that "she is getting so big and strong...oh, and I definitely think she got my eyes!"

We wish we had more time to watch this little family grow as Emily sets goals for her little one and for herself. We wish them well in their new home.

## *Time & Talent* *Our Volunteers*

### **An Interview with the Bullens:**

Tom and Elizabeth Bullen of Bridgton have supported Mother Seton House in a number of ways, through activities initiated by the Knights of Columbus and with several diaper drives. Their positive energy encourages others to become involved.

### **How did you become involved with Mother Seton House?**

We first became involved with Mother Seton House through the Knights of Columbus. Tom is a Knight and co-chair of our local council's pro-life committee. Our council saw your project growing and we wanted to ac-

tively participate.

### **What are some of your experiences or thoughts about the work you have done?**

We feel that Mother Seton House is a worthy cause and that it helps fulfill needs of young mothers and children in the area. The Knights have raised funds through dinners; volunteered time & working on the house; and initiated an annual diaper drive.

### **What about the project appeals to you, or how has it impacted you?**

In the past few years, we've seen the project grow and influence many lives. It's also inspiring to see the number of



people who put so much hard work and time into this project. We encourage others to get involved with Mother Seton House because it serves the church and the community by helping others in need.

*Tom and Elizabeth Bullen*

**Mother Seton House**  
**PO Box 673**  
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*Drawing by Thomas Merton. Used with  
permission of the Merton Legacy Trust  
and the Thomas Merton Center at  
Bellarmino University.*



*Sending warm  
smiles to all  
Mothers*

