

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.

Celebrate Commemorate Contribute

As Christmas approaches and thoughts turn to a young mother delivering her child far from home and comfort, you are invited to contribute to Mother Seton House.

Send a donation to honor a loved one, living or deceased. Available for the first time, a Thomas Merton Madonna card will be sent to the person you specify.

Your Name: _____

Person Honored: _____

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 private, 501(c)3 corporation whose mission is to serve, in a nonprofit faith-based transitional home, pregnant women in difficult circumstances.



LIFE Lines

Newsletter of Mother Seton House, Inc.

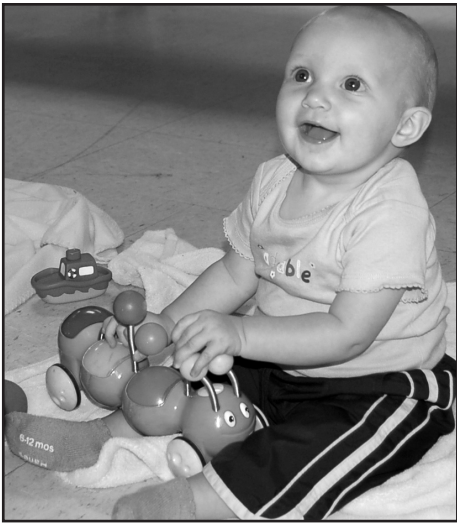
Mother Seton House PO Box 673, Fryeburg, ME 04037 www.mothersetonhouse.com Fall/Winter 2010

A Home for Mother Seton House

Excitement is mounting as we realize that our growing nest egg and the weak housing market could intersect, to make Mother Seton House a reality in the near future, a real home with soup on the stove and moms feeling safe and secure as they learn new skills.

The first house is in limbo as the selling bank completes some important steps. While we wait, our creative agent is educating us on other possibilities. To date, however, other potential properties that we toured were deemed impractical for various reasons.

We do know that your wonderful support and the focus on God's work



will eventually lead us to the perfect home. We are truly thankful for the quick response to our recent pledge letter. This support is vital and increases our chances of securing a mortgage and of qualifying for larger capital funding from public or private grant sources.

If you have not yet responded to the request for a monthly pledge for one year, please keep the idea in mind. **Even at the \$5 or \$10 level, every pledge shows community commitment to the project.** Equally important, please keep our search in your prayers. Home is just around the corner.

Two summer workshops address goal to educate young mothers about parenting, health and nutrition

“Reading With Your Baby” was facilitated by Lauren Potter, veteran teacher at New Suncook School and advocate of parents reading to children. She advised choosing books rich in language and repetition to engage the babies. With this objective, a basket of books was given to each participant by MSH.

For a second session, inspired by Lauren's book, EMERY CAN, containing photographs of her granddaughter, mothers brought

photos of their babies. With Lauren's help, her laptop, printer and scrap booking supplies, the photos were transformed into simple, but effective story books.

“Making Baby Food” was taught by Michelle Hatch Dutton, whose mother Kathy Hatch, owner of Sherman Farm, donated fresh produce. Two Beaba Baby food processors, two cookbooks and reusable freezer containers were purchased with funds from a Maine Charitable Foundation

grant. As Michelle shared how to safely introduce new foods into baby's diet, class members peeled, chopped, steamed and pureed, happy to bring home fresh baby food in the containers (see Alyshia's comments on page 3). Robyn Wilmot summed up the day's success. “Keira had some of the food from today for dinner and she loved it. With how much she liked the fresh food it makes me want to try and make my own! We both had lots of fun today.”



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A letter from the director

Dear Friends,

Many days when I leave work and come out to the parking lot, I find someone has left a donation for Mother Seton House (MSH). Let me describe my car last Thursday evening.

Thank you

We send a special **Thank You** to Sut Marshall for his generous gift of an ice cream freezer. Already used for two events, it will boost our fund raising in Summer '11 with a unique offering of Italian ice.

On the front seat was a box of textbooks that the staff at New Suncook School bought with "jeans money" for a MSH Alumna mom who has just started college.

The back seat was packed: boxes of canned sliced apples, a laundry basket filled with puzzles, toys, toddler games and a Radio Flyer trike, two infant Halloween costumes, an adorable lion and a monkey, a bag of baby girl clothes, and hanging from the wardrobe hook, several brand new outfits, tags still on.

People are so generous. One of the fruits of our work has been experiencing the loving and giving spirit of our



neighbors. It is an honor to accept your gifts on behalf of our moms. As for the monkey outfit, judge how cute it is for yourself.

In faith, with hope,
Cyndi Broyer
Executive Director

Thoughts From a Monthly Contributor

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2, 14-17

I first heard of Mother Seton House last year when they organized a craft fair as a fund raiser.

My daughter Amber was happy to have a chance to sell her custom crafted jewelry, and when I found out about the mission of the Mother Seton House, I was overjoyed to have discovered the opportunity to support it. There's no denying that the world we live in is increasingly child-unfriendly.

Affordable housing is scarce at best, it takes two incomes to run most households, and in these economic times the community support services that exist are offered grudgingly. It is easy to pat a woman on the head and say that she is doing a good thing in choosing life, but, as James tells us, faith that stops there is moribund at best. When I realized that there were individuals in my own commu-

nity brave enough to make faith come alive with works in such a daring and ambitious way, my heart was filled with hope and inspiration.

I invite you to join me in this, my friends. Talent and treasure, faith and works. Together we can do it.

From that point on I gladly made a commitment to contribute to the Mother Seton House on a monthly basis. I stand in awe of the vision, the compassion, and the vibrant example of social justice that executive director Cyndi Broyer and the rest of the Mother Seton House

staff is setting right here in our own community. Providing monetary support to this inspiring cause seemed so very little in comparison to what these heroes are doing, that I felt writing out a check to be a humble contribution indeed.

And yet the glowing 'thank you' that I received from both Loretta and Cyndi when I saw them at church told me that **the part God had given me to play was important as well.**

I invite you to join me in this, my friends. Talent and treasure, faith and works. Together we can do it.

"Water quenches a flaming fire, and alms atone for sins. He who does a kindness is remembered afterward; when he falls he finds a support." Sirach 3, 29-30



Carla, Amber, Steve Desrosiers
Fryeburg Academy Graduation 2010

in the **spot**light

Alyshia and Connor

A match made in Heaven

Even at a busy Mother Seton House (MSH) workshop with a room full of moms and babies, you can easily match up Alyshia and her handsome Connor Preston, by their striking auburn curls and sweet smiles.

While she has focused her time and energy on Connor since he arrived last October, Alyshia is really an all around girl. Before Connor, she enjoyed playing hockey at Bridgton Academy, even taking part in a Jr. Maniacs tournament in Lewiston. She is looking forward to playing again this coming season.

Alyshia is setting some ambitious academic goals for herself as well. A student at Crooked River Learning Center in Casco, she hopes to become a Certified Nursing Assistant [CNA] while she earns her high school diploma. She thinks that completing her CNA will help with her bigger goal of attending college and studying to become a nurse. Alyshia says that nursing is what her family does, with several family members already working as nurses or caring for others.

Connor has also been part of her education. He now

enjoys getting into everything, riding his little bicycle, riding in the car and, a new trick, saying "No." But, she adds, "he has taught me to love everything I have and to appreciate what I have. He has taught me patience. And he is so handsome; I just love him!"

A friend, Sunni Tainter, Client Liaison to the Board, introduced her to MSH, making life easier by helping with baby clothes and diapers. "If I didn't have Mother Seton House, I wouldn't be able to make it," was her summary. She has enjoyed the MSH workshops, learning to make books, and especially learning to make baby food. She continues to make baby food because Connor really likes it. His favorites are green peas and bananas. By the looks of the sparkling new teeth in his beautiful grin, he is ready for whatever comes next.

This young mother, who looks forward to a career of caring for others, has already shown that it is a good choice for her by the care she gives her son.



Time and Talent

Our Volunteers

In adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, Claudia Everett collects the boundless energy for her busy life in property maintenance of vacation homes, and as mother of four, grandmother of five. Firm in her faith and rooted in her tranquil spirituality, Claudia masterfully creates the Christmas and Easter floral displays around the altar. With this self-proclaimed "untrained" talent, she is completely in the moment, and open to the Holy Spirit.

Claudia has made time to volunteer for Mother Seton House (MSH) since

its inception, both in the Client Services Committee, and in the newly formed Building Committee. She enjoys watching the women "blossom" into good mothers, and gladly cuddles babies as their mothers attend MSH events and workshops. A strong believer in mentoring the women to joyfully celebrate showers and milestones, she arranges the decorations, especially one very unique tiered diaper "cake" stuffed with baby gifts.

Above all, Claudia wants to be there "... at a formative time in their babies'



lives to help our young women bond and fully engage with their children." Won't you join her?

To join Claudia. email: info@mothersetonhouse.com or call Cyndi 207-925-2322.