



LIFE *Lines*

Newsletter of Mother Seton House, Inc.

Mother Seton House

PO Box 673, Fryeburg, ME 04037

www.mothersetonhouse.com

Summer 2014 No. 8

Home Makers Giving Life

To our delight, we have scored a home run, emphasis on home, with the three wonderful women filling the role of resident manager at Mother Seton House (MSH). Beth, Charlotte, and Joanne have followed different paths in life but those paths have led them to us.

Beth Lesko came to our area after living in Colorado, New York and Nyack. She has experience in a crisis pregnancy center, and residential programs for single mothers, aiding them to set goals and helping to organize the milieu of the home. She learned of MSH in 2008 and became more interested as we prepared to open.

Joanne Magee heard of MSH through a friend of Beth's. After eleven years as a CNA, two years as Mother Goose at Storyland and nearly twenty years in hotel work, she approached MSH as if she were setting up a family home.

In turn, Charlotte Kent is a friend of Joanne. She had read about MSH but assumed that we would need someone younger than her seventy-nine years. Then she thought, "Why not be the best I can be?" Making items from jackets to

hang gliders for Chuck Roast and LL Bean, she has also run her own business as seamstress. She has been a school custodian, then CNA for twelve years.

From December to February, Charlotte and Joanne spent one day and night

"put together with so much love and prayer," noting the special touches, from the heartwarming pictures and hand sewn items to the list of volunteers providing transportation. "The community support is obvious," she observed. Once a week,

a neighbor of Joanne and Charlotte delivers a complete meal. That has encouraged the residents to do community meals also, rather than everyone cooking for themselves.

Now, with guests in the house, Joanne calls their work "very rewarding," while all recognize that they are learning as they go, just as new parents do. "We are creating the life of the house," according to Beth, and truly becoming a team. Beth remarked that Charlotte and Joanne are helping her to be a

bit more parental, while she can share a professional perspective of having worked with young mothers. Charlotte is happy "to feel I could do something productive at my age." She described the role perfectly, "to provide an introduction to the mothers, helping them to know what to expect of their babies and themselves. It is important and necessary to pass along what we know to new mothers."



each week at MSH, organizing kitchen and laundry, taking inventory, washing linens, making beds, truly homemaking. Charlotte put her sewing skills to work making new couch covers. "During the waiting time," she said, "we settled in, lived in the space, and filled needs of the house."

Joanne says that "now the house feels like a home." Beth agrees because it is

A letter from the director

Dear Friends,

I need to tell you something. Sometimes when great things happen at Mother Seton House, I feel you there with me. At a recent house meeting, I asked if anyone had any accomplishments to share. "I heard my baby's heartbeat for the first time today," M shyly reported.

Thank you

We send a special thank you to John McCann of Lovell, Maine and CI International, for facilitating retreats for the Mother Seton House Board of Directors for the past three years.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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And there you were, packed in the living room, beaming with pride and joy!

I am so aware of each of you and the many ways you support our mission: you fill your cars and lug containers to distributions, you hold benefit suppers and take part in fashion shows, you fill baby bottles with your change. Some of you spend countless hours washing and sorting baby clothes, or mowing the grass and shoveling snow, or keeping track of the checkbook.

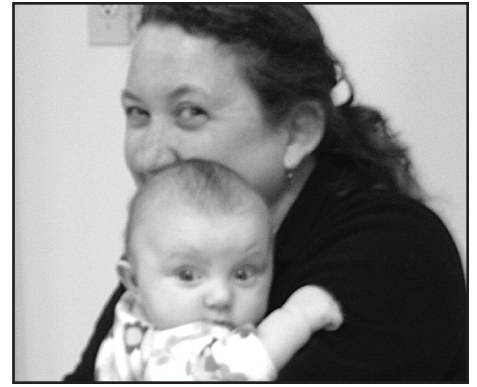
No matter how you participate, you are part of something great, something a bit miraculous. Moms and babies come to our house, guests in a safe, supportive home, where they are surrounded with love. Mentors help them set goals, house



Time
&
Talent

You know the saying, "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it." Although Frank and Monica Bellevue busily volunteer for RSVP, sew and fill 1000 Christmas stockings for deployed soldiers annually, sew and embroider baptismal bibs and linens for their church, and help their four children and nine grandchildren, they still make time to volunteer for Mother Seton House (MSH). When asked why, Monica said, "God has blessed me with a great stable life growing up with a wise Irish mom. Frank and I have been married 50 years and he has been in my life since we were in 10th grade. We support each other's endeavors. We have great health, so why NOT?"

They brought organization and structure to our distributions and storage unit. Monica takes bags of donated baby clothes, toys, books and other baby gear, then cleans and sorts them in her basement on a ping pong table. She keeps the bins organized by size, gender and season, a monumental task! Frank is her cheerful helpmate, on call to pick up and drop off clothes at the house and storage unit. He starred as Santa at the December distribution, demonstrating his years



managers provide stability, neighbors cook meals, a retired O.B. nurse makes a house call to calm nerves and build confidence.

Thanks to each of you, we are making a difference for mothers, babies and pregnant women in need.

In Faith, with Hope,
Cyndi Broyer
Director

Our Volunteers



of practice with babies by putting them all at ease. Monica says that his most important job is keeping her steady.

Operating like a well oiled machine, Monica's volunteer team load their cars and trucks at the storage unit, drive to the hall and unload and set out the bins in no time. Her organization of the donations has made it easier for the moms, too, since clothes are in predictable places.

After the last distribution, a mom posted on our Facebook page, "Thank you guys. Such a blessing." Yes, MSH volunteers like the Bellevues are a blessing indeed.

Thoughts from an *Expectant Mother*

It was the middle of March when I found out I was pregnant and about to be a mother for the first time. At the time I was very scared because I didn't have anyone to turn to for support and was about to be out on the streets until I heard about the Mother Seton House. I knew then that there was hope. I found out that I would be able to have my baby, clean up my life and start over fresh for both me and my child.

I have been at Mother Seton House for four months now and honestly I can say it's the best thing that has happened to me. My prayers were answered and I could relieve some stress from my shoulders. The house mothers are the nicest, most caring women you will ever meet. While you are here you

have time to get your feet back on the ground, whether like me you are expecting, or if you have had your child.

Even if you aren't staying here, the Mother Seton House can still help you get whatever you need, whether it's maternity clothes, baby clothes or baby food.

Like other single mothers out there, I don't have the baby's dad for support, and Mother Seton House has helped me realize I don't need him, or his help, and that I can do it on my own, that they are there for me every step of the way.

I am more excited for my baby boy Brayden to come into the real world and meet everyone. I can not thank everyone that made the Mother Seton



House possible. I don't know where I would be without all of your help. Even after Brayden and I are out on our own, I will always think of the Mother Seton House and give back in any way I can, after everything they did for me.



It's easy to donate to *Mother Seton House*

On our website, www.mothersetonhouse.com, you can make a donation through Paypal or First Giving.

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For speedy access to our donation webpage, use your smart phone or tablet to scan our QR code.



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*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.



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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

Independent Spirit, Thinking Ahead

Mackenzie glowed over the downy crown of six week old Cameron Wyatt as they rocked in the cozy living room at Mother Seton House. "As soon as I came in here I felt comfortable," she said. "The housemothers are very nice. They give us what we need, but let me be myself. I can be independent."

Mackenzie is clearly an independent spirit with a passion for snowboarding, which she taught at Mt. Cranmore. However, along with hiking and boarding in Tuckerman's Ravine, these are not intended career choices.

I have lots of hopes," she explained, "and hope to follow through on them." The goal to become a surgical techni-

cian led her to research programs and grants with her mentor. As a graduate of Kennett High School, her plan is to start college in August.

While not wanting to wish Cameron's infancy away or to plan his life for him, she has goals for him, too. "I don't really want him to get any bigger," she said, but to share with him, when the time comes, interests like winter sports and "those things my dad did with me," like fishing, hiking and camping.

Having read that early exposure can lead to attention problems, her hope is to keep him from TV and video games as long as possible. This is a young mother who is enjoying her baby now,



but positively thinking ahead.

Later, Mackenzie remarked that, when she was pregnant, she had no idea how attached she would be to her baby. It just didn't seem real, she explained, until she actually saw him. MSH Director, Cyndi, recalled: "One night, Mackenzie was changing Cameron and singing 'Do you know you are my whole world? You are my everything.' How sweet is that"?



Mother Seton House *Wish List*

Thanks to so many folks for taking care of our past needs.

Our current needs are:

Gift Cards: Shaw's, Walmart, Hannaford, Lowes,

Home Depot, Shell and Irving gas.

Bathtub Spout Covers (2)

Household Cleaning Products, *safe for pregnant women*

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper, *safe for septic systems*

Tissues

Kitchen Garbage Bags

4 Gallon Trash Bags

Liquid Soap, *not antibacterial*

Deodorant

Clear Plastic Underbed Storage Containers

Pop-up Laundry Baskets

Compact Size (*special size*) Crib Sheets

Onesies: Newborn, 0-3 Months and 3-6 Months

Sleeping Gowns: Newborn and 0-3 Months

Halo Brand Sleepsack Wearable Blankets or

Summer Brand Swaddle Me Sleepsacks

Diapers: Newborn through size 3

Infant Health Care Kits

Boot Tray

Leaf Rake



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



*Every Baby
Deserves
A Good
Start!*

