



LIFE *Lines*

Newsletter of Mother Seton House, Inc.

Mother Seton House

PO Box 673, Fryeburg, ME 04037

www.mothersetonhouse.com

Mother Seton House Thanks Our Lady of the Mountains for Gifts From Their Hearts *Thousands of diapers and wipes donated*

The congregation of Our Lady of the Mountains Roman Catholic Church in North Conway was challenged by parishioner Kathie Bertrand. Encouraged by their pastor, Rev. Donald F. Gauthier Jr., a long time supporter of Mother Seton House, they responded with enthusiasm. They remembered his Advent message and organized a diaper drive.

“Jesus asks us to realize that our gifting to another also includes announcing the promise to ALL, reminding each other that all are to be honored and revered. They are rightful heirs. Exclusion is not nice! It certainly doesn’t belong in church. The gifting that we’re to be about, is to help overcome loneliness and separation and declare our connection to one another.”

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, 8,000 diapers and 4,000 wipes were distributed at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church in Fryeburg to ten mothers and their infants, along with clothing, bedding, books, toys and baby furniture. Distributions occur regularly and at no cost to the mothers.



Mother Seton House salutes Bernie Friberg and her 2010 “Calendar for Charity.”

Bernie produced a calendar to benefit local charities. The art, photographs and inspiring quotes, typify life here in the White Mountains. They are winning entries from Mount Washington Valley Photo Contest - www.mwvphotocontest.com.

To accompany the November photograph, Bernie chose a quote from Thomas Merton, the Catholic social justice and peace advocate, whose Madonna image became our logo in 2008. “*The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of interdependence of all living beings, which are*

all part of one another and all involved in one another.” Since our goal is to provide education, counseling, referrals and physical, emotional and spiritual support in a caring community, and since we welcome all women regardless of their race, color, religion or national origin, the quote is particularly relevant.

Thank you Bernie. The well over \$1,500 brings us ever closer to our shelter, a private, nonprofit, faith-based crisis center for pregnant women in difficult circumstances.

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

A letter from the director

Dear Friends,

Three years ago Mother Seton House was an exciting idea, a conversation starter. Like the proverbial mustard seed, it has survived rocky soil and periods of drought and has blossomed into a medium size flourishing bush. When I think about the faith you had in that tiny seed I am filled with awe. What a blessing it is to be supported by generous benefactors and brave volunteers. So many of you have given money, time, services and items such as bedding, clothing and high chairs.

Believe me when I say that all of us involved with Mother Seton House strive to be the best possible stewards of the gifts you have given. At times it is an overwhelming responsibility.



When we first began this project, I had a fuzzy vision of what the work would actually be. We began in faith, knowing that we would be led by the right path. I expected to hold babies, sure, but I didn't realize how strong the mothers would be. The women we serve are courageous. They are articu-

late, poised and loving. It is an honor to be a part of their lives. The work is sometimes hard, but there are many blessings along the way.

I consider myself one of the luckiest people alive. I share a vision of a home that will one day shelter women and babies, that will provide love and hope and the promise of a better future. I am surrounded by caring, generous and dedicated men and women. The seed planted a few years ago continues to grow, and with your help we will see this ministry to mothers and their children brought to fruition.

In faith, with hope,
Cyndi Broyer
Executive Director

Time and Talent as well as Treasure: Our most valuable resource is People.

Developing Mother Seton House from an idea to a mission has involved dozens of volunteers who share their many skills. In this, our first edition of **LIFE**lines, we highlight two of our six committees.

The Public Relations Committee develops and distributes written materials with our mission statement and logo, including brochures, announcements, and this newsletter. In addition, members submit press releases to local media.

At the heart of Mother Seton House is the Client Services Committee who provide our outreach to women in need. Members interview those who come to us and arrange for needs, such as transportation, clothing and supplies, education, and social and emotional support.

They also coordinate the distribution of donated baby goods and organize gatherings and celebrations, which provide an important network among the mothers.

We long for the day when Mother Seton House is a real structure to shelter and nurture those in need while they develop the skills they need for independence.



Please let us know your preferences either by mail at: Mother Seton House, PO Box 673, Fryeburg, ME 04037; or by visiting our website www.mothersetonhouse.com

- to receive the biannual newsletter by mail.
- to be removed from your mailing list.
- to receive monthly updates via email.
- to be removed from the email list.
- to volunteer.
- more information.

Please contact me: _____



in the **spot**light



Sunni and Breyden

Mom and Baby are doing well

Sonjia [Sunni] Tainter, has been associated with Mother Seton House for a little more than a year. In that time she has become a dedicated mother to one year-old Breyden and a valuable member of the organization.

As bright and cheerful as her name, Sunni is a natural leader and has organized distributions of baby clothes for our infants as they thrive and grow. Her positive and enthusiastic attitude helps all the mothers feel comfortable. In this way, she has helped to develop the clothing swaps into supportive networking events. Cyndi calls her “a relentless advocate for friends in need.”

On the PR committee, Sunni provides important insights and ideas. Her photography skills illustrate Mother Seton House activities for our growing website, newsletter, and her special pages on Facebook and MySpace. She has recently become Client Liaison to the Board of Directors.

In Sunni’s own words, “My most important achievement so far has been taking on the responsibility of having a baby and becoming the best mom I can be in the short time I had to learn.”

“The best moment was the first time I held him in the middle of the night all by myself, and I started to cry knowing he was mine..., that I was a real mom..., this little boy’s Mommy. The hardest moments have been learning to be patient when he cries and trying to decipher what each cry means.

“The biggest thing I’ve learned is how smart a child can be. He amazes me with how quickly he catches on to what the grown-ups are doing. Babies are so smart. I think the best thing I have seen Breyden do is learn how to play with

cars. When he was nine months old, he saw two three year-old boys driving cars around, and ever since then he loves to play with toy cars. Every day Breyden does something different to amuse and amaze me.

“I would like to teach Breyden how to be a respectable young man and that he can grow up to be anything and I’ll still be proud of him.”

Sunni is making plans for her future as well as Breyden’s. She plans to go to college, first for an Associate degree in early childhood education, and then continuing for a Bachelor’s and Master’s in behavioral science.

“I would like readers to know that Mother Seton House has been a tremendous help. I have had to buy only two bags of diapers in a year. They have supplied all the rest, and being a stay-at-home mom has been great for my education and for Breyden. Mother Seton House has made it possible for me to attend college. Cyndi Broyer and I are working on applications now.

“Mother Seton House is such a good cause that I have begun to help. I have organized two distributions of baby clothes and have started a ‘diaper and wipes drive’ at Fryeburg Academy. On my Facebook page I have a link to my Mother Seton House group page, and so far we have 101 members. I helped organize a wedding and will help to organize a baby shower in March.” She even created a Mother Seton Gingerbread House for the Christmas party.

“In the near future I plan on organizing a charity concert, and all proceeds will go to Mother Seton House. I hope to continue growing with this organization and be there for their grand opening of the Mother Seton House building.”

Mother Seton House
PO Box 673
Fryeburg, ME 04037

Celebrate and **Commemorate**

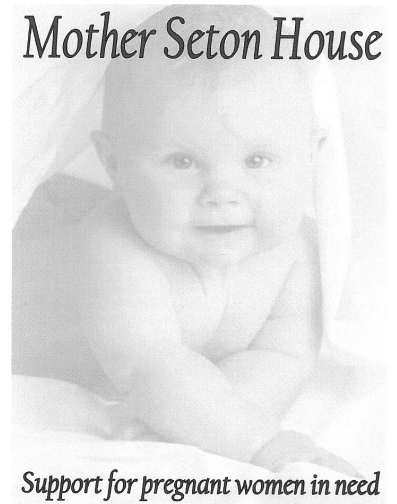
Need a new idea for Mother's Day? Honor your mother, grandmother, godmother, sister, or aunt with a donation in her name to Mother Seton House. Remember her love by helping a new mother to get a good start on her most important career.

A memorial gift is also a wonderful way to honor one who has passed away or to celebrate a new arrival, commemorate a birthday, anniversary, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, or any special occasion

A card acknowledging your gift will be sent to the person or family that you designate.

We are a private, 501c3 non-profit, faith-based crisis center for pregnant women in difficult circumstances. All gifts are tax deductible.

Mother Seton House



My donation of \$_____ is enclosed.

Please send a card to acknowledge my gift in honor of _____ to:

Name: _____

Street or PO Box: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please mail to: MOTHER SETON HOUSE, INC, P.O. Box 673, Fryeburg, Maine 04038