

Marian House Announces New Faith Community Partnership Program

While Marian House has long depended on the generosity of the faith community, with the financial pressures on the organization and the churches that have supported us in the past, we have made a decision to expand and formalize our partnerships. Donations from churches were decreasing at the same time that grants and government money were declining. Our goal is to form partnerships with congregations of all faiths to specifically fund our evening meals. We have calculated that we spend approximately \$400 per week for the evening meals we serve here at Marian House. We are looking for 50 partners to help us cover these costs.

We have just started this program, but have received new donations from:

St. Vincent DePaul - Sacred Heart Glyndon and
St. Mark's Fallston
Holy Family Catholic Church - Davidsonville
Church of the Nativity - Timonium
Faith Lutheran Church - Baltimore
Second Presbyterian Church - Baltimore
St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church
St. Bernadette's

We would like to recognize our long-time supporters:
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen
Our Lady of Grace Church
Sacred Heart Church
St. Joseph Catholic Community
St. Louis Church
St. Matthew Sodality
St. Michael's Overlea Ladies of Charity
St. Paul's Church
St. Pius X Church
St. Ursula Church-St. Vincent dePaul Society
And all the others listed on our Holiday Thank You list

If you belong to a congregation that may wish to participate in this program, Terri Eckard is coordinating this effort here at Marian House, and can provide more information. She can be reached at 410-467-4246. Please help us reach our goal!



Assistance and Scholarships on All Levels Make a Quality Education Possible

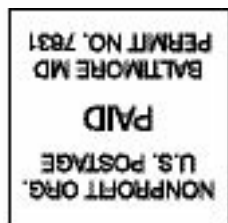
Destiny, a child of a former resident attends St. Francis Academy due to the generosity of Marian House supporter Wayne Gioioso. She is a Junior, shown here with Mr. Gioioso and her mother.

Cierra is able to attend Mercy High School, in part because of the generous response of readers of the last "Monumental News." We received enough donations to cover our shortfall for this year. We want to thank Mercy High School in particular for their assistance in making a quality education possible for Cierra, who we understand is doing quite well.

Our congratulations go out to Rita who has just graduated from the University of Baltimore with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

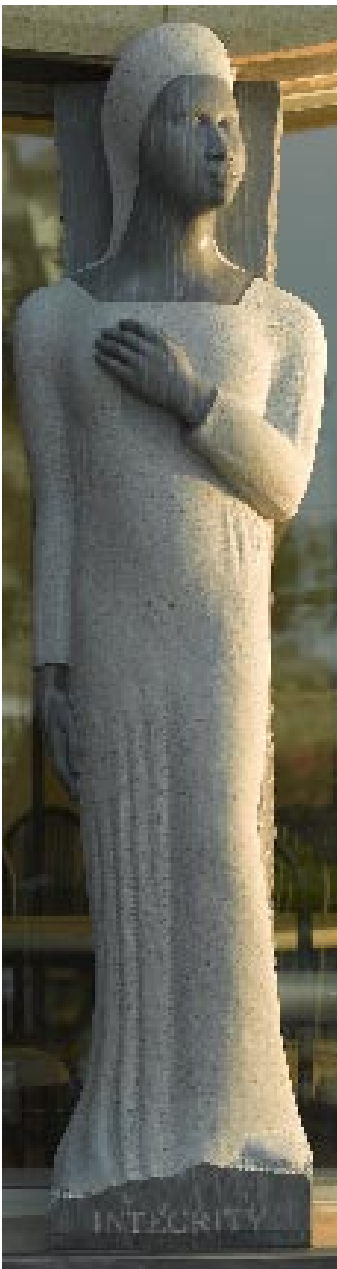
Currently seven women are attending college with the help of Marian House scholarships.

A special thanks to the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier Hunt Valley who is a generous supporter of our scholarship program.





MONUMENTAL NEWS



“Your integrity is your destiny . . . It’s the light that guides your way.”

*Heraclitus
Greek Philosopher*



Dear Friends of Marian House,

It is so busy at this time of year. I’m sure I’ve forgotten something, but what could it be? I’m sure it must be in this newsletter somewhere. If you think you know what I’ve forgotten, and where it is, call Terri in our development office (410-467-4246). She may have a little something for the very observant among you.

There are many things I have not forgotten. My gratitude to everyone who came forward at this time of year to help us with gifts of time, talent and money, so that all our women could celebrate Halloween, Thanksgiving and most importantly Christmas in the best spirit of the holidays.

Throughout this newsletter are stories, and many many pictures that depict the life of Marian House, the women, the children, the staff that makes this HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Since there is so much to pack into this newsletter, I’ll say nothing more, and let you enjoy.

Sincerely,

Sister Loretta

P.S. Look for the Thank You list inside. You’ll be amazed at all the support we get from so many sources.

Marian House Awarded Standards of Excellence

The Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations certified that Marian House is in compliance with the organization’s Standards for Excellence. It states that the governance and management policies, practices and procedures of Marian House meet the highest ethical standards for nonprofits in Maryland. The Seal of Excellence is granted to well managed, responsibly governed organizations that are deserving of the public’s trust.

The award was presented to Sister Loretta Rosendale at a luncheon held Nov. 1. Here she is seen receiving the award from the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations Executive Director Peter Bern and Martina Martin, the chairperson of the Ethics Standards Committee. Also shown is Marian House Executive Director Sister Loretta Rosendale, sharing it with administrative staff members Sister Mel Bennett and Peter McIver.



Serenity Place Selected for Funding

Marian House has been approved for funding from the Maryland State Community Development Administration. This funding along with other grants we have been awarded makes our total to date \$4.9 million, putting us well on our way to making Serenity Place a reality. Of the 22 groups that applied, only 9 received funding.

Since confirmation of the funding, we have held several meetings with our partner in the project, Homes for America, along with the construction team of Cho, Ben and Holback (the architects) and Southway Builders.



In This Issue

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Who could this mystery woman be?



It's Halloween, with a cast of characters "scary" as can be.



Thanksgiving is a time for family. Everyone at Marian House IS family.



Marian House is a Community That WORKS!

While we usually include success stories of all kinds in this space, in this issue we are going to emphasize work-related stories. Recently more of our women than ever have been able to find suitable employment. This is due in part to our enhanced education program, employment counseling, and the addition of a new Job Developer, funded by a grant from a national foundation. With criminal backgrounds, lack of a positive work history, education and skills, it is usually difficult for our women to find employment.

If any of you are aware of companies that may offer training and/or jobs for our women, please contact Ebony, our employment counselor, at 410-467-4121.

Lesly began a new job at Yellow Transportation Co. on December 12.

Dana will do a project at Sarah's House for her employer Holiday Inn, that will include speaking with women there about her story.

Arlene has started a full time job making doors at Southern Pacific Supply.

Juanita B. has graduated from Essential Skills Culinary Training, and is seeking employment

Amanda has part-time employment with PDP Technologies.

Bridgette is working full-time at Pizza Hut.

Adrienne has a full time job at Healthcare for the Homeless as a medical unit clerk.

Deborah H. received a bonus for her excellent attendance and punctuality. She has worked in housekeeping at BWI (C Pier) since July.

Juanita J. has completed a 16 hour workshop on Food Safety/Preparation. She works at Morgan Christian Child Care Center where she prepares and serves meals to children and staff daily.

Angela started work January 3 at Harbor Bank as the assistant to the CEO.

Deborah B. was reunited with her son and daughter and has started a new job at American Yeast Co.

Tammi is attending clerical associate classes offered by her employer, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Bert began a new full-time job at Immediate Systems Research Co. on December 19.

Edna has an internship in the MCAT program at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and will be hired upon completion of her training.

Sheryle and **Tanya** have completed training at Moveable Feast. **Sheryle** is working at GBMC and **Tanya**, who had the highest score on her test is now working at Country Inn Suites at BWI.



So Many to Thank This Holiday Season

American Radiology
Patricia Batza
Belair-Edison Medical Center
Barbara Blair
Mary and Tom Bode
Catholic High School
Church of St. Cecilia
Friends of St. Thomas
Susan Gauvey
Great Finds and Designs
Goetze's Candy
H & S Bakery
Johns Hopkins Lacrosse Team
Johns Hopkins Community
Physicians
LL Craftworks
Loyola Service Learning
Group
Make My Day Special
National Aquarium in
Baltimore
Notre Dame Prep in Towson
Nursing Leadership Group -
Stella Maris
Our Lady of the Angels
Catholic Community
St. Andrew By the Bay
St. Charles Borromeo
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
St. Francis of Assisi
St. Joseph Fullerton
St. Ann's
SECU Woodlawn
Sheppard Pratt
United Way of Central MD
Univ. of MD College Park
Women's Studies
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Post 219
Wellness Center Charlestown
Retirement Community

So many people contribute in so many ways, it is always our fear when we print a list that someone will be left off. If you don't see your name, please let us know. We appreciate your gifts because without you we cannot succeed in moving women from dependence to independence.



Board News



It is with regret that we must say goodbye to **Alan Evans** who is leaving our board. A member since 1996, Alan was a leader in implementing the marketing and fund raising portions of our strategic plan. Through his leadership a development audit was done which resulted in the addition of a full time annual giving manager. He was also a part of the selection committee for new board members. Alan cared deeply about Marian House, asking all the right questions to keep the board focused on the Mission. He will be missed.

We would like to welcome to the board **Dana Peterson Moore, Esq.**, a partner with Whiteford Taylor & Preston LLP.

Letters . . .

To All Staff at Marian House:

I would like to express my appreciation for what you've done for me since I've been here at Marian House. I would especially like to thank you for the beautiful Christmas that you gave to my son and me. I will never forget the kindness and love shown to us. May God bless each and everyone of you. Sincerely, Debbie (Resident)

Dear Sr. Sharon:

Just a few words to say thank you for your support, while in school. This has been a wonderful experience for me and you and your staff help make it possible to continue on. I'm really grateful. All the ladies that have the opportunity should be inspired to go back to school and college. Thanks, Victoria (Former Resident)

To the Marian House Staff,

Hello, my name is LaVerne. I entered the Marian House on January 13, 2005. Upon my entering, I had lost all my ability to get a job, keep a job, save money and truly I didn't have any morals about spending my money wisely. Marian House (the staff) helped me to believe in myself and save over a thousand dollars. The things I've lost so long ago could and would be obtained again. Such as, responsibility of paying bills on time, budgeting and most of all saving without remorse. I thank them for helping me to regain what I lost so long ago and that's ME!

Sincerely, LaVerne. (Resident)