



Marian House

M A T T E R S

Summer 2009

What's Inside...



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EDUCATION MATTERS



HEART OF THE MATTER



STAFF MATTERS



LEADERSHIP MATTERS

MISSION STATEMENT

Marian House is a holistic, healing community for women and their families who are in need of housing and support services. We provide a safe, loving environment that challenges women to respect and love themselves, confront emotional and socio-economic barriers, and build stable and productive lives.

VISION STATEMENT

Marian House strives to transform our society by unlocking the potential found within the women we serve.

VALUES STATEMENT

Marian House values the innate dignity of each human being. Within a culture of respect and understanding of the human condition, the values of patience, trust, honesty, and integrity direct all our interactions and endeavors.

EXECUTIVE GREETING

Dear Friends of Marian House:

It's baseball season and though I'm not that much of a sports buff, I do know what a good team can accomplish. As an Executive Director, I have found that to produce amazing results within an organization, it takes a well-oiled operation with team-oriented spirit, working for a worthy cause.

At Marian House, not only are the staff, board of directors, donors and volunteers committed to success; but the residents themselves are a part of our team. I am inspired by the great things our women are working towards. With the help of the staff, they're actively pursuing employment opportunities. They're seeking educational advancements that will strengthen their chances in the work world. We have program graduates who are buying homes, reuniting with their children, and helping out in the community. (Just recently, several of the residents assisted with the rebuilding of the playground at Stadium Place—a location a few blocks from Marian House.)

I've been at Marian House for two years and I can truly understand why the staff and board tend to hang around for so long—it's because the team keeps winning! Women who come to us in need continue to move from dependence to independence; equipped with the tools that they need to live happier, healthier, and more productive lives. Day in and day out, we experience the blessings of touching and changing the lives of women and children in crisis, by helping them to succeed in the game of life.

In this issue of *Marian House MATTERS* we'd like to share a success story of the daughter of one of our previous residents, testimonials of three graduates, a highly-appreciated staff member; and our new board members. I hope you find the reading inspiring as you see how those we serve are able to heal, grow and shine!

Thanks for being a part of the Marian House team and family. *We couldn't do it without you.*

Katie Allston, LCSW-C
Executive Director



EDUCATION MATTERS

Gwen Skillern, Board Member, Featured Writer

Cierra Smith, daughter of Marian House Alumna, Kathy Douglas, graduated from Mercy High School on June 3, 2009. Joining her in celebration at graduation was her proud mother, Kathy, sister Maisia Smith, and Marian House Board Members, Gwen Skillern and Mary-Margaret Latchford.



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Our Ladies Speak

At Marian House, we get to touch the lives of so many beautiful women. These women have the potential to do great things; yet, are often burdened with circumstances of the past that hinder them from believing in themselves and trusting others. We want to share three of our graduates' testimonials with you. In reading them, we hope that you will understand how important your continued support is, and how that support helps us make a real difference in the lives of these very special women.

From Carol S.

"I can't find the right words to describe my feelings concerning Marian House, its staff, and the program. This was my first time in treatment. Marian House was the safest, most secure environment I had ever lived in. I felt that security and serenity the first time I stepped across the threshold.

My issues were deep seeded and multi faceted. Marian House provided the nurturing home that is one of the key components of their recovery program. They addressed everything from addiction, physical and mental health to trauma and abuse. The services Marian House provides are a perfect combination producing an air conducive to recovery.

I grew more in the nine months I spent in Marian House than I had in 40 years on the outside alone. The staff are great mentors and role models. Their kindness and compassion are genuine. They provide excellent role models for residents. Contact and exposure with Marian House alumni allows current residents to see that the program works.

There is a better way of life and thanks to Marian House I have gained the tools to become self-reliant and a productive member of society. My self esteem and self worth have increased tremendously.

My dreams have rekindled and in four years I will become a licensed electrician. After that I will continue to work in the field until I obtain my Masters License.

Thank you sincerely for giving me the guidance and support that has allowed me to live again."

~ · ~

From Sheree F.

"Today I stand for something and I would like to acknowledge that as a resident of Marian House I have become a strong, independent woman. Only through the help of the sisters and many women working together to improve the quality of life for addicts such as myself. For I once had no direction, no purpose, being disillusioned and afraid to live life on life's terms. Marian House gave me a sense

of love and warmth that I never had before, which in turn gave me courage to want to make something of my life. Counseling and group therapy gave me strength to get to the core of a disease that I never understood.

Working on God's purpose for me after finding that I understood his will to have me see that I was a good person and he loved me, forgiving my past and living for my present. Thank you very much Marian House for all that you have done for me."

~ · ~

From Stephanie A.

"First and Foremost I would like to thank God for His Grace and Mercy and Marian House for their patience and time.

My name is Stephanie A., and to me, Marian House is the best place for a woman to get her life back. When I first came for my interview and walked in, I felt a very peaceful and spiritual presence. I knew I belonged there. I had no I.D., no Social Security Card, I had nothing. The counselors and staff at Marian House helped me to get everything I needed. I was homeless, had no job, was on probation and did not know how to communicate with other people. I especially did not know why I kept going back out in active addiction. When I moved in, my life started changing from being irresponsible to being responsible. I did not know what was going to become of me, except I felt it was going to be good. The groups and counselors at Marian House taught me all of that. Today I am still part of Marian House, except I am in Serenity Place, which is independent living. I have my own apartment, I pay all my bills, I have a job, and I go to all of my doctors appointments. I would recommend to all women who want to get their life back in order to give Marian House a try."


~ · ~

You can read other amazing testimonials on our website at www.marianhouse.org. 

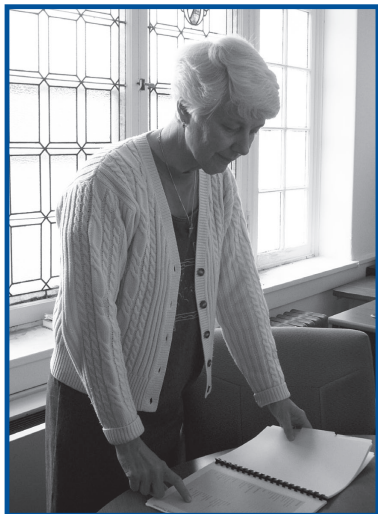
Education Matters, continued from front page

Cierra and Kathy truly exemplify the spirit of the Marian House family. Kathy was a resident of Marian House I, II and III and most recently purchased her first home. Board member, Gwen Skillern states, "I have had the privilege of serving as a mentor to Kathy and the girls over the past four years. Kathy has done a great job of providing a safe, warm and nurturing environment for her family. Her strength, dedication, focus and resilience is an excellent role model to her girls to demonstrate that you achieve your goals and dreams if you work hard and stay focused. Considering the obstacles that she has overcome, she is quite an amazing woman."

Cierra was awarded scholarship assistance by Marian House

during her time at Mercy High School where she was active in school programs and also worked part time after school. Her goal is to enroll in Baltimore Community College in the fall where she plans to study accounting. As Kathy beamed with pride at graduation, she stated that they could not have made it this far without Marian House. She would like to thank Marian House for all of the support, love and guidance she has received over the years and a big thank you to Sister Margi for her many hours of support and counseling at Marian House III and beyond and to Ms. Gwen for always being there. "I could not have done it without all of you." 

Best Wishes to Sr. Margi Savage, SSJ



Sr. Margi Savage, SSJ

When Sr. Margi Savage, SSJ came to Marian House in February 2004 little did she know that she would be responsible for the implementation and growth of the Shelter Plus Care program. The City of Baltimore asked Marian House to consider being a sponsor of the new program because of its success rate working with women in transitional housing. Former Executive Director Loretta Rosendale, and Development

Director Kathy Lyon wrote the grant that was approved by the City of Baltimore for the new expansion program. On April 1, 2004, the first tenant in the Shelter Plus Care program moved into a home (Marian House still leases the property).

Sr. Margi then embarked on a journey throughout Baltimore City visiting apartment complexes, building relationships with landlords and realtors. After building and cultivating these relationships, the Shelter Plus Care program has had paramount success. Currently there are 14 women and 14 children in the scattered sites program. The original grant provided 15 units of housing to women in the program.

In the past five years, Sr Margi has helped to build the program with measurable outcomes. Since the start of the program, 26

“Marian House is such a worthwhile mission, there is as much giving (from the women) as there is receiving – and it gives mutual growth to them and to the staff as well. It’s opened me up to a world that is so significantly different than the one I know, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to share that time with the women.”

~ SR. MARGI

women have successfully exited the program – moving into other housing programs, assuming the leases in their name, and eight women have become homeowners.

Sr. Margi has worked diligently with each client over the past five years to achieve goals in homeownership, financial management, recovery, employment, family reunification and counseling; amongst other personal goals. Sr. Margi is leaving Marian House this month to move onto a leadership position within her community, the Sisters of Saint Joseph. She will be moving to Philadelphia, PA to serve as an Area Delegate for Northern New Jersey and New York. Her new position will allow her to communicate with members of the community in those areas to promote the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

We will miss her, and wish her the best of luck in her new ministry! 🙏

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

After many years of service to Marian House, [Sr. Trinitas Bochini, SSND](#) is resigning from the board and her position as Secretary this summer. She is a Professor of Psychology at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. We thank her for sharing her many talents and time with Marian House.

[Welcome to our New Board Members](#)

[Karen Albert](#) – Internal Auditor/Manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP. She is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Board of Governors, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. She is also an active member and Recording Secretary of Ravens Roost 73.

[Sr. Katherine M. Bell, RSM](#) – 25 years in Elementary School Education as a teacher and principal. Currently serving in her 20th year as the Pastoral Associate at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Baltimore City.

[Mary M. Fanning, RSM](#) – Assistant Professor, Dept. of Business and Economics at College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Currently serving on Board of Shrine of the Sacred Heart School in Baltimore, on the financial committee of The Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore, on the board of The Catholic Health East, Inc., and Advisory Council on The Learning Bank of COIL, Inc.

[Ms. Karen Floyd](#) – Wife, mother of five, grandmother of three. A former Marian

House resident who graduated from the program in 2004. Currently is employed by Northwest Hospital Center.

[Pam Newland](#) – Owner/Manager Henderson-Webb, Inc. - over 10,000 apartments in the Baltimore metropolitan area - for over 34 years. For the last ten years, she has served as Chief Operating officer and Senior Vice President of the company.

[Jessie M. Reed](#) – Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Mercy Health Services in Baltimore. She is a graduate of Spelman College and has an MS in Health Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. 🙏

S A V E T H E D A T E

SISTER

Saturday,
October 24th
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8am - 12pm



Lake  
Montebello,  
Baltimore

## Sister ACT 5K Run, Walk and Talk

*Get Into Gear with Marian House*

**Advocacy, Communication, Triumph**

*Women moving from dependence to independence*



949 Gorsuch Avenue · Baltimore, MD 21218

### Marian House

*Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy  
and the School Sisters of Notre Dame*



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