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Visitation House, Inc.

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VH welcomes new Executive Director

After a long search the board of directors of Visitation House hired Evelyn Lindquist of St. Bernadette Parish in Northboro as its new Executive Director.

Eve joins us with thirty years of experience within the hotel and travel industry: from food service and catering to sales, public relations, and

marketing. Most recently she owned and operated Boston & New England Reservation Service, a discount hotel reservation service, for twelve years.

Prior to that Eve served as Executive Vice President and Director of Marketing for thirteen years with

Saunders Hotel Group.

As Executive Director of VH Eve is primarily responsible for the functioning and viability of the corporation as a whole. She will oversee and coordinate all of our fundraising efforts and events, as well as plan and execute new ones.



Also she will manage the budget and monitor spending, manage all administrative aspects of Visitation House, and be the chief spokesman for the organization.

Additionally Eve will handle personnel issues and, in conjunction with the board and house parents,

develop and monitor the house model and policies.

We are excited that Eve is willing and quite excited to join our ministry. She has been on the job for two weeks already and has shown great initiative in learning the many ropes and shouldering her share of the duties by organizing her work space, sending out two grant applications, setting ambitious goals for herself for the next twelve months, and engaging each facet of her role.

The board of directors opened the search for an Executive Director in September when, after studying the staffing structure of the house, it became clear that additional full-time paid staff were imperative. With the house parents the directors designed a new structure in which JJ and Jessica will work full-time in the house with our guests and a new Executive Director assumes those duties that had been JJ's.

Welcome, Eve, at long last!

The perfect tree

Just after the last newsletter went out, we went to Princeton, MA, in search of the perfect tree.

When we brought it in the house, it was a little scrawnier than it had looked in the field, but a little family trimming did the trick.



Thanks to Michael and Marcia Grimes for the use of their van—making our tree trip both fun and free.



May you reap the graces of this holiest of weeks and meditate fruitfully on the meaning of Christ's passion and res-

In other news...

We're on the web!

Thanks to the tireless and creative efforts of Jim Hudson, web geek extraordinaire, VH now has a home on the World Wide Web. This site is a crucial step in our publicity as we seek to spread our name to women who are in need of our services. In the future it will be a helpful donor resource as well when we begin to accept credit card donations via online payment.

Until then, visit our site's first edition at www.visitationhouse.org.

Your continued support

As we near the celebration of Our Lord's death and resurrection, it is fitting to remember how those events infinitely and definitively raised the dignity of our human nature and in doing so reaffirmed that life is his greatest gift to us.

There are many around us who have never heard this message or, if they have, have never seen it lived out in the context of a family. The women whom we welcome similarly have had little exposure to a message of dignity and of life. Visitation House holds at its heart the mission of modeling just that: dignity and love, and a family.

This Easter season we again invite you to participate in our ministry by making a donation. Only you our donors can give us the financial stability to continue our apostolate—almost 95% of our income is from private donations. We pray that you will do your part.

A call for volunteers: Our dear little 14-month Peter is now very, very mobile, needing to be kept up with and kept entertained. Although at first glance one might conclude, "How nice! Both parents get to stay at home full time with their son," we have a truly full-time job to do for our house and guests and, especially Jess, who spends the most time with Peter during the day, would love

Fundraising dinner

It promises to be just as much fun and smashing success as it was last year! Make sure you join us for our annual **pot-luck** supper: **Thursday evening, 26 April, at 6pm; The Cenacle, St. Paul's Cathedral.** This year we're proud to host **Joseph Scheidler**, National Director of the Pro-Life Action League, who will deliver a keynote address. As they were last year, the tables at the event will be hosted. Each host brings an entrée, sides, salad and dessert, and guests. We provide the rest. At the end we will take up a free-will collection.

It's a fun night with a good speaker for a good cause. If you would like to find out more about hosting a table, or if you would like to attend without hosting, please e-mail or call JJ (508 798 0762 or jjmammi@visitationhouse.org).

some babysitting help. Consider making a weekly commitment of 3-4 hours, so our house mother can give her VH duties undivided attention.

Around the house: The two flat sections of our **roof** are still in need of repair—one sags and the other leaks! Spring is around the corner and it would be great to have these taken care of (and even better if the work were donated). If you have roofing experience and would like to support our ministry, your talents would be your biggest donation.

Many thanks to

-Women's Group at St. Camillus Church who collected items from our wish list and then presented them to us at a baby shower.

-Kathy Jordan and St. Bernard's High School students who hosted JJ on their show *Precious Heartbeat* on Fitchburg Public Access television. Watch the episode (to be posted soon) at www.preciousheartbeat.org.

-And all of you for keeping us and all of our needs in mind and at heart.

Mothers' and Fathers' Day Novena Mass cards

As in the past two years we will be conducting our Mothers' and Fathers' Day Novena Mass card fundraiser. We rely on this too as a source of funding for our apostolate each year. These beautiful cards can be purchased for mothers and fathers both living and deceased as a spiritual gift; the nine-day novena of Masses will be celebrated by Fr. Michael Roy, VH chaplain, beginning on Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day for all of the recipients of the cards. Suggested donation for a card is \$5, which, minus the cost of the card, totally and directly supports the ministry of Visitation House in providing a family to the women who come to us for shelter and support. To be in charge of bringing them to your parish, call Eve at 508 798 0762.



front: Peter and house mother Jessica Mammi, Jessica, Amy and Anthony; seated: Angela; standing: Shalana, house father JJ, and resident assistant Louise

St. Valentine's Day party

JJ and Jessica "invited everyone over" to their apartment on St. Valentine's Day for a candlelight dinner of hors d'oeuvres and mocktails, Italian roast chicken, parmesan risotto, sweet potato casserole, asparagus, and homemade cheesecake (à la Louise). Childcare was provided for a truly elegant experience.