4th Annual Potluck Benefit Dinner: A Life-giving Success

On April 16, 2009, three hundred friends and supporters gathered for the Visitation House 4th Annual Potluck Benefit Dinner in the Cenacle at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Our keynote speaker, Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer, President of Human Life International, invited all who attended to prayer and action to end the culture of death. This year’s recipient of the Ruth V. Pakaluk Award was Rev. Stephen M. Gemme, Pastor of St. Bernadette Parish and School in Northboro, for his support and dedication to the work of Visitation House. This was the best attended and supported fundraiser in Visitation House’s history, a great testament to the tree of life that feeds and nourishes our ongoing mission and work. A special thanks to all who attended this event and who have supported this life-saving ministry throughout the years.

Some of God’s greatest blessings to Visitation House have been our countless volunteers who have generously offered their invaluable time to Visitation House throughout the past year. Whether it is through offering life skills classes, organizing projects, hosting fundraising events or baby showers, plumbing and maintenance, household and grounds maintenance, shopping, office support, babysitting, facilitating a bible study or spirituality program, renovating the kitchen, setting up tables at our annual dinner or sitting on our board of directors, our volunteers are an essential and vital presence in the work of Visitation House and a central reason why our work is able to continue.

In this issue, we would especially like to recognize Jim Hudson for his creative design and continued maintenance of our website. We are grateful for Jim’s dedication in giving his time and talent to Visitation House as a hobby, in addition to offering his time to other nonprofit organizations. (Please visit our website at www.visitationhouse.org.)

To all our volunteers, who are too numerous to mention, we thank you from our hearts and we honor the sacred gift that you are to all of us at Visitation House, especially to the women and infants who seek refuge here from homelessness and our world’s culture of death. We are eternally grateful and truly blessed by you.
Visitation House Enters Its 5th Year

On May 31st, on the Feasts of Pentecost and the Visitation, friends, family, supporters, staff, volunteers, current and former residents came together to celebrate the 4th Anniversary of Visitation House. A good time was had by all and we thank you for sharing this special day with us.

In these past four years we have welcomed 63 pregnant women in crisis, while also providing assistance to other women in the community who seek emotional and material support. Our ministry to residents extends well beyond their stay at Visitation House as they return for our monthly liturgy, life skills classes and visits. We ask your prayers as we continue to listen to God’s Spirit in guiding us to embrace our mission this next year and in the years to come.

We are very excited to announce an additional resident assistant to our staff, Molly Healy. Molly hails from Walpole, MA and recently graduated from Campion College in Sydney, Australia with a degree in theology and bioethics. Her duties will include assisting the House Manager and Visitation House residents.

Visititation House Wish List

1. scent-free laundry detergent
2. dryer sheets
3. bathroom/kitchen/glass cleaners
4. paper towels
5. toilet paper
6. tissues
7. paper napkins
8. antibacterial hand soap
9. dishwasher/dishwashing liquid
10. scouring powder
11. newborn diapers
12. baby monitors
13. postage stamps
14. gift cards for local supermarkets

Specific Assistance

As our residents prepare to leave Visitation House to start their new lives, their basic needs are many. At designated times, our residents will need the following new items:

1. pots & pans
2. sets of dishes
3. flatware
4. toaster ovens
5. glasses & mugs
6. coffeemaker
7. bathroom & kitchen towels
8. bedding & linens
9. floor cleaning tools

Due to the shortage of storage space, we are unable to accept in-kind donations all at once. If you would like to assist a family in any way, please call Susan Arraje at 508-798-8002 to inquire about when a family is moving out.

(In-kind donations are tax deductible.)

Hello, Molly!

We are very excited to announce an additional resident assistant to our staff, Molly Healy. Molly hails from Walpole, MA and recently graduated from Campion College in Sydney, Australia with a degree in theology and bioethics. Her duties will include assisting the House Manager and Visitation House residents.

Patricia A. Taylor

In Loving Memory

In thanksgiving for her years of service on the Visitation House Board of Directors and for her dedication to its women and infants. We miss you.