

Visitation House, Inc.



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Over 100 Women Welcomed!

On the Feast of the Visitation on May 31, Visitation House started its 7th year as a welcoming place of refuge for women who are pregnant and find themselves in a difficult situation. Over the past 6 years, we have been home to 107 women, 47 babies, and 2 toddlers, and we are expecting 4 new babies in the next few months. As our Visitation House family continues to grow, we are ever thankful for the many members of our extended family who make this all possible. (Some of the women who came to us were able to find other living arrangements before delivering their baby - with family members or at a shelter closer to their relatives - which is why we count fewer babies than moms.)

Time Well Spent

It may appear sometimes that the time residents spend here at Visitation House may be too short to be effective. However, we see our good works from the perspective of enduring love, and that love resonates far beyond their stay. Residents often return to say, "Thank you for helping me change my life." We may be a puff of wind beneath their sails or a breath of life; and the breath of life that animates us is the Spirit of God!



Two Baptisms in our Chapel - May 14, 2011

Our Chaplain, Father Roy, received permission from the pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa to perform baptisms in our Chapel and have them registered at the parish. (Our Lady of Czestochowa is the nearest parish to Visitation House and owns the building that houses us.) So we had our first in-House baptismal celebration this spring. It was a joyous occasion! Eve is godmother to new members of the Body of Christ, baby Jadan, and his handsome big brother, Jaquin!

When Baby Jadan made his entrance into the world he gave us another "first". During one of the many snow storms this past winter, he was born at Visitation House, much to the surprise of his mother and Louise, who was on duty that night.

In her own words...

Former resident K. shares her VH success story:

Being at Visitation House was definitely a blessing. Everyone from the director to the babies made my stay seem so home-like.



On November 17, I moved into Visitation House not really knowing what to expect. Seeing how I was not from the Worcester area, I had already made up my mind that I wasn't going to do anything while "stuck" in this "shelter" — not see friends, not go to doctor visits — nothing! Well, that soon changed once I got acquainted with each staff member. The staff here is so generous, giving of their hearts, time, experience, and love. It was very different from the shelter I came from before. At Visitation House, volunteers truly care for the residents, staff treat each resident like a person, and friendly residents are welcoming and ready to assist you around the house. Having a decent curfew, awesome community dinners, and really interesting and informative classes helps you in life beyond Visitation House.

As the date of my son's birth arrived and after he was born, staff graciously flooded my room with any and everything my son would need. This definitely put me (a first time mommy) at ease! They were always there to lend a hand or two and share their wisdom when things got a little overwhelming for me. See, I underestimated the work it takes to be a full time mommy, so the staff stepped in with their experience, advice, and many abilities (each so different) to help me.

Now I can enter the world, my new apartment, and my new life with the confidence that I've had the best teachers and support around. I will never forget Visitation House and all that it is to me. I wish to always keep in touch and be intertwined with the House. I give special thanks to Sherry, Kim, and Jan for all their support. I definitely would not have survived without these wonderful women. They helped build my character, confidence, courage, and faith. There's no other place like Visitation House, and I will really miss being there.

Welcome!

Frogs and snails and puppy-dogs' tails....

Kaiel



Jadan



Jackie



Sugar and spice and everything nice...



Aliyah



Visitation House

6th Annual Pot Luck Benefit Dinner 2011



Michael Pakaluk inspired us by sharing memories of his late wife, Ruth Pakaluk. You can learn more about Ruth's humble yet remarkable life by reading Michael's new book, a collection of her letters, titled *The Appalling Strangeness of the Mercy of God*.

At this year's dinner, we had the privilege of honoring two people who really made a difference in the lives of others: Ruth Pakaluk and Dr. James Walsh. All those who attend our dinner and support Visitation House carry on their legacy of love.

Mark your calendar: next year's Visitation House dinner will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at a new venue: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Due to the popularity of our annual dinner, we've outgrown the Cenacle, and moving to this new location will allow us to accommodate 10 more tables.



Peggy Negron accepted the Ruth Pakaluk award given posthumously to her uncle, Dr. James P. Walsh.



Thank you to those who've given:

- your time and talent
- your prayers of support
- planned gifts or bequests
- a gift with matching funds
- in memory of a loved one
- in honor of friends or family
- in celebration of special occasions, e.g., birthdays and anniversaries
- through United Way by designating Visitation House as your charity
- through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your checking account



We need your help in the summer months when vacations slow down donations!

Did you know?

- Visitation House, Inc. is a 501(c)3 private non-profit organization.
- We are the only Catholic home in Massachusetts for women in crisis pregnancies.
- We do not receive funding from Partners in Charity.
- We do not accept government funding so that we do not have to compromise our pro-life values.
- With the need for 24-hour staffing and maintaining a 32 room facility, our monthly operating expenses are approximately \$22,000 per month.

New Board Members

This spring we were fortunate to have three wonderful, caring individuals join our Board:

- Deacon Ron Buron from St. Brigid in Millbury,
- Father Adam Reid, associate pastor at St. Mary's in Shrewsbury, and
- Father Walter Riley, pastor of Immaculate Conception in Worcester.

New House Manager



In January, Jan LaBrie took on the position of House Manager, replacing Kim Fitzpatrick, who moved to part time status to accommodate the needs of her family. Jan has been with Visitation House since last summer, and we are fortunate to have the day to day affairs of the House in her capable hands. Jan volunteers many of her hours at the House; we are very grateful for her kind and generous spirit.

Helping Hands...

Here are a few of the volunteers and donors who have helped us help our moms and babies.



World Energy Group



faith in action

Thanks also to:

- Jim Hudson, our web designer
- Anna Maria students
- Holy Cross SPUD students
- Horizons for Homeless children
- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Knights of Columbus and CYC
- All of the parishes and schools who have done baby bottle drives
- Parishes/CCD classes/churches who held baby showers or giving trees
- The many individuals who donate strollers, car seats, baby outfits, and beautiful baby blankets and quilts



Home Improvement

Capital improvements and renovations that are in the works:

- Finishing to install our roof: \$13,000
- Filling and paving the driveway
- Putting a sump pump in the basement.

Can you help with these projects?



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