



LOVE *to* SHARE

Others will not care how much we know until they know how much we care.

FROM MY HEART

I was walking through Mary's Place last week and was overwhelmed with gratitude for what your donations and support have made possible for hundreds of families that come to Mary's Place each year. I saw a mother go into the chapel, children playing games in the sun-filled rotunda, women doing their wash in our free laundry facility, kids absorbed in tutoring, some men and women talking to job counselors, residents working with their family advocates in their offices, children running and playing outside on the playground and on the beautiful grounds. I went upstairs and walked through the halls past the 92 units and thanked God that we were able to provide this place of stability and peace so the people can concentrate on putting their lives back together.



Mary's Place is free of charge so that residents can focus their time and resources on solving their particular crisis and becoming independent again. The people that come to Mary's Place come from all races, religions and economic backgrounds. The one thing they all have in common is they are homeless. Only the reasons are different – a job loss, running from abuse, eviction, condemnation, relatives and friends that can no longer house them, a new family in town with no place to stay, or a medical crisis that has drained their resources and strength. But the results are all the same – homelessness.

There was a father who lost his job because he had to care for his sick wife. After 3 months at Mary's Place,

the wife is on her way to a full recovery and he has a new job. They'll be moving out soon.

I remember a young Indian man that I saw in the line looking depressed. I saw he needed shoes, but he was too proud to ask. I took him aside to ask him about his life. He felt bad. He'd disappointed his mother. He had been in prison for 29 months, and his mother was taking care of his child and had no place to stay and he had no job to help her. I put them in Mary's Place and the stability of having a place allowed him to get a job and work on getting his life back together.

Some families try very hard to handle homelessness on their own. They live out of their cars for awhile or stay with friends, but it does not last. When we show them their beautiful room and give them the stability to rebuild their lives their spirit soars. They are reborn.

One family came in from out of state looking for work and to start a new life. Mary's Place transitional apartments with a phone and voice mail, provided him with a stable place, and an address so that he could interview for jobs and people could contact him. He had a job in a few weeks at Sears and is on his way to getting back on his feet.

Many women and children that live at Mary's Place are fleeing from abusive situations. Our supportive environment, family advocates, security and no money cost provide the ideal spot for them to start over. Most come with just their clothes and need help with many things.

Mary's Place has been a God-send for some people that were battling cancer or serious illness and needed a supportive environment so that they could stay with their kids. The staff and volunteers at Mary's Place and the special care given by the sisters helped them in their time of trouble.

Most got well. One woman even had a remarkable recovery from her cancer, and a couple of women were given extra time with their children in the final months of their lives.

Your generous support of Sharing & Caring Hands has a tremendous impact on the lives of others. You are reaching out and helping those in need. Without your support Sharing & Caring Hands could do nothing.

Thank you and keep up the good work. The families, the children and all those in need are counting on you.

Mary God bless you,

Mary Jo Copeland

Founder of Sharing & Caring Hands





EASTER

Easter was a very special day at Sharing & Caring Hands. Holy Name Church in Medina in what has become a yearly tradition, donated hundreds of Easter baskets for the kids at Mary's Place and children that come to Sharing & Caring Hands. We also received many additional Easter baskets and candy from many individuals and groups. Alina donated hundreds of stuffed Easter bunnies again this year. The kids were excited to receive them.

We had a wonderful Easter dinner with ham, and all the trimmings. We supplied the ham and hutterits from Starland, MN brought in all the trimmings including great desserts, and served this great meal to thankful and diverse crowd of families, kids, senior citizens, and homeless men and women. We served over 700 people. What a great Easter!



SUMMER READING PROGRAM

This summer we invite you to spend an hour or two reading with the children at Mary's Place. It does not take any special experience or training, just a love of kids. The summer reading program has a drop-in site where students will have the opportunity to sit and read one-on-one with a volunteer. Our hope is that this extra time spent reading will help the students move closer to their respective grade levels by next school year.

We are anticipating a program filled with many eager young students who would love to have your help. The summer reading program is open Monday through Thursday in the afternoon. Please call Charlotte (612-328-4384) or Kathy (612-328-0988) for specific hours and if you are interested in helping out. Thank you.



MEALS

Every year churches, businesses, schools and groups provide and serve hundreds of meals. What a wonderful way to show your sharing and caring!

Many of these groups buy the food, prepare it, and serve it. Some bring part of the meal like desserts and serve the meal. Many other groups just serve the meals. What a great way to reach out to the poor and the unfortunate in our community. If your church, business, group or school is interested in helping, please call Sharing & Caring Hands Monday through Thursday, 9 to 3:30 at 612-338-4640.

DONATIONS – HOUSEHOLD – FOOD – CLOTHING

We are always in need of household items. We never have enough blankets, sheets, pillows, pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, towels, washcloths, small appliances, and tvs (tvs must be in good working condition or we cannot accept them).

We give out hundreds of bags of food each month, and they are always in need of more. We are short of sturdy, basic clothing for men, women, and children. Please look around the house. Is there any unused household food or clothing items that can help someone in need?

Remember those in need when shopping. What a great way to share. Maybe you could encourage your group, church, or business to have a donation drive for household food or clothing items. People in need would sure be grateful to you.

“A Smile and an Outstretched Hand is the beginning of a Miracle in the Unspoken Need of Another Heart”





CHILDREN'S CENTER

Among the fun places every child within the age of 4-8 would love to be is the Children's Center. Jacob, 4, looking at the microwave clock in the room will always say to his mom, "Take me to the Children's Center. There is a 2 on the clock." Jacob does not forget the Children's Center is open from 2 to 5.

Although the hours vary in the summer, it offers Jacob and other children like him an opportunity to play video games, have access to other toys, that his single mom cannot afford with their low income. The after school hours of the Children's Center gives parents the opportunity to search for a job, to meet with their family advocates, and attend to household duties. It provides the children with fun, social and emotional support.

The Children's Center has toys of every kind provided by Mary Jo and her generous donors. Among our great donors are children who share their birthday presents with the less privileged friends at Mary's Place.

We accept toys of every kind, including video games. Mary Jo's able to provide snacks and other items needed at the Children's Center because of your generous support. It's hard to be homeless. Your support can help keep homeless children happy. Be their angel!

Sr. Mary Nesta



MARY'S PLACE STORY

Since we moved into Mary's Place on December 11th, '06, I'm eating and sleeping very good. I'm a better parent eating supper with my family and really listening to my daughter. I never felt this close to her. I enjoy reading every day the books (donated in memory of a 14 year old girl named Elizabeth) to my grandkids ages 2 and 6, and my 1 year old son. And I know that the kids enjoy it just as much as me ... if not more. Something I never did before, was read to my kids, and I've learned that it's a priceless gift.

I've met a lot of nice people here and they will be life-long friends that I will keep in touch with. My daughter, 13 years old, also has a lot of friends and enjoys the tutor room and teen center. I saw a depressed teenager change overnight since she came here. It's going to be a sad time when we leave here.

Mary's Place changed me into a loving, caring person. I know when I get on my feet again, I will help other people mostly at Christmas the way so many strangers helped us. I really believe there is a God because we couldn't do all this without the strength he gives us at our time in need.

I feel so blessed. At times I know I'm tired, but I'm so grateful to have a roof over our heads and my family in bed every day so that they won't be lazy or crabby. I never thought I would be homeless, but everything happens for a reason, and it's been one of the best times in my life. I can honestly say I will tell my great-great grandchildren about how wonderful, loving and caring this lady named Mary Jo was. She will always be in our family picture hanging on our wall, so she will always be a part of us forever. The one person who helped me when no one else would.

Thank you for being you. Much love and respect.

Melanie, Lynsey, Nun-day, Julius Jr. and Carlos



FAMILY LIBRARY CARDS

This past spring, parents, teens and kids at Mary's Place were able to get Minneapolis Public Library cards with the help of Dan Kelte, Director of the Summer Library; and Jay Clark, the U of M Project Director for Neighborhood Organizer. With their help, families were able to fill out the registration forms and receive library cards and get important information about where libraries are and check out books. This is very exciting, as the kids are looking forward to the library this summer and check out books.

We are so excited that kids are eager to continue their learning during their summer vacation. Thanks Mr. Dan Kelte and Mr. Jay Clark.

"What is success? Success is remaining faithful to the will of God. What is the will of God? To love one another."





CAN YOU SPARE TWO HOURS A MONTH TO GIVE HOPE TO MARY'S PLACE JOB SEEKERS?

Mary's Place adult residents need to work or be actively seeking work – you can help them. The Minnesota Workforce Job Center Data Base has information on 24,000 jobs available every day. We need volunteers who can donate two hours a month or more to help Mary's Place residents learn how to register for this data base, prepare resumes, identify jobs they have the skills and experience to fill, and how to apply for them.

We are seeking about a dozen volunteers who can operate a computer for this service at a job desk at Mary's Place, and assist residents in registering for this data base. A one-month pilot test of this service has given a dozen residents hope and several new jobs. We will train volunteers. Call Deacon Tom Dolan at 952-925-1848 to register for this work.

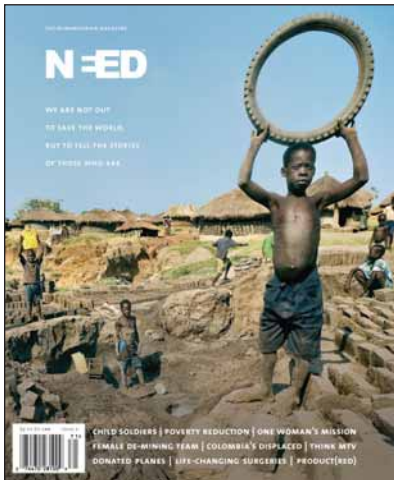
TICKETS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

We have lots of families and kids at Mary's Place that could benefit from tickets to plays, shows, sporting events, movies, museums and special events. If you have tickets that you would like to share, please call Chris Moore, our Mary's Place Manager at 612-328-2447.

When people donate tickets, a father can bring his son to a ball game, or the kids can see the circus, or a group can go to a movie or play, you have really lifted their spirits!

N-EEED MAGAZINE

N-need Magazine has stories of need and people addressing those needs all over the world. The writing is crisp and thoughtful and the pictures are spectacular. Sharing & Caring Hands is featured in their spring/summer issue. It's available at Common Good Books (Garrison Keilor's bookstore in St. Paul), Patina Stores, the Wedge Co-op and Bookstore, and other bookstores; or you can log onto



www.needmagazine.com to buy on-line, see other stores it is available at, or check out its pictures and stories.



CAR DONATION

The donation of a car in good working condition can make a difference to the life of a family. Many times a family at Mary's Place biggest hurdle is getting a car so that they can get or keep that better job and expand the options of where they can live, work, go to school, shop, and enrich their lives with family outing. **Because we give your donated car to a family in need and do not sell it, you can still deduct the fair market value on your vehicle.**

If you have a reliable vehicle that you would like to donate to help a family in need, please call Greg Carroll at Sharing & Caring Hands, 612-338-4640.

You could change someone's life!





Though these letters are directed to Mary Jo and the staff, we share them with you to show the impact your love, generosity and caring have on the lives of others.

LETTERS FROM THE MAIL BAG

From the Cabrini Partnership

Dear Mrs. Copeland,

It is with deep gratitude that we thank you for your recent gift to one of our residents for his co-pay for dental surgery. It is such a relief for him to be able to have the necessary surgery including extractions and fillings. Not many look forward to an appointment with the dentist, but I can assure you that he is looking forward to his.

On behalf of our resident staff and Board of Directors, we thank you for your generosity and the compassion your gift expresses.

Sincerely, Ann Crussell

Dear Mary Jo,

I want to thank you for your kindness in helping this family in need. Hopefully, you remember a young black woman with five children who needed rent paid because the father was moved out of the home (because of domestic violence), and you covered the expense.

You also gave this family some gift certificates and some cash and requested the children and mom get the clothing they need. I want to report each child received socks, shoes, underwear, undershirts, two pair of pants, and two tops. Unfortunately the mother declined to buy herself anything and wanted the money to be spent on her children.

The smiles of their faces would have taken your breath away. May God always bless you and keep you and your family in His arms. Take care Mary Jo, because you are a God-send.

Faith Thomas, Hennepin County
Village Social Services



Dear Mary Jo,

No gift can repay you for all you have done for us. We are so very thankful for all you have done. We want to thank you for giving us a safe place to lay our heads.

Love always, Justin, Keyona, and Lorana Hess

Mary,

I would like to thank you for your help. I came to you last October and asked you for help. I was getting evicted. I fell ill and couldn't pay my rent. Thought I could get help from the County, but had already used their resources earlier in the year. I saw no other solution. I felt really depressed because I had four kids and didn't know what to do.

My grandmother told me to go to you and ask for your help. I didn't know my way there, but God led me to you. I came that day, and I'd never been to Minneapolis before. You're truly a saint, words could never express how thankful I truly am.

If there is anything I can do for you, let me know. Volunteering for you is something I am willing to do. God Bless you,

Amanda Pederson

To Mary Jo and Staff at Sharing & Caring Hands,

I want to thank you so much for the contribution you are making in my life. The last two years I've had to go without eyeglasses. The doctor told me that do to my astigmatism which runs in the family, it is important to wear corrective lenses at all times. The voucher you provided last week makes this possible. Also, the voucher you provided to me for storage allows me to keep my belongings in one place where I would have complete access to them when I need them. It is positively heaven-bound having them. I am so glad we met. May God Bless you forever.

Amy Denzer





A SHARING & CARING MOTHER

As I travel down the road of life, with peaks of happiness and valleys of strife, through crowded cities in foreign lands, I saw the sign Sharing & Caring Hands.

When loads got heavy and I started to fall, Mary Jo would be there whenever I'd call. While chained in this dungeon of deep, dark despair, a voice would whisper "Hang in there." Then the Lord would say "Believe in me and I will set you free."

I dwelt on my sins and my past mistakes, I felt in my heart, "It's just too late." Then I cried to Mary Jo, "What will I do?" She says, "Take it to the Lord, He'll do it all for you."

She pulled me close with her loving, caring hands, and tells me I'm part of God's bigger plan. Now my life has a future of this I am sure, because Mary Jo Copeland showed me the cure. I will always love her, honest and true, because you are the Mother of God's Sharing, Caring Crew.

Jo Hindrichs To Mary Jo and Her Staff,



To Mary Jo and Her Staff,

A few months ago you opened up your heart and welcomed us into your home. You also looked out for our safety, you fed us and clothed us. We didn't even have to pay bills or any other pocket expense. So for that alone, me and my kids want to express our gratitude towards everyone, because you didn't have to help us but you did. God will truly bless you because you are a pure example of what God wants all us to be, is a person with a heart that is open to love, just as Jesus did. I pray that whatever you desire God will grant because of how we were treated while we were here.

Unsigned

Dear Mary Jo

I appreciate everything you have done for me and my kids Paris, Linne, Marlo, and Lilly. Thank you very much.

Love, Tricia Dear Mary Jo,



Mary,

I can't began to tell you how much your generosity helped me make this Christmas special for my four children Cody, Devin, Amanda, and Derek. May God Bless you and keep you.

Michael Strouss

Mary Jo,

Just a quick note to thank you very much for the assistance with my co-pay to the dentist. As a continuing part of my recovery and rehabilitation this is very important to me. Many thank you's and God bless.

Aaron Dennis





Dear Mary Jo and Everyone at Sharing & Caring Hands,
 On behalf of the Sunday School students at St. Benedict's Church in Duluth, MN we would like to donate \$348.84 to Sharing & Caring Hands. This month our Sunday School students learned about Mary Jo and her work and were inspired to give. We watched the DVD, and looked at the book that came with it.

We were all very inspired and the children were amazed by how many people needed help. We hope our donation will help out some of the different programs. Thank you for your work. Thank you for the work you do, and God bless you all.

In Christ, Leah Kilstonk,
 Director of Religious Education



Thank you for the help from Caring & Sharing Hands and for the opportunity to have been assisted in obtaining glasses when I was so desperately in need of them. I will forever be grateful for your voucher and to know I have the gift of my eyesight in such wonderful frames. Thank you again, it has meant the world to me.

Sincerely, Christine Leonardt
 Anchor House Resident

Dear Sharing & Caring Hands,

We want to thank you so much for helping us get our glasses. They have helped us succeed and we appreciate so much.

From Cele Latsargram, 5th Grade
 Clarise Catane, 4th Grade
 Manie Crowe, 2nd Grade
 Evan Hanks, 2nd Grade
 Courtney Kancen Charter School

Dear Mary Jo and Mr. Copeland,

Today we buried our sister Patty in large part due to your generosity. The funeral home pretty much demanded \$575 before accepting our sister's body. Mr. Copeland informed me that the limit is only \$500, but you made an exception for Patty. Thank you so very much.

In the eyes of my family and myself, you and Mr. Copeland are saints. I told him this at the time of your wonderful gift. He humbly denied this, giving you all the credit.

Both you and he have restored my faith in humanity, also in God. He works in wondrous ways. I see that now, thanks to you and Mr. Copeland.

Thank you. What truly touches my heart is that you treated Patty as if she were your sister. Your loved one who passed away. This memory will always bring a tear to my eye, just to know that there are people like you two in the world of so many. My words of thanks seem so inadequate.

This is the second time you have helped me. Two and a half years ago I needed to get out from living with my nephew because he was a drinker and became abusive. You helped me get into Wilder Apartments where I live to this day. Thank you so very much. I'm forever in your debt.

Sincerely, Miles Dumpman

PLANNED GIVING

Please remember Sharing & Caring Hands in your will. It's a great way to leave a legacy gift to help the poor. Make sure Sharing & Caring Hands are your planned giving, whether it's a regular monthly donation, sale of stock, special occasion gift or as the beneficiary of wills, charitable trusts, insurance policies, or 401k plans. Many plans offer income for life and tax advantages. Talk to your financial advisor or call Dick Copeland at 612-338-4640.

Many employers will match your charitable donations. Please check with your employer. You could also designate Sharing & Caring Hands as the recipient of your United Way contributions because we are a 501-3c Charity. **Your generous donations are the sole source of our funding.**

Sharing and Caring Hands
 525 North 7th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55405
 612-338-4640

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Business Hours:

M-Th: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Sat.-Sun. 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
 You can use your VISA or Mastercard
 for donations to Sharing & Caring Hands

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 We also have the option of Electronic Funds Transfer

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 Want to know more? Visit us on the Web!
www.sharingandcaringhands.org
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