

A Letter From Executive Director



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Welcome to holiday season, indeed the most wonderful time of the year! The spirit of the Thanksgiving ritual is the perfect prelude to the season of giving. Being grateful and giving thanks reminds us of the importance of the people in our lives, how they help shape us into better versions of ourselves, and the gestures of appreciation we exchange as gifts.

We at Mary's Path strive to make annual holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas important and special for our residents and their new bundles of joy. Many of our teen moms did not grow up in situations where happy memories were made around the holidays, and it is our mission to change that for them and supply new experiences and commemorate each baby's first holidays in a way that cherishes their innocence.

This season is also when we receive the most generous gifts from our amazing supporters. Our Annual Giving letter will be mailed soon and know that we appreciate any donation significant to you. Our residents enjoy many additional services because of the kindness and consideration of our loyal supporters.

Toys and personal items are also welcomed at this time of year. We can't forget that these young moms are merely teenagers and still enjoy indulgences like shower gels, cozy socks, holiday treats, fluffy pajamas, and other personal items. We have created a [Christmas Wish List](#) so you can simply order merchandise to be delivered to Mary's Path. If you want to do more than that, some have held toy drives for our benefit in their offices or in their neighborhoods. Mary's Path is a story to be shared!

Let me say now, thank you for everything you do! Every time you make a donation, attend an event, or tell a friend about us, you make a young mother and her baby's future a little brighter. If I can assist you in anyway, please call or email me at (714) 730-0930, ext. 119 or jill@MarysPath.org.

In gratitude,

Executive Director/President

Reflecting on Our Changemakers Gala 2023

Our Changemakers Gala last spring was an overwhelming success! We are fortunate to have a fabulous group of Changemakers in our inner circle to support the work we do. Thank you to those who worked diligently to make this event enjoyable and meaningful for all who attended. A special thank you to Patrick and Jolynn Mahoney for hosting the event at their magnificent estate, and a huge debt of gratitude to our event committee members Patrick and Mary Dirk, Carole Geronsin, Lorie Brown, Kate McKinley, and Patrick and Jolynn Mahoney.

It's an unfortunate reality that there is a need for what we do. That is why our work begins by helping these young victims of violence and immeasurable trauma and extends to also bringing to light the heinous crime of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

An event like the Gala is a wonderful arena where concerned supporters of all areas of this problem can come together to celebrate the successes we see every day. We honored Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes for the efforts he leads against sex trafficking. However, it was also a celebration of everyone who helps us, like Patrick and Mary Dirk, Sandy Segerstrom, Pat and Jolynn Mahoney, and Carole Geronsin, just to name a few, and our tireless board of directors. We are also incredibly grateful for the many communities and faith-based groups as well as individuals who give to Mary's Path on a regular basis.

We had the perfect combination for a wildly successful night where our residents and their babies were the biggest winners.



Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes and Debra Pujos



Image Title Here



Carole Geronsin



Image Title Here



Image Title Here



Patrick and Mary Dirk



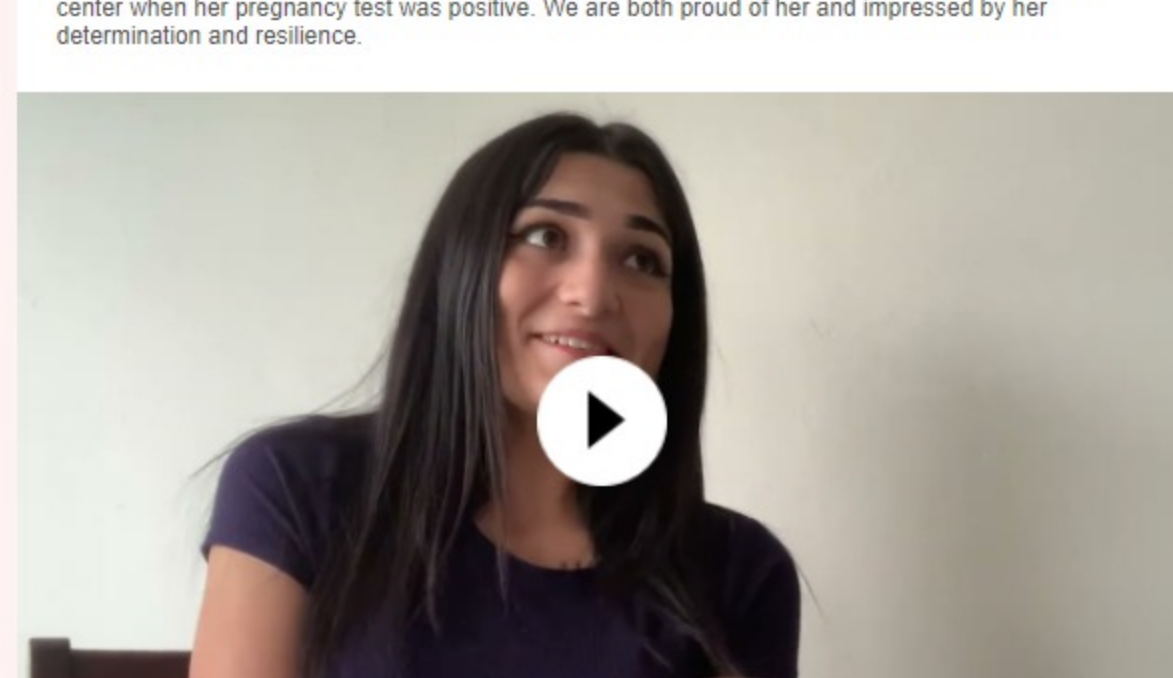
Image Title Here

Visit our Photo Gallery [Change Makers Gala – Mary's Path \(maryspath.org\)](#)

In Her Own Words - Lily's Story

Trigger Warning - We warn you Lily's story is brutal, harsh, and shocking. Sadly, it is not an unusual story at Mary's Path. Watch it now.

Lily is a phenomenal young woman who was sent to Mary's Path in 2017 from a juvenile detention center when her pregnancy test was positive. We are both proud of her and impressed by her determination and resilience.



Reunion



On September 30th, Mary's Path hosted its annual Resident Reunion. The aim is to re-join friends and let these young women celebrate how far they have come since first receiving care from Mary's Path's staff.

This year, more residents returned than ever before, including a mother of an 18-year-old daughter who was born during her time at Mary's Path. Her attendance was a remarkable validation of our tagline: Changing Lives, Two at a Time. Most of our residents don't think they'll reach age 18, let alone raise a child to adulthood.

From barbecue and In-N-Out, to a bouncy house and face painting, everyone in attendance enjoyed the festivities. There were ten to 15 moms with their children ranging from six months to 18 years.

"Mary's Path's new aftercare program helped keep the residents connected to our program and that has made a tremendous difference," shared Jill Dominguez. "We were excited to see so many past residents come to reunite and share their stories. We are hopeful this annual event will continue to grow and their stories will inspire the current residents."

Help Save Two Lives at a Time!

DONATE

Mary's Path
18221 East 17th Street
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Email not displaying correctly?
[View it on your browser](#)
[Unsubscribe](#)