

Mary's Path Newsletter January 2024



Dear Friends of Mary's Path,

We're starting the new year with hearts full of gratitude for your incredible support in 2023. Your generosity has been the driving force behind our mission, changing the lives of teen moms, aged 12-18, from the foster care system.

January is known as "National Thank You Month," and we want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you.

Your donations, volunteering, and advocacy have made a significant impact, and we're excited about the possibilities 2024 holds.

Mary's Path has always believed in the power of community and the potential within every young life. Your continued support propels us forward and brings hope to these teen moms.

In this newsletter, we'll reflect on the memorable moments of the past year, celebrate our teen moms' achievements, and share our ambitious plans for the future.

With your support, we're committed to creating more success stories in 2024.

With appreciation,

Jill Dominguez, Executive Director/President

Mary's Path's Mission

Believing that every life is a gift, Mary's Path empowers and equips vulnerable teen moms, ages 12 to 18, from the foster care system for lives of dignity, hope and self-sufficiency. Our guiding principles are **Residents First** – The moms and babies we serve come first and all decisions are guided by what serves them best.

Highlights from 2023



It has been another whirlwind year at Mary's Path as we welcomed new babies, launched new programs, and added new friends and supporters to the Mary's Path family. Here are just a few of the special moments from 2023.

- **This spring our Changemakers Gala was a smashing success, raising more than \$300,000 for Mary's Path. A huge thank you to our whole event committee - Patrick and Mary Dirk, Carole Geronsin, Lorrie Brown, Patrick and Jolynn Mahoney, and Kate McKinley. An enormous extra special thanks to Patrick and Jolynn Mahoney for hosting the event at their beautiful estate.**
- **This fall two designer Purse Parties were hosted by Jolynn Mahoney and Dr. Iman Bar. Their exceptional efforts raised \$10,000 for Mary's Path! A big thank you for all the time and hard work they put into these events!**
- **This winter, just in time for the holiday season, we received a generous donation from Carole Geronsin of a beautiful extra-large dining room table and chairs. We were all so appreciative to have such a lovely table to gather around for our holiday festivities.**
- **This year we received another successful delivery of toys to add cheer to the Mary's Path teen moms and their babies. A huge nod of thanks to the generosity of the Marconi Foundation for including Mary's Path in their annual toy drive.**
- **Closing out 2023, we hosted a Christmas celebration at Mary's Path with our staff, teen moms, and babies enjoying the festivities. The highlight of the party was the creation of fabulous Gingerbread Houses, which are pictured above.**
- **And starting out 2024, our girls were treated to a visit to the Los Angeles Zoo, complete with a VIP tour and a chance to experience the magic of the Zoo's holiday light extravaganza. Thank you to Laurie Dowling-Woo and Michael Woo for sponsoring this exciting adventure!**

A Special Adventure for Mary's Path

The visit to the Los Angeles Zoo was a great success. We were treated to a private tour with docents Donna and Laurence. It was a priceless learning day for our teen moms and our first ever visit to the LA Zoo. We learned so many fun and interesting facts about the animals, their native habitats, and their status as endangered species. We met Reggie and Tina the alligators, Billy the Asian elephant, and even the elusive Jaguar came out to see us, which we hear is a very rare sighting. Later in the evening we were treated to the spectacular evening light show, ZOO LIGHTS. Thank you to Laurie Dowling-Woo and Michael Woo for their generosity, and for making all the special VIP arrangements for our teen moms and babies.

If you have tickets to a sporting event or the ability to donate tickets to a theme park, it will mean so much to our teen moms and their babies. To donate an experience, email A.J. Steinberg at ajsteinberg@maryspath.org.

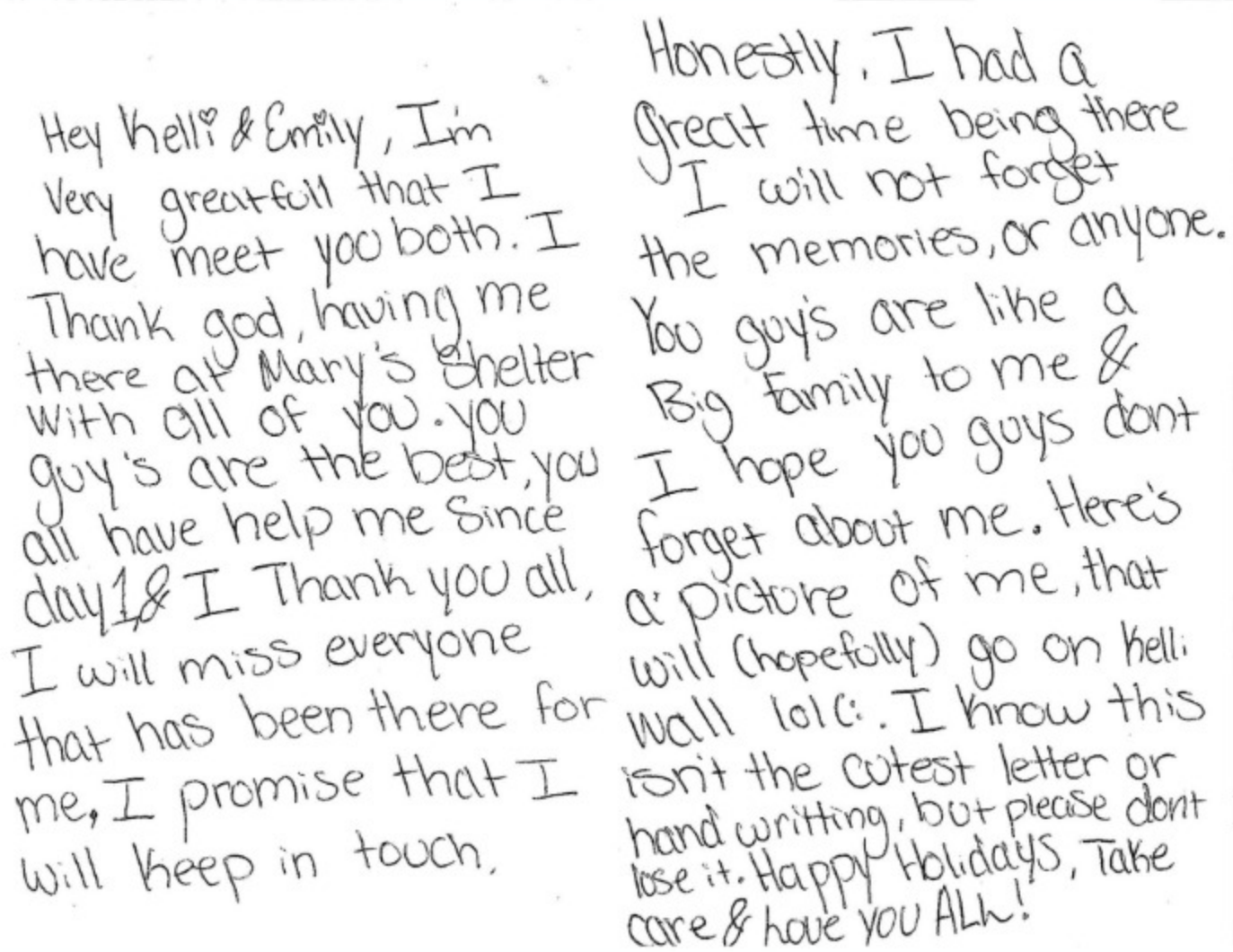


Thank you to Laurie Dowling-Woo and Michael Woo for sponsoring this exciting adventure!

In Her Own Words

In each newsletter we like to share with you some very special letters and written thoughts from Mary's Path residents and alumni.

This month's letter shows the impact the Mary's Path experience has on the lives of this teen mom and her baby. It is heartwarming and moving messages like this one that motivate our staff and donors every day.



Baby Milestones



2023 Milestones at Mary's Path

- **A three-month-old boy smiles and coos at everyone he meets, but especially has a lot to say to his mom!**
- **Seven healthy babies were born this year.**
- **A competent mom proves that calm and respectful parenting does contribute to a calm and happy baby.**
- **A three-month-old girl who has only lived at Mary's Path for a short time, is making fast friends with all of the staff members, making everyone fall in love with her.**
- **A toddler boy started preschool outside of Mary's Path, proving his independence and strong foundation that he developed here will take him far in this world.**
- **A toddler girl who didn't know English when she came to us, begins to communicate using words and signs to bridge the language gap. She now claps her hands in excitement when we understand what she is saying.**
- **A 14-month-old boy takes his first steps on Christmas.**

There was so much to celebrate but most importantly we celebrate the teen moms' achievements too!

- **Six high school graduations.**
- **Five started their very first job.**
- **And one enrolled in college.**

Snapshots from Mary's Path Holidays!



Thank you to the Marconi family for including us as a part of their Christmas toy drive.

The Marconi Foundation once again visits Mary's Path with a truck load of toys and gifts for our teen moms and babies.



Pictured here are Michael Zazulak, Current Grand Knight, and John Owen, Past Grand Knight, from Knights of Columbus Council 4922, with staff members Clete Menke and Kathy McGinty.

Thank you to all our generous Knights of Columbus supporters for helping make the holidays special for our teen moms and their babies.



Executive Director Jill Dominguez joins the staff of Mary's Path and Santa for some holiday cheer.

Thank you for all your generous donations of gift cards and gifts over the holiday season!

Help Save Two Lives at a Time!

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