



Gone, But Not Forgotten

St. Mary's lost a helper but gained an angel and advocate in heaven when Sr. Emma Mary Steckel lost her battle with ovarian cancer on February 8th. In all Sister Emma worked nearly twenty years at the shelter serving as the Director, as Assistant Director, as a Staff Member, gifts and talents, her skills their mark on all our and staff alike. She was a family and of our Franciscan members from both groups to rest. We bless her life able to share with her. We recipes she prepared, the example of a life lived for happens here, it is largely organizational talents and developed and the funds tall, it is because we stand giant- Sr. Emma. Now that she has entered her heavenly home, we still look to her for inter-cession with our needs and to convey our thanks for the many ways that God watches over us.



and as a volunteer. Her and qualities have left hearts, both residents member of a large family and many members came to help us lay her and the time we were hold as treasure the advice she offered, the others. If anything good due to her guidance and the partnerships she she secured. If we stand on the shoulders of a

She will be missed.

March 2009



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New Readers - Old Friends

At the insistence of the U.S. Post office, we were required to up-date our mailing list, and as a result many new people may be receiving this Newsletter. We welcome you and hope it pleases you to receive this update on Shelter happenings. If you would rather be eliminated from our list, we understand, and we ask that you contact us-

Phone 610-933-3097
Fax 610-917-9845
E-mail stmarysfs@verizon.net

Case Manager's Report

We offer a complete accounting in the Annual Report (below), but one family deserves special mention. They have lost their possessions in the Coatesville fires and we have been able to offer them a place to stay while they put their lives back together. Our prayers go with them each day as the woman goes to her job, and the children to school and daycare and the man searches for his seasonal work to begin again in the spring. Perhaps by the time you read this, they will be re-situated. They have been welcome guests and have our best wishes as they return to a normal life

Annual Report

In the year 2008, St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter housed 24 families consisting of 29 adults and 32 children. St. Mary's continued its partnership with Orion Communities and Open Hearth, and together we saw the following good results:

5 of the adults got a job while they were staying with us
6 of the adults had a job when they came

At Departure

9 of the families left us to live in a place of their own
6 of the families returned to family or friends
8 of the families moved on to other programs
1 family was asked to leave the Shelter

Racial Make-up of Families served

24% Hispanic
29% Caucasian
46% Black

Gender of Heads of Household

21% Couples with children
79% Single women with children

Total Nights of Shelter provided: 2215
Total meals provided: 6645

Hearts and Flowers



Mid-February found us celebrating St. Valentine's day with the over 500 guests and helpers that came to our 15th Annual Valentine Brunch. The day was clear and the guests were hungry. The cakes were delicious and the helpers enthusiastic. With the trembling economy, we wondered if we would enjoy a success, but the diners arrived and the pancakes kept coming. A final figure isn't available yet, but we know that we added over \$5000.00 to our accounts.

We thank the Three Teachers that are the soul of this event. We thank our faithful volunteers that set-up, serve, bake, clean-up, and put away the ensemble each year. We thank the diners and cooks. We hope (God willing) to see everyone again next year. God bless us everyone!

Annual Report Cont.

We thank you, our readers and supporters and our brothers and sisters in the Area's Churches for all the assistance provided in our mission to God's Poor Ones. We rejoice in these statistics proving as they do that everyone deserves a second chance, and many take good advantage of the helps provided and get back on their feet after a time with us. All of us can take pride in the 38% success rate for our clients.

Help Wanted

St. Mary's Shelter has a part-time position on weekends from 2:00 p.m. Saturday to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Call the Shelter at 610-933-3097 to receive an application.

Honor Roll of Schools



St. Aloysius.....	Pottstown
Villa Maria Academy.....	Malvern
St. Basil's Bread of Life.....	Kimberton
St. Ann's Confirmation Class.....	Phoenixville
Our Lady of Perpetual Help.....	Morton
Mary Mother of the Redeemer.....	North Wales
St. Basil's Gr. 6.....	Kimberton
St. Joseph's PREP.....	Downingtown
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.....	Doylestown
St. Teresa of Avila.....	Norristown





Needs List

Regular Coffee

Soda in cans

Liquid Laundry Detergent

Individually wrapped: Cookies,

Pretzels

Snacks for lunches

Gift Cards from:
WaWa. Giant, Home Depot. Staples

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIXVILLE, PA
PERMIT NO. 12

ST. MARY'S FRANCISCAN SHELTER
209 EMMETT STREET
PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460

