

Heart to Heart

September 2026



Director's Message

Dear friends,

Twice a year, in January and July, a Point in Time count is done across the country to see how many individuals are living as “unsheltered homeless.” (Unsheltered homelessness refers to individuals or families whose primary nighttime residence is a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. It includes locations like streets, parks, vehicles, or camping grounds.) According to the July count, the number of unsheltered homeless in Dubuque County more than quadrupled since 2022 (<https://www.kcrg.com/2026/09/03/homelessness-quadruples-dubuque-shelters-seek-320000-prepare-winter/>). In the past five years, here are the numbers:

- July 2026: 84 individuals
- July 2025: 56 individuals
- July 2024: 23 individuals (this figure could be higher since the rescue mission increased its overflow capacity because of heavy rains that night)
- July 2023: 33 individuals
- July 2022: 18 individuals

It can be easy to think that as a rural area we do not have a problem with homelessness like big cities do. While we may not have the overwhelming numbers that Chicago or Minneapolis or St. Louis does, we certainly have homeless people right here in Dubuque County. Mary's Inn is not a shelter, but we serve women who are pregnant or parenting an infant and do not have a safe place to live. To be homeless when you're pregnant or have an infant with you should be unthinkable. We can only keep our doors open because of generous people like you.

Last month we had our “Pickles & Ice Cream” pickleball event. You can see pictures on the next page. We had two categories: Women and Mixed Doubles. Congratulations to our winners and all those who played! Thanks to all those volunteers who made the event a success, and thanks to Delaney's Ice Cream Shoppe for being a part of the day!

In other news, we are looking to hire a weekend staff. The shifts are every Sunday from 9 am – 11 pm, and every other Saturday from 9 am – 11 pm. We offer a competitive rate. If you know someone who only wants to work one or two days per week doing something meaningful have them contact me. Since transporting moms & babies to church is required, applicants must have a valid driver's license, current car insurance, and reliable transportation.

God bless you & your loved ones, and God bless Mary's Inn!

Colleen Pasnik

Colleen Pasnik
Director

Mission

Mary's Inn is a maternity home dedicated to the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of single pregnant mothers and their developing babies. It is a safe haven where they can stay while learning the skills they need to make a better life for themselves and their babies.



MARY'S INN
MATERNITY HOME
marysinmaternityhome.org

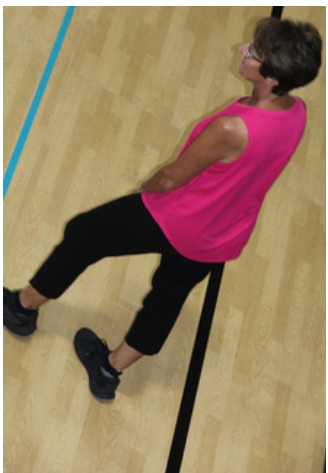
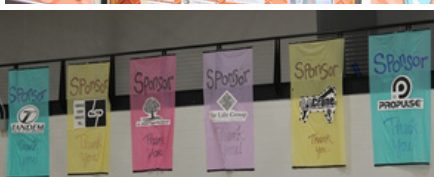




Women Team Winners
Pat & JoAnn



Mixed Double Winners
Sam & Samantha



Happy Birthday

- Dawn Oelke - September 3
- Joan Weber - September 3
- Tasha Williams - September 5
- Nikita Thurston - September 6
- Marian Bourek - September 14
- Julia Hogan - September 29

Wish List

- \$25 Gas Cards
- \$25 Uber Cards
- Baby Wipes
- Aluminum Foil
- Saran Wrap
- Cascade
- Tampons (Assorted Sizes)



Consider being an InnKeeper.

InnKeepers KEEP the INN open!

Help us keep the lights on, bills paid & babies fed.

Would you consider being an InnKeeper today?

Just use the QR code above or go to our link
<https://bit.ly/marysinmaternityhome>



director@marysinmaternityhome.org

www.marysinmaternityhome.org

563-552-6288

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