



Heart to Heart

August 2025

Dear friends,

In late July I had a call from a reporter at the Telegraph Herald who was doing a story on the one year anniversary of the Heartbeat Bill in Iowa. (To refresh your memory, in July 2024 Gov. Reynolds signed a bill into law which states that once a fetal heartbeat is detected, abortion is prohibited.) He wanted to know if we had noticed any effects of this Law on our residents or the women who call us looking for a safe place to stay. I told him that while we saw a very slight uptick in the number of women served this past year (13 women vs. 10 women the year before), it's hard to know if that could be attributed to the Heartbeat Law.

The day after I talked to that reporter, we had a call from a woman in the greater Des Moines who was early in her pregnancy. In her calls to agencies for help, one suggested she have an abortion. She said she would absolutely NOT have an abortion. She is undecided on whether she wants to parent this child or if she'll place for adoption, but she said she would never consider an abortion. We often hear this from our residents, many of whom have had abortions with previous pregnancies. Almost every single one has said, "That was terrible. I'll never do that again."

So even though Iowa has a law protecting the most vulnerable among us, there are still agencies out there who are promoting, to this very day, the killing of a very young child. If you know a woman who is being pressured to have an abortion because she is, or soon will be, homeless, please tell her about Mary's Inn. A woman should never have to choose between her baby or a roof over her head.

May God bless you & your loved ones!

Colleen Pasnik

Colleen Pasnik, Director

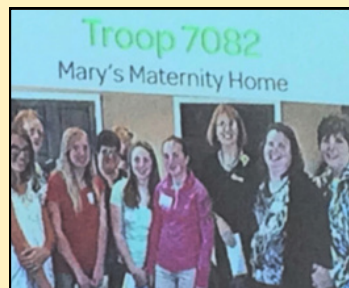
Mission

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.



Celebrating
10th Anniversary
marysinmaternityhome.org

There's Hope



There's Hope ... Siglin!

Ten years ago, Hope volunteered as a young girl with Troop 7082. Their troop made cookbooks for our residents.

Ten years later, Hope is dancing in "Country Dancing for Charity" and she chose Mary's Inn as her charity.

Save the date: October 12. More information in the September newsletter.



Homeless Stat

Twice a year, in January and July, agencies that serve the homeless do what's called a Point In Time (PIT) count. It's an attempt to see how many homeless people there are in a given night. The most recent count was taken on July 30-31. It has gotten some news coverage because the number of homeless people in Dubuque County has been increasing.

KCRG reported that 40 individuals in Dubuque County were unsheltered the night of the PIT count. "Unsheltered" means living in an area that is not meant for human habitation, such as a car, sidewalk, or park. That is more than in 2024 (23 people), 2023 (33 people), or 2022 (18 people). Information about Mary's Inn was shared with women in need.

Source: Keegan Turnbough, KCRG, Published July 31, 2025

Mary's Inn Tidbits

Daughter of God

Staff Retreat

On July 29th, we gathered for our annual Staff Retreat. Like last year, it was held at New Mellera Abbey. The first talk focused on our identity as a Daughter of God, and the second talk was about how we can hear God's voice. We also went through a forgiveness meditation. After lunch there was time for confession, individual prayer time, and prayer with a local Prayer Ministry Team. Everyone left feeling spiritually refreshed and renewed. Thank you, Mary Kay, for organizing the day!



Mary's Inn Staff

Front row left to right: KK, Joni, Diane, Colleen
Back row left to right: Stephany, Kristi, Killary



Prayer Ministry Team

Front row left to right: Becky, Jane, Tina, Monica
Back row left to right: Serena, Mary, Jennifer, Denise, Kelsey



Enjoying a delicious breakfast & lunch.



Gathering together for great spiritual teachings.

Timber!



During the bad storms we had a large walnut tree go down. A total of four trees were removed. Thank you LT Tree Service!

A little squirrely



Not only do children love the tire swing but our resident squirrel finds it very relaxing as well.



Mary's Inn volunteered at the Knights of Columbus food stand. Joni & Colleen had the honor of receiving a caricature from Bree Naylea, a volunteer at Mary's Inn. Good job, Bree!



New Staff

Welcome, Rachel Puccio! Rachel is our newest Direct Support Professional.

Happy
Birthday!

August 13
Tina Ricklong



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