

# The Voice

## MAGAZINE

A Maryville Publication

Vol. 1, Issue 1



**How I learned  
to live again**

**What is behind  
the numbers?**

**The honorees  
of April 11**

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**Maryville**

Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.



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## The Voice Magazine, Vol. 1, Issue 1

The Voice Magazine, a Maryville publication, will be published twice yearly. It will feature success stories, news, events, alumni news and information that embody our mission of protecting children and strengthening families.

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**Maryville**

**Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.**





# Looking beyond 140



*Sister Catherine M. Ryan, O.S.F.*

“

**Many things can wait.  
Children cannot.  
Today their bones are being formed,  
their blood is being made,  
their senses are being developed.  
To them we cannot say ‘tomorrow.’  
Their name is today.**

– Gabriela Mistral

”

Dear Friends,

We thank God for blessing Maryville for 140 years – for making possible this safe haven for children.

We thank God for our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors and friends who live this mission for children and families. We are excited to launch this first issue of The Voice Magazine, which highlights some of these mothers and children, volunteers, donors and staff.

For the cover story, we feature one of our mothers who triumphantly battled her personal challenges and “graduated” from our Mother’s Recovery Home Network. Please read her inspiring story on pages 4 and 5.

We introduce two Maryville alumnae Lupe Moreno (page 12) and Raquel Robles (page 13). They exemplify the values of faith, strength, persistence and dreams for a better life.

We recognize outstanding friends of Maryville for their benevolence and generosity. At our 140th Anniversary Dinner on April 11th, we presented awards to them for the immeasurable impact they made and are making for our children. Please turn to page 9 to meet them and pages 10 and 11 to enjoy photos of the celebration.

We share Maryville’s other 140th-year activities in photos—opportunities to celebrate our children and families and thank so many who bring Maryville’s mission alive.

Looking beyond Maryville’s 140 years, we understand that the mission continues for the children of today. Gabriela Mistral reminds us, “Many things can wait. Children cannot... To them we cannot say ‘Tomorrow.’ Their name is today.”

“Today,” we are growing our CYO afterschool program for underserved youth, expanding career tech opportunities in our high school and opening a new shelter for medically fragile children (page 7).

In the coming months, I look forward to sharing more good news for the benefit of our children. “Their name is today.”

Peace and All Good,

*Sister Catherine M. Ryan, O.S.F.*

Sister Catherine M. Ryan, O.S.F.  
Executive Director

# 'How I learned to live again'

By Nelia Bernabe



After her sobriety journey through the Maryville Academy Mother's Recovery Home Network, Natacha and her two daughters said goodbye to the staff after successfully completing the program in April.

The arduous process took Natacha two years to complete. She started at Saint Monica Homes, where she spent one year, and finished the program at Saint Josephine Bakhita Homes, where she spent another year. Both programs are part of the Maryville Academy Mother's Recovery Home Network.

Natacha, a young mother of four, arrived at Maryville through Haymarket Center, a rehabilitation center in Chicago where she completed her treatment before coming to Saint Monica Homes (SMH). "I was told it was a little bit stricter," she said. "And it's not your usual recovery home. You have to earn your freedom, unlike other recovery homes."

Before Haymarket, Natacha described her life as horrible. "I just got up and did whatever I wanted to do," she said. "I dropped out of school after 10th grade and spent my time hanging out with friends which was the beginning of my life spiraling out of control. Everything I said I wouldn't do...I won't do this, do that, I did," she

said. "All my morals went out the door and I wasn't being a responsible parent."

But during her time at SMH, Sherise Johnson, a 28-year Maryville staff member and Natacha's caseworker said that Natacha gained her self-esteem and confidence back. "She is a great mother to her daughters and has earned additional parenting skills, which are part of the program's services helping her become a better parent," Johnson said.

“  
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of being independent.”

At SMH, Natacha learned to discipline herself, follow the program's schedule and routine, and attend individual and group meetings. "I lived a structured life," she shared. "First when I get up in the morning, I take my kids to their daycare. Then I go to my meetings."

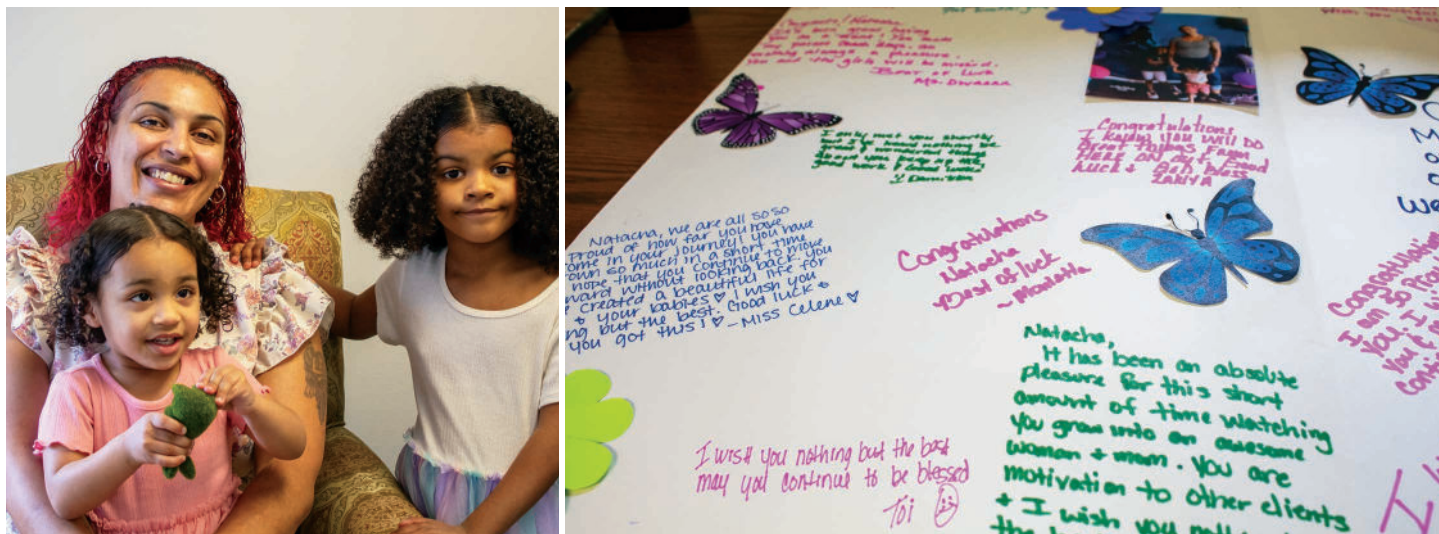
After a year at SMH, the staff was optimistic that she would be able to turn her life around. Natacha moved on to the second phase of her sobriety journey at Saint Josephine Bakhita (SJB) Homes, which is less restrictive and focuses on the family gaining independence. "I am working on rebuilding my life, and right now, I'm trying to build a foundation and then build my life from the ground up," she said.

During the year that Natacha stayed at SJB, she found a job and saved money. Through her hard work, she secured an apartment for herself and her children. "I feel at peace. I'm happy. My kids are happy, and I'm just excited for this journey of being independent," she said.

Ashley Brown, Natacha's case coordinator at SJB explained how she and the staff knew that she was ready to be on her own. "In Natacha's case, she chose to come here," she said. "Once her medication was stabilized, she became more serious about finding a house, being more focused on her children, being more present...all signifiers for us on the treatment team to recognize that she was ready to make the transition out of the program," Brown explained.

Brown said that Natacha has always been a staple for her peers. "With the program, a lot of our clients feel like they're being told





what to do, and they don't like that. But since Natacha has been with us for a while, with her level of understanding, she's been able to explain to them why certain things are the way that they are and why they have to be done the way that they have to be done. She provides them with a lot of clarity and a lot of her wisdom," she said.

Both recovery programs serve pregnant and parenting women, ages 18 to 35, who are struggling with substance use disorder, and their children, ages 10 and under. The women and their families are offered treatment, mental health services, parenting classes and job-readiness training. The goal is to inspire the women to acquire skills to live an independent, safe and sober life and build a strong bond with their children in six to nine months in most cases. The women can opt to continue to Saint Josephine Bakhita after completing treatment at Saint Monica Homes.

"This is a fool-proof program," said one of the mothers in a recent SMH quarterly client satisfaction survey. "If you follow the rules, ask for help, take things day by day and have patience."

Women admitted to the Network receive individual and group treatment through Maryville's Family Behavioral Health Clinic.

FBHC will complete a bio-psycho-social assessment to identify the treatment that will address each client's needs.

“  
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but how I learned  
to live again.**  
”

According to Brown, Natacha's individual sessions consisted of reviewing her community passes and visits, updates from the clinic that she regularly goes to, updates on her children in and outside of the program, the challenges she is facing, her recovery goals, scheduled therapy sessions, wellness and health exams, her Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous attendance, and parental and financial goals.

Brown said Natacha's group sessions were typically with the vocational coordinator or the parenting coach. Her sessions also involved interactive group activities such as

watching videos and doing an assessment to see what information was retained or learned after watching the video, painting, field trips with her children to encourage engagement, and attending Halloween parties and back-to-school events put together by Maryville staff.

"Natacha's accomplishment is living proof that when whole-person care is applied to a person with addiction, generational change is possible," said Jim Eaglin, recovery home operator at Maryville.

For Natacha, she attributed her success to having a good support system. "It just reminded me what I need to do and to the point that I already started doing it on my own. I was into a routine and a lot of positive," she said. "I needed that strictness. They were on me. They were teaching me life skills that I could pass on to my daughter," she added.

Natacha shared that her long-term goal is to buy a house and go back to school to become a veterinary assistant. "I look back and think where I'm at now, I'm like, oh, I'm so happy," she said. "It was hard in the beginning but as you do good, things just start happening for you. New doors open up. I don't want to say I overcame addiction, but how I learned to live again."



# What is behind the numbers?

By **Martha Mann**, Director of Strategic Performance

**M**aryville's Annual Report features the Impact page with the program and client data, which is either a favorite or one's least favorite. Most find a report of numbers boring, maybe like a black-and-white picture that is devoid of color. Although that may be true, data, or in this case, numbers, is bland in isolation. Numbers without context are just numbers and are meaningless or even confusing. They do not tell the story or explain why people should care.

The Strategic Performance department at Maryville is responsible for making the data helpful and, when possible, interesting. We track and manage all the numbers that the programs collect, such as the number of people served, who those people are, where they are from, what their needs are, the types of services they receive, and the changes they make while at Maryville.

We help the programs aggregate and analyze the data and tell the story of the individuals served so stakeholders recognize the importance of the work and help them understand why it is essential to care about the numbers.

For example, one collected number is the school attendance of our Jovenes Adelante Program youth. The numbers show that our youth attended 99% of their school days this fiscal year, an impressive number for any school district. However, when that number considers that these youth were traveling from other countries to the United States, the number takes on a new meaning because many of the youth had not been in school for a very long time.

When the youth arrive in the United States, education becomes more critical as they adjust to the system in their new adopted country. They strive to make up for lost time and prepare for their new educational placement with their permanent sponsor. We care about ensuring these youth attend school promptly and consistently.

Here is another scenario. The mothers from Maryville's Mother's Recovery Home Network face the challenges of maintaining their ongoing sobriety, parenting their young children, seeking education or employment and working on their mental health. Most also work with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. And yet, all the women in the program this year did their work to keep custody of their children.

Children staying with their mother and watching her do the work to get healthy results have been proven to prevent childhood trauma, placement in foster homes, improvement in school outcomes, mental health, and parenting, and save the state thousands of dollars per child each year. Children living with sober, stable and healthy parents are significant to all of us.

Numbers and percentages do not have to be large to be significant. Often, a big change for our children, mothers and families means hard work that takes time and effort. Not everyone can accomplish the changes immediately and many of the people we serve come to us with unimaginable challenges. On the flip side, do not look at small numbers on the Impact page as failures of the staff or programs. You can see them as triumphs of individuals working hard to meet their goals.

From Maryville's perspective, each number - big or small - is a life changed, a child saved and a future redirected.

## Our Quality of Care

Maryville selects the highest qualified individuals to serve and protect our children. Our staff engages in continuous professional development activities and uphold the following beliefs:

- The highest priority in our everyday work is given to the child/family-centered concept in action and attitude.
- Individual differences contribute to the making of a healthy vibrant community.
- The dignity of each person and that each person should be treated with respect and compassion.
- Personal and professional integrity and care and commitment to being honest, ethical, directive and moral in our actions.
- Every person has value in our society and should be encouraged to excel regardless of life's challenges.

## Volunteer Activity

in Fiscal Year 2023

Every year, volunteers generously donate their time and skills to making a positive impact on the children and families served across all Maryville programs and use their talents in multiple ways. We are thankful for our dedicated volunteers.

**\*Total Volunteers 320**

## Children, Families and Adults Served in Fiscal Year 2023

### Family Behavioral Health Clinics

Family Behavioral Health Clinic Clients 148

### Early Childhood Services Crisis Nursery

Children 579  
Families 216  
\*\*Care Hours 20,407  
\*\*Helpline Calls Received 1,519  
\*\*Helpline Call Minutes 19,548

### Educational Services

Jen School Students 61

### Family Services

Casa Imani  
Teen Mothers 6  
Infants 6

### Children's Healthcare Center

Children 26  
CYO Youth 2,811

### Maryville Golf Academy

Participants 730

### St. Monica Homes

Mothers 22  
Children 28

### St. Josephine Bakhita Homes

Mothers 9  
Children 14

### Residential Services

Casa Salama Youth 8  
Jovenes Adelante Program Youth 445  
St. Dominic Savio Home 3

**Total Clients Served\*\*\* 5,112**

\*Due to limited access for volunteers due to the pandemic, our number of volunteers has decreased.

\*\*Total number of clients served does not include the three areas under Crisis Nursery.

\*\*\*May include readmissions and individuals served by multiple programs.

## Our Impact







# Full-circle moment for new employee



*Saint Catherine of Siena on Addison Avenue in Chicago.*

**T**ierra Harris, shown in the middle in the top right photo, was among the first hires of Saint Catherine of Siena in Chicago, the newest Maryville program opening this year.

Like most organizations, Maryville's new employees undergo at least a week of preservice training, during which orientation and onboarding occur. As part of the training, the new employees are asked to visit their assigned program or department, usually on the third day.

Tierra walked into Saint Catherine of Siena for the first time on a Wednesday in mid-May. She toured her future workplace and graciously helped put away lamps and shower curtains in their appointed rooms. While doing these, Tierra shared that she is excited and nervous at the same time.

"I am excited because I never thought I would be given an opportunity to help families and be in this situation, but here I am," she said. "I only hope that I can make a difference to these families like Maryville did to me."

Tierra shared with Associate Executive Director Nina Aliprandi (shown on the right in the photo with Tierra) and Development Director Megan Biasco (left in the photo) that working for Saint Catherine of Siena is a full-circle moment for her.

Full circle moment because, as Tierra shared with Nina and Megan, she once was a child who lived in Maryville. "I was six when I lived in Maryville," she said. "and I was adopted when I was seven."

It turned out that Tierra's adoptive mother was a friend of a Maryville staff member. "My mom adopted me when she was 53," she said. "Not only is that a remarkable age to take on a child, I applaud her for deciding to make me important to her life."

"My mom Joanne was a foster parent throughout the years and a retired special diverse elementary school teacher whose life was about kids," Tierra said.

Saint Catherine of Siena will serve as a short-term transitional home for medically fragile children, newborns through 21, who are under the care of the Department of Children and Family Services.

Trained nurses and experienced youth care staff will provide 24-hour quality care. They will accompany the children to all their medical appointments and coordinate with the local school district to facilitate appropriate educational experiences for the children.

The program will offer a continuum of care that includes the Maryville staff working collaboratively with the DCFS caseworker and family members and facilitating future placement options, including transitioning to a permanent home.

The staff will work to stabilize and improve the physical health of the children while assisting them to grow, play, develop, communicate and participate in school and community activities.

The collage of photos on the top shows the facade of Saint Catherine and the different rooms that will welcome the children.  
(Nelja Bernabe)



# With Gratitude



**M**aryville began with Archbishop Patrick Feehan's vision and continued with the support of each Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. In this 140th Anniversary Year, we take heart in Cardinal Blasé Cupich's leadership and thank him for his advocacy for children.

From 1883 to the present, thousands of Maryville staff members have cared for, taught, healed, comforted and celebrated with the children. They protected the children through economic depression, wars, pandemics and other dangers. They encouraged the children to dream and prepared them for a positive future. We are grateful to them.

Priests of the archdiocese served at Maryville as its Superintendents/Directors and in care or counseling of the youth through these 140 years, even up to this day. We are grateful to them.

Brothers and sisters of religious congregations provided care and education for the children in past eras of Maryville's history: De La Salle Christian Brothers, Sisters of Mercy, Brothers of Saint Gabriel and Sisters of Charity of Providence. Today, Sisters from the Daughters of Divine Love, Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate and School Sisters of Saint Francis congregations serve our children and mothers at Maryville. We are grateful to them.

Countless friends and donors helped make Maryville a reality—from the original supporters who raised funds to build Saint Mary's Training School to the Board of Directors, benefactors, and friends who keep the doors open for children and their families. They generously share their knowledge, their time and their resources for the children. We are grateful to them.

**May God bless you.**





# The Honorees of April 11



John J. George (center) receives his award from Maryville Board Chair Hon. Richard A. Devine (right) and Maryville Executive Director Sister Catherine M. Ryan, O.S.F.

## Housing for Children

### John "Jack" George

John "Jack" George, an esteemed attorney at the nationally recognized law firm of Akerman LLP, was honored for his work on housing for the Maryville children. Maryville is blessed to have Jack, a consummate professional and gentleman, for guidance.

Maryville came to know Jack because we needed more homes for our children. Our homes in Des Plaines and Bartlett were full. Starting in 2017, Jack navigated the legal processes for Maryville to open new homes:

- Saint Rose of Lima Home for girls in Chicago.
- Saint Monica and Saint Josephine Bakhita recovery homes in Chicago for mothers whose children could live with them.
- Saint Mary of Celle Home for teen mothers in Berwyn.
- Charles H. Walsh Sr. Academy & Career Tech High School in Niles where Jack represented Maryville through the zoning process.
- Saint Catherine of Siena, a new emergency home for medically fragile children in Chicago will open in a few months.

We are grateful to Jack and the Akerman law firm for donating his irreplaceable expertise to make these homes, school and shelters possible for more than 1,000 of Maryville's children and mothers.



Sisters of the Resurrection

## Services for Mothers and Children

### Sisters of the Resurrection

The Sisters of the Resurrection is an international congregation of religious women founded in Rome in 1891. They currently minister in nine countries. Happily, four of the Sisters came to Chicago in 1900 and opened health care, educational and social ministries in the Chicago area and other states.

Maryville is already blessed that Sister Donna Wolowicki, C.R., the Provincial

Superior of the Chicago Province, has been serving as a member of the Maryville Board of Directors since 2015. On April 11, we were blessed by the presence of more of the Sisters of the Resurrection and by the presence of their General Superior Mother Dorota Zygmunt, C.R., who came all the way from Rome.

The Sisters profess a vow of poverty. They support themselves with their salaries and place any surplus in a charitable fund, which they have been generously sharing with Maryville and other social and educational organizations. The Sisters dissolved the charitable fund in 2022 and made a legacy donation. Maryville was one of the fortunate recipients, receiving an invested donation that will earn up to \$200,000 each year to support Maryville programs for mothers and children.

Through their unwavering support, the Sisters of the Resurrection were honored for their services to Maryville's mothers and children. They have already profoundly enriched the lives of more than 7,000 children and mothers, leaving an indelible mark on our community.



Yolande Wilson-Stubbs (3rd from the left) and the New Beginnings team were honored for their work with the Maryville children.

## Health Care for Children

### Yolande Wilson-Stubbs and New Beginnings

In 2015, Yolande Wilson-Stubbs brought her 25 years of experience in health care management and services to Ascension Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines. As president and chief post-acute care officer, Yolande transformed the long-term acute care hospital and related services that serve the Des Plaines community.

Maryville began serving children who were newcomers to this country in 2017. We contacted Yolande Wilson-Stubbs for assistance, and she connected Maryville with Ascension Holy Family's New Beginnings Clinic.

Teresa Del Toro, RN, nurse manager of the Clinic, and the remarkable team of Jordan O'Neill, DO, family practice attending physician; Isabel Arango, unit secretary; Elizabeth Munoz, RN; Michael Ladewski, DO, medical director; and Ann Marie Walsh, DO, welcomed our children and accomplished the feat of prompt appointments with staff who understand the cultures and speak the languages of our children.

Together, Yolande and the New Beginnings staff, health care for children honorees, have safeguarded the health of more than 1,000 children in our Casa Esperanza, Saint Gabriel, San Francisco, San Juan Diego and Saint Rose of Lima Homes.



# The evening that was April 11







More than 250 of our friends, donors and supporters joined us on April 11 for Maryville Academy's 140-year anniversary at SKY on NINE in Rosemont. Appropriately called A Celebration of Gratitude, the special evening marked a momentous time for Maryville after the 140th-anniversary celebration was officially launched on July 1, 2023.

The evening started with a cocktail hour with live music by a jazz quartet from Maine West High School. It was followed by a delicious dinner and a video presentation on the history of Maryville.

The highlight of the evening was recognizing the remarkable contributions of John J. George, Yolande Wilson-Stubbs and New Beginnings, and Sisters of the Resurrection.

We are grateful to all the honorees, esteemed guests, the Maryville Board of Directors, Dina Bair, who emceed the show, our sponsors, committee members and the staff at Sky on Nine. Thank you to Rivers Casino (event sponsor), Lentino Imports, MKB Architects, Akerman, Napleton Automotive Group, The Power Family Foundation and Burke Beverage, Inc.







# A nonagenarian shares her Maryville story



*Lupe celebrates her 92nd birthday.*

**G**rowing up at Maryville, **Lupe Moreno**, now 92, taught herself to be motivated and self-reliant. “If you don’t do it yourself, who’s going to do it for you,” Lupe said. “I don’t expect anyone to give me anything.”

Lupe and her middle sister Susie, who was four years older than her, were sent to live at Saint Mary’s Training School (former name of Maryville) after their mother died and after a short stay at a juvenile home.

“Back then, a man could not just live with his daughters, he had to have a woman in the house,” Lupe said. “After my mother died, the state decided that my father could not take care of these girls by himself because he never remarried.”

Arriving at Maryville at 4 years old, Lupe recalls being given a number as identification. “I was number 61 and to this day, I remember,” she said.

Lupe, not knowing a word in English, recalls how confused she was when she first arrived. “I didn’t know what they said, and I just stood there and looked at everybody, and I had to learn what they said,” she said. “And like I said, they gave us numbers in those days, and they used to pile up the dressing room and say, ‘Well, 61, come here.’”

Because she did not understand English, Lupe said her sister would translate for her and it encouraged her to learn the

“ **I was very lucky to stay at Maryville for my education because I learned to be a secretary.** ”

language. “I learned English by reading when I was in first grade. Once I learned it, I never spoke Spanish again,” she said. “When I learned to read, I would go to the library (at Maryville), read books and do all the good stuff.”

Lupe attended Maryville from first grade to high school. “I was very lucky to stay at Maryville for my education because I learned to be a secretary. I learned to type really well and I learned shorthand,” she said. While at Maryville, Lupe was an athlete and a swimmer and played volleyball, baseball and kickball.

Lupe said that being the president of the student council during her junior year in high school and crowned the Mardi Gras queen (see photo) were her most memorable memory while at Maryville. As president of the student council, she helped the nuns hand out disciplinary action as the “judge when we had court once a month.”

After Lupe left Maryville, she found a job as a secretary at Republic Pictures in Chicago’s Film Row where she worked for about four years. After that, she worked as a secretary for a lawyer and as a switchboard operator.

Nowadays, you will find Lupe enjoying her life in her beautiful home with her dog Buddy. She enjoys spending time with her only daughter and her husband, her three grandchildren, her six great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

Her granddaughter, Sue Granat thought “it was really awesome” when she found out about her grandma’s story. “Growing up, she would tell us she lived in an orphanage, no big deal,” Sue said.

“But to actually see the papers, we’re like, oh, my god, in the 1930s, she was in school like that. It’s good to hear all these stories to have of her.” (*Nelia Bernabe*)



*Lupe with her family*



*Lupe with Buddy*



**QUEEN LUPE AND KING LOUIE**



*Lupe attends the History Exhibit at Maryville with her family.*





# Maryville alum's road to becoming a registered nurse

**T**he Ed Block Courage Award Luncheon is an annual fundraiser that benefits Maryville's Ed McCaskey Scholarship Fund. During the luncheon, a Maryville alum who has benefitted from the scholarship fund is invited to share their experience and thank the donors.

With eloquence and confidence, **Raquel Robles** took to the podium on Tuesday, March 12, and she shared her story at a sold-out fundraiser attended by more than 260 donors, supporters and friends of Maryville.



*Raquel Robles*

Like most children who came to Maryville, she said, her story might be hard to hear, but nevertheless, it is her story to tell.

"I arrived at the Maryville Farm Campus when I was 15 years old. Before coming to Maryville, I was in and out of the juvenile court system," she shared. "On my last court date,

I was told by the judge that if I came back in her courtroom with another charge, I would be sent to juvenile prison until the age of 21."

The judge suggested she go to a residential treatment home as a better option than prison. "In my case, the only option was Maryville Academy due to my heart condition," Raquel said.

"I remember the long drive as I was sitting in a caged van and feeling as if my life was over as if it did not matter anymore.

"I arrived at the Maryville Farm Campus in handcuffs and shackles. Everyone looked at me as if I were a monster as if I did not belong there," she said.

After settling down at Maryville, Raquel said that she realized what Maryville was about and how there were people who wanted what was best for her. "Over the course of three years, Maryville taught me coping tools and ways to navigate the traumatic experiences of my childhood. Trauma that led me to several suicide attempts, psychiatric hospital admissions and incarceration," she said.

Overcoming a life of abuse, Raquel thought she deserved the pain and suffering and was punished for all the wrong that she had done and the wrong that was done to her. "I did not know that a better life outside of that existed. Maryville changed all that for me. Slowly, I overcame these negative thoughts and found myself."

**“Over the course of three years, Maryville taught me coping tools and ways to navigate the traumatic experiences of my childhood...”**

Raquel graduated from high school in 2010 and successfully completed her probationary requirements. "Maryville arranged for me to attend CNA classes and I became a CNA the following year. Things were looking up for me, but unfortunately, I became homeless shortly after that," she shared.

"I had to decide whether to continue school, work or eat. I lived in a homeless shelter until my belongings were stolen and then I decided to live in my car for three months. Even though I was homeless, I never missed a day of work. Unfortunately, I had to pause my studies to be able to figure out a way to get myself out of this situation. This was when I was at the lowest point of my life at the time," she said.

Putting her pride aside, she reached out to Maryville Associate Executive Director Nina Aliprandi because she did not know what else to do. "Nina and Sister Cathy donated money to help me fix my car. They helped me sort through my school debt and student loans. Maryville also offered me a scholarship to continue my studies and get me through nursing school," she said. "Their help inspired me to push through life even with a broken ankle, through periods of depression, through homelessness, through suicide attempts, even through a recent pregnancy loss and a divorce."

She thanked Maryville, Sister Cathy and Nina for supporting her through her life's trials. "Thanks to them, I have learned how to overcome the many different obstacles in order to become the strong woman I am today."

Raquel, now 31, works as a registered nurse in the Neuro Trauma Intensive Care Unit at the University of Chicago Medical Center where she takes care of patients with gunshot wounds to the head and spine, patients with traumatic brain injuries due to motor vehicle accidents and assaults, stroke patients and those with neurological deficits.

While holding back tears, Raquel thanked the luncheon attendees for their big hearts. "Dear supporters and donors of Maryville, know that because of you and a caring community and environment such as Maryville, I overcame my struggles and I became the strong, caring, independent and successful woman that I am today." (*Nelia Bernabe*)



# Saying goodbye after 3 years

The saying "A picture is worth a thousand words" comes to mind as you look at the pictures of the two Children's Healthcare Center staff members. The staff peeking inside the van and the other tightly hugging the little boy convey the deepest emotions as they say their goodbyes.

After almost three years, the Children's Healthcare Center (CHC) staff said goodbye to one of their little boys in April.

Director of Nursing Helene Pochopien shared that the little boy was very sick when he arrived at the CHC from St. John's Hospital in Springfield. Only 8 months old, Helene said he was on a ventilator with high parameters and he was underweight.

The staff at CHC immediately implemented a care plan for him that included transferring all of his medical care to Lurie Children's Hospital. The staff transported him to all his appointments for over two years while stabilizing his weight and decreasing the required ventilation.

After spending many months teaching his mother and aunt how to care for him, the CHC staff knew it was time. The staff obtained home care nursing for him and transferred all medical care back to Springfield. They also transferred medications to a local pharmacy near his home.

On the day of his discharge, the CHC team of Rijo Jose and Begonia Aranda, his nurses, and Janet Dodson, certified nursing assistant, packed all his supplies, including two ventilators and attachments, medication and clothes.

The little boy and the CHC team traveled four hours to his home in Springfield. When they arrived, they met with the home care nursing agency, his mom, aunt and respiratory therapist. They went over his care plan, equipment set up and future doctor appointments.

"It is sad to say goodbye to our little boy," Helene said, "but we are very happy that he is finally home. We all worked hard for this outcome, and our team is glad we made it happen for the family."

The CHC is the only facility that personally discharges clients to their homes and sets up and reviews all care plans with caregivers and medical personnel. The CHC discharges have proven to be extremely successful through the years, according to Helene.

*(Nelía Bernabe)*







# 'There's never a Sunday'

By **Georgina Karalekas**, Director of Human Resources

**A**s a young woman in the 1980s, I would pass by the Maryville campus in Des Plaines on my way to my mother-in-law's home and wondered what it was. I thought the property exuded an aura that manifested its serene and tranquil beauty. From the outside, it may appear empty, almost abandoned because there were no signs of people.

Fast forward to 40 years, and here I am, helplessly enamored at the social and spiritual work that is being accomplished behind its walls. Maryville Academy is now my reality. I decided to work here because I was looking for a greater meaning in my life. I have been in human resources for 25 years, working in the for-profit and private sectors. I found myself wanting more as an empty nester with high energy and yearning to find something that would allow me to make a difference in this world. Before Maryville, I wondered how I could use my skills and education, my experience in HR and my experience as a mother to help make this a better world.

I spent decades working and doing my best to raise a family and have a decent career. I worked with wonderful people, but many times, no matter how fulfilling, I found myself in that Sunday frame of mind. That feeling you get on Sunday as you think of Monday's arrival because you know what happens when the start of the work week comes. I thought about the redundancy of my work, and I knew I was not alone. This is one reason why, when COVID came, so many workers decided to drop out of the workforce completely. Sundays were too much to handle and I felt this for many years until I started working at Maryville.

Little did I know how my Sundays would change. Coming to Maryville, I was blindsided by how quickly I wanted to be a part of this story. I realized early on that many of my colleagues were just like me; they were enamored! People ask why so many of us choose to work at Maryville Academy. The reasons are just as varied as the people who work here.

No matter your role in the organization, the mission is behind the dedication and passion of our team—protecting children



and strengthening families while helping them reach their fullest potential by empowering their intellectual, spiritual, moral and emotional growth. The work being done here has saved thousands of lives and lifted hundreds of us who work here. Where else can one boast of the work in our 18 programs under our family, residential, health care and educational services?

Many of my colleagues have found their purpose by working at Maryville and supporting its leadership. Today, when Sundays are dreaded because employees feel a lack of respect and support, it is refreshing to see loyalty at its best at Maryville.

Maryville is a 24/7 organization and those of us who are in love with the work that is done here are also in love with the work we are hired to do. There is never a Sunday at Maryville because we love what we are doing. Even though human resources work is similar everywhere, what

makes it different here is knowing that I am supporting the people who are taking care of the children and families. It is never a Sunday when someone has a question. It is never a Sunday when someone needs your help. It is never a Sunday when a staff member calls.

Why do so many of us choose to work here? The realization that no matter what your role is at Maryville, you are needed, you are appreciated and you are a part of the big picture—of a mother who is embarking on a sobriety journey, of a family finding ways to cope with a crisis, of a parent asking for support for their medically fragile child, of a teacher showing the youth how to make it in this world, of a team of kind souls with big hearts who are giving the children hope. All these - and many more - are reasons why, at Maryville, there never is a Sunday.



#### ● Gifts of Cash

Beyond gifts of cash, there are many creative ways to make a gift to benefit Maryville's children and families- ways that may also help you.

#### ● Gifts of Stock

Gifts of stock that have been held longer than a year are tax deductible for the present fair market value of the stock and not subject to capital gain taxes.

#### ● Gifts from Retirement Accounts

If you are 70 ½ or older, you may directly transfer your required minimum distribution or up to \$100,000. Although a tax deduction is not available, the transfer will not count as taxable income.

#### ● Gifts from Donor-Advised Funds

Donor advised funds are an excellent resource to consider when making a gift to us. Call our office to learn more about the advantages of creating such a fund.

#### ● Gifts of Life Insurance

By creating a change of beneficiary form, you can make the Maryville Academy a full, partial or even contingent beneficiary of your policy.

#### ● Savings Bond

Designate that your savings bonds come to the Maryville Academy through your estate plan. Unlike family members or others, no taxes will be owed upon our redemption.



For more information, please contact Megan Biasco, Director of Development, at 847-294-1717 or [biascom@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:biascom@maryvilleacademy.org) Please scan the QR code to donate.



**Thank You!**





# Maryville spearheads NARCAN training



◀ Saint Josephine Bakhita, one of the two programs that make up the Maryville Academy Mother's Recovery Home Network - the other is Saint Monica Homes - has spearheaded the NARCAN overdose training outreach for the last two years.

Evening Supervisors Maggie Slowik and Medina Mahic (left and right, respectively, in the top photo) and Case Coordinator Lashanda Holmes (right in the bottom photo) have been invited to share their knowledge on the life-saving benefits of correctly administering NARCAN.

They have conducted training for sophomores at Maine West High School, health care aides and nurses at Community Consolidated School District 62, and staff at Maine Township High School District 207.

Maryville held its first overdose awareness training on August 31, 2022, at Loretto Hospital in Chicago and Des Plaines Public Library. August 31 is designated as International Overdose Awareness Day.

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*Maggie Slowik and Medina Mahic (top photo) watch as Maine West High School sophomores administer NARCAN to a mannequin while Evening Supervisor Lashanda Holmes, second from the right in the bottom photo, oversees a NARCAN demonstration with staff from District 207.*



Former Jen School in Des Plaines

## Walsh Academy calls Niles home ▶

The Charles H. Walsh Sr. Academy & Career Tech High School, formerly Jen School (in Des Plaines) moved to its new location at 6935 W. Touhy Ave. in Niles after Thanksgiving last year.

The Walsh Academy is the first school of its kind in Illinois, and perhaps the country, that focuses on preparing special education students to enter high-demand, high-paying jobs in the trades. Its expanded curriculum includes career technical education classes. For more information, please visit [walshacademy.org](http://walshacademy.org).



## Baby, oh, Baby! ▶

Saint Josephine Bakhita welcomed a baby girl, Cora, to the program on May 13. She is the program's first newborn, and everyone is excited to be part of this special time. The staff has provided around-the-clock support for the mom since Cora was born.



## Maryville History Exhibit

The Maryville History Exhibit, a must-visit for all history enthusiasts, is now open by appointment only at the Center for Staff (Des Plaines campus) on Monday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. To sign up for a tour, please email [communication@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:communication@maryvilleacademy.org) and let us know the date and time you would like to visit. We look forward to seeing you. Thank you.

[communication@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:communication@maryvilleacademy.org)





# Community rallies behind Crisis Nursery's April campaign on child abuse prevention

The annual Crisis Nursery campaign on child abuse prevention in April drew support from the Chicago Police Districts, media, community members and Merrill.

April 5 was designated as Wear Blue Day to honor the children who are healing from their trauma. On the same day, the staff was joined by children and their parents, volunteers and police officers for the pinwheel planting at both locations, the Crisis Nursery on Irving Park Road and Tolton Center in Chicago.

Parents attended a financial education workshop sponsored by Merrill Consumer Investments and its clients' services teams. The workshop covered topics such as building credit, budgeting and managing debt and financial stress.

"I am thankful for the support that we received from everyone," Program Director Tricia Fitzgerald said. "It is important that we are vigilant in the fight against child abuse."



*A little boy joins the Crisis Nursery staff and police officers (top photos) in planting pinwheels, the symbol for child abuse prevention, on April 5. The Crisis Nursery staff, bottom photo, led by Fred Smith, administrator of community services, and Tricia Fitzgerald, program director, wore blue also on April 5, the color for child abuse prevention.*

Please scan the QR code to view the career opportunities at Maryville.



## IT'S NOT JUST A JOB. IT'S A PURPOSE.

**Maryville has career opportunities in 4 service areas**

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- Family Services
- Healthcare
- Education

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- **Maryville offers competitive salaries, multiple shifts and excellent benefits**
- **YOU will change the lives of children and families**

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[www.maryvilleacademy.org](http://www.maryvilleacademy.org)

## Walsh Academy is hiring

*Join an award-winning, innovative school that is student-focused and provides a unique and collaborative environment*

**OPEN FULL-TIME POSITIONS**

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- Special education teachers
- Paraprofessionals

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[www.walshacademy.org](http://www.walshacademy.org)

➤ NASET has recognized Walsh Academy as a School of Excellence for 11 consecutive years (2014-2024)

➤ Walsh Academy received the quarterfinalist award from YASS Prize in 2023

**CHARLES H. WALSH SR.**  
ACADEMY & CAREER TECH HIGH SCHOOL

**Maryville**  
Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.



# EVENTS 2024

## UPCOMING

**JULY 13**

### **5TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING**

**3:00-4:00 PM**

WALSH ACADEMY

6935 W. TOUHY AVE., NILES, IL.

**JULY 20**

### **SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS**

**VS. GATEWAY GRIZZLIES**

**6:30 P.M.**

\$16 - FUNDRAISING TICKET

\$6 GOES TO MARYVILLE

Tickets must be purchased through  
the Schaumburg Boomers website

**AUG. 19**

### **30TH ANNUAL IPGA- MARYVILLE GLEASON CUP INVITATIONAL**

**9:30 REGISTRATION**

**1:00 PM - SHOTGUN START**

MERIT CLUB IN LIBERTYVILLE

**SEPT. 9**

### **MARYVILLE CYO 9TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC INVITATIONAL**

**11:00 REGISTRATION**

**1:00 PM - SHOTGUN START**

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS  
GOLF COURSE IN ADDISON

**OCT. 8**

### **MARYVILLE CRISIS NURSERY FALL LUNCHEON**

**11:30-1:30 PM**

NORTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB

1340 GLENVIEW ROAD, GLENVIEW, IL.

For more information, contact Tina Hock at 847-294-1982 or  
[restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org)



**Maryville**

Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.





# Maryville

**Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.**

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**Photo by: Valeria Lazu**

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