



VOICE OF

# Maryville

Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.

FALL 2018 ISSUE

*Brother Jonathan Wheat, the St. Monica Program's vocational coordinator, makes cookies with Cedric Williams Jr., and his mother Zahra McGee. Photo credit: Karen Callaway*



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Blesses Maryville's Center for Children

**MARYVILLE JEN SCHOOL**  
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**FEATURE STORY:** Maryville's St. Monica Program  
Helps Keep Families Intact

St. Monica Staff offer support and teach job skills to the women in the program.



St. Monica mothers prepare dinner for the residents.

# Maryville's St. Monica Program Helps Keep Families Intact

by Joyce Duriga

**Maryville's St. Monica Program is making strides helping mothers grapple with the effects of the opioid crisis on them and their children.**

The home, which opened in October 2016 in Chicago's West Town neighborhood, provides residential substance abuse treatment to women between 18 and 35 and their children up to 10 years of age. The women can keep their children with them and they also receive vocational training.

"One of the things that came up was the opioid crisis and all of these kids that are coming into foster care because their parents are having to go either into jail or into substance abuse treatment," said Nina Aliprandi, director of family services for Maryville.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, 2,351 people in the state died from drug overdoses in 2016, the most recent year for which data is available. That's up from 1,579 people in 2013. Nationally, overdoses are also rising.

St. Monica helps to keep families intact while the women continue their recovery. In the two buildings, mothers sleep in

rooms with a twin bed next to their child's bed or crib. Only two people can stay in each room, so if there is more than one child, they sleep in rooms next to their moms.

An on-site clinic includes space for mothers to meet with addiction counselors and receive medication depending on their treatment needs. They have several groups that meet during the day for 12-step work or domestic violence prevention. Most of the women have experienced some type of abuse.

"For many of them, they haven't been sober that long. They don't want to go back to their neighborhoods because they're in a really good place and they want to be safe. They want to keep their families together," Aliprandi said.

While at St. Monica's, the mothers also receive job training with vocational coordinator Brother Jonathan Wheat of the Community of the Mother of Jesus, an Episcopalian religious order.

When the women enter the program, Brother Jonathan starts a work history.

"A lot of moms say, 'Well, I've never been employed.' I say, 'But we've all worked. Taking care of your kids is work. You're working here now with your chores,'" Brother Jonathan said. "Many of the moms have never had a resume. I also ask them if they have an email address. If they don't, I help them get one."

One of the first things he helps them do is get their Illinois Food Handler's certificate. That is required to handle food in any restaurant in the state. It's also required for them to cook meals at St. Monica's, since all mothers rotate preparing dinner for the residents for a week at a time.

"A lot of the moms have never accomplished anything like that. So, right off the bat they have a resume, an email address and a food handler's certificate. It really provides some momentum, some positive changes," Brother Jonathan said.

If a mother needs a job right away, he helps them find one and practices interview questions with them. He also helps them respond to questions about a criminal record if they have one.

"They get a lot more skills under their belt, a lot more confidence, to attain a job," Brother Jonathan said.

Brother Jonathan also works with the children.

"What we really didn't think about was all the interaction Jonathan would have with the kids," said Aliprandi. "A lot of these women didn't have positive interactions with males in their lives. So just the fact that we have men in this building that we employ as recovery coaches and all the interaction they have with Jonathan just shows that you can have a respectful relationship with a man who's going to treat you with dignity and respect."

For the kids, Brother Jonathan does fun cooking projects like making their own pizzas. He made the dough from

scratch and the kids got to toss it in the air and later add their own toppings. Then they baked and ate them.

It's all about positive influences and helping the mothers get back on their feet. That's been a blessing for Ebony Grant.

"I was using drugs and alcohol. I knew it was a problem because I would wake up and just drink without eating. It was very hectic," Grant said.

Before entering St. Monica's in January, she spent 32 days in rehabilitation.

The 32-year-old has five children but only her 1-year-old, Knowledge, lives with her at St. Monica's.

Throughout the program, the women can earn certificates in various areas after taking 8-week classes. Grant is proud of the accomplishments she's earned so far.

"We do domestic. I have my certificate in that. We do poison prevention for children. I'm about to get my certificate

in that. We do parenting. I have my certificate in that," Grant said. "I also have my certificate in food safety here. They wanted to give me a week to finish mine. I finished in two days."

She's also proud of being clean and sober.

"I came a long way here," Grant said of her time at St. Monica's. "They're very supportive here."

Her plans for life after St. Monica's include applying to mortuary school. She's dreamed of being a mortician since she was 7 years old.

### **Where would she be today if not at St. Monica's?**

***"I'd probably still be out drinking, using drugs. I probably would have given up on myself," she said. "So I'm glad I found treatment and got my son back. I'm going to continue and complete the program."***

## Dear Friends of Maryville,

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."*

Charles Dickens' famous opening sentence in a *Tale of Two Cities* might seem as true today as it was when written in 1859. Yet it is equally true to reverse this lens: While it may seem the worst of times in some circumstances, yet it is also the best of times in some of the ways we work with youth and families.

Facing prospects of a dangerous summer for children, Maryville expanded its CYO program on the West Side of Chicago to offer daily sports programs for youth. We hope to continue to expand this program.

Facing the opioid epidemic within families, Maryville opened the Saint Monica Program for mothers in recovery from substance use disorder. Read about the program and the attention it has earned by keeping children with their mothers during this healing time.

Facing the challenges for immigrant children, Maryville began with a family reunification program for these youth. Read about the generous support you as a community have given the children.

This summer marked Maryville's 135th anniversary as a safe haven for children. While it is sad that children still need this protection, it is a tribute to our staff and to you that children and their families can count on Maryville. Perhaps the more important quotation about "time" comes from Pope Francis:

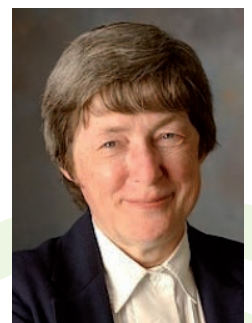
*"Our life is made of time and time is God's gift, and it is therefore important to make use of it by performing good and fruitful actions."*

Thank you for your support, your good and fruitful action, for our children and their families. You are the persons who, in the midst of their family challenges, make this a better time for them.

Peace and all good,

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

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



### **A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# Cardinal Cupich Blesses Maryville's Center for Children

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich blessed Maryville's newly reconstructed Center for Children on Chicago's Northwest Side. The Center for Children houses the Crisis Nursery, a temporary emergency child care shelter, and the Children's Healthcare Center, providing transitional care for children with complex medical conditions. In his weekly column, the Cardinal called the center a place "where I saw Pope Francis' words being put into action."



## Maryville CYO Hosts Hundreds of Children in Austin and West Garfield Park

More than 100 children in grades 3 through 12 hit the gym with Maryville CYO this summer, participating in basketball clinics, sports and fun in Austin. The expanded CYO program, free and open to the public, was a way to help keep children safe on the West Side of Chicago.

**Here's what the children said about it:**

**"It helped us work on our game and improve our skills."**

**"It helped us interact with other people."**

**"It kept us active, especially during the crazy summer months."**

Maryville CYO, in partnership with St. Martin de Porres Parish and Christ the King Jesuit Prep, sponsored basketball and recreation at two gyms on the West Side. The expanded program was part of the Archdiocese of Chicago's violence prevention initiative.

The coaches even got some parents in on the action, leading circuit training on the sidelines. The program was such a success, Maryville CYO is seeking to continue to offer programs like these.

## 40 Years Later Maryville Alums Marry

*Met at Maryville  
grew up, took different paths  
then found each other.*

This haiku poem was composed by Mary Jones-O'Gara and Mike O'Gara. Mike O'Gara was one of six siblings growing up at Maryville in the 50s. At the same time, Mary Luada was living in the St. Cecelia dorm with Mike's three sisters. Many years would elapse before fate caught up with Mike and Mary.

Mike left Maryville in high school. After graduating he went to work for the Central Telephone Company in Des Plaines. His foreman, Tommy Nagle, was a Maryville alum and offered Mike the Maryville territory. So, Mike was Maryville's phone man. He later left the phone company to work at Maryville. After a few years, he returned to Central Telephone and then moved to Santa Barbara. Mary's was the first senior class at Maryville to graduate from the Academy of the Sacred Heart. After graduation, she stayed in Illinois.

Fast forward a few decades: Mike and Mary met again at their 40th Maryville reunion. She was living in Chicago and he was in California but Skype helped erase the miles. A year later they married. They will be back in Des Plaines this fall for their 50th reunion.

# An Outpouring of Generosity for Immigrant Children

Maryville's friends and neighbors have shown an unprecedented outpouring of generosity for immigrant children who are in Maryville's temporary care. The Immigrant Children's Program provides temporary shelter care and other services for children ages 13 to 17 who have arrived at the border unaccompanied by an adult.

Maryville began 135 years ago as a home for children, many orphaned by the Chicago fire, and for immigrant children. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the immigrant children were primarily from Europe. Today, the children in Maryville's care are mostly from Central America and Mexico.

Children in the programs, named Casa Esperanza for the girls, and San Francisco for the boys, are at residential facilities throughout northeastern Illinois.

The program is funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The children attend bilingual school staffed by certified teachers. They receive health and dental care, counseling, access to legal services, access to worship of a child's choice, and recreation. A culturally competent, compassionate approach is taken.

"Public response demonstrates deep convictions that newcomers are welcome in our communities and that all families deserve protection and safety," Program Director Mary McCann Sanchez said.



Volunteer Mary Kieger with donated items.

## Illinois Suicide Awareness Day in Honor of Stephen T. Sexton

The Illinois State Senate declared June 13, 2018 Suicide Awareness Day in Illinois in honor of Stephen T. Sexton. More than 1,000 Illinoisans die each year by suicide. The Senate Resolution was sponsored by State Senator Julie A. Morrison.

Maryville's Stephen Sexton Training Institute was established by the generous support of the Stephen Sexton Foundation. Edward and Mary Alice Sexton created the foundation following the tragic loss of their 27-year-old son, Stephen, the fifth of their eight children, on June 13, 1987.

The institute sponsors suicide prevention programs and funds seminars on suicide prevention and children at risk, at no cost, to social service workers, teachers, parents and the community.

"The Sexton Institute helps provide training and information on causes that might lead to suicide," said Sexton Institute Director Cheryl M. Heyden. "We are honored by this resolution to help make all Illinois residents aware of the risks of suicide and possible preventions."

## Maryville Jen School Receives National Recognition for Fifth Year in a Row

The Maryville Jen School has been named a School of Excellence by the National Association of Special Education Teachers for the fifth year in a row. Jen is one of the highest virtues in Confucian teaching. It means respect for all people, benevolence, openness, and lifelong learning.

This distinction is given to a select number of private special education schools that meet rigorous professional criteria and have demonstrated truly exceptional dedication, commitment, and achievement in the field of special education.

"It is unusual for a school to win this award for five consecutive years. Each year we have to build upon our record. We have to continue

to be innovative and meet best practices to win this recognition," Maryville Jen School Principal Anne Craig said.

The school combines special education and vocational opportunities and training for students who have struggled in traditional academic settings. The school has added a video production lab to its curriculum, where students can get hands-on experience in all aspects of video production.

The Maryville Jen School recently added a therapy dog to the staff. Mags is a rescue dog who has been certified by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. When students need a break, they can relax in the school's "chill room," or they can now hang with Mags.



Maryville Jen School Assistant Principal and Vocational Education Services Director Heather Lischett and her dog Mags.



## Illinois Professional Golf Association Gives Maryville Golf Academy \$25,000

The Illinois Professional Golf Association (IPGA) has given up to \$25,000 in matching funds for donations to the Maryville Golf Academy. The Maryville Golf Academy brings the game of golf to children who might otherwise not get the opportunity to play. The academy exposes junior golfers to the fun and lessons inherent in the game. The IPGA presented the check at the 24th Annual Maryville/IPGA Gleason Cup held at the Evanston Golf Club. The Gleason Cup invitational is named for John Gleason, one of the founders of the Maryville Golf Academy.



## Maryville Announced New Members Appointed to Board of Directors

Three new members have been appointed to the Maryville board of directors. **William Fitzpatrick**, investment advisor, former Cook County State's Attorney **Anita Alvarez**, and **Michael McPhilliamy**, investment advisor, joined the board in July.

"We are delighted to have these three well-regarded individuals join our Maryville board," said Richard A. Devine, chairman of the board of directors. "They bring a wealth of talent and experience to our organization and are fully dedicated to the mission of Maryville."



## Maryville Honors Longtime Employees

About 60 employees have recently been honored for their longtime service to Maryville. "We think it's important to recognize that these individuals have a commitment to our children. It's not just a job," Human Resources Director Teresa Maganzini said.

Many of the honorees have worked across different Maryville programs, bringing a wealth of experience to each. New programs at Maryville are launched on a solid foundation of the professional experience of our veteran staffers. Two employees recently celebrated 40 years with us—Associate Executive Director Cheryl Heyden and Recreation Manager Ed Strabel.

## The Visionary Society

Several years ago, Maryville created a Society devoted specifically to our friends who remember us in their estate plans. Such planned gifts might include a bequest through a living trust or will, a charitable gift annuity, or by naming the Maryville Academy Foundation as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy or on other financial accounts.

We would be pleased to discuss with you the benefits of membership in The Visionary Society. Of course, the greatest benefit will be for those girls and boys who, without such a kind gesture, may never have a chance to heal and look to the future with confidence.

**For more information, or to inform us of your bequest or estate plans, please contact Megan Biasco at 847.294.1717 or at [biascom@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:biascom@maryvilleacademy.org).**

## In Memoriam

Maryville mourns the recent deaths of these alumni: Mary J. Duffy, Tom Lyons, Daniel J. McNamara, and Charles H. Walsh, Sr.

# Our Programs

## RESIDENTIAL

### **Casa Esperanza and San Francisco**

Temporary shelter care for immigrant children.

### **Casa Imani**

Therapeutic residential program for pregnant and parenting young women ages 13 to 21.

### **Casa Salama**

Therapeutic residential home for adolescent young women ages 13 to 21.

### **St. Dominic Savio**

Provides clinical care and other social services to young men ages 14 to 18.

### **St. Monica**

Serves mothers in recovery and their children.

## EDUCATIONAL

### **Jen School**

Provides integrated educational services for students with emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities. Also offers life skills and vocational training.

### **Stephen Sexton Training Institute**

The Stephen Sexton Training Institute was created to promote the exchange of information on mental health issues and to raise awareness of suicide and suicide prevention.

## CHILDREN'S CARE

### **Crisis Nursery**

This program offers short-term care for children up to age 6 for families experiencing personal crises.

### **Children's Healthcare Center**

Provides transitional medical care between hospital and home for medically fragile children.

## FAMILY OUTREACH

### **Family Behavioral Health Clinic**

Provides outpatient therapy, substance abuse counseling and other services for individuals and families.

## YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS

### **Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)**

Maryville sponsors and manages the CYO for the Archdiocese of Chicago. It provides a variety of athletic and after school programs.

### **Maryville Golf Academy**

Established in 1994, this Professional Golf Association-led player development program is offered to children and young adults.



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# Maryville

Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.

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## FALL 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 14

**4th Annual  
Jammin' with Jen  
6:00 - 11:00 p.m.**

*Join us for farm-to-table dining, music  
and more under a big tent to benefit  
Maryville's Jen School.*

**Maryville**

1150 N. River Rd.  
Des Plaines, IL 60016

**Tickets: \$70**

### SEPTEMBER 24

**CYO Fall Golf Classic  
Invitational  
12:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

*Come join us to support Maryville CYO  
which sponsors sports and recreation  
for Chicago area children.*

**The Preserve at Oak Meadows**

900 N. Wood Dale Rd.  
Addison, IL 60101

**Tickets: \$50 - \$175**

**Find out more at  
[www.maryvilleacademy.org](http://www.maryvilleacademy.org)**

## Maryville's New Location at the Augustus Tolton Peace Center in Austin

Maryville has opened new offices offering family programs in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago. Programs and resources for parents and children and a mental health clinic are available.

Office space was donated to Maryville by Catholic Charities. The offices are shared with Catholic Charities in the Augustus Tolton Peace Center on West Lake Street in Austin. The center is named for Father Tolton, the first African American Catholic priest ordained in the United States.

At a blessing and dedication of the new center, Catholic Charities CEO and Maryville board member Monsignor Michael Boland said, "The Father Augustus Tolton Peace Center continues the legacy of its namesake who worked tirelessly for the poor and underserved to make his community stronger."

Maryville sponsors Parent Cafes at the center, where parents can come with their children to have dinner and engage in conversation with other parents about the challenges they sometimes face, and how to manage them. Parent education programs are also offered. These programs are certified by the American Psychological Association.

Maryville's Family Behavioral Health Clinic has opened a new office at the Tolton Center. The clinic provides mental health and substance abuse services. It is one of a decreasing number of mental health clinics that accepts Medicaid.

