

CARING FOR CHILDREN. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES.



# VOICE OF *Maryville*

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SUMMER 2017



## 'I FINALLY FOUND A SUPPORT SYSTEM'

Maryville's Crisis Nursery is there for families with urgent needs

### EDUCATION

Helping students reach their full potential: Jen School is more than just academics

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It's in her DNA: Why Christine volunteers at the Crisis Nursery



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## Dear friend of Maryville,

For 134 years, our mission has been to protect, heal and educate the most vulnerable children and families among us. Throughout the decades, our journey has taken us down many roads. In the last year, we have started new programs and expanded other ones to meet changing needs in our community and beyond.

In 2016, we opened our Moms Recovery Home. This program provides a residence for pregnant and parenting women who are seeking treatment for substance abuse. It is one of only a few programs of its kind that allows women to keep their children with them while they find recovery. Women receive a range of services including job skills training. The early results of the program are very promising and we are looking to expand it.

Just this spring, we opened our Unaccompanied Children’s Shelter. This federal program provides temporary shelter care and other child welfare services for immigrant children, primarily from Central America, who are in this country without a parent or sponsor. With this program, we have come full circle, returning to Maryville’s (then Saint Mary’s Training School) original function: to provide a home for immigrant children.

Maryville’s Crisis Nursery has helped hundreds of families weather a personal crisis and begin to return to stability. We have embarked on an ambitious capital campaign, our biggest one to date, to expand this program to meet the need. Every year we must turn away hundreds of children and families because we lack the resources to serve them. You will learn more about the program in these pages.

Alongside our Crisis Nursery, literally, is our Children’s Healthcare Center. This program provides care for children with complex medical conditions. One of only two of its kind in the area, we help children and families make the transition from hospital to home. This program is meeting a critical health care need and it keeps young patients from staying in a hospital when it is no longer medically necessary.

These are just four of more than a dozen programs we run. All of our programs are designed with an eye to meeting a community need. We strive to understand the challenges of our times and to respond to them as fully as we can.

We look forward to continuing our work to help children and families reach their fullest potential. It is a privilege and a joy. We could not do it without your support. Thank you.

Peace and all good.

*Sister Catherine M. Ryan, OSF*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE CRISIS NURSERY

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1. Maryville Crisis Nursery provides a 24-hour help line (773.205.3637) and referrals.
2. It is the only Crisis Nursery in the metropolitan Chicago area.
3. The nursery provides immediate crisis child care and respite care during critical times of parental stress, illness, homelessness and emergencies.
4. The nursery conducts parent support and education groups to enhance self-esteem, parent-child interaction, child management and discipline.
5. It offers individual crisis counseling, referrals, advocacy and follow-up support.
6. The nursery provides resources (diapers, formula, etc.) to families who need them.
7. It provides screenings, assessments, and community referrals.
8. The nursery promotes literacy with a newly refurbished library, regular reading to all children and each child is given a book to take home.
9. The nursery is operated by a trained, professional child care staff.
10. The Crisis Nursery includes a gym, art room, library, three playrooms and a water play room.

## 'I FELT LIKE I FINALLY FOUND A SUPPORT SYSTEM'

Maryville's Crisis Nursery is there for families with urgent needs

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STORY BY ROSE ROBERTSON

**A**mazing. Safe. Supportive. Caring. These adjectives generously pepper Laura's description of her experiences with Maryville Crisis Nursery. A young mother with three children, Laura (not her real name) is eager to share the wonders of this organization with others who might benefit from their services: "You call them and tell them you need help. They're always supportive and caring. During the four years I have used their services, they have become family."

Laura was skeptical at the onset of her relationship with Crisis Nursery. Life had thrown bushels of hardship her way — she had reason to doubt. She has bipolar disorder, and was a single mom five years ago when she learned she was pregnant and consequently had to stop taking her medications.

"It was a very hard time for me. I was alone, had a sick baby, and was bipolar. A caseworker on a home visit recognized how frustrated I was and gave me a Crisis Nursery flier. I had the flier a week before I called. I was riding the Red Line — overtired, overstressed, overworked and crying uncontrollably. The baby wasn't eating or sleeping right and was crying all the time. As I sat on that train sobbing, I called [the Crisis Nursery]. The lady who answered told me to come right away —

they would take care of everything. And they did! It was a difficult call to make, but I had no other choice. It's one of the best decisions I ever made."

The initial intake took 90 minutes. Laura was given a tour of the facility, shown the schedule her daughter would experience and given a unique passcode to check on her child 24 hours a day. Laura's fears were eased. "I was hesitant to leave her, but desperate for help. Over time, it became easier. Besides child care, they gave me baby supplies and invitations to their classes and programs. I felt like I finally found a support system."

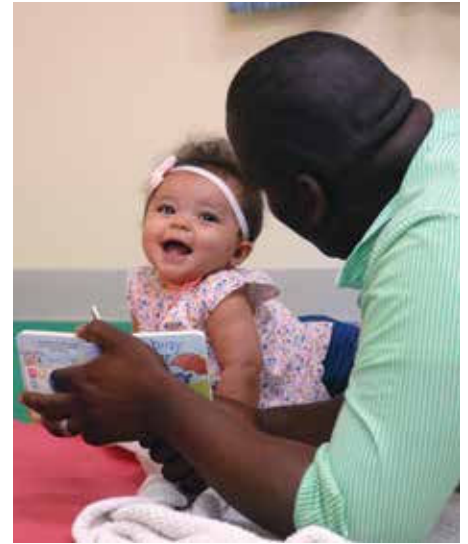
The Crisis Nursery's focus is keeping families together by reducing parental stress and promoting parenting skills. Child care is available for at least 24 and up to 72 hours, 30 times a year, to a parent in need.





KAREN CALLAWAY/CHICAGO CATHOLIC

Maryville Crisis Nursery employee Patricia Markley



Children in the nursery are newborn through age 6. Clients of the nursery have needs that might include medical appointments, employment demands or self-care. Maryville also provides clothing, counseling, parenting classes and referrals to community resources.

Laura takes advantage of the parenting classes when her schedule permits. She's been surprised by the added bonus they offer in networking with other parents with similar experiences. As she hears their stories, she learns ways

to make better decisions for her family. "I want others to get the same care and benefits I've gotten. When I first used it, I traveled two and a half hours on the CTA. They're such a great resource, I was willing to ride that long," she said.

The first Christmas Party her little family attended sticks out in her mind. "When I think of the nursery, I think of that. I got to enjoy a holiday with my children in a safe place. I have a picture of them on Santa's lap. They received presents, and enjoyed a delicious turkey

dinner. It was so much fun!" she said.

"Maryville's Crisis Nursery is incredible. It's kid-friendly, family-oriented and you feel comfortable leaving your children there. Amy Kendal-Lynch, the director, is beyond amazing. She has been a great friend, referral and resource. The entire staff is wonderful. They genuinely care for your kids, wanting you to succeed. It feels so good to be surrounded by people who have your best interest at heart," she added. †

## MARYVILLE'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

**Maryville's Center for Children, which houses the Crisis Nursery and the Children's Healthcare Center, is embarking on an ambitious campaign to care for more children and expand our ability to meet critical needs. In addition, we will be creating a new, accessible entrance and making structural improvements to create a warmer, more welcoming place for our families. Our fundraising goal is \$2.4 million.**

**+** **FOR MORE INFORMATION** on the campaign, or to make a contribution, contact Julie Fischer at [fischerj@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:fischerj@maryvilleacademy.org) or 847.294.1950.





KAREN CALLAWAY/CHICAGO CATHOLIC

## It's in her DNA

### Why Christine volunteers at the Crisis Nursery

**Y**ou've probably heard the saying: "Everything comes full circle." That, and the opportunity to follow life's passion, explains how Christine Hartwig became a volunteer at Maryville Crisis Nursery.

Maryville is part of Christine's DNA — both parents were raised in the former Maryville orphanage and met each other there. They later married and had two children of their own. "I grew up ingrained with positive Maryville stories. My parents felt so fortunate they were taken care of. My mom always said, 'Your father and I were lucky. We have to be mindful of that and give back.'"

So that is what Christine is doing. "My schedule became flexible and I decided it was time to volunteer. I reflected on what would be a good fit with my 25 years of experience as a special education teacher and my passion for children. I felt drawn to return to where we all started and

contacted Maryville for opportunities. The Crisis Nursery was an option and, since I've always loved working with children, it was perfect."

After completing training and a stringent background check, Christine began volunteering Thursday afternoons. Every week, her time begins by playing with the children. "My job is to engage with them and maybe work on skills like colors or letters while we play. We have dinner, settle in to watch a little TV, and then I read to them. As the 8 p.m. bedtime looms, I spend time reassuring and comforting the children who are often away from home for the first time," she explained.

Christine recalls a little 4-year-old boy who was very frightened during his first stay and cried for his mom. "As a mom, it moved me as I held him. I empathized with his panic and his mom's bravery to trust her child into another's care. It validated the importance of ensuring these children feel safe, loved and secure."

Working in the school system for so many years, Christine knows how

important a resource like the Crisis Nursery is for families — a safe place to care for their children as they manage a stressful situation. "People need to know the Crisis Nursery exists and how passionate the staff is about children. It's very child-centered, safe, and the atmosphere is very positive," she said.

Even though Christine knew early on she would devote her life to working with children, she is quick to share how her volunteer experience has enhanced her teaching. She's become more compassionate, empathetic and a better listener. "Every

Thursday, I'm reminded how compassion, kindness and just loving impacts a child, even if it's only for a few hours," she said.

"My experience has been amazing. It's been humbling. It's been such a great thing. I wasn't expecting to get more than I give but this experience has profoundly affected me. I think I will end up becoming one of those volunteers who stays for years. I am committed and definitely continuing this." †

**"I grew up ingrained with positive Maryville stories. My parents felt so fortunate they were taken care of. My mom always said, 'Your father and I were lucky. We have to be mindful of that and give back.'"**

## CREDITS



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*Caring for Children.*  
*Strengthening Families.*

SUMMER 2017

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## Programs offered at Maryville Academy

### RESIDENTIAL

■ **Casa Imani**  
Therapeutic residential program for pregnant and parenting young women, 13 to 21. Residents have a history of childhood trauma and are currently in the care of DCFS.

■ **Casa Salama**  
Therapeutic residential home for adolescent women ages 13 to 21 with both intellectual disabilities and mental health issues. Residents have a history of trauma and abuse and can't live safely at home.

■ **IDJJ Transitional Home**  
Provides clinical care and other social services to young men ages 14 to 18 who have been released from the custody of the juvenile justice system. The goal is a successful transition for each young man back into the community.

■ **Unaccompanied Children's Shelter**  
Is a federal program to provide temporary shelter care and other child welfare services for immigrant children primarily from Central America.

■ **Moms Recovery Home**  
Serves pregnant and parenting women seeking treatment for substance abuse. The program is one of only a few in the region that allows women to live with their children while regaining sobriety and stability. Maryville is seeking to expand this program.

### EDUCATIONAL

■ **Jen School**  
Provides integrated educational services for young men grades 5 to 12 with emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities. The Jen School also offers life skills and vocational training programs.

■ **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. Maryville conducts annual seminars at no cost to social service workers, caregivers and others.

### CHILDREN'S CARE

■ **Crisis Nursery**  
Offers short-term care for children up to age 6 for families experiencing personal crises. Available 24 hours, 365 days a year, the nursery provides support for families experiencing an emergency to help them return to stability. Maryville is seeking to expand this program.

■ **Children's Healthcare Center**  
Provides transitional medical care between hospital and home for medically fragile children. Respite care services and training for caregivers is also provided. Maryville is seeking to expand this program.

### FAMILY OUTREACH

■ **Family Behavioral Health Clinic**  
Provides outpatient therapy, substance abuse counseling and other services for individuals and families. The clinic has expanded its facilities in Des Plaines and added new offices in West Town, Humboldt Park and Maryville's Eisenberg Campus in Bartlett.

■ **Family Engagement Program**  
In partnership with other social services agencies, provides wraparound services and case management to youths involved with DCFS and the juvenile justice system.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

■ **Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)**  
Maryville sponsors and manages the CYO. The CYO provides a variety of athletic programs and services for thousands of area children every year.

■ **Maryville Golf Academy**  
Established in 1994, this PGA-led player development program is offered to children and young adults who may face physical or emotional challenges, or may live in an underserved community. Also includes caddy training programs.

## Helping students reach their full potential

### Jen School is more than just academics

STORY BY ROSE ROBERTSON

**J**en School is more than academics. It is anchored in teaching kindness, compassion, reciprocity and respect. In its 10 years of assisting students on the Des Plaines campus of Maryville Academy, Jen School has provided specialized academic, therapeutic and vocational opportunities for young people experiencing intellectual, emotional and/or behavioral challenges that can potentially limit their life success.

“Jen School uses a trauma-informed, holistic educational model to educate the whole child,” explained Anne Craig, the school’s director.

Students aged 10 to 21, who are experiencing difficulties in a mainstream, regular education environment, are referred to the Jen School by their home school district. “The program’s goal is to teach students to successfully identify and utilize coping strategies, manage emotions and gain academic success so they can be reintegrated into their home school settings,” shared Anne. “Currently, five students are in the middle of making the transition back to their home schools.”

Success is also defined by earning a diploma from Jen School, as is the case for the current Senior Class of 15 students. Jen School fully meets the

learning standards required by the Illinois State Board of Education, including district graduation requirements. Instruction is tailored to meet each student’s individual learning and social emotional learning (SEL) needs. Students are encouraged to actively participate in the development of their individualized education plan (IEP) as a means of identifying their own goals and strengths.

The academic day runs 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Classrooms are self-contained and designed to maximize effectiveness. An instructional team, comprised of a special education teacher, an instructional assistant and a social worker/counselor, staffs each classroom.

Anne explained, “This intensive staffing model allows us to use the push-in delivery model for SEL services. This allows students to remain in the classroom and the faculty to build relationships. It’s what makes us unique.”

The “push-in” model is the integration of a social worker or a counselor into the classroom team. That person is embedded into the structure of the classroom all day, every day. This results in strong relationships with students. It allows the classroom staff to work on issues right away with the students staying in the classroom.

“Our Integrated Vocational and Educational Skills Training Program (INVEST) begins at 2:15 p.m. and goes until 4 p.m. daily. It is a comprehensive vocational training program that is an integral part of each student’s transition plan (a component of their IEP). Students are supervised by job coaches and INVEST teachers and receive instruction in structured, on-the-job training sites as well as within a classroom setting.”

The Chicago Area Alternative Education League (CAAEL) is a sports league to which the Jen School proudly belongs. More than 95 percent of Jen students participate in

at least one CAAEL sport. The emphasis is on sportsmanship, not winning. Sportsmanship awards are given by other teams to students who exhibit the best sportsmanship throughout the game. Jen School has been honored as the recipient many times. Jen School students also participate in the annual CAAEL art competition.

Anne summarized, “The Jen School provides a unique and specialized opportunity for students to reach their potential. Students come to us with a lack of trust in the education system and what they will find at Jen School is a safe, nurturing environment where they can reinvest in themselves and their educations. *It’s all about our students!*” †



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

about the Jen School, go to [www.jenschool.org](http://www.jenschool.org) or visit [www.maryvilleacademy.org](http://www.maryvilleacademy.org)



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## COMMUNITY



Maryville supporters and golf enthusiasts got their money's worth at the Maryville Golf Academy's Indoor Tent Sale.


### MARYVILLE'S FIRST-EVER GOLF SALE FUNDRAISER

Thanks to the generosity of the Illinois Professional Golf Association (IPGA) golf professionals and sales associates, the Maryville Golf Academy held its first-ever Indoor Tent Sale. Proceeds of the sale of hundreds of items donated by the IPGA — clubs, balls, sportswear and more — go to fund community-based youth outreach programs. Special thanks to Brian Morrison of the Olympia Fields Country Club and Tim O'Neal of the North Shore Country Club. Thanks to our army of volunteers and to our shoppers.

## GET CREATIVE!

Did you know that there are many ways to support us, some of which can also help *you*?

- **A charitable gift annuity** pays you (and/or someone you love) income for life while also supporting our work — we would be happy to send you a free illustration;
- **A gift of securities** (shares of stock or a mutual fund) allows you to make a substantial gift at a reduced cost with tax savings as well — call for our account information;
- **A gift made directly from your IRA** offers attractive tax benefits — contact us first for the special details;
- **A gift to support our children and families through your Will or Trust** or by making us the beneficiary of a life insurance policy offers you flexibility in your giving — while also providing for the care of those who will turn to us for help in the years to come.

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