



THE VOICE

NEWSLETTER

Serving Maryville's children and families since 1883

WINTER 2021 ISSUE

New St. Josephine Bakhita Homes offer road to sobriety

The Illinois Department of Human Services, through the Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (IDHS/SUPR), has granted Maryville its recovery home license to open Saint Josephine Bakhita Homes at 115 N. Parkside in Chicago.

The new facility will provide services to women, ages 21 to 35, who want to maintain care and custody of their children while working toward sobriety.

There are 12 fully furnished apartments that will be available to pregnant women and to mothers and their children. Amenities include a spacious two-bedroom apartment and a bright three-bedroom apartment that is accessible to people with mobility and physical challenges. The mothers and their children will enjoy the large playroom and nursery that features a full kitchen. A shared laundry area is available.



“We named our new recovery home in honor of Saint Josephine Bakhita because the mothers enslaved by addictions are working to find sobriety and to develop as positive parents for their children who reside with them in the home,” said Maryville Executive Director Sister Catherine Ryan, O.S.F.



Saint Josephine Bakhita

“Saint Josephine Bakhita not only offers a safe home for mothers and their children,” said Jim Eaglin, recovery home operator, “but it also eliminates the threat of mothers losing custody of their children. We partner with the State to keep the nuclear family together.”

Director of Community Services Fred Smith is grateful to the Austin community for welcoming Maryville. “We thank our community partners like Circle Urban Ministries, Catalyst Group and PCC Wellness, to name a few, for making this happen,” Smith said.

February 8 is the Feast Day of Saint Josephine Bakhita as celebrated in the Catholic tradition. Josephine was kidnapped and trafficked as a young girl in Sudan. Eventually she achieved her freedom and helped others who were enslaved.

INSIDE



Arielle Brown with her daughter Ava

Former Crisis Nursery client pays it forward

Arielle Brown was 19 when she had her daughter Ava. Without any support from her family or her daughter's father, she found herself alone and without child care or any means to take care of herself and her baby.

After having Ava, she left her childhood homes in Evanston and Skokie and lived in transitional homes. Being alone with a baby also meant leaving the cycle of abuse when she was growing up and having to deal with an abusive father. After Ava was born, she also found herself in a similar situation after experiencing domestic violence.

"I was in a crazy situation and I had no one to watch Ava when I had to go to court to file for an order of protection from her father," Arielle recalled. "Ava was about a year old when I learned about the Maryville Crisis Nursery."

After experiencing homelessness, graduating out of several state-run programs and suffering from postpartum depression for a year after having Ava, Arielle said that it was her "saving grace to have found the Maryville Crisis Nursery at the time that she did."

"The Maryville Crisis Nursery saved my life when I needed help," she said. "The staff were very kind to me and Ava, there was no judgment, it is so clean and accommodating to babies."

Arielle used the Nursery twice as Ava was growing up, one of those times was when she had to go to court to file for the protection order.

"I had no problem leaving Ava at the Crisis Nursery because I trust the people there," she said. "I feel safe and it's totally different from anything that I have experienced after living in more than 20 transitional homes."

Ava turned 10 in December and Maryville received an email from Arielle early that month. She wrote in part, "... I was once in a position that relied on your Crisis Nursery. I've been very blessed since that time, but I have always remembered what a wonderful resource your Nursery had been for my daughter and me. This year, my daughter decided that in lieu of birthday gifts, she wanted to ask for material donations for your Nursery. We took a look at the Nursery's wish list and created a birthday list. Friends and family have been sending us donations and we have accumulated a pile," her email said.

One weekend in December, just before Christmas, Arielle, Ava and their entire family dropped off a truckload of baby items for the children of the Crisis Nursery at Maryville's Center for Children in Chicago.

"What a beautiful expression of giving back," Maryville Crisis Nursery Director Amy Kendal said. "They are looking for opportunities this spring to help with our garden."

Arielle's experience with the Maryville Crisis Nursery has inspired her and her daughter Ava to pay it forward. "We are not rich, but I am teaching Ava and my two other children to give back," she said. "I so appreciate everything that the Crisis Nursery did for us. The Crisis Nursery hits the mark. It is a great resource for single moms like myself when I needed the help."

Arielle, now happily married, expressed her desire to help other moms and their babies after her own personal experience. "I worked very hard to turn my life around and I feel very blessed to be where I am today." She said that after more than nine years, her daughter never forgot about the Maryville Crisis Nursery.

When she and her daughter were planning her 10th birthday party, Arielle said that it was Ava who readily expressed her desire to collect donations for the Crisis Nursery instead of birthday gifts for herself.

"What about helping the Nursery who helped us," Ava asked her mom. "I want to help the children."

To help the Crisis Nursery or any of the Maryville programs, visit www.maryvilleacademy.org

Promotion inspires leaders to champion Maryville's mission

Associate Executive Directors Nina Aliprandi and Evelyn Smith, esteemed leaders of Maryville and children advocates, are leveraging their additional responsibilities to help Maryville expand its mission and positively impact the lives of more children and families.

Aliprandi and Smith, who together have worked for Maryville for more than 65 years, were promoted to their new roles by Maryville's Executive Director Sister Catherine Ryan, O.S.F.

"Evelyn and Nina are two leaders who have a dream to change the world for our children and our families," Ryan said. "Now they will continue to reach for the stars for our children in their new positions."

Aliprandi began her work at Maryville in 1986, working with children in the homes. She managed shelter, diagnostic and residential programs from 1991 through 2005. She became the director of the family services division in 2005.

Smith joined Maryville in 1991, starting as a family educator and later taking on more responsibilities as assistant program manager, case manager, program manager and program consultant. She became the director of the residential services division in 2005.

"Getting a promotion takes more than just doing your job well. You have to prove to decision makers and the leadership that you are ready and deserving to take on more responsibilities," Smith said.

"All that takes is being consistently doing my best, staying dedicated to the vision and mission," Smith added. "I was given opportunities to grow and was provided support to be successful."

Aliprandi hopes to continue to work hard for all of the programs and Maryville's caring team of staff at every level. "My new role will allow me to offer enhancements beyond the programs that I am responsible for to improve the lives of children and families," Aliprandi said.

She looks forward to working closely with executive leaders and program and department staff to advocate for the best resources and services to support the children we work hard for every day.

"That may come in the form of the creations of new programs to fill gaps in services, redesigning current programming to ensure current best practices are in place," she said. "And finding new ways to support our existing workforce in new ways."

Aliprandi and Smith will also lead Maryville's initiative to assess its current organizational culture and advance diversity, equity and inclusion.

"I am excited to work with Evelyn to bring guided conversations around diversity and inclusion strategies, awareness and training for staff," Aliprandi said. "We want to manage unconscious bias and have the tools to help all of us 'do better' in these areas."

For her part, Smith said the larger picture is to identify and address systemic barriers that impact our organization. "We have to look for bias and discrimination at all levels," she said.

Smith said that it's not just about inclusion, but about belonging. "As a human service agency, we should be thinking about what people need from us that goes beyond a paycheck and how we can provide mental health service."



Nina Aliprandi



Evelyn Smith

Aliprandi is looking forward to supporting the opening of the Casa Imani Phase II which will be located at St. Mary of Celle in Berwyn.

For her short-term goals, Smith hopes to reveal relevant opportunities within the programs that she manages and gain awareness of the types of things that staff would like to create that will make Maryville's strategic plan a reality.

Maryville is very lucky to have both leaders who personify Harriet Tubman's quote, "Every dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for these stars to change the world."

PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff's input key to Maryville 2021-2024 Strategic Plan

The Maryville staff was given the opportunity to share their insights and ideas as the FY 2021-2024 Strategic Plan was developed last year by the executive leadership team led by Maryville Executive Director Sister Catherine Ryan, O.S.F.

Staff participated in identifying Maryville's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), along with studies and experiences of others in the community were also reviewed.

"We believe that our programs and services are on the right track," Sister Catherine Ryan said. "And the necessary services are provided by our committed and competent staff. It is important to not stand still and strive to be better."

While developing the Strategic Plan, the team discussed the needs of clients and the types of approaches of service with the Maryville Advisory Councils and Boards, as well as with other colleagues and community organizations.

The team studied the Community Health Needs Assessment from nonprofit hospitals located in the communities where Maryville provides services. This gave Maryville a better understanding of the issues, examples of strategies that individual hospitals were employing to address the focus areas and ways Maryville could respond to some of the social service needs.

The completed Strategic Plan was approved by the Maryville Board of Directors in October of last year.

The plan's six goals are highlighted below. Some of the objectives for each goal are:

- **Goal 1:** Foster a welcoming, diverse and equitable and inclusive culture consistent with Maryville Code of Ethics.
- **Goal 2:** Enhance services to vulnerable children and families in crisis through evaluation of current programs and expansion in areas of need.
- **Goal 3:** Recruit competent mission-focused staff.
- **Goal 4:** Invite partners to share Maryville's mission.
- **Goal 5:** Increase visibility of Maryville's work with vulnerable populations and focus on its response to their needs.
- **Goal 6:** Expand and diversify revenue sources.



STRATEGIC PLAN FY 2021-2024

1

Strengthen mission effectiveness through renewed commitment to the fundamental value of the dignity of each human person

2

Provide services that protect children and strengthen families by improving and expanding current programs

3

Attract and retain a diverse quality workforce through effective recruitment, selection, training, supervision and recognition

4

Cultivate valued and collaborative relationships with volunteers, funders, donors and communities in which we serve

5

Communicate Maryville's work to engage the public in support and advocacy of Maryville's ministry with vulnerable populations

6

Ensure that Maryville has the organizational structure necessary to advance its mission

Jen School's expansion plan secures students' future

Plans to expand Maryville Jen School are underway to prepare students for a successful future and to help them stay competitive in the job market.

The expansion will make Maryville Jen School the first alternative special education school in Illinois to develop a comprehensive curriculum that will integrate vocational, academic and social-emotional learning skills.

"The ultimate goal of enhancing the Career and Technical Education programming is for students to keep learning so they can grow successfully into whomever they choose to be," Jen School Principal Anne Craig said.

"Imagine the field (right photo) replaced with classrooms," Craig said. "In those classrooms are students wearing hard hats and tool belts working with teachers, learning skills they will take with them past graduation."

The new Career and Technical Education curriculum will include hands-on shop

classes where students will receive hands-on classroom instruction, and instruction in soft skills/employability skills to assist them with the transition and long-term self-sufficiency.

"For our students, this will be an opportunity to discover their abilities, their potential," Craig added.

Maryville Jen School currently provides required pre-employment transition services in the areas of job exploration and counseling, work-based learning experiences, post-secondary counseling and instruction for enrollment in post-secondary educational programs, workplace readiness and on-the-job training opportunities including social-emotional learning components, and self-advocacy training. Maryville Jen School provides vocational training to students from 15 different Local Education Agency (LEA) regions in the state of Illinois.



Future Expansion

Maryville Jen School is looking at this open field on the Des Plaines campus to build two additional classrooms.



Photo by:
Severo Contreras
Des Plaines Campus



Casa Imani in Bartlett

The Maryville Casa Imani program on the Eisenberg Campus in Bartlett helps expectant and parenting young women, ages 13 to 21, with skills to nurture and develop a healthy bond between them and their children.

New Berwyn Location

At-risk, young women to benefit from expanded services

Maryville was awarded a Residential Capital Improvement Grant of \$200,000 by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) last fall. The grant will be used to expand the Casa Imani family services program in Bartlett to a new Berwyn location at St. Mary of Celle.

The grant has allowed for infrastructure work to begin which will include the installation of a fire alarm sprinkler system and other health and safety related items.

“We are deeply grateful to the department for standing together with Maryville as we expand our Casa Imani program,” said Maryville Associate Executive Director Nina Aliprandi. “The result in benefits to young mothers in our care and their children will be great. The shared goals and vision between DCFS and Maryville will certainly create a brighter future for these young families.”

St. Mary of Celle is stage 2 of the Casa Imani program that addresses the special

needs of pregnant and parenting young women who are at-risk, their children and families. It will prepare young women for transition to a temporary or independent living environment.

In addition to providing safe housing and vital assistance related to school, counseling, life skills training, health services and case management under the Casa Imani program, the expansion at St. Mary of Celle will provide additional resources around parenting and career development will be added with an emphasis on keeping these young families together in a comprehensive and holistic way.

Maryville has a longstanding partnership with DCFS and will continue to work with the department by enhancing existing program models and developing new programs that help the youth and their families. It has been Maryville and DCFS's common goal to help families be safe and

resilient. Maryville provides facilities and residential programming that meet, if not exceed, the standards set by DCFS.

Maryville is one of six residential and group home service providers across the state that received the grant. In many of the cases, the grants from DCFS do not cover the entire cost of the project but complement funds from the organizations and will allow projects to be started and completed quicker.

DONATE NOW

You can make a difference in the lives of our children and families.

Donate online at

www.maryvilleacademy.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



While we are very excited to share Maryville's upcoming events, which will both be virtual and in-person, we will strictly implement and follow the Illinois Department of Public Health's safety guidelines while holding our in-person events.

APRIL

April is **Child Abuse Prevention Month** and a two-day virtual fundraiser at the end of April is being planned to benefit the Maryville Crisis Nursery. Exciting details will be available on our website soon.

JUNE 1-5, 2021

2nd Annual Virtual Week of Giving*

AUGUST 14, 2021

2nd Annual Wine Tasting*
Maryville Des Plaines Campus

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Jammin' with Jen*
Maryville Des Plaines Campus

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

27th Annual IPGA/Maryville Gleason Cup Invitational
Evanston Golf Club

SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Maryville CYO Annual Golf Classic Invitational
The Preserve at Oak Meadows Golf Course

**Event dates are subject to change.*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Maryville is very grateful to its donors, friends and supporters for their unwavering support throughout the pandemic. We are faithfully navigating the uncertainties of the last 12 months and working very hard to overcome the financial challenge of more than \$500,000 in unbudgeted expenses made necessary by the pandemic.

We purchased PPEs and enforced deep cleaning and improved air filtration in our homes and administrative offices located on our Bartlett, Chicago and Des Plaines campuses.

The financial effects of the pandemic is tremendous, but your continued support inspires us to work very hard to help more children.

We appreciate and thank you for our invaluable partnership.





Maryville

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