Thank You, Christmas Angels!

Christmas came and went like a flash. Thanks to the generosity of our many Christmas Angels, made up of individuals, businesses and organizations, our children had a wonderful holiday season. From the visits with Santa, stockings filled with candy, teddy bears, toys and games, the children of Marygrove were able to enjoy the Christmas season despite being away from home.

Marygrove Launches New Website

Marygrove is thrilled to announce that our new website is now "live." The new address is www.marygrovechildren.org. Our new, expanded site features information about all of the programs that Marygrove offers, service statistics, volunteer information and a calendar of events, as well as photos from around the campus. Be sure and check it out!

Marygrove’s Calendar Filling Up

Mark your calendars for Marygrove’s upcoming events:

**February 10th – 12th** Marygrove bookfair at Barnes and Noble, 13995 New Halls Ferry Rd. in Florissant (more information on page 2)

**April 18th** Marygrove’s 17th Annual Spring Card Party and Luncheon at the May Center located at DePaul Health Center

**April 30th** Marygrove Appreciation Dinner at Kemoll’s

**June 3rd** Marygrove Walk/Run

**September 19th** Golf Tournament at Norwood Hills C.C. For more information please call 314-830-6226.
Dear Friends,

By now we are back to our regular schedule. I have to admit our Christmas season was fast and full of activity. There are many stories to tell, and, throughout this New Year’s issue, we have selected some of our residents’ prayers to share with you.

One of my most memorable moments of the season was during the famous shopping day after Thanksgiving. I told myself I would not be getting up early to stand in long lines. However, since I live near the shopping center by SSM DePaul Health Center, I woke up without the benefit of my alarm clock. After my first cup of coffee at 6 am, I decided to go shopping to see what Best Buy had to offer since many of our children wanted electronic gifts.

From my parking space I could see the very long line outside Best Buy. As an alternative, Office Depot was next door and only had a line of about 20 people. That’s for me! I got in line and when I got to the door, the man wanted to know what exactly I wanted. I explained I was “just looking.” Waiting in the check-out line with my purchases, I started talking to others in the line. I told the young woman behind me that I hadn't planned to shop early but couldn’t resist. She told me she got up at 3:30 am. She saw the shocked look on my face and said "we had to get to Circuit City because they only had a few Gameboy systems that a little girl put on her Christmas list. And, we got it! You may have heard of this place, it’s called Marygrove and this little girl lives there. Our entire office picked Angels from the Christmas tree and I picked this little girl.” When I told her who I was, we both had a laugh, but I went away feeling awed and amazed at the goodness of people who will go the extra mile to help another person. That’s really the story of our Christmas...all of the extra things that went together to make it the best ever. Over 80 children spent the entire Christmas season on our campus. Thanks for your continued support. Have a blessed 2006!

Marygrove is having a bookfair at Barnes & Noble (New Halls Ferry Rd.) February 10th – 12th. Marygrove will receive a portion of the proceeds from the sales generated during the bookfair when a voucher for Marygrove is presented at the register upon check out. The bookfair is just in time for Valentine’s Day, so consider buying that book, magazine, CD or DVD that your Valentine has been waiting for!

All merchandise sold at Barnes & Noble is eligible for the bookfair contribution, no matter the form of payment, with these exceptions: the purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble Memberships and cafe consumables. For your convenience, you may cut out the included voucher. Vouchers will also be available at Barnes & Noble. For more information or for additional vouchers, call Jeni at 314-830-6226.

Wishes From The Heart

Marygrove residents realize that Christmas is not just about receiving presents. A tree in the chapel held ornaments, made by Marygrove’s children and young adults, adorned with prayers and wishes for special gifts. We would like to share some of their thoughts and prayers with you...

I pray for the people who have no where to go. I wish that money meant not a lot as much as family, food and shelter.

Pray for my mom’s family and my dad’s family.

I pray to go home.
Winter 2006

Staff, Volunteers Honored

Marygrove staff and volunteers gathered in the cafeteria November 18th to enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and to honor staff and volunteers for their dedication, commitment and service to Marygrove. Employees who have reached milestones in their employment at Marygrove were also recognized. Those receiving service awards in 2005 included Donna Koelling, Administrative Assistant, for 25 years of service, who was honored with special recognition from Florissant Mayor Robert Lowery and State Representative Clint Zwiefel.

Twenty-five year employee Donna Koelling (center) displays her Proclamation from the City of Florissant with Rose Crofford (right) and Sr. Helen.

2005 Marygrove Service Award Recipients

Three Years
LaDawna Alford
Trinette Avery
Matt Burgdorf
Thomas Coleman
Shannon Crosby
LaQuita Darden
Annita Gainey
Quiana Harris
Patricia Hartsfield
Steve Knop
Valerie Kozlowski
Eric Lacy
Veronica Lotts
Ellen Lynch
Erica McNeal
Gregory O’Hara
Diane Orlando
Dawn Parker
Paula Robbers
Brenda Simmons
Dolores Sisco
Charles Smith
Valerie Spain
Karen Strickfaden
Kimberly Tolbert
Rick Van Bokkelen

Ten Years
Dawn Johnson
Paula Mahaffy
Angelique White
Simona Zachary

Fifteen Years
Michele Koerner

Twenty Years
Ronda Carter
Mary Keller
Janet Laub
Wendy Pikula
Brigitte Watson

Twenty-Five Years
Donna Koelling

I pray to get over my dad’s death.
To be successful in life.

I wish that we can all live in peace and do the right thing, so we can all go to the good place - heaven.

I pray for happiness, no war and equality.
To make my troubles leave, to go home, and to bring peace and happiness to everyone around me.
Cameo Club Continues Support of Marygrove

Marygrove was once again the recipient of the Missouri Cameo Club’s generosity. Bette McLaughlin, Club member, presented a check to Peggy Plont, Director of Development at a recent First Friday lunch. This is the fourth consecutive year for this contribution. The donation will be used for Marygrove’s Emergency and Crisis Services Programs.

Groups Work to Keep Residents Warm

When the weather outside is “frightful”, friends of Marygrove help keep the chill off with warm clothes, hats and gloves. Two groups, Cub Scout Pack 987 in O’Fallon, Missouri, and St. Catherine’s Retirement Home in Florissant made sure our children would be warm this winter.

On a crisp Saturday in December, Marygrove staff gratefully accepted the generous donation of clothing, sweatshirts and coats collected and delivered by the Cub Scouts and their families. Early that same month, a group of residents from St. Catherine’s Retirement Home visited Marygrove and brought with them hand-made scarves, mittens, hats and gloves, along with personal care items, all for our children. The residents gathered in the cafeteria and enjoyed refreshments while learning about the 150-year history of Marygrove.

Marygrove Launches Annual Fund Drive

For most of the children who come to Marygrove, we are their last hope for recovery from their early histories of abuse, neglect or failed placements. The children who live at Marygrove are victims of their past surroundings and are looking for hope and an opportunity to heal.

Marygrove has a 150 year history caring for children and young adults, housing more than 130 residents every day in its therapeutic residential and crisis services programs. With nurturing and loving discipline, the young people learn how to set and meet goals, take care of themselves and appreciate the value of hard work and personal achievement.

To help continue its mission of caring for abused and unwanted children, Marygrove recently kicked off its 2005/2006 Annual Fund Drive. Funds raised from the campaign will help Marygrove provide safe, residential care and other services such as education, medical care, counseling, transportation and recreation, opportunities that most children take for granted.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible contribution via check or credit card, please call 314-830-6276.

Join Us For First Friday!

Marygrove invites you to join us for a special worship on the first Friday of every month. Morning Mass begins at 7 am followed by breakfast and a later Mass begins at 11:30 am followed by lunch. Masses are held in the Marygrove chapel. The event is complimentary and guests are welcome. For more information, call 314-837-1702.
September Resident of the Month

Fifteen-year-old Samantha B. of Aspen Cottage is described by her supervisor as a great kid who is helpful, kind and respectful. Our September Resident of the Month, Samantha, is a student at Hazelwood Central High School. She enjoys playing card games and taking walks. Samantha's plans for the future include finishing the life skills program, obtaining a job and going to college. She is also working toward independent living. She likes to keep busy being involved with church, school and any extra projects she can find!

October Resident of the Month

Earning the distinction of Resident of the Month for October is fourteen-year old Lakedra H. of Rosewood Cottage. Lakedra is a conscientious student who makes sure to do her homework every evening. In her free time she enjoys singing, dancing and hanging out with her friends. Lakedra would either like to be a teacher or a cosmetologist in the future. Lakedra is a role model in the cottage. She interacts well with staff, is helpful and offers support to peers who may be upset or having a bad day.

November Resident of the Month

Aspen Resident Alisha W. is our November Resident of the Month. Alisha, 15, attends Northview School where she is doing very well academically. She is a member of the choir and participates in the Special Olympics. Alisha enjoys crafts, listening to music and playing games. Her supervisor reports that Alisha has made significant progress since coming to Marygrove, and is working toward independent living. She plans to begin looking for a job this summer.

Creativity on Display

The Recreation Department held its annual fall Art Show November 30th. Works of all kinds, including paintings, ceramics, picture frames, jewelry and decorated t-shirts and purses, were on display. The event gave residents the opportunity to show off their creative talents to their peers as well as Marygrove staff. Hats off to our talented artists!

All Dolled Up

The young women of Aspen and Rosewood Cottages ushered in the New Year with a new look. Brenda Anderson, an employee of IBM and a Beauty Control Consultant, came to Marygrove on December 29th bearing one of a girl's favorite things...makeup!

The makeover event began with skin cleansing and moisturizing followed by expert instruction in makeup application using hues picked out especially for each young lady to match her skin tone.
MARYGROVE . . . a new beginning

MARYGROVE
2705 Mullanphy Lane
Florissant, Missouri 63031

Marygrove, Attn: Dorothy Lamb, 2705 Mullanphy Road, Florissant, MO 63031. Changes can also be made by calling us at 314-830-6244.

Help us spend our postal costs wisely. Please notify us if you have had a change of address or name. Changes can be made by calling us at 314-830-6244.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 3rd
First Friday

February 10th-12th
Marygrove Bookfair
at Barnes & Noble

March 3rd
First Friday

March 31st
Rummage Sale

For more information on any Marygrove event, call Peggy Plont at 314-830-6276.

The mission of Marygrove is to provide quality mental health services to severely disturbed children, young adults and their families who are economically disadvantaged.