

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works!" Psalm 139: 13-14

The Respect Life Ministry supports our community organization, Mary's Shelter. Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast is a leader in helping pregnant moms who have no safe place to live by providing a home where they can have their baby in safety, love and dignity. The program is 15 months. The mission is a lifetime. Moms learn the life skills needed to take care of a baby and themselves. They secure education and employment leading to independence. Mary's Shelter provides comprehensive care, aiming to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the mother. Homeless pregnant moms may bring their young children with them into this loving home. Emphasis is placed on empowering each woman to be the best mother for her child. Since 2006, nearly 300 moms and children have called Mary's Shelter home.

Mary's Shelter is one of only a handful of maternity homes, and the only one located in the southeast, with virtually no restrictions placed upon the mother looking to choose life. The two primary elements for admission into the Mary's Shelter residence are her pregnancy and the mother does not have a safe place to live. There is no restriction of mental illness, addiction, incarceration, domestic abuse and/or human trafficking. To truly be pro-life means that we protect all human life regardless of how it was conceived.

To read more stories of life and hope or to donate visit maryssheltergulfcoast.org.

The Respect Life Ministry has planned a special Thrift Store workday on Sunday, November 16 from 2 - 5 p.m. More information will be given later to sign up.

Heavenly Father we praise and thank you for the gift of life. You made your presence known to Mary from the moment the new life was inside her. We ask you to be present to all expectant mothers and encourage them, as the angel encouraged Mary, to be not afraid. Help us to accompany the most vulnerable of mothers and babies as they learn to live in love and dignity. Amen.