

## Motherhood's Heroes

Written by Joy Savulak through the eyes of our Director, Ellen

Dear Friends,

*"Choose life."*

Sounds pretty straightforward, right?

But for a vast majority of the young women who arrive at our doorstep, the path to choosing life is anything but straight and smooth.

Many of our clients come from broken homes, drug-addicted families and abusive relationships. Financial instability, a lack of education and trusted, affordable childcare, and sometimes even homelessness are daily realities that many face – issues that most of us will probably never have to experience in our lives. Add to that outside pressure from parents, a partner, or peers to get an abortion and the obstacles that stand in the way of giving life can easily seem insurmountable.

The sheer amount of courage and determination that it takes to say "yes" to life is why I call each and every one of our clients "heroes".

I want to introduce you to the stories of two such women, Natalie\* and Mary\*.

Natalie came to Carolyn's Place when she was 21 years old, pregnant and depressed. You see, her heart was continually being broken by a man who often left her and was verbally abusive. Her self-esteem was at rock bottom as her boyfriend regularly called her ugly and overweight. Though she planned to go to college, she began to believe her boyfriend's statements that she was too ignorant to succeed and eventually let go of her lifelong dream.

Through God's grace and support from Carolyn's Place, the abortion-minded young woman decided to continue her pregnancy and went through our six-week "Earn While You Learn" course to learn the basics of baby care and development.

Natalie's boyfriend bounced in and out of her life throughout the course of her pregnancy. She was thrilled when he showed up for the delivery of their beautiful little girl, only to have her heart broken when he disappeared days later.

What Natalie needed most was someone to listen to her and help her develop a game plan for her life. Several times a week Natalie would stop by the Carolyn's Place office or call and text for support.

With a lot of encouragement and a whole lot of prayers, I am proud to say that Natalie has earned her online degree, is planning to get her master's degree, has returned to church, found a great job, and has even bought a house where she and her young daughter live. I couldn't be more proud of her accomplishments.

And then there's Mary, a "hero" in unusual packaging.



### *Mission Statement*

***"Love one another"***  
***(John 13:34)***

*Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center is a ministry committed to empowering individuals, through education, comfort, and assistance, to make life choices related to their sexuality and child-bearing consistent with the sanctity of human life, consistent with Catholic teachings.*

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Mary was homeless with a larger than life personality and a history of mental illness. When she discovered that she was pregnant, she decided to change her life. This prayerful woman was determined to be a good mother and provide for her child. She worked hard to earn her certification as a nursing assistant and secured a steady job.

One day while Mary was away at work, her drug-addicted mother snatched the baby from the babysitter’s house and drove off with the toddler unsecured in the car. Minutes later, a terrible accident nearly ended the child’s life and left her permanently paralyzed. The little girl spent five years in a rehabilitation hospital with her mother by her side every possible moment.

As the years passed, life continued to throw challenges Mary’s way: the devastating delivery of a stillborn baby, chronic medical problems, and on-going struggles with mental health issues. But somehow Mary managed to find a way through each heartache with a ready prayer on her lips, a smile on her face and gratitude in her heart. She has even found the strength to forgive her mother for her actions and continues to be an incredible advocate for her very bright and beautiful disabled daughter.

Mary is also Carolyn’s Place’s biggest cheerleader. New clients often tell us that they heard about Carolyn’s Place “from some lady on the bus.” We just smile to ourselves and know that Mary was, once again, spreading the word about our services.

Natalie and Mary are just two of the many every day heroes I’ve been blessed to meet in my work at Carolyn’s Place. Thank you to all of our supporters for helping Carolyn’s Place be a safe haven that Greater Waterbury women and men can trust to guide them through their journey to “choose life”.

*\*Names changed*



“It takes someone really brave to be a mother,  
someone strong to raise a child,  
and someone special to love someone more than herself.”

Ritu Ghatourey



**The Most Important Person on earth is a mother.  
She cannot claim having built Notre Dame Cathedral.  
She need not.**

**She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral-  
A dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby’s body...  
The angels have not been blessed with such a grace.  
They cannot share in God’s creative miracle to bring new saints to heaven.  
Only a human mother can.**

**Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature.  
God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation...  
What on God’s good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?**

Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty



## *From Ellen's Desk*

Every year during Catholic Schools Week, I have the privilege and the fun of speaking to a second grade class at St. Matthew School in Forestville.

You may be asking yourself, what could she talk to second graders about? Well, it's really quite simple. And I've never met a second grader that doesn't get it!

This year I began by asking, "Who thinks they're special?" Every hand shot up. I then asked what made them special, and a little girl said loudly, "Cause I'm me!" And therein lies the heart of my message. Each one of them is a gift, made in God's image. That translates to the idea that each and every person is a gift. Every life matters.

We share the story of "Angel in the Waters" by Regina Doman. It's a beautiful book geared to young children. It's a story of a baby's growth from conception to birth. And during this time an angel accompanies the baby. The conversations between the baby and the angel are endearing and the illustrations are wonderful. Both the story and pictures bring about lively conversations with the second graders! The class, of course, always knows that the angel is the baby's guardian angel. This leads to the naming of their guardian angels and believe me, they come up with some doozies!

The class has collected baby items for our babies. They love showing me what they brought and they're so excited about a baby using their gifts.

After hearing their stories about their birth (relayed by their Moms), or the birth of a sibling, I ask them to pray for Carolyn's Place. And I assure them that they too will be prayed for.

I always leave this classroom filled with hope. There is absolute belief and love in every one of these children. Their faces hold no guile, only openness to life. They know they are gifts.

As adults, sometimes life throws us curves. It can be difficult to travel the road. We very often forget that we too are gifts. God's mercy is there to lead us back. And we also have had our "angel in the water".

What's your guardian angel's name?



### **ANNUAL MEETING YOU ARE INVITED...**

**Wed., March 30, 2016  
Begins at 6:00PM with Mass  
Meeting immediately following  
St. John the Evangelist Church  
574 Main St., Watertown**

Each year Carolyn's Place provides the opportunity for our supporters to get a better understanding about our ministry, and how your donations are used, by inviting you to join us at our ANNUAL MEETING. We look forward to answering any questions and hearing your comments.

Please join us.

Bring a friend.

Enjoy a dessert buffet.

**It's been 23 YEARS and we have much to be proud of  
and much to share!!**

### **JOB POSTING**

Education Coordinator  
for Pro-life Ministry

Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center, providing services in the Waterbury, CT and surrounding communities, has a full time leadership opportunity. This important position is responsible for education programs fostering respect-for-life and awareness of Carolyn's Place services. The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication skills, strong knowledge of Catholic teachings, and have education & program development experience. A BA/BS degree in education, social or medical services is preferred. Experience in respect-life programs is desirable. Some evening & weekend availability required.

Salary - with medical benefits available

To be considered, please email your resume to [staff@carolynsplace.net](mailto:staff@carolynsplace.net) or mail your resume to:

**Attention - Board of Directors  
Carolyn's Place  
137 Grandview Avenue  
Waterbury, CT 06708**

# Thank

**“Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven.”**

(Henry Ward Beecher)

During the Advent Season we were again showered with gifts to share with the moms, dads, and babies that pass through our doors. It is because of your tireless generosity that we are able to serve each person that God sends to us, in a special way. These items not only help us to provide Christmas items to go under their trees, but also serve to replenish our needs for the upcoming months. We are truly grateful for all those who donate to us and wish to give special thanks to the organizations and parishes listed below. We apologize if we inadvertently omitted someone from this list. Please know we are truly grateful for every item, dollar, and prayer we receive.

Alpha Delta Kappa Epsilon Chapter  
Bantam Quilters  
Beacon Falls Senior Center  
Blessed Sacrament Pre-K Class, Waterbury  
Church of the Epiphany, Cheshire  
IBM Employees, Southbury & Somers, NY  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Harwinton  
North Congregational Church, Woodbury  
Physical Therapy & Sports Management Center, Watertown  
Shrine of St. Ann, Waterbury  
Soroptimist of Greater Waterbury  
St. Ann Parish, Bristol  
St. Anthony Parish, Prospect  
St. Francis Xavier Parish, New Milford  
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Waterbury  
St. John of the Cross Parish, Middlebury  
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Watertown  
St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Oakville  
St. Matthew Parish, Forestville  
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Waterbury  
St. Stanislaus Parish, Bristol  
St. Teresa Parish & Men's Club, Woodbury  
St. Thomas Parish, Southington  
St. Thomas Becket Parish, Cheshire  
Waterbury Dept. of Social Services

## **MEN'S CLUB SUCCESS!**

The spirit of Christmas was in the hearts of the parishioners at **St. Teresa Parish in Woodbury** again this year. Coordinated by the **Men's Club**, they collected bags of baby items as well as collected money to purchase six full sized cribs and mattresses. This year's bundle of gifts was delivered by Al McMin, Frank Kovacs and Jim Duplese. Thank you so much for your overwhelming generosity.



## **A Family Affair**

We warmly thank the **Gillis Family** for the collection of diapers, wipes, bottles and stuffed animals they donated for us to use in our Christmas bags for our moms and babies.

## **Thinking of the Moms**

We were delighted when **Pam Drzewiecki** came to our door with 30 purses. Each was filled with special items just for the

## **SOFT SOCKS & HARD BOOKS**

The students at St. John the Evangelist School in Watertown shared their Catholic Schools Week celebrations with us. In conjunction with their “Crazy Sock Day,” they all brought in baby socks for a total of 240 socks of all colors and styles. But they did not stop there... they also collected 75 board books for us to give to our moms. These children truly know the importance of reading and want to share that opportunity with others. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!



## **Playing Cards Turn to Gift Cards**

We extend our sincere thanks to **Pam Juliano** and her card partners and golfing buddies who donated \$580 in gift cards for us to help out our moms during the Christmas Season.

## **Working Together to Help**

The employees of **Viso Bella Day Spa, Grace Medical, and Bea Chipelo** took up a collection of many baby items as well as a monetary donation to help with our needs for our young families. Thanks So Much!

## **“Binkies and Blankies and Bibs, Oh My”**

Recently **Grades K – 8** at Holy Trinity School in Wallingford, collected pacifiers, bottles, shampoo, wipes, towels, and many other items for our babies. They filled 13 boxes as part of their Faith in Action program. Thank you for this fabulous support!

## **Giving over State Lines**

This year some employees of **IBM in Southbury** united with employees from **IBM in Somers, NY** to collect many baby items as well as make blankets for us. Marie DePalma made her annual delivery of the gifts including hand-crafted hats and sweaters that were knitted, crocheted and sewn. Also afghans, quilts and warm fleece blankets, along with many baby clothes and diapers. Thank you Marie, for faithfully coordinating this Christmas collection, and thanks to all those who contributed.



## **Deck the Halls**

Thank you to **Mary Ann and Emile Sapaliga, and Paul Dotts** for bringing some Christmas cheer to our Center with their donation of a pre-lit Christmas tree and several simple but elegant decorations. They even came in and set up the tree to make our Center look festive.

# YOU

## TIME & TALENTS

We are continually blessed with homemade items to be shared with our moms and babies. We are extremely grateful for every item we receive, the recipients are thankful, and God is richly blessing you for sharing your time and talents with the less fortunate. We are unable to recognize each individual in this newsletter, but try to mention a few each season.

- ♣Seventh grader, **Kristen Lewis** lovingly made us seven soft fleece blankets
- ♣**Kathy Winters** and women from the **First Congregational Church in Watertown** gave us very special handmade prayer shawls for spiritual support for our moms, and blankets to snuggle our babies.
- ♣**Mary Moriarty** knitted lovely blankets and matching hats.
- ♣**Sandy Olander** made several quilts of various sizes with wonderful prints including fun animal fabrics.
- ♣**Annette Marcucio** gave us two dozen gift bags each containing a handmade blanket and stretchie for our babies. But her talents did not stop there... She taught her granddaughter, **Rachel Tokarski**, how to crochet, and Rachel made us four beautiful afghans.
- ♣**Lynne Koenemund** crocheted three bright and cheery baby blankets.
- ♣The Women's Fellowship Knitting Group from **N. Congregational Church in Woodbury** knitted and crocheted many gorgeous hats and baby blankets.

### Unloading the "Sleigh"

Deacon Roland Miller and new pastor, Fr. Dennis Arambasick OFM. delivered a truckload of terrific baby items from the **St. Francis Xavier Parish in New Milford** Advent Giving Program. THANK YOU!



### Holiday Meals

**Sue Myers' CCD Class from St. John of the Cross Parish in Middlebury** shared their cooking talents with our families this year. They prepared 30 delicious baked ziti dishes with brownies for dessert. They brought them to our Center to be sent home with our needy moms to help with some meals. Thank you so much for your great idea and hard work!

### OPEN HOUSE

This January we hosted an Open House for our local and state legislators. We gave them a private tour of our Center and familiarized them with the services of our ministry. We also gave them the opportunity to share other ideas of how we can help in the community. Thank you to those who attended: our good friend and supporter-Senator Joe Markley, Kayla Briere from Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty's office, and Ken Curran - the State Director for Senator Chris Murphy.



### St. Thomas Becket Blessings

Once again the selfless parishioners of **St. Thomas Becket Parish in Cheshire** took up a large collection of baby items for us to use as Christmas gifts for our families in need. **Mary Beth Colosky, Deb Fowler, and Sandy Hague** were Santa's helpers and delivered the bags of presents. Thanks so much!

### THE PT ELF

The employees of **Physical Therapy & Sports Management Center in Watertown** generously donated diapers, pacifiers, stuffed animals, and many other items for our families. One of the employees was the "elf" who surprised us with the gifts. Thank you very much!



### Students Working Together

The students in the eighth grade class worked with the second grade students at **St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown**, and made 16 soft and snuggly fleece blankets to keep our babies warm this winter. You did a beautiful job! THANKS!

### SFX JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

We are grateful to the **Junior Youth Group at St. Francis Xavier Parish in New Milford** for their generous donation of \$220. The group spent an evening making crafts, and then sold them to raise funds for our ministry and the Knights of Columbus. Thank you so much for sharing your time and talents to support two worthwhile organizations.

### Gathering Gifts

Thanks so much to Shepaug High School student **Samantha Marovsky**, who collected diapers of all sizes and wipes from students at her school to contribute to our Christmas gifts for our moms. We are thankful for the generous donations from her classmates and for selecting our ministry.

### A Giving and Growing Family

This December, the Pasquale children stopped by with some bags of baby items. **Luke (7) and Gianna (5)** had their birthdays in May and collected gifts for babies. In November, **Olivia (10) and Paul (3)** also collected for us on their birthdays. They each shared their birthdays with families in need. Thanks so very much and CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of your new sister, Chiara.



### Gifts Galore



**Ken Dubauskas** and his son making one of the five deliveries they made with fabulous gifts from the **St. Mary Magdalen Parish**

## THANK YOU 2015 / 2016 Membership Drive (as of February 11, 2016)

### Cornerstone Circle

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Basil Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Moffatt  
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Anonymous 8  
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**Boomerang Blessings**

Many thanks to third grader **Sasha Kahn** who holds her own ongoing BBB for us. Sasha is the daughter of Diane Kahn, an employee at the Village of East Farms in Waterbury. Sasha learned about us from someone at the Village. Since then she fills a bottle with her own change and collects from friends, relatives and people she encounters. After filling one, she hands it in and takes another. Over the past few months Sasha has filled six bottles and raised an awesome \$78.96. GREAT JOB SASHA!



The students, faculty and staff at **St. Bridget School in Cheshire** held a special BBB for us. A baby bottle was placed in each classroom (Pre-K through 8) and the office, to be filled with change, as a school-wide BBB. They raised an awesome \$500! Thank you so much for doing such a terrific job for our moms and babies!

**St. Bridget Parish in Cheshire** hosted another fabulous Boomerang for us. Under the leadership of Joe and Gail Marinaccio, they raised \$4,698.51. We are sincerely grateful to Fr. Romans and all of the parishioners for their support and making this such a successful event.

We are truly grateful to **St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Oakvill** for their latest BBB which raised \$2,178.48. Thank you so much to the generous parishioners who participated, the coordinator, Joan Gugliotti, and Fr. Michael Santiago for sponsoring such an outstanding fundraiser.

**CAROLYN'S PLACE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**  
**4th ANNUAL "GIVE LOCAL" COMMUNITY GIVING EVENT**  
**May 2nd at 7:00 A.M. To May 3rd at 7:00 P.M.**

*Each dollar you donate is stretched with bonus funds from the CT Community Foundation*

Once again Carolyn's Place will participate in Give Local of Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills, which is an online community giving event especially for non-profits. Sponsored by the Connecticut Community Foundation, this is part of Give Local America, a nationwide online giving event in which donors can join together to support causes in their hometowns and local regions. You will be able to make online contributions throughout the 36 hour challenge period...all from the convenience of home or office, using a credit card. As an incentive, every gift made during Give Local will be enhanced with bonus funds contributed by the CCF and Give Local Sponsors. We can win bonus cash prizes as well! This is an easy, convenient giving opportunity and we hope you will participate and give generously to Carolyn's Place. **Thank you for your past support !**

**SPRING 2016 WISH LIST**

If you can help with any of these items, new or used, please contact us at (203) 597-9080 or [staff@carolynsplace.net](mailto:staff@carolynsplace.net)

**ITEMS NEEDED:** We were blessed with many diapers this Christmas, but we still have a great need for **SIZE 4, 5 & 6 DIAPERS**. We also need a rectangular wooden end table (in excellent condition please).

**WISH LIST THANK YOU:** We are sincerely grateful to: June Archer for 2 reams of printer paper, 12 boxes of paperclips and a roll of stamps; Diane and Mike Basil for several infant pacifiers, baby outfits, 2 reams of paper and money towards an air conditioner; Catherine Capuano for a roll of stamps; Max Bar Tool Co. for two cases of paper and a roll of stamps; Ron and Rita Painchaud for a check towards items on our wish list; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Iannone for a ream of paper; Pam Curley for a ream of paper; Phyllis and Dean Tarsi for money towards items on our wish list; Joanne Buckheit for money towards items on our wish list; and Kathy and Don Arnauckas for size 4 diapers.

*Carolyn's Place, Inc.*  
*Pregnancy Care Center*

137 Grandview Avenue  
Waterbury, CT 06708  
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## **HAPPENINGS AT CAROLYN'S PLACE**

*Join Us* -ANNUAL MEETING- March 30....page 3

NOW HIRING....page 3

**Many blessings during the Lenten and  
Easter Season**

