

New Captain At The Helm



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New Executive Director Jean Keas

Jean Keas has joined the Marywood staff as our new Executive Director. She has an M.B.A. in Business Administration, and has a solid management background in both the private and public sector. She was the director of the YWCA in Corpus Christi for eleven years and was in banking in Corpus for over four years. She was active in the community, as well, serving as Vice-President of the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce for three years, a Board Member of the Leadership Corpus Alumni and Board Member of the United Way of the Coastal Bend. Not only does Jean bring excellent credentials to the position but she has wonderful "people skills" which all translate into a quality and caring management style. In her brief tenure, Jean has inspired both the staff and board to accept new challenges and, at the same time, she has brought insight and humor with ease and charm to the forefront.



Anne Beeson, Editor

Sharing The Memories

Ongoing Contact A Vital Resource

When prospective adoptive parents contact Marywood for information on our services, they are made aware of the important role they will play in establishing ongoing contact with their future child's birthfamily. Most families who come through our adoption and placement programs can expect to meet each other prior to delivery and may do so again prior to finalization. Letters, photos, and gifts are exchanged, assuring birthparents their child is adjusting well in his or her new environment, while the adoptive family begins a collection of treasured mementos to share with their child as the child grows up, reinforcing the child's awareness of his or her own birthfamily and the love their birthfamily has for them.

In our Post Adoption Program, families are encouraged to maintain this indirect contact through the agency and most do so with varying frequencies. For birthdays and Christmas, packages are sent back and forth, with a current photo of the child a birthparent's most valued possession. During the Christmas season alone, we average well over 1,000 contacts. Due to the expanding role of openness in adoption, we find we are

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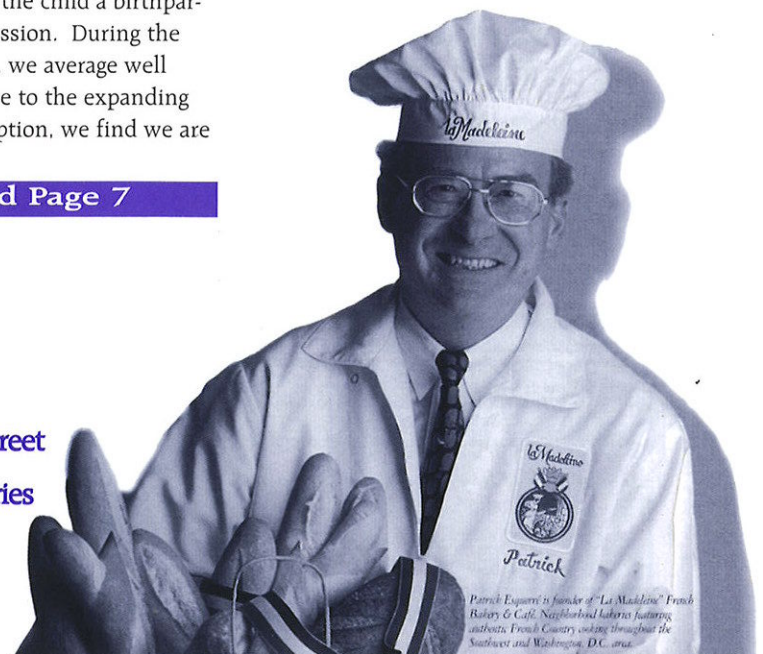
la Madeleine & Marywood

Good Food & Good Friends

Last Fall, *la Madeleine French Bakery & Cafe*, hosted a "rehearsal dinner" for Marywood, prior to the opening of their first restaurant in Austin. Friends and supporters of Marywood were treated to a delectable array of *la Madeleine's* wonderful country French cuisine.

Mr. Robert Snelson, Regional Manager, Mr. Jeff White, Manager, and his staff provided warm, gracious hospitality to our guests. The evening was a wonderful success for Marywood and we look forward to another similar opportunity when *la Madeleine* opens their next restaurant in Austin, this summer (details to follow).

The owner, Mr. Patrick Esquerre, has charmed the Marywood staff with his wise and entertaining insights into management principals, combined with great food. We adhere to his "recipe for success" and appreciate the kindness and generous support from *la Madeleine*. 



Patrick Esquerre is founder of "La Madeleine" French Bakery & Cafe. Neighbourhood bakeries featuring authentic French Country cooking throughout the Southwest and Washington, D.C. area.

Potpourri



Jean Keas

Dear Friends,

In the days of sailing ships, there is a story of a young and inexperienced sailor who was sent aloft in a storm to disentangle a broken rigging from the mainmast. In spite of the raging wind, the young sailor climbed up swiftly and did the job. When he started to descend, he looked down and saw the vessel tossing in the rolling sea. He became frightened and faint and called down to the mate on the deck below, "I'm going to fall!", The mate, who had spent many years at sea, shouted back, "Don't look down, boy. Look up!" And the young seaman returned to the deck safely.

When faced with the challenges and goals that the staff at Marywood have set to accomplish in 1995, I feel a bit like that young sailor. . . I've come aboard enthusiastically to assist a wise and experienced staff, but looking down into that "sea of past accomplishments", I feel a bit dizzy with the scope of it all.

This year we will explore new ways to grow and expand our basic programs of maternity, adoption, post adoption services and foster care. But there are new courses to chart, and these courses never get easier, nor do the waters of need become shallower. But, like those seafaring adventurers, all of us on the staff feel the sense of anticipation and challenge of exploring the uncharted territory of Marywood's future together.



Jean Keas, Executive Director



We dare you to enter the lobby at "snack time" and leave empty handed



MARYWOOD
"Miracles Happen On 26th Street"

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Carolyn Chamberlain
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Laverne Flores
Ann Garrett
Don Higginbottom
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Sister Rose Ann
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Carolyn Chamberlain

Adoption Class

A Life Long Experience

Marywood supports the concept that adoption is a life long experience. In the past, agencies and families ended their relationship at the time of placement. The reasons for the termination of the relationship centered around society's belief that the child should be protected from the knowledge of its "questionable background". Today, however, adoption is no longer shrouded in mystery and secrecy.

The ongoing relationship that an adoptive family establishes with Marywood really begins at a training class called, Adoption: A Life Long Experience. Recently, thirteen families from all over the state completed this course held at Marywood (pictured below). The course covered the many topics surrounding adoption from "How Adoption Is Different From Self-Parenting" to "Post Adoption Issues" to "Talking With Your Child About Adoption." Even though the course is required as part of the homestudy process, it is never-the-less enjoyable and informative--call for more information.



Carolyn Chamberlain

New Library

Generous Bequest

A generous bequest from an individual's will has made it possible for Marywood to begin a new reference library for our staff, clients and other professionals in the field of maternity, foster care, adoption and post adoption services. We are very grateful for this opportunity to be able to offer the latest in resource materials, books, and videos.

"Giving to charity can satisfy our individual need to help those less fortunate than ourselves, enrich others' lives or give something back to our communities. While your gesture is intended to help others, the means through which you accomplish it can also benefit you. If you are considering making a charitable gift, you have a variety of strategies available to help you achieve your objectives." (A.G. Edwards Financial Quarterly)

Consult your legal or tax advisors, who can assist you in developing a gifting program that can maximize the benefits for both you and the charitable recipient of your generosity.



Staff

Post Adoption

Dramatic Increase

The Post Adoption Program has seen an increase in services to adoptive families whose children were placed during the closed adoption system. There have been more meetings among this client population than in previous years. There was also a virtual avalanche of mail generated by the "Sharing Program" during the holidays.

In 1994, Mary C. Rizzo and Cindee Segal handled 292 inquiries, 142 counseling sessions, 45 social/medical histories and 30 face-to-face meetings. A total of **3,714 contacts**, including sharing, counseling, inquiries and face-to-face meetings were completed during the year.

Grants

Program, Services, Capital

The following foundations have provided grants to Marywood: 1) James P. Dougherty, Jr., 2) Burkitt, 3) Scanlan, 4) Strake, 5) Rockwell Fund, 5) Theodore P. Davis Charitable Trust, 6) Target Stores/Dayton Hudson.



Staff



Happy Graduates of "Adoption A Life Long Experience"

Foster Care

Expanding Frontiers

On October 10, 1994, I joined the Marywood staff as the foster care/minority recruitment coordinator. Previously I had worked as a Social Services worker for Child Protective Services. I am married and have two beautiful children. I have a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. I am grateful for the opportunity to greet individuals who are part of Marywood's family and those of you who are interested in becoming a part of this great family.

From the beginning, great things began to happen. We actively began to seek families who desired to open their homes to children with special needs. During my brief tenure, we have advertised in local newspapers throughout central Texas, have appeared on local radio talk shows, and have held several informational meetings. The rewards from our efforts have been immense; new families have joined our foster care program, with more expected in the near future. Children in our care are benefiting from their stay and are receiving quality services.

I invite anyone who is interested in foster care or adopting minority children to please call me. Marywood's doors are open to all.



Don Higginbottom

HYLF 1st Annual 3-ON-3
Charity Basketball
Tournament
March 25-26 / 9a.m.-6 p.m.
Texas Club, Houston
\$100 Team entry fee benefits
Marywood--call Mark Lapidus
today and enter 625-1555

Maternity Services

Baby Think It Over

It is our goal to have several dolls, so that we can match them with each birthmother...

All babies are special and at Marywood we feel that our babies are very special. But, last September, we witnessed the arrival of an "extra special" baby --a doll called "Baby Think It Over"...

The doll was created by an out-of-work aerospace engineer in California. The doll, who has received widespread attention, has appeared on Oprah, in the New York Times, People Magazine, and the Austin American Statesman, which prompted our inquiries and the initiation of our use of "Baby Think It Over" in our TARGET Maternity Program at Marywood.

TARGET, a 30-day intensive therapy program, is for young women in the second trimester of their pregnancy, who are undecided about whether they want to self-parent or place their babies for adoption. TARGET helps the client project her life beyond her immediate circumstances, building toward the cessation of risk-taking behaviors and increasing goal-oriented, healthy functioning. During the young woman's stay at Marywood, the client participates in "hands on" activities which address self-sufficiency, self esteem, life skills, relationships and parenting issues.

The "Baby Think It Over" doll, programmed to cry at random during the day and night and requiring 20 to 30 minute "feedings", also has indicator lights to show if the "child" has been

neglected or handled roughly. This very realistic encounter educates our clients about the needs and demands of an infant. These experiences, the counseling and the interaction with others sharing similar challenges will hopefully help these young women be more responsible parents and possibly prevent another pregnancy during their teen years.

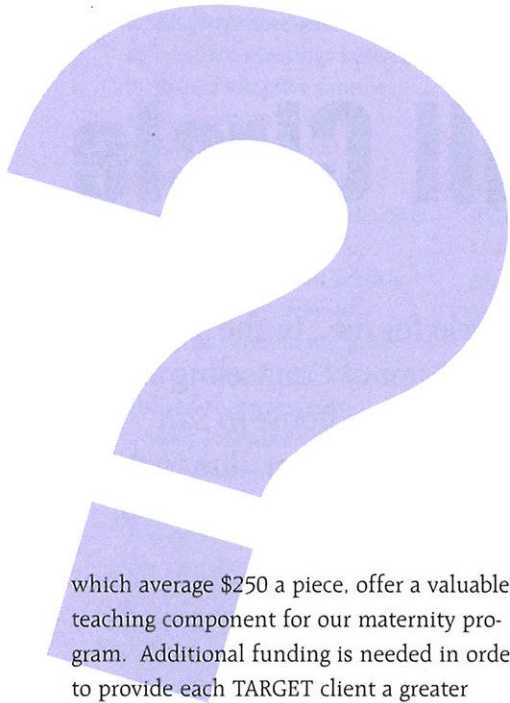
A statistical model will be set up to track the impact of the "doll" on the clients' decision to place their babies for adoption or to self-parent. "Baby Think It Over" has been primarily used in marriage and family classes in high schools around the country. Marywood is one of the first maternity and adoption agencies to use the "doll" with our clients.

It is our goal to have several dolls, so that we can match them with each birthmother, so she can have the responsibility of caring for the baby for a longer period of time, including weekend visits at home with their families. Our goal is not to convince a client that adoption should be her only option, but rather to give her a dose of reality, with regard to the impact of parenting a child. The doll is a useful tool for eliciting discussion about some of the challenges faced with being a teenager parent.

A Marywood Board member donated the first "Baby Think It Over" doll to the program and the United Way, through a "Youth Project Grant", donated another. The dolls,



Maternity Client with "Baby Think It Over"



which average \$250 a piece, offer a valuable teaching component for our maternity program. Additional funding is needed in order to provide each TARGET client a greater opportunity to experience first hand, the needs of an "infant".

If you would like more information about the dolls or would like to help underwrite the cost, please call David Duffey at Marywood.



David Duffey

The following items are needed for our maternity clients in residence:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Combs
- Brushes
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body soap
- Towels
- Laundry detergent
- Pillows
- Mattress Pads

TO GIVE A GIFT

*I have a gift,
that I'd like to give.
It's special to me - so I want to give it to someone who's special,
Someone who will love my gift,
as much as I do.
Someone who will appreciate all the deep feelings
that go along with my gift.
The happy feelings of giving,
and making someone's dream come true.
The sad feelings of losing something
so very special to me.
When I give these special people my gift,
they must realize what value it has,
for nothing is more valuable in all the world.
With love, they must tend to its special needs
and care for my gift, since I cannot.
To give a gift is sometimes hard
for the special place it holds in your heart
is now hollow and hurts.
To give a gift is sometimes hard.
To give my gift is very hard,
for the child I give
holds all my heart.*

This poem was written several years ago by a birthmother, prior to placement of her baby. The poem, recorded by the birthmother, is played during each placement ceremony at Marywood and then presented to the adoptive family.

We have a need for a new tape recorder and blank tapes to help us continue this Marywood tradition.

Coming Full Circle

The "warmth, encouragement and general positive regard" that is Marywood, greeted me.

Marywood is a coming of full circle for me. In the seventies, I was a counselor and acting Director of Counseling at the Methodist Mission Home of Texas; a maternity home in San Antonio with 125 unmarried women, most of whom, due to their circumstances in life, chose to place their children for adoption.

During that time, I also helped organize and consulted for a half-way house for mentally challenged young women. My husband was a student at the medical school in San Antonio, and we began our family, necessitating my staying at home with our first child. Seven years later, I reentered the workforce as a conjoint sex therapist with J. Franklin Stokes, M.D., an obstetrician/gynecologist. I was a AASECT nationally certified sex therapist. Dr. Stokes, myself and one other couple were the only sex therapists that the Bexar County Medical Society made referrals to for people seeking therapy.

After moving to Seguin with my family, I was a counselor and Acting Director of Counseling at Texas Lutheran College. I worked with the churches in Seguin to set up sex education workshops for children and their parents. I also had a private counseling practice, where many ministers in the area referred their parishioners to me for counseling.

In 1987, I was licensed to practice law and worked first as a prosecutor in Guadalupe County, later moving to Austin with my family and opening my practice on South Congress Avenue in 1990. I practice with A. Lynn Tiemann, who has been an attorney in general practice for over 20 years. We are now focusing primarily in the areas of guardianship, wills, elder law, and probate but also continue to do some adoption, criminal and juvenile law.

My son and daughter-in-law live in San Antonio, where my son is a third year medical student and where my first grandchild was recently born. My daughter is a third year student at Southwestern University in Georgetown. Since my children are grown and involved in their own lives, for the most part, my practice and the community activities in which I participate, have become a strong focus in my life. I am Vice President of the Marywood Board of Directors, President of the Old Bakery and Emporium Board and Guild, member of the Board of Directors of Family Eldercare, and member of the Board of the Texas Guardianship Association.

Patricia A. Moore, who works with us as a legal assistant, introduced me to Marywood. She and the late Judge J. Travis Blakeslee and Mrs. Blakeslee had supported Marywood in various capacities for many years. As I met the staff, learned of the mission of Marywood and actually experienced a part of God's grace in action in the day to day workings of its programs, I became very interested in becoming involved myself. The "warmth, encouragement and general positive regard" that is Marywood, greeted me. I am sure that spirit fed me as it has others for years. In my work on the Board and my association with the staff at Marywood, I have been enriched far beyond what I have given.



Gaye Thompson



Gaye Thompson is a Marywood Board Member

Sharing Continued

facilitating more and more face-to-face meetings between birth and adoptive families, most of whom have met before placement. At our clients' request, we have begun to offer telephone communication through the agency, as well. Not surprisingly, we have received numerous comments from appreciative clients who have utilized these services.

Most everyone whose life has been touched by adoption is aware of how adoption has changed, most visibly in the last 10-15 years. In examining agency records prior to this time, the previously-held belief that birthparents needed to move forward with their lives without adequately addressing the inherent grief and loss in relinquishment is

most evident when, after a few inquiring letters to a Sister or a counselor, a birthmother's concerns were often replaced by years of silence.

But some birthmothers have been more active in making their needs and desires known to the agency and it multiplies an adult adoptee's joy and excitement when we are able to inform them of a birthmother's documented interest in them over the course of their childhood and adolescence. Although we do offer search assistance, knowing a birthmother has made herself available for contact affords an adoptee some unexpected peace of mind, particularly when he or she was raised in an era when birthfamilies were thought to be nothing more than an unfillable void. One file was even discovered to contain

some jewelry a birthmother apparently left at the last minute in the hope that her birthdaughter may one day receive it and know the depth of her birthmother's love for her.

We must also praise the adoptive parents who have, by their own initiative, sent in periodic updates over the years, hoping their child's birthmother might one day inquire about them. Times are changing for these clients, as well, and we are seeing an increase in the number of inquiries from families who were never offered the option of corresponding. We make every effort to include these birth and adoptive families in our sharing program in a way that everyone involved is comfortable with and prepared for. Sometimes, a birthmother just needs to know her child is alive and well.

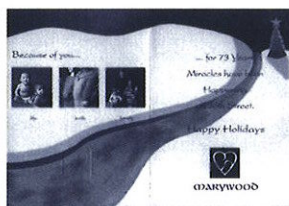
Sometimes, an adolescent adoptee needs to know who he or she looks like. Sometimes, an adoptive family needs updated health information to make informed decisions about their child's well-being.

Our sharing program provides ongoing contact to approximately 850 birth and adoptive families and will continue to expand in the years to come. We are proud to be able to offer these services as part of our Post Adoption Program and thankful to our determined birth and adoptive families who showed us the way many years ago through their own diligent efforts to stay in touch with each other.



Cindee Segal

Miracles Do Happen On 26th Street



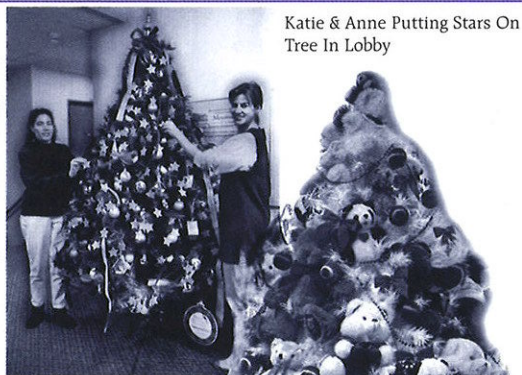
Marywood Christmas Card

Over 250 families responded to our "miracle makers" appeal at Christmas and donated over \$26,000 for our programs and services. Red stars, representing each of the donors, were hung on the Christmas tree, donated by the Target Store at 13785 Research Boulevard. Visitors to Marywood were greeted by this cheery site, in our lobby, as well as our "Bear Tree" in the parlor. The bear tree, designed by David Duffey, our therapist, was created from all the bears who arrived "special delivery", following our "Endangered Species" article in the last issue of the newsletter. We were quite touched by the overwhelming response to our monetary and stuffed animal appeals. . .yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!

We want to thank each and everyone for their kind words of support and financial commitment to Marywood.



Jean Keas, Executive Director



Katie & Anne Putting Stars On Tree In Lobby



Teddy Bear Tree

Marywood Reaches Out





Janet Fish busy mailing brochures

Janet Fish, Community Outreach Coordinator, has been very active providing in-service presentations to train professionals on how to present adoption as a positive option for birthparents. Janet has also had speaking engagements at area churches, schools, Optimist Clubs/service organizations and health facilities in Austin and surrounding communities. If you are interested in having Janet provide information about Marywood and our various programs and services, please contact her at 472-9251.



New four color/ three fold brochure with pocket and stair-stepped inserts functions as six brochures in one.


Planned

Unplanned

What Now?

If you or someone you know is unexpectedly pregnant please call-it's free. If you want to self-parent, we can help. If you want to make an adoption plan, we can help. If you're not sure, we can assist you in exploring your options in a caring, compassionate, and non-judgemental way. For over 70 years, miracles have been happening at Marywood--for women just like you.



Call 1-800-251-5433

Here are some of the new communication tools Janet will be using in the field. They were developed for Marywood by Civic Pride, Inc. of Austin, Texas.




MARYWOOD
"Miracles Happen On 26th Street"

New logo developed closely with staff retains the Marywood heart. Can you see the mother, father, and child in the heart itself? The new Marywood tag-line is really an old one used years ago. Then like now, the message rings true.

New four color 11" X 17" poster has already resulted in referrals. By the way, does anyone recognize the model?

In Memorial:
Mrs. Grace M. Stephenson



MARYWOOD
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