

# FOCUS

A publication of  
**Mount St. Joseph—St. Elizabeth**  
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SPRING 2008



## Sister Eileen Kenny Executive Director



Dear Friends of MSJ-SE,

Easter, which we celebrated very early this year, is a season when we reflect on hope and new life – both critically important to the lives of the women, children and families served at the Epiphany Center programs at MSJ-SE. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. It is your generosity that assures our ability to fulfill our mission and provide services for recovery and hope for our clients.

A sign of hope is our new Serenity Roof Garden. Thanks to a very generous gift from the Solid Rock Foundation we have renovated an area that will be a calm, relaxing space where women can learn parenting skills that will counteract the effects of prenatal drug exposure on their infants who are at risk for emotional problems, developmental delays and other physical and mental disabilities.

Children under 2 years old will also utilize the Roof garden as a play space. It is a delight to watch them grow and play in the shelter of the Serenity Roof Garden.

May this Easter season be a time of hope and rejoicing for you and your loved ones.

Alleluia and God bless you.

*Sister Eileen, DC*

## Alicia's Story

In April of 2004, I walked through the doors of the Epiphany Center with a desire to change my life. I had no idea how my life would indeed be changed.

At the first group I attended as an Epiphany Center resident, the discussion was on a subject I had never heard another woman like me dare speak on, such as the feeling of how they had let themselves down and their thoughts and feelings about being a failure as a mother. But also, they were expressing how they wanted a better quality of life, not only expressing these things, but relating ways in which they were going to achieve this better life. Wow! I knew this was the place to begin turning my life around.

**// I gained my life back and  
when I look in the mirror  
today I like who I see. //**

After a year of residency at the Epiphany House, I moved to a transitional living program and I was finally able to reunify with my son. We now have our own home in Berkeley. My son is doing well in school and can now talk about how he feels and what makes him angry. We work out solutions together.

The Epiphany Center allowed me the structure I so desperately needed to gain balance in my life. I will forever be grateful for the work that is done there everyday. I gained my life back and when I look in the mirror today I like who I see. I thank God everyday for my blessings and I want to thank you for your support and the encouragement you give to the Epiphany Center. God bless you!

## Family Photo Day

December 2007 was the Second Annual Christmas Family Photo Day for MSJ-SE clients. This event began in 2006 and because of its success it was repeated and expanded this year. The MSJ-SE Women's League, whose primary purpose is planning and executing the Annual Benefit Party & Show, wanted to do something special for clients during the holidays and generously sponsored this important event.

Clients, most with their children, some with their children and their parents, all with smiles on their faces, arrived to have their pictures taken by Jane Richey, who provided her services at a substantially reduced rate. Clients were given two framed photos as well as a CD with multiple poses. Even in spring clients still mention the photo shoot with gratitude and a smile!



Photographer Jane Richey takes a picture of an Epiphany Center client with her new born son during our Christmas Family Photo Day.

# News Flash: Annual Event Raises

## Almost \$100,000 in 2008

MSJ-SE recently held its 11th Annual Benefit Party & Show - Luna Rubata. Performances were held January 30 in San Francisco at the Regency Center and January 31 in Mill Valley at the 142 Throckmorton Theatre. This original musical production featured the unique talents of Cynthia Baggott, Katie Budge, David Fleishhacker, Ceseli Foster, Jock Hooper, Gualtiero Negrini, Paul Pelosi, David Pettus, Teresa Quigley, Erich Stratmann, Lizanne Suter, and Christina Waldeck. When asked why they generously give so much of their time to support this fundraiser some of the responses were:

*If a few more people can hear about the fine work the agency is doing because we're being silly onstage, then I can't think of a better way to spend the time.*

-Katie

*It sounds simplistic but - when presented with the opportunity to do something I enjoy and at the same time collectively have such an impact on the finances of one good organization, it is an easy decision. After all, again simplistic, I am a fortunate person in a world of burdened folks.*

- Erich

*What could be more fun and rewarding than spending time with talented friends contributing to an excellent cause?*

-Paul

*It is an honor to be part of the show and a joy to know that singing a song onstage (whether dressed in green tights and a sword, or white gogo boots and a gold lame mini, or with bite marks on my neck and electrified hair as a bride of Frankenstein) can help a family that is struggling. As a mother of four, I feel a strong kinship with mothers and small children. Finally, who could say no to Katie Budge or Sister Eileen?!!!*

-Lizanne

To view pictures from this event please log on to [www.drewaltizer.com](http://www.drewaltizer.com)



Above: Event Co-Chairs Janet Ostler (left) and Linda Dougherty (right) with Foundation Board Chair Brenda MacLean (center).

Right: Performers (from left) Lizanne Suter, Ceseli Foster, Teresa Quigley, Cynthia Baggott and David Pettus.



Photos by AUBRIE PICK for Drew Altizer Photography



Construction workers install the trellis of the Serenity Roof Garden generously donated by the Solid Rock Foundation.

## Welcome Sharleen

Please join us in welcoming Sharleen Harty as Director of Development.

Sharleen brings a vast range of Bay Area based development experience. To name a few, Sharleen has been the Development Director and Major Gifts Officer at Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency, Options Recovery Services and the Berkeley Food and Housing Project. Her studies in world languages at the University of Cape Town, South Africa and growing up in Africa influenced her decision to serve the poor, hungry and disenfranchised in the Bay Area.

Sharleen is delighted to return to San Francisco and to be working at Mount St. Joseph - St. Elizabeth where she volunteered with the Epiphany infants from 1989-1991.

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Sharleen Harty, New Development Director | Patsy Vincent, Former Development Director | Alison Jackson, Communications Coordinator

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## MSJ-SE gratefully acknowledges all our donors.

We have listed donors for the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. If we omitted or misspelled your name, we apologize and ask you to bring it to our attention. We are thankful for every gift!

## EPIPHANY PROGRAMS

**Epiphany Outpatient Program** provides intensive drug treatment for women. Women who come for treatment may be pregnant, with children under 3 years or without children. Services include drug education and process groups, individual counseling, parenting groups, health education and life skills groups.

**Epiphany Parent-Child Center** is a licensed day care for children of women in the Outpatient program that provides early intervention for infants and toddlers with prenatal drug exposure. Children receive Developmental assessments and Physical Therapy evaluations.

**Epiphany Family Treatment Program** offers individual and family therapy for children 0-18 years of age. Licensed clinicians provide therapy for children and teens who are experiencing stress due to disruption of family unity, reunification or other traumatic situations in the family.

**Epiphany Residential Programs** provide residential treatment for women who are pregnant, with or without children and for children up to three years of age. The program offers support in parenting, independent living skills, household management, positive communication skills and building a clean and sober network in the community.

**Epiphany In-Home Services** takes parenting support services into the homes of families at risk for losing custody of their child under the age of four. Outreach workers provide support with parenting, early intervention and information on child development. Referrals to appropriate services in the community are made for all family needs.

**Epiphany Pediatric Clinic** is a satellite clinic of San Francisco General Hospital. A Pediatrician and Registered Nurse provide well baby checks, immunizations, sick care, growth monitoring and health education to Epiphany families, former clients and graduates.



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Mount St. Joseph - St. Elizabeth now accepts vehicle donations through the V-DAC Vehicle Donation Program.

This service is free and includes convenient pick-up of your car, truck, or RV anywhere in the U.S. and you will be eligible for an itemized tax deduction for your vehicle donation.

If you would like to donate a vehicle or would like to find out more information please visit our website at [www.msjse.org](http://www.msjse.org) and click on Donate and Vehicle Donations.

## Your Gift May Live on Forever

Many of you support MSJ-SE with an annual donation. Now we have a program to make your gift live on forever through our endowment.

The most common type of planned gift is a bequest made through your will or living trust. Some planned gifts allow you to make a gift and receive an income stream for the rest of your life. When you make a planned gift to MSJ-SE we will honor you by enrolling you in our Legacy Circle. Your name will be listed in our publications and we will recognize you at special events. Of course, you may choose to remain anonymous.

Greg Lassonde, our planned giving specialist with more than 26 years of experience, is available to assist our supporters considering a planned gift. Please contact him with any related questions at (510) 482-1502 or [greglassonde@yahoo.com](mailto:greglassonde@yahoo.com).

## Ladies of Charity

As you can see in this edition of Focus, Mount St. Joseph - St. Elizabeth is fortunate to have many supporters. Among them is a dedicated group of women, the Ladies of Charity. The Ladies of Charity is an international group of women with a mission statement 'to provide Vincentian leadership to women acting together

against poverty'. The motto of the Ladies of Charity is 'to serve rather than be served in humility, simplicity and charity'. Here at MSJ-SE Ladies of Charity regularly come and prepare and serve lunch to our clients. We are grateful for their loyal and tireless service.



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