New shelter now open, keeping people safe

Thank you for making this dream a reality!

“For those who have to worry about their own safety, we hope the shelter can be a beacon of light...”

— Karl Bollingberg, campaign chair
Director’s Voice

CVIC’s new shelter, Mary’s Place, opens this month!

GUEST COLUMNIST LAURA NASH FRISCH

Mary’s Place sends message that ‘you matter’ and the sky’s the limit

When we first learned that we would need to find a new shelter, we asked ourselves, What if our shelter could truly provide refuge in every way—physically, emotionally, and spiritually? What if, from the moment they walked through the doors, clients were sent the message: you matter; your children matter; you deserve more?

Mary’s Place is just that. Imagine a place where adults and kids have the opportunity to meet with a therapist on-site in our dedicated therapy space, where teens can find solace in their very own teen room, where adults can search for jobs and housing on one of the self-sufficiency computers, and a place where survivors can quietly reflect, pray or meditate in the new meditation room.

With the opening of Mary’s Place, individuals fleeing abuse can truly find refuge, rebuild hope, and find the time and space to plan a future where the sky is the limit.

Laura oversees all victim services at CVIC.

GUEST COLUMNIST EDIE DAHLEN

Thank you for making a dream come true for so many in need

Four years ago we launched our Building Hope Capital Campaign to raise the funds to build a new shelter for victims of violence in our community. With your incredible support, we have raised 90% of our goal! I would like to recognize our major construction partners (listed on Page 4) for their significant in-kind support and dedication to this project. We genuinely appreciate the thousands of hours they put into this project, paying attention to every detail to ensure it is the most cost-effective building it could be. It truly is a spectacular structure—both inside and out.

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our steering committee and the generosity of the many supporters on pages 6-7, including the Englestad Family Foundation, Minneapolis Foundation on behalf of Margaret A. Cargill Fund, Mary Newman (after whom the shelter is named), and an anonymous donor, Mary’s Place is now open and will proudly serve all those in temporary need of a safe place to call home.

We still have $261,000 left to raise; if you have not yet given a gift, or find it in your heart to give an additional gift, please go to our website at www.cvconline.org to donate to the campaign and help us cross the finish line!

On behalf of our clients, staff, and board of directors, thank you all for making this dream come true for so many in need.

Edie coordinated the capital campaign and the construction of the new shelter.
We are so incredibly grateful to many more capital campaign supporters listed on pages 6-7, including Mary Newman, who made a generous contribution that gave her the opportunity to name the shelter Mary’s Place.

**Construction Partners:** We are grateful to these community-minded businesses for all of the time and materials they donated to the shelter: AE2S, Construction Engineers, LG Architecture, Custom Ave, C.L. Linfoot, Luneruth Plumbing & Heating, Bergstrom Electric, and Widseth Smith Nolting.

**Interior Design:** We so appreciate Twila Bollingberg of Transformations by Twila, who literally transformed our shelter into a beautiful and healing space – and the staff of Construction Engineers, which painted lovely signs to decorate the shelter.

**Specialty Rooms:** We are grateful to these amazing teams, which spearheaded a community shower to furnish the shelter: Yvonne Gomez and Gregg Halverson, Brad and Marcia Wehe, and Jonathan and Emily Holth.

**Shelter Shower:** Thanks to this amazing team, which spearheaded a community shower to furnish the shelter.

**Coordinating safe passage**

**Quiet arrival at CVIC’s shelter**

When Brittany and her three young children arrived at our shelter, you could hear a pin drop. Ashley, Grace, and Danny were almost too quiet, as if they had been terrified into silence.

In fact, they had been on the run from their dad, who had kept the family isolated in their home, enduring his rage and abuse. After a brutal assault that left Brittany with injuries, she found a way to escape with all three kids in tow. They fled to a shelter in another North Dakota city, thinking they were safe.

Meanwhile, we supported Brittany as she made important decisions for their lives. We helped her in her search for a job and childcare, and even got her settled into an apartment, assisting with the deposit and first month’s rent. And we provided every resource for her kids to heal from such an ordeal.

**Brittany provides stability for kids**

Brittany provides stability for kids.

Shelter provides safety and healing, putting a song in one family’s heart.

**A song in their hearts**

Sometimes it’s the little things. It wasn’t until she heard her kids singing again (at the top of their lungs) after months of quiet that Brittany knew they were going to be OK. They were safe and free. It was music to her ears.

*All names, photo and some details changed to protect confidentiality.

---

**FEATURES OF MARY’S PLACE**

Mary’s Place doubles our capacity to shelter adults and children in danger, providing space for 42 people at any one time (with an expected 240 people to be served in its first full year). Its creative design will enhance safety and promote healing from trauma.

- **Enhanced security system**
- **Nine bedrooms**, including 5 family suites and 4 single suites, with small kitchenettes to allow private time to heal.
- **Open floor plan** in kitchen/dining/ living areas to increase supervision of children.
- **Children’s playroom** with toys and games.
- **Teen room** to allow youth a place to relieve stress and recharge.
- **Meditation room**, generously furnished by Kevin and Amy Muiderman to give residents a quiet place to reflect, meditate and pray.
- **Exercise and therapy rooms** to promote physical and mental health.
- **Self-sufficiency rooms**, equipped with computers for clients to seek housing and jobs.
- **Beauty salon**, generously provided by Avant Hair & Skin Care Studio.
- **Outdoor patio and playground**, with a security fence surrounding the yard.
- **New family advocate**, who will work closely with clients to connect them with medical care, housing, employment and social services, to provide parenting support, and to ensure their needs are met.
- **Foster care program for pets**, in which the Humane Society will place a pet with a CVIC foster family while the client is in shelter.

49% INCREASE in people sheltered in the first 6 months of 2017 compared with the same period in 2016, from 86 to 128

80% INCREASE in adults and children sheltered since 2010, from 103 to 185 in 2016

50% OF CHILDREN sheltered are ages 0 to 5, vulnerable to the impact of trauma on their developing brains, increasing their risk of academic failure, drug addictions, long-term health problems and suicide.
Shelter completed, but few more bills to pay

Thanks to the incredible generosity and compassion of our community, Mary’s Place is finished. But we still have $261,000 to raise before we cross the finish line of our campaign. “If you haven’t yet given or are able to make an additional gift, would you help us meet this need?” Director of Community Investment Edie Dahlen said. “By investing in our shelter, you will provide safety for those who have endured violence and give them hope to rebuild their future. Just contact us at 746-0405 or give online at www.cviconline.org. Thank you!”