



THERESA LIVING CENTER

News

THERESALIVINGCENTER.ORG

DECEMBER 2020

Our Mission: We help women and single-parent families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Fundraising Success

Fall STEP UP TOGETHER! Event

While we weren't able to gather in person for our annual fundraising breakfast, we still found a way to step up together this fall. With the help of a \$25,000 challenge grant, we are on our way to reaching our goal of \$100,000! Thank you to everyone who contributed! More women and single-parent families will be supported because of your generosity.

There is still time to support our mission. You can donate online at theresalivingcenter.kindful.com or by sending a check to 917 Jessamine Ave. E., St. Paul, MN, 55106.

Homelessness to Self-Sufficiency

Success stories from our Program Graduates

Visit the [Theresa Living Center YouTube channel](#) to hear our program graduates' inspiring stories.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Mary Maher

Mary Maher was newly retired as the Parent Educator at [Northwest Youth and Family Services](#) when she decided she had a bit too much time on her hands. Already having served four years as a board member with Theresa Living Center, she wanted to be more hands on with the day-to-day operations. Without any hesitation, she jumped right in and quickly became the ultimate volunteer.

"Mary became my go-to person if we needed new bedding, rooms painted, furniture bought, junk hauled—you name it," shares Lucy Zander, Executive Director of Theresa Living Center. "She is always thinking of how to lessen the amount of time I have to put in a project. There are times when she puts in more time than I do!"

Every storage bin, store room and historical file has become a touchpoint for Mary. She has an expert way of

operating and thinks of absolutely everything.



Mary Maher

During her time as a volunteer, Mary has also become the face that everyone is overjoyed to see. She knows most of the participants and her weekly visits often mean there is going to be some treat or giveaway after the in-service workshops.

While COVID-19 has changed many of the ways we operate, Mary still has been a consistent force for Theresa Living Center. When she's needed to isolate, she takes her laptop with her, along with a to-do list, and continues to get things done.

"Her organizational skills are in full force during the holiday season," Zanders adds. She helps ensure every family has groceries and is adopted for Christmas, while always making sure to take the extra step to honor the wishes of organizations supplying the need.

"So much time and love is put into every project. If you'd like to thank her now, I think she can be reached by email at "Mary...GrantAWish.com"

Thank you Mary for your unwavering commitment to our mission and the work we do. We couldn't make it happen without you.

LETTER FROM LUCY: Whatsoever



Dear Friends,

2020 has been a year of what I call "WHATSOEVER": whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report.

Think about these things. The whatsoever is going to be much of what will help our families maintain their health and safety during these times.

While everyone is trying to get through 2020 there has to be a time of refocusing our minds, our priorities, our emotions, and our way of doing things. It has been a year that is living up to its number — 20/20. From my perspective, as a person that is dependent upon the use of additional optical aides, I have come to the realization that my glasses can help me with the physical sight, but not with all of the unseen things that may be going on without deep examination.

This year, we have been forced into a phase of isolation and have to reckon with ourselves. We have to take a deep dive into who our close family and friends are as we are now crammed into a living space together. We have to also have to take a deep dive and reckon with who could be that helping hand along the way to get us through this pandemic.

The board, the staff and I made the decision early in the shutdown phase that we needed to be there for our families in the form of mental, financial and other resource support. We had to be that encouraging factor to help them keep it all together until we come out on the other side. Sometimes being in the room with ourselves could really highlight that piece of determination to say "I'm in it to win it." Sometimes being in the room with our family and friends could really highlight which person is a great influence in our lives. Sometimes being in the room or space with someone who can be trusted could help me face up to a need or just a want.

At any rate, 2020 has beckoned us to be a positive influence in the world as we think about these things. Think good thoughts and be a positive influence. As a result, we will then help someone else along in a positive, life-changing way.

Lucy Zander
Executive Director

TLC News & Notes

In Memory

Our thoughts go out to the family of **Paul Verret** who passed away on June 29, 2020. Paul was a longtime devotee of Teresa Living Center. Just 4 days before his death, Paul awarded a \$25,000 fundraising match on behalf of the Katherine B. Anderson Fund of the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation. We are grateful to Paul for his generous support over the years. His legacy lives on in our hearts.

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