



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Growing the Mission in a New Home Capital Campaign

WHY IS MALTA HOUSE EXPANDING INTO A NEW HOME?

For 20 years, Malta House has provided a nurturing home environment, support services and independent living skills to over 600 pregnant mothers and their babies. We are the only maternity home in Connecticut, and the need for our services is great.

In Fairfield County alone, there are more than 300 births to unmarried women ages 18-24 living below the poverty line, and that only 20% of women in need who request housing services receive them. The remaining 80% live in substandard or abusive conditions or are homeless. Our new home has more bedrooms and larger rooms than our current location, enabling us to help break the cycle of homelessness and intergenerational poverty for even more young women and their children.

THIS IS A BIG PROJECT. WHY NOW?

Our 20-year lease at our current location is ending and is non-renewable. This presents a great opportunity to find a new, larger home for Malta House to accommodate our growth. We have long wanted to expand our services and increase our capacity to serve more mothers and babies, so this necessary move provided us an opportunity to identify a better location to meet the growing need for our services for another 20 years, and beyond.

WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BE COMPLETED?

Our plan is to have our residents occupy our new residence by the end of 2020.

HOW WILL MALTA HOUSE PAY FOR THE EXPANSION?

A project of this magnitude requires a major fundraising effort, so we are embarking on a capital campaign and ask for the support of you and others committed to our mission to help pregnant women in crisis who have chosen life for their babies. Our capital campaign offers flexibility in fulfilling a commitment over a period of three years, allowing donors the chance to give the significant gifts required to fund the expansion and establish a capital reserve.

WHERE ARE YOU MOVING AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT LOCATION?

Our top considerations were suitability, availability, safety, price and location. After a four-year search exploring both new construction and renovating existing properties, we found an excellent solution in the former convent at All Saints School on West Rocks Road in Norwalk. It is in a welcoming, residential area, conveniently located on a bus line, which is great for our moms. The former convent is ideally configured with spaces for a chapel, community room, large kitchen, dining areas and office space on the ground floor and private bedrooms on a second floor. The building allows us to:

- Increase our residential capacity by 50%, including larger rooms to accommodate moms with more than one child.
- Stay in the Greater Norwalk area where we have built relationships with many individuals and organizations that play an important role in our mission.
- Provide temporary, emergency housing for pregnant women in a crisis situation who may not need or qualify for our Residential Program.
- Gain much needed space for private counseling sessions and group classes.
- Provide a playground and beautiful green space for our moms and babies to bond outdoors.
- Store donated household items until our moms need them. (We currently have to decline donation offers for lack of space.)
- Expand our on-campus services with community partners.

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER A PLEDGE OR GIFT TO MALTA HOUSE?

Your compassion and generosity will transform the lives of moms and babies, help break the cycle of poverty for future generations, and provide the building blocks of a safer, healthier community for us all.

About Malta House

WHOM DOES MALTA HOUSE PRIMARILY SERVE?

Malta House serves homeless, pregnant women over the age of 18 and their babies. Many of our moms have never lived independently. Others have come from unhealthy or fragmented families and lack the example of how to live a life of love and stability. We serve women from all faiths, or no faith, and expose them and their children to the love of God in practice. We provide guidance, support, and a hand up – not a hand out – to women who have a goal of being loving, self-sufficient mothers and are willing to work hard to attain their goals. Through the grace of God and the generosity of our donors, Malta House has had a major positive impact on thousands of lives.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MOMS AND BABIES WHEN THEY LEAVE?

Our residents are always a part of our family. As they transition to independent life, our Partnering Success Program provides ongoing follow-up assistance such as counseling, childcare, housing subsidies and transportation. This program serves scores of Malta House alumnae per year, and often includes support for the educational needs of the children. Our alumnae often maintain the relationships they've built with fellow graduates of Malta House and continue to seek our advice. Much like parents and big sisters, we are their "safety net," and they know we will always love and support them and their children.

HOW IS MALTA HOUSE FUNDED?

Malta House relies on the generosity and compassion of its benefactors. We receive no state or federal funding. Malta House opened its doors in 1998 as an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization and receives broad community support – both financially and through the efforts of volunteers.

HOW DOES MALTA HOUSE HELP THESE YOUNG MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN?

Our goal is to empower women to live independently and provide a better life for themselves and their children. We play the role that a healthy, supportive family would. Malta House offers the following:

- A stable, peaceful, child-friendly home providing financial education, parenting skills, life skills, career opportunities and on-site counseling, followed by transitional and post-residential support.
- Free childcare in a loving, nurturing environment, and screening resources to identify and overcome developmental delays or disabilities.

Guidance and assistance in obtaining pre- and post-natal care, well-baby visits, and other medical, dental and behavioral health services as well as help in following through on recommendations from medical and other professionals.

HOW DOES THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT SUPPORT MALTA HOUSE?

While we are not a part of Catholic Charities, Bishop Caggiano strongly believes in the mission and impact of Malta House. Over the years, the Bishop has attended many of our events, invited our mothers and staff to his residence for summer picnics, and has been a strong champion of our work. The most significant way the Diocese of Bridgeport will support us going forward is through a 25-year, renewable lease at an affordable rate.