

LOVE to SHARE

Others will not care how much we know until they know how much we care.

Volume 41 No. 1 Sharing and Caring Hands Spring / Summer 2025

FROM MY HEART

My Dear Friends,

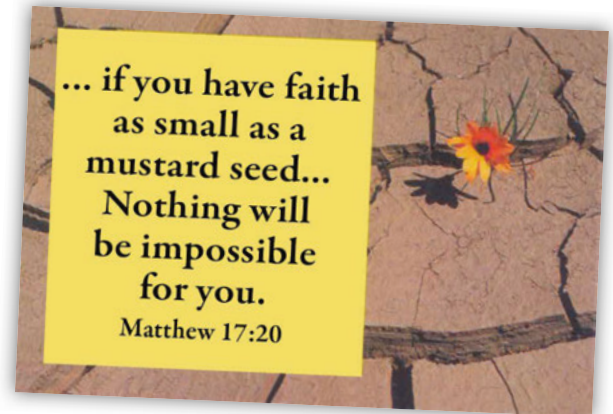
I am so excited about writing to you. Winter is over and I am glad. We had a wonderful, wonderful holiday because of your generosity. Everyone got their wish including all children to adults.

Now I am so excited to tell you about our After School Tutoring Program. The program is helping so many students (about 80 kids each day). Unfortunately, we are turning away several students each day because we just do not have enough tutors. Most are behind in school so really need help with homework and reading. I want to thank the tutors that are already here making a big impact. They are setting goals with the kids and they are catching up to where they should be because of the extra support they are receiving. We just ask that tutors come 2 hours a week so please consider signing up to help the children.

The next thing I hope to see is more dentists and dental hygienists who can give just a little of their time to help provide extractions or teeth cleanings for our Dental Clinic. There are so many people that are not taking care of their teeth or unable to care for their teeth. It has been so hard because I do not want to turn anyone away especially when they are in pain but at this point because of not having enough volunteers we have to. So if you are a dentist or dental hygienist reading this we would love your extra help. Or if you know someone – please tell them they will go straight up to heaven if they came to help! Thank you to our current volunteers there now. A special thank you to Bill Hoffman our oral surgeon, our general dentists Tracey Charles, Todd Marshall, and Gary Williams, and Carol our Dental Coordinator.

Finally school will be out soon. We will do field trips for the kids then before we know it we will need to collect backpacks and school supplies for the end of the summer. Have a happy and safe spring and summer. Until we meet again, I will keep you in my heart and prayers. I am forever grateful for your wonderful support and the difference that you are making in so many lives. You will never know until you get to heaven. May God bless you all!

Yours In Christ,
Mary Jo Copeland
Founder & Director of Sharing and Caring Hands





STAFF SPOTLIGHT : MAI

"Growing up in Minneapolis, my bus would pass Mary's Place, and each time I would curiously think, *What goes on in there? Who lives there?* It wasn't until middle school I learned Mary's Place was a shelter where homeless families could call home until they found more stable housing. After teaching in South Korea for 2.5 years, I knew I wanted to work for a non-profit focused on helping the community. Mary's Place came to mind. I saw on their website they were hiring so I decided to give it a try. 4 months later, I'm still here, working as a Family Advocate and Classroom Assistant. My favorite part of the job is getting to know the children and interacting with them daily. Despite having experienced many challenges at a young age, they remain resilient individuals, absorbing

and processing the world around them in the safe haven provided by Mary Jo. Mary Jo is not only a valued community member but also a protector, serving as a mother or grandmother figure to many. When all hope seems lost, she is there to lift you up and help you get back on your feet. She is willing to take chances and offer opportunities to those who may appear undeserving by societal norms."

MEET ARCHIE & FAMILY

The Florida Department Of Children And Families contacted Archie to come get his young daughters (who had been bouncing around from place to place or sleeping in a car with their mother). At the time, he was living with his aunt. He brought the girls back to her house and he made a plan to move to Minnesota with the money he had saved so the three of them could have a fresh, new start. When they arrived here, he thought he could stay with his sister until he could get on his feet, but that fell through. His sister connected him to a local church and the pastor let them sleep there a few nights. The pastor called Sharing and Caring Hands and said he was sending a family in need. When they walked in, Archie remembers Mary Jo saying, "Come in! I'm going to help you!" Archie says, "When Mary Jo welcomed us it was like the doors of heaven opened. All of a sudden we had a beautiful apartment and everything was now going to fall into place." Archie got both girls into school and daycare, he has rebuilt his savings, joined the church choir, is job searching, and had an interview for affordable housing. Archie says, "Mary Jo is my mother. She is amazing, so helpful, and wonderful. I wish there was a place like this in every state!"



Archie, Maryam (age 6), & Martha (age 4)



HOUSEHOLD DONATIONS NEEDED!

Please donate new or gently used (but in great condition)
Dishes, Pots/Pans, Towels, Washcloths, Sheets, Blankets





Though these letters are directed to Mary Jo and the staff, we share them with you to show the impact your caring love and generosity have on the lives of others.

LETTERS FROM THE MAIL BAG

Good Morning!

I want to pass along a sincere thank you for making Mary's Place such a welcoming place. One of my students and their family is experiencing homelessness right now and have been staying with you. I was talking with the student and their face lit up speaking about there. During a time in which I know this child is struggling, thank you for the love and support they are finding with you.

Shawn W, 4th Grade Teacher in St. Paul

A Poem Written By Mary's Place Teen,
Sumayo A (age 17)

H Home is where love begins to grow
O Open hearts that always show
M Memories made, both big and small
E Everlasting warmth – home has it all

Hi Mary Jo,

I just wanted to say thank you for everything. I was the single father of 3 that stayed at Mary's Place a few years ago. Thanks for letting us stay and everything you did for us. I now work for Minneapolis Public Schools as a Special Education Assistant. If you ever need help with anything, I will do it for you!

God Bless, Tim D

Posted On Facebook :

"I love Mary Jo. She helped me get sober and saved me."

"Mary Jo helped me and my children escape a domestic situation. We are all well and live in Colorado now."

"Mary Jo is Minneapolis' Golden Angel."

"I will never forget what Mary Jo did for me 20 years ago. Thank you for all you do."

"Mary Jo changed me and my children's lives in 2002."



ULTIMATE GIFT

Please consider a gift to Sharing & Caring Hands as part of your will or trust as you do your estate planning. Donations can be in the form of stocks, 401K's, insurance policies, or charitable remainder trusts. Talk to your financial advisor or call Mary Jo Copeland at 612-328-4290.

Regular donations are vital to our work, and many employers will match your donations, thus doubling its value. You can use your Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express for donations to Sharing & Caring Hands. A donation of stock is also welcome and can have great tax advantages. We are a 501(C)(3) charity so all donations are tax deductible. May God bless your generosity!

Sharing and Caring Hands
525 North 7th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-338-4640



Business Hours:
M-Th: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



You can use your Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express for donations to Sharing & Caring Hands.



We also have the option of Electronic Funds Transfer



Want to know more? Visit us on the Web!

www.sharingandcaringhands.org
info@sharingandcaringhands.org

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