

# A Bright Future of Service

## *A journey to independence.*

At the age of 29, Jerrica and her children were living with her mother when she found out she was expecting. Jerrica's mother had a strong emotional reaction to this news, so Jerrica had to move out. She moved in with other family as a temporary solution, but it was very crowded and Jerrica needed more than just shelter to improve their lives.

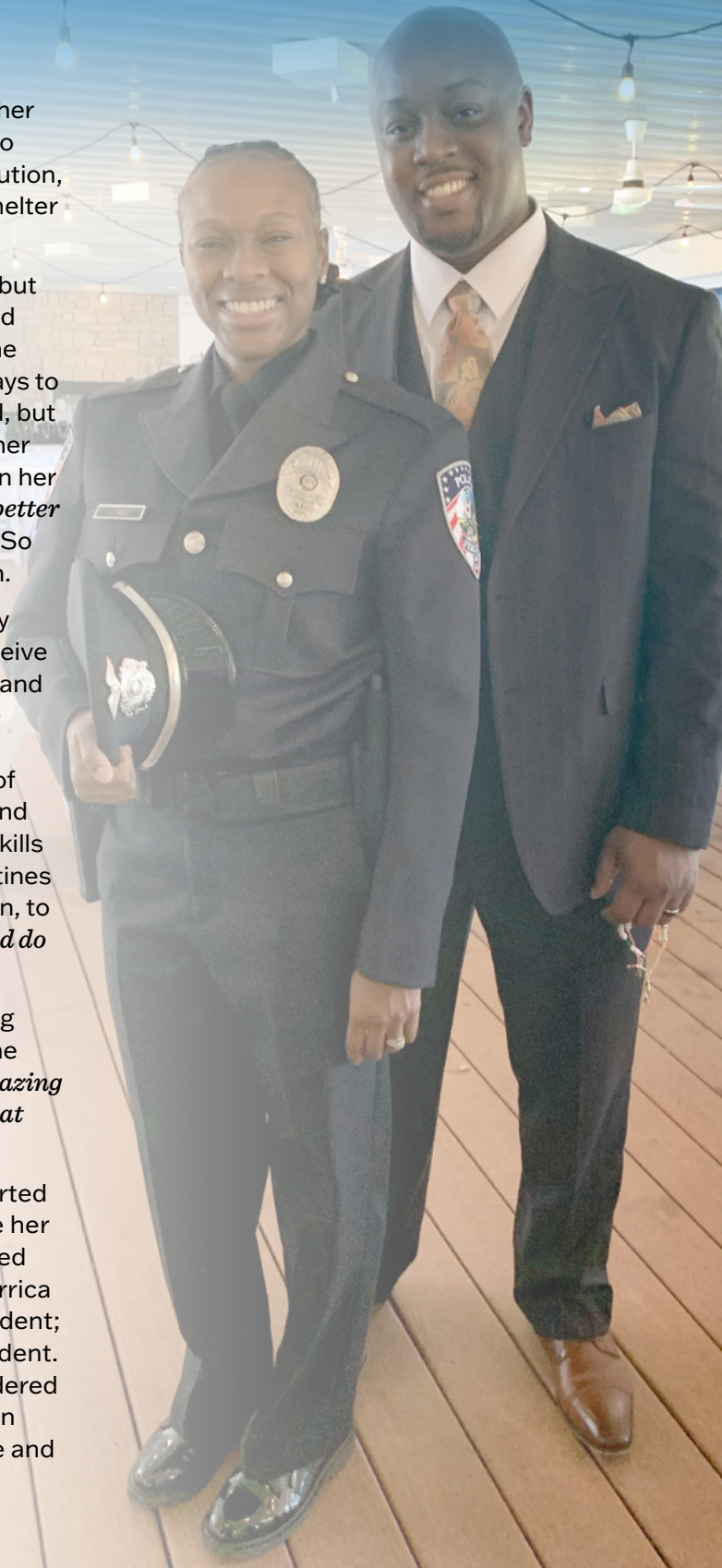
Facing homelessness, she called 211 for housing assistance, but all the shelters were full. Jerrica then called Our Lady's Inn and talked to the Program Director at the St. Louis City home. She was told that she would need to move in within a couple of days to ensure a room. When Jerrica told her mother, they reconciled, but Jerrica sensed that Our Lady's Inn might help her to change her life. She had dreams of becoming a police officer and living on her own. Jerrica told her mother, *"This is my chance to become a better mother, a better person, and to learn how to live in the world."* So when move in day came, Jerrica's mother drove her to the Inn.

Jerrica was happy to accept the expectations of the maternity home and wanted to follow the household guidelines and receive the help offered to her and her children. Then COVID began, and everyone was locked down. The living arrangements became challenging, and her parenting skills felt strained. She even thought about leaving, but the staff offered relief and words of encouragement. With their help, she was able to persevere and take advantage of classes to help learn household financial skills and better habits. Looking back, she recognizes that the routines of their life at the Inn not only helped her, but also her children, to thrive. *"Everything about Our Lady's Inn is incredible. I would do it all again."*

After the birth of her child, OLI connected Jerrica with housing resources and helped her acquire everything she needed. She moved into a place of her own in July of 2020. *"It was just amazing to me that I had these people who weren't even blood family that were there to help me."*

Jerrica remained connected to many of the staff who supported her through that pregnancy. They encouraged her to pursue her dream of becoming a police officer. In 2021, she was accepted at the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Academy. In 2022, Jerrica met her future husband when she was involved in a car accident; he was the responding officer who made a report of the incident. Unfortunately, her progress at the Police Academy was hindered by an injury but that lead her to become a clerk at the station where that same responding officer worked. They fell in love and

***Continues on next page...***



### ***Continued from the cover...***

got married in 2023. Jerrica's four children and her husband's three children fill a home that they bought together the following year.

In 2024, Jerrica found a path back to police training through the Urban Policing Program at Harris-Stowe in partnership with Lincoln University. She began there in September of 2024 and graduated in April of 2025. At the ceremony, she was surrounded by OLI staff members celebrating the realization of her dream.

OLI staff cheered her on and have given advice throughout the years since she lived at the Inn. She knows she can reach out to them anytime she needs encouragement. *"They are stuck with me for the rest of my life. When my kids get married, they will be there."*

Jerrica's children still think fondly of their time at the Inn and, on occasion, ask to visit the staff members who touched their lives.

Jerrica now works for a local Police Department, where she tries to encourage others to change their lives for the better as she serves the community. *"You don't have to be in the same spot all your life; you just need a push. When I got that push, I just ended up going and going and going."* We look forward to hearing about her continued success as a wife, mother, and officer.

### ***Thank You for Celebrating!***

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who helped make Our Lady's Inn birthday celebration so special. Your generosity and kind words mean more than we can express. If you missed any of the birthday messages, go to [ourladysinn.org/birthday/](http://ourladysinn.org/birthday/) to watch some of them now.

Because of you, this celebration went beyond a birthday—it became a powerful reminder of the community that surrounds and supports the women and children we serve every day.

We are deeply grateful to celebrate another year of mission and ministry with you by our side.



### **Message from the CEO**

Forty-four years ago, Our Lady's Inn welcomed our first expectant mother in crisis. She came seeking a roof over her head, a bed to sleep upon, and food to sustain her. What she, and the eighty-five hundred women who followed, received was much more than just these basic human needs.

She found true support for her choice to carry her pregnancy to term. She found connection to prenatal care, education on newborn care and parenting. She was encouraged to finish her education and was supported in that effort. She was given help to secure employment and was provided with all she would need to care for her child following delivery.

This first mother and all those who have since called Our Lady's Inn home, found understanding, not judgment, and encouragement rather than abandonment.

As we mark our forty-fourth year of service to pregnant women in unfortunate circumstances, we recommit ourselves to the same level of compassionate care we have thus far shown these brave women.

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#### **Council of Young Friends**

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*Peggy Forrest*  
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welcome baby

These precious babies were born at Our Lady's Inn between July 2025 and December 2025.

Alonzo  
Elias  
Jaylin

Ma'lani  
Matthew  
Myla

Navellah  
Ruthanne  
Sara

Tatum  
Yamir

## Fall Event Highlights

Our Luncheon for Life was September 25th at Defiance Ridge Vineyard. We were blessed to hear Jerrica speak about her journey to independence. It was a wonderful day with friends, including beautiful weather!

Our Movie Themed Trivia Night on November 15th, held in the gym at St. Monica's, was a ton of competitive fun. Congratulations to all the winners!

**"Thank You" to all the sponsors, volunteers, staff, donors, and participants who made these events successful!**



## Luncheon for Life

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& former OLI Trivia Night Emcee  
Bob and Teddy Garagiola  
Sts. Joachim and Ann Parish  
Pat (the movie guy) and Kathy Hedger  
The Administrative Staff of Our Lady's Inn  
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Find out details  
about the  
campaign online at  
[ourladysinn.org/  
campaign](http://ourladysinn.org/campaign)



Kitchen  
Rendering



Dining Room  
Rendering



Exterior Rendering

# Gifts Given in Memory of . . . July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

**William H. Ahrens, Jr.**

*from:* Barbara Ahrens

**Pearl C. Baker**

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**John Capellupo**

*from:* Sam and Gloria Lee

**Alberta Cardia, Mother of Ten**

*from:* Alfred and Cheryl  
Moellenhoff

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*from:* Betsy Carlsen

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*from:* Carmen Charleston

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*from:* Tom and Nancy Davis

**Ann Marie Lavite**

*from:* Randy and Patricia Adolph

**Sue Lederle**

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**Lemon and Lime,**

**my twins in heaven**

*from:* Wade and Julia Collins

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*from:* Ernest Maddox

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*from:* Anne Marie Foy

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*from:* The Family of Elizabeth Spain

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**Dan W. Steinmann**

*from:* Mel Steinmann

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*from:* Ann Sullins

**Dr. Bernard "Bernie"**

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Mary Roth  
Mark and Mary Vaughn  
John Wahl

**Ken and Mary Wolf**

*from:* Tom and Judy Wolf



**The Board, Staff,  
Volunteers and  
Families of  
Our Lady's Inn Offer Our Sincere  
Condolences to the Families of...**

**John Capellupo**

Longtime Supporter of Our Lady's Inn

**Mary Lucia Hannegan**

Founder and First President of  
Our Lady's Inn Friends

**James E. Howard**

Founding Board Member of Our Lady's Inn

**Evelyn "Evie" Puleo**

Founding Member of Our Lady's Inn



## Gifts Given in Honor of . . . July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

### **All of the Brave Women Who Said Yes**

*from:* John and Cathy Dobrynski

### **Leonard and Dolores Busken**

*from:* Terry Busken

### **John and Mary Ann Capellupo**

*from:* Jack and Carolyn Fogarty

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### **Drew and Maddie Keeven and Family**

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*from:* David and Vicki Keller

### **Ms. Jane Luby**

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*from:* Karla Boresi

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*from:* Mark and Rebecca Niesen

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### **Daniel and Velma Shipley**

*from:* Joshua and Carol Shipley

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*from:* Gregory and Marianne  
Russell

### **Janet Susi**

*from:* Nicholas Susi

### **Adriana Taylor**

*from:* Dave Jockenhoefer

### **Jennifer Taylor**

*from:* Dave Jockenhoefer

### **Elizabeth Tucker**

*from:* Lucy Tucker

### **Unborn Baby**

*from:* Greg and Jan Godfrey

### **Jack and Suzy Villa**

*from:* Matt and Laura Villa

### **Gene and Sally Wagner**

*from:* Jim and Mary Anne Hall

### **Anniversary**

### **Ted and Tricia Davies' 40th**

*from:* Mike and Joan Hannegan

### **Appreciation**

### **Father Joe Kempf**

*from:* Kristin Callahan

### **Father Tom Miller, Our Pastor**

*from:* Tim and Cathy Gansmann

### **Father Leo Spezia**

*from:* Kristin Callahan

### **Birthday**

### **Connie Eller**

*from:* Mark and Jean Flanagan

### **Bea Miller's 90th**

*from:* Ed and Lauri Dick

### **Rich Sartori's 60th**

*from:* Gary and Mary Lee Barron

### **Healing**

### **Heather Cook**

*from:* Peggy Forrest

### **Marriage**

### **Gene Allard and Helen Risse**

*from:* Ron and Cindy Auld  
Bob and Christy Hughes  
Mary Laubengayer  
Sam and Gloria Lee  
Maria Roselle  
Bill and Kathy Winfrey

### **Service**

### **Lydia, she proves that**

### **God's hands work**

*from:* Wade and Julia Collins

# Angel Gala

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026**

**Old Warson Country Club**

For information or to register, contact Kimberly  
at 314.736.1544 or at [kjohnson@ourladyinn.org](mailto:kjohnson@ourladyinn.org).

Or scan code.



### **Guest Speaker Dr. Sam Goodwin**

**Captive in Syria:  
A Test of Faith**

As one of the few people to have visited all 193 countries, Sam's travels took a dramatic turn in 2019 when he was detained in Syria.

His memoir, *Saving Sam*, shares that experience and the perspective he gained from it.

## OLI's Annual Golf Tournament Returns



**Charity Golf  
Tournament**

**Monday, June 8, 2026  
Greenbriar Hills Country Club**

Greater St. Louis  
**Book Fair**  
[www.stlouisbookfair.org](http://www.stlouisbookfair.org)



***Our Lady's Inn is a grateful recipient of  
a grant from the Greater St. Louis Book  
Fair. We thank them for their ongoing  
support of the women and children  
residing at Our Lady's Inn!***

**2026 Greater St. Louis Book Fair  
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Please join us in supporting this wonderful  
community event.



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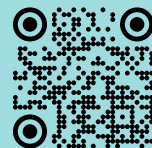
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## Don't Miss Out on the Missouri Maternity Home Tax Credit in 2026

With the increased cap on the Missouri Maternity Home Tax Credit, donors may now claim up to a \$100,000 tax credit per tax year; the credit may not exceed a taxpayer's state tax liability for that year. The tax credit may be carried over to the next year if it cannot be claimed in the tax year the contribution was made.

**To learn about eligibility for a tax credit or to request an application, please call Sandy Rustige at 314-736-1544.**

**Donate  
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**[ourladysinn.org/  
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Donation Amount	\$140,000	\$50,000	\$10,000
Missouri Maternity Home Tax Credit	70%	70%	70%
Tax Credit Benefit For Filing Your 2025 Missouri Income Tax Return	\$98,000	\$35,000	\$7,000
Net Cash Out-of-Pocket	\$42,000	\$15,000	\$3,000

