

*The Quarterly Newsletter of Room At The Inn:
A safe haven and source of hope for pregnant mothers and their children.*



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Local Group Provides Thanksgiving Meals for 20 Room At The Inn Families

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Defending Life On Solid Ground

On Thursday, October 27, 2011 Room At The Inn's seventeenth annual banquet, "Defending Life on Solid Ground," drew 1,037 guests on a beautiful fall evening. The Crown Ballroom, decorated with sprays of pink roses on the tables, offered the perfect setting for our most important fundraising event. Guests were treated to the beautiful voice of Joan Kelley as she sang the national anthem, followed by the blessing of the meal by Abbot Placid Solari.

The "Hero For Life" award, a pro-life scholarship supported by specially designated private donations, was awarded to Joylily Bogle of Waxaw, NC. Joylily was recognized for her



Banquet Guests Mingle at the Pre-Dinner Reception

hard work and years of service as a dedicated volunteer at the HELP Crisis Pregnancy Center in Monroe, North Carolina. The Board of Directors was

pleased to present our annual Monsignor Wellein Pro-Life Award to Tracy Winsor, a local mother and tireless warrior
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Construction Update: Exterior Nearly Done!

Advent and Christmas are upon us and it seems that only yesterday was Halloween! Since our last update, so much has happened at the Belmont construction site. The parking lot and driveway are in, the exterior of the building is almost complete, windows are in and

the brickwork is complete. Now that the roof is on, the building is dried in and the sheetrock is going up as you read this! The only downside is that the big machines are gone from the site and photos just cannot show you how much progress is being made virtually on a

daily basis. If you are out visiting over the holidays, I encourage you to drive by and see the gift that God is giving us all this Christmas. Christmas blessings to you all!

Jannie Wray

Executive Director



**Save the Date:
May 21st, 2012**

Banquet Night Celebrates Pro-Life Champions

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whose focus is on poor prenatal diagnoses. Tracy is a co-founder of the *Be Not Afraid* ministry (www.benotafraid.net),



a network of concerned professionals, parents and laypersons who have experienced and/or worked closely with issues surrounding poor prenatal diagnoses. Tracy readily volunteers her time to provide critical information, services and support to parents after a poor prenatal diagnosis has been made. The many components of *Be Not Afraid* provide encouragement and guidance to the parents as they protect the life of their unborn child. She even stepped in to provide months of compassionate attention and support to a Room At The Inn mother whose baby had a poor prenatal diagnosis.

Our final award was given for Outstanding Service; to Linda Reese, a long-time program volunteer who has helped many moms gain necessary cooking and meal planning skills. Room At The Inn is deeply indebted to all our volunteers, but we are grateful to have an opportunity to share one outstanding story with you

each year!

With a captivating blend of science, faith and humor, our keynote speaker, Dr. Gerard Nadal, Ph.D., highlighted the ways the medical community is often at war with pro-life beliefs. He began his talk with this quote from Msgr. William Smith, former rector and moral theologian at St. Joseph Seminary, "All social engineering is preceded by verbal engineering". He went on to explain that when "the forces of evil change the lexicon, they change the vocabulary. Once you change the vocabulary you can change the social reality." From these introductory comments, Dr. Nadal detailed how that change in social reality is manifested in obstetrics with critical changes in the very definition of conception and pregnancy. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Nadal recog-



Keynote speaker, Dr. Gerard Nadal

"All social engineering is preceded by verbal engineering"

nized his fellow Knights of Columbus for their support of Room At The Inn, pointing out that it is the very call to which Fr. Michael McGivney was responding when he founded the Knights of Columbus over a century ago.

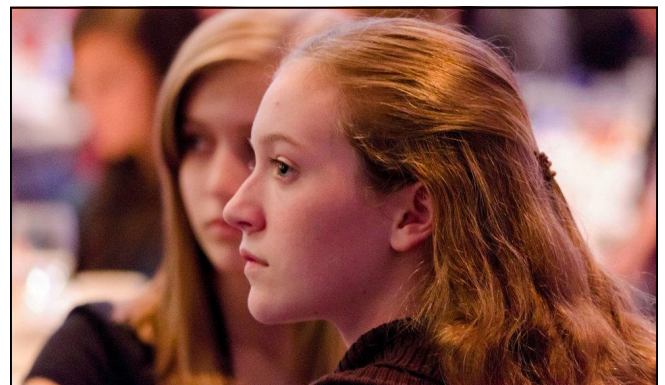
We closed the evening with a few words from Fr. Timothy Reid and are happy to report that the event was a success!

Our Table Hosts brought more new guests this year and we have seen an increase in support from high school and college groups. These young people are already "Defending Life on Solid Ground!"

Mark your Calendar for Next year's Banquet: October 25, 2012

View this year's video at:
www.rati.org

"Hero for Life" winner, Joylily Bogle (left) receives award from Room At The Inn Board Secretary, Catrina Murray.



Banquet attendees, Katelyn Townsend and Nicole Osmera, during Dr. Nadal's address.

Meet the Weekday Program Staff of Room at the Inn

When a pregnant woman makes her first visit to Room At The Inn, she will be greeted by one of our talented and experienced Program staff members. These dedicated professionals combine years of Social Work and practical experience with a warmth that can only come from a genuine desire to help others. If you've never had a chance to drop by and meet our weekday Program staff, we'd like to introduce you now:



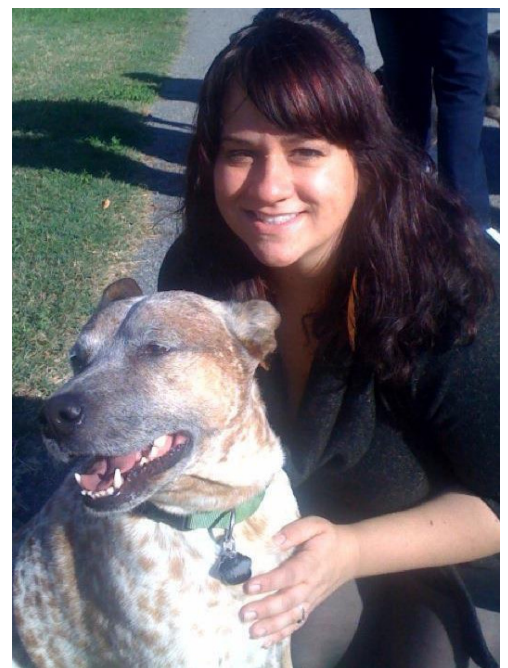
Lucy Rubio

Our Program Manager, Lucia Rubio (Lucy), joined Room At The Inn in 2010 after a 25 year career in the field of Social Work. Thanks to her extensive professional experience and her personal commitment to excellence, she has been a tremendous blessing! In the past year, she has created six new Spanish-language support groups that not only provide critical material assistance and education, they also foster real friendships among the mothers. Lucy also piloted a new extensive Parenting Skills curriculum that has proven to be a huge success! Overseeing both the Residential and Outreach Programs, Lucy also shares her own real-world experience as a mother and grandmother with every client of Room At The Inn.



Diana Toro

Alongside Lucy, is our Program Assistant, Diana Toro. Diana came onboard in September and has proven that there is nothing she can't do! As a native of Columbia, with a Masters Degree in English Didactics, Diana has 12 years of experience teaching both children and adults in a wide variety of settings. Her role at Room At The Inn is vital, managing all of the material donations, coordinating volunteers, providing child-care during group sessions and managing countless other essential tasks. As a mother of two young girls, multi-tasking is a way of life for Diana.



Sara Kauth

The most recent addition to the Room At The Inn "family" is Sara Kauth. With a degree in Psychology from Belmont Abbey and six years of experience in Social Work, Sara has taken on the role of weekday Residential Supervisor and Client Case Manager. In the few short months since her arrival, she has jumped right in with an amazing combination of professional insight and lively charisma. Sara is not only the Case Manager for the residential program, she has also taken on teaching Theology of the Body at the Outreach Center. We like to say that the staff of Room At The Inn must "wear a lot of hats," and Sara looks great in them all! By the way, if you ask Sara if she's Fr. Kauth's sister, she'll just wink and say, "never heard of him," but the smile will give her away!

Room At The Inn Receives 20 More Reasons to be Thankful



John Decoteau has a Thanksgiving tradition that is different than most. Each year he rallies friends, neighbors and sponsors to provide 150 turkey dinners to local families in need. After months of preparation and hard work, the "Carrington Ridge Turkey Fry" starts at 4:00 AM Thanksgiving morning. Mr. Decoteau and his volunteers gather around bubbling vats of peanut oil to fry the turkeys and assemble the meals. This year, Room At The Inn was one of the agencies selected for the Thanksgiving Day give away; and 20 of our families received delicious turkey dinners with all the trimmings. While many of us are taking the day off, the volunteers at Carrington Ridge in Huntersville are busy giving others a reason to be thankful.

At left: Program Manager, Lucy Rubio, with Carrington Ridge Turkey Fry volunteers

A Room At The Inn Mother Shares Her Gratitude...

On a recent Friday afternoon, a young mother knocked at the door of Room At The Inn. She was a former Outreach Center client. However, she had not come looking for help; instead she had come to offer it. In her arms were large bags containing dozens of baby outfits and other items she wanted to donate to current Room At The Inn moms.

Along with the bags, she presented a hand-written letter in which she expressed her gratitude for all of the assistance she received from Room At The Inn.

She is one of many women who came to Room At The Inn this year. We provided diapers, clothing, formula, food, baby supplies, life-skills classes, and professional support to her and 556 other souls in 2011.

The passage to the right is an actual excerpt from her letter. We wanted to share it with our readers and join her in thanking you for making this life-affirming work possible! Together, we can make a difference, one family at a time.

"You may not remember me, but I would like to thank you for helping me when I was in need. The group sessions, clothes and diapers that Room At The Inn gave me helped me very much... It meant so much to me that you helped out when no one else could. Most places didn't even want to help me because I was pregnant with multiples. I know that there are not many resources for women in my situation, that's why I would like to donate these clothes and other baby items. I know they will be put to good use. I have still been looking for a job, but I have a place to stay and food for my children. I have my health and the love of my kids and God in my heart. I believe this is all that matters. And in time, things will get better. I hope all is well with you and the wonderful people who help make Room At The Inn possible!"