

VISTA MARIA

Volunteer News

You protect. You encompass. You embolden. You empower.

Happy fall, y'all!

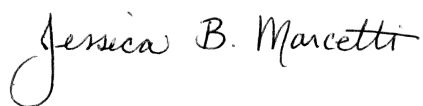
We welcomed the season at the Unshackled 5k/10k fundraiser and it was an amazing day! The cool morning was perfect for running (if you're into that sort of thing) and the warm early-fall sun provided a beautiful setting to connect with other anti-trafficking organizations and advocates. We even had a chance to meet a few of our wonderful foster families and kids!

Now it's time to get ready for some of our favorite festive events and I hope you will join us again this year! We're finding creative ways to give our kids wonderful and memorable experiences, while keeping everyone's health and safety at the forefront. That being said, there is still lots of work to be done and fun to be had!

Whether it's Trunk or Treat, Wish List, mentoring, working in the Boutique, or a donation of any kind-- we really need your help and support in the next few months, as we head into our busiest (and best) time of year!

If you're a returning volunteer, you know what's coming and I can't wait to see you! To our new folks, I look forward to welcoming you into our annual traditions of giving, service, and FUN!

I hope to see you on campus sometime soon!



Jessica Marcetti, CVA
Manager of Volunteer Resources

Volunteer Opportunity: Trunk-or-Treat at Vista Maria



Wednesday, October 27
4pm - 6pm

Trick-or-Treating is a normalizing activity that we provide for our youth during the fall season.

In the spirit of our foundress St. Mary Euphrasia, who was known for sharing candy with the girls she cared for, our staff have traditionally purchased and handed out candy to our residents and they trick-or-



treat at each building.

To maintain social distancing, we have once again moved this program *outside* to a Trunk or Treat format! In addition to our staff, we need volunteers to help pass out candy along our route!

Volunteers will...

- Drive to campus and park along the route
- Decorate your cars, play festive music, and wear costumes if you choose
- Bring candy / treats to pass out – enough for 80 residents
- Pass out candy to our residents!
- Wear a mask

Residents will...

- Dress up in costumes
- Walk around the trunk-or-treat route
- Wear a mask
- Collect copious amounts of candy and have a grand time

Notes on Candy

- Volunteers are responsible for providing candy or a treat for the youth.
- Plan for 2-3 pieces of candy or one treat (such as a bag of chips) per person
- Please, **no gum, peanuts, lollipops, or taffy**
- Please note that many variety pack candy bags have these items in them, so please remove those candies if you use these
- Non-edible treats like stickers or small toys are welcome, but **please have these items approved** by Jessica ahead of time.

This event is rain or shine, but in case of storms, our rain date is **Friday, October 29.**

Want to join the fun?

Contact Jessica Marcetti: jmarcetti@vistamaria.org

Am I Making an Impact?

Shorter, less intensive mentoring relationships can be just as effective. (Yes, really!)

After a youth leaves Vista Maria, their mentors often say to me, "I hope I was able to help them even a little bit", or "I hope she remembers me". I know in my gut what an impact our mentors have in the short months they spend with our kids, but I'm not always sure how to express it.



Thankfully, these scientists have done the work for me. In an [article featured in The Chronicles of Evidence Based Mentoring](#), researchers found that mentoring relationships don't need to be intensive and long-term to be effective. Moderate, strong mentoring

relationships (like those built in the VM mentoring program) are just as effective in reducing delinquency and misconduct, and improving school bonding and academic outcomes.

The takeaway is that there may be a threshold after which stronger relationships provide no additional benefits. In many cases, moderately close relationships may be good enough, particularly when they are balanced with evidence-based interventions (such as the mental treatment youth receive from Vista Maria providers). So don't worry if your mentor/mentee relationship doesn't feel like a profound and lifelong bond. It's making an impact.

Get Ready for Wish List 2021!



What kind of elf are you?

Our Holiday Wish List Program is a fun and rewarding way to make the holidays warm and wonderful for our youth!

Each year, our volunteer "elves" generously go above and beyond by providing stocking stuffers for each young person, fulfilling individual wish lists, and getting everything organized, wrapped, and festive in our Vista Boutique.

Shopper Elf

Grant the wishes of an individual child, or several children, by purchasing all four items on their personalized Wish Lists. Shoppers can expect to spend, on average, between \$200 to \$300 on each child's individual list. This is a great holiday activity for families or groups to do together! **Lists for 2021 will be available in early November.** In years past, this individualized program has filled up quickly, so **please contact me soon** if you would like to participate!



Stocking Elf

Help fill our youths' stockings with extra goodies by purchasing items from our stocking stuffer list. These items can be found at most stores, at bargain prices, and on our [Amazon](#) and [Target](#) wish lists.



Angel Elf

Sponsor the Holiday Wish List Program by providing a monetary donation that will cover the costs of any last-minute items, or for any youth who come in right before Christmas. [Donate Online](#), and select "Wish List" from the dropdown menu. You can also help by providing gift cards to stores like Kohl's, Meijer, Target, and Amazon to help us fulfill last-minute wishes.



Workshop Elf

Our Vista Maria Boutique and offices become the epicenter of holiday cheer every December! You can help sort and wrap gifts, and organize "Santa's Workshop" right here on Vista Maria's campus. Volunteer times are typically 10am – 6pm, Monday-Friday, with a few special weekend opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunity: Dolly Drive

Dolly Drive
Wednesday, October 20
at Detroit Shipping Co.



Our next big event is coming up and we need lots of helpers! This event is a lot of fun and it benefits our foster care and adoption programs. If you are available on October 20, please consider helping out with setup or during the event itself. Contact Jessica for more information or to sign up:

jmarcetti@vistamaria.org

OR Click here to [Sign up on Volunteer Match](#)

Setup (1pm – 4pm)

- Includes setting up tables in the lobby, linens, candles, table tents, banners, balloons, etc.

Event (4pm – 8pm)

- Registration: Help giving wrist bands to VIPs, help guests find their name tags, general helpfulness
- Wine Pull: Hang out by the wine-pull table, sell raffle tickets, and pull wine!
- Raffle Ticket Sales: Roaming with iPads to sell raffle tickets. Will work in pairs. Glow in the dark balloons will be used to identify the raffle sales volunteers.
- Toy Runners: Taking toy donations from the photo booth area to the large box on the stage

You can also support foster families by shopping our **Dolly Drive Wish Lists** on both [Target](#) and [Amazon](#).

These items are all things that foster youth have specifically requested, and you can help our foster families make the holidays bright by providing these gifts for them.

Volunteer Opportunity: Be a Residential Mentor



We currently have **7 youth** on our waiting list who would like to be matched with a mentor.

Mentors must be women, who are at least 20 years old, and can commit to meeting with their mentee on Vista Maria's campus for 1 hour each week.

You can also [view our mentor flyer here](#) for a little more information.

Mentoring one of our residents at Vista Maria is perhaps our most rewarding volunteer program and Tracey would love to chat with you about it and answer your questions!

Contact Tracey Underwood with questions:

Self-Care Corner



Are you on Instagram? If so, you may want to follow @selfcareisforeveryone for more delightful posts like the one above (they also have cool t-shirts). Thank you, Janet Jones, for always sharing great self-care content with the Vista Maria team!

Volunteer Spotlight: Lake Orion/Oxford MAP Community Group



This month's shoutout goes to the Lake Orion/Oxford MAP Community Group for their amazing work at our recent 5k/10k fundraiser!

These incredible ladies provided a friendly and knowledgeable presence at the race while working the registration table and managing our MAP booth.

Not only that, they also worked hard for multiple days before the event to pack swag bags, fold shirts, set up decorations, and so much more.

We are so grateful for their long-time commitment to MAP and the anti-human trafficking movement as a whole!

Dawn Ames, Pam Brooks, and Linda Noaker

Volunteer Swag is Available on Bonfire

Protect, Encompass, Embolden, and Empower:
That's What Vista Maria Volunteers Do!

www.bonfire.com/store/vista-maria

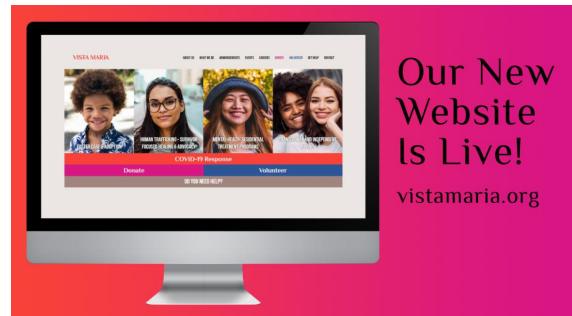
Proudly display your mission of courage, passion, and boundless mercy by sporting a t-shirt (or a sweatshirt, mug, or tote bag) with our Fearless Heart mantra! We kept the prices as low as possible and the profits come right back to Vista Maria!



Check out our New Website!

We recently redesigned our website, so be sure to stop by and see what's new! In addition to our new branding, it also features lots of great information and is (we hope) much easier to navigate and find what you're looking for!

www.vistamaria.org



Stay in Touch!

Jessica Marcetti
Manager, Volunteer Resources
313-271-3050, ext.118
734-552-0237 (work cell)
jmarcetti@vistamaria.org

Tracey Underwood
Mentor Coordinator
313-271-3050, ext.221
tunderwood@vistamaria.org

Janet Jones
Heartmovers Coordinator
313-271-3050, ext.123
jjones@vistamaria.org

Ganelle Lesnew
Donor Engagement Coordinator

313-271-3050, ext.400
glesnew@vistamaria.org

[Click here to join](#) our
Volunteers & Mentors Facebook Group

