St. Margaret's House
Report to the 2005 Diocesan Convention

The year is 2005, which means that St. Margaret's House has been up and running for 15 years! As Director Kathy Schneider was enjoying a well-earned sabbatical during our anniversary month (June) the official celebration will be on November 17, combined with **Fashioning Our Lives**, an annual event celebrating the beauty and talents of the guests of St. Margaret's. You will hear more about this later, and we hope that many will plan to join us on November 17 at the South Bend Marriott.

Additional work is being carried out on the third floor of St. Margaret's as funds have become available. The space is being improved by the addition of a restroom, new windows, heating and air conditioning and fresh — throughout. A wall, currently under construction, will separate the donations area from the rest of the room leaving this space open for a variety of purposes.

Summer is always a busy time at St. Margaret's. 2005 was no exception. On one memorable day, we served lunches to approximately 170 women and children. What did we do when the planned meal ran out? Opened more beans, cooked more hot dogs, pulled out the peanut butter. No one was turned away. Our wonderful interns from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College took our children on field trips to Healthworks! Museum, South Bend Chocolate Factory and the Zoo. They supervised crafts and games. We aim to make the hours spent at St. Margaret's a time of enrichment for both women and children, and our interns, as well as adult volunteers, are involved in making this possible.

Thanks to grants from 'Prevent Child Abuse St. Joseph County", Assistant Director Pat Marvel has been offering two programs entitled "A Child's Place in the Family." The second program is available to persons who have completed the first. This year the grant has been renewed to the extent that a third section has been added, "Building Self-Esteem in Your Child." These offerings continue to be popular with our mothers, as well as with grandmothers who are caring for grandchildren or other young relatives.

Winter Walk 2006 is set for Sunday, February 9 at 2:30 p.m. starting from St. James Cathedral. Snow, sleet or shine, we walk with and for the women of St. Margaret's, many of whom rely year round on their feet for transportation, In each of the past two years we have raised around $42,000, making Winter Walk our most important fund raiser. Come walk with us in 2006 - shall we shoot for $45,000?

Finally, St Margaret's has again been awarded $30,000 in state tax credits under the Indiana Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). This award will leverage contributions of $60,000. Already, as of late September, more than half of these credits have been issued.

We are grateful to all who have supported St. Margaret through the years and helped to make it what it is today. As always, you are invited to visit and see what you are helping us to accomplish. And if you are new to Northern Indiana, you are doubly welcome to drop in and get acquainted. (Mon.-Fri., 10--4:00 in the Petersen Building immediately behind the Cathedral of St. James. It is clearly marked now - you can't miss it!

Kathy Schneider, Executive Director
Nancy Brennen, Board President