



SAINT RAYMOND'S SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

volume 01, fall 2011

FEATURED CLIENT: KIM WILCOX

Kim Wilcox and her son Jeff are just one of the families that Saint Raymond's Society has helped in the past year. Kim moved to Columbia, Missouri from the small town of Monroe City, Missouri after the death of her father. She had been caretaker for him during his illness, and his death hit her hard. During her grieving she realized that she had to move her own life forward in order to heal, so she contacted the Veterans' Hospital in Columbia for employment. Kim had worked there previously; the hospital hired her back as a nurse immediately.

One year after she moved to Columbia Kim learned she was preg-

nant. She decided to become a single mom. Kim is not one to ask for help. She is a spirited and capable woman who takes pride in her independence. However, after her son Jeff was born, and even though she was gainfully employed, she struggled to stay on her feet. Child care was extremely expensive, diapers and other baby supplies for Jeff proved to be costly, and she encountered a few problems with transportation. Her first few months after Jeff was born were very difficult. Kim needed help.

Help came in the form of Saint Raymond's Society. Kim was referred to us and was quickly paired with a mentor. The mentors at Saint

Raymond's Society are volunteers who provide guidance and emotional support. Kim describes her mentor Ginger as someone who listens, lends support, and is a positive influence in her life. Ginger makes regular calls

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Pictured above: Kim Williams and her son Jeff.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to support mothers who have chosen life for their child, taking particular care to continue support after the baby is born. We provide resources mothers and fathers need to become self-reliant and prepare them to give their child the security of a stable home.

WELCOME
to the first edition of the St. Raymond's Society newsletter. In each newsletter we will keep you informed of news and happenings within the Society. Thank you to everyone who has donated time, money, or resources. The organization could not succeed without you!

Partnering with women. Providing resources. Promoting self-sufficiency.



Saint Raymond's Society



and visits and she helps Kim get the things she needs for her son. Ginger brought her much-needed diapers and formula that had been donated to the Society. She has gone so far as to bring books, CDs, and a few Christmas gifts for Jeff. More importantly, she helped Kim find affordable child care and even accompanied her when she went to meet the potential new babysitter. Jeff is now with a child care provider whom both he and Kim adore. Their sitter offers affordable, reliable, in-home day care within walking distance from their apartment.

Kim had a couple of minor problems with transportation. One week she was having trouble getting her car licensed; after Saint Ray's helped fix a few mirrors the car passed inspection and Kim was able to drive it once again. Another week

she was struggling to buy gas. Mike Hentges, one of the founders of Saint Raymond's Society, came to her house and filled up her tank—and checked the oil while he was there, too!

One of the biggest surprises came about 5 months ago. Anyone who has taken an active, crawling baby to a laundromat knows how challenging it can be to get the laundry done while keeping the baby safe and entertained. Ginger recognized the need Kim had for a washer and dryer in her own apartment and mentioned it to Mike. Coincidentally, a donor had just given a washer and dryer to Saint Raymond's. Mike surprised Kim the next day by delivering them to her apartment!

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the year since Saint Raymond's Society began we have helped 16 different families!

We are currently working with 7 women and their children.

A few of things we have been able to give to our clients are:

- ◆ *temporary housing*
- ◆ *rent assistance*
- ◆ *car repairs*
- ◆ *phone assistance*
- ◆ *help with job placement*
- ◆ *diapers, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products*

In addition, our mentor volunteers have given countless hours of support and guidance.

Beyond words... beyond nine months.



Saint Raymond's Society

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These kindnesses have helped Kim immensely. Her stress level is much lower, and she can now worry far less about day-to-day troubles and focus more on her son Jeff. It is plain to see that Jeff is the best thing in her life; it shows in the way her face lights up when he is around. Kim is now back on her feet financially and emotionally. She credits Saint Raymond's Society. If she had stayed in Monroe City she doesn't think she would have found the help she needed for herself and for Jeff. As she puts it, "To come from such a small town and then meet people who are so good to you is mind-blowing." On Saint Raymond's Society: "I want to thank them for their support, the kindness, the caring. I hope that God blesses all of them and keeps them safe. I am so grateful to them for everything.. Words can't describe." ∞

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Visit us on the web www.straymondsociety.com
and join us on Facebook

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LONG TERM GOALS

- ♦ *inspire others and provide a model that can be adapted by them to fit the needs of their community*
- ♦ *open a home to provide 5 to 10 expectant mothers with safe temporary housing*
- ♦ *provide resources to assist mothers and fathers in obtaining professional counseling, if needed*

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