SAINT RAYMOND’S SOCIETY OPENS HOME FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

All too often the women referred to us at Saint Raymond’s Society find themselves with no place to live. In most cases and for various reasons, these women have been asked to leave their current residences and need a place to live until they get their feet on solid ground and have the means for a place of their own. From its inception, Saint Raymond’s Society has had a vision of having a house that could provide mothers and their children with temporary and safe transitional housing. We are very excited to announce that in February of this year we proudly opened the doors to such a house in Jefferson City.

With six large bedrooms, the house can shelter up to seven women and their babies. The ground floor bedroom is reserved for the House Attendant, who resides at the house.

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Attendant supervises the house guests during the evenings and is responsible for maintaining peace and order throughout the home. The remaining rooms are filled by women who are referred to us by a local pregnancy resource center. Because the safety and well-being of the babies and mothers living in the house are of utmost priority, certain requirements must be met before a woman or her children can be welcomed into our home. A mother must be referred to us by a local pregnancy resource center, a written application must be filled out, and a background check must be completed. (Please see the box on page 1 for additional information.)

Once a woman has final approval to move in, she is welcome in the house until she is ready to move into a place of her own. Our mentors and volunteers will continue to guide her on the road to self-sufficiency. We wish to provide her with anything she needs.

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may need to become self-reliant. It is our belief that our house guests also need someone to walk alongside them through this difficult journey in their life. With the help of our volunteers, we will provide the emotional support a guest may need to gain the confidence and skills necessary to provide a stable and healthy life for herself and for her child.

The house offers several amenities that will serve to ease guests through this transitional stage of their lives. It is located within walking distance to a bus stop, which will ease the burden of some of our mothers who have transportation problems. A grocery store is nearby, and there is ample room in the backyard for a future vegetable garden. The house is also currently equipped with a washer and dryer. When a house guest is not attending to her child, working, or actively looking for employment, she is expected to help with routine household chores. If a woman is gainfully employed, we will work with her to establish a monthly budget and she will be expected to contribute monetarily toward the expenses of the home.

When Saint Raymond’s (continued next page)
took possession of the house, volunteers and businesses quickly jumped in to donate time and materials to freshen the space. After just a few short weeks the home had new carpet and fresh paint and was move-in ready.

Saint Raymond’s Society is currently renting the home. We have embarked upon a two-phased fundraising campaign. In the first phase we will look to gain fiscal support from local organizations to offset the cost of the home for a period of three years. Funds raised will cover the cost of rent, utilities, insurance, in-house daycare, and basic household needs. Once these donations are in place, the second phase of fundraising will begin. In this second phase we will collect and save the funds necessary to purchase the house.

We currently have one mother, her newborn daughter, her two older daughters, and a House Attendant living in the home. We are taking more applications and are in the process of screening more guests. We are excited at the prospect of filling the house. We are so thankful and we feel blessed to have this opportunity.

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Visit us on the web
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