St. Raymond’s Society Releases Promotional Videos

Thanks to the time and talent of REEL Creativity, SRS now has two new promotional videos to help spread the word about who we are and what we do. Shawna Scott, of REEL Creativity, heard about SRS and knew she wanted to help. As a recent high school graduate and now college student, Shawna intends to major in video production and chose St. Raymond’s Society for her senior project. The shorter video is a commercial to recruit volunteers and features house guests sharing their needs for more mentors and volunteers. The second video is a longer, documentary-style, video that shares how the Society began and its impact even in its short time serving families in central Missouri. Please visit our website or YouTube to see for yourself!

Shawna Scott has been making films for 5 years and has won several national 4-H filmmaking awards. She launched Reel Creativity in 2012 and specializes in documentaries, promotions and wedding videos. Some of her work can be viewed at www.reelcreativity.com. She is currently a freshman at Lincoln University working towards a degree in journalism. Her passion and dream is to glorify God and inspire audiences through film.

More than just a tax deduction!

All contributions to St. Raymond’s Society are tax-deductible. However, donations over $100 also qualify for a 50% state tax credit! This is how it can work:

Illustration assumes a 39% tax bracket

$1,000 donation
- $500 state tax credit
- $60 state tax deduction
- $390 federal tax deduction
= $50 Out of pocket cost

Illustration of a 25% tax bracket

$1000 donation
- $500 state tax credit
- $60 reduction in state tax
- $250 reduction in federal tax
= $190 net out of pocket cost

Upcoming Dates:

- Deadline to receive 2012 Tax Credit, December 31
- Quarterly Mentor Meeting & House Christmas Party, December 4th.
- Columbia Committee Meeting
Notes from the Program Director

My first several months as Program Director for Jefferson City have proven to be transformational for the program and, more importantly, for the families we serve. With the development and implementation of the SRS Seven Components of Self-Sufficiency plan, our residents are able to assess their readiness to support themselves and their children, and identify areas for improvement.

The self-sufficiency plan focuses on education, employment, personal finance, spirituality, parenting, life skills/wellness, and transportation. Each resident is paired with a trained mentor who works with her each week to establish goals and objectives related to these seven components. So far, the results have been tremendously encouraging! Four residents have obtained their GEDs since July, and every current resident has attended a parenting class and/or is enrolled in the Parents as Teachers program. This very week, two women will begin new jobs they are very excited about! But perhaps the best measure of the program’s success is that three women have recently "graduated" from the SRS House feeling that, during their time with us, they have developed the skills and confidence for independence.

It is an honor and pleasure every day for our staff and volunteers to serve these brave mothers as they transform their lives. If you are interested in helping us with our mission, we would love to talk to you about volunteering. There are numerous ways to get involved including mentoring, meal preparation, providing transportation or childcare, or assisting with moving furniture as women transition in and out of the program. Please contact the office for more information: (573) 893-2067.

Lacy’s Testimonial

Lacey is a new mom. Her daughter Coraline is only 7 months old and in such a short time has completely and overwhelmingly stolen her mother’s heart. This much is obvious; you can see it in Lacey’s eyes every time she looks at Coraline.

Funny, because if you would have asked Lacey about having a family a year ago she would have told you that she didn’t want to have children. Not then, and probably not ever. But then Lacey found out she was pregnant, and her story changed.

Lacey’s story begins in Columbia, where she was born. She did not have a storybook upbringing and was primarily raised by her grandmother. Lacey grew up in Columbia and attended high school there. At this time Lacey met Charlie. They started dating, and in April of 2012 Lacey left school and moved to Steelville, Missouri with Charlie. They lived in Steelville with Charlie’s parents for three months before they found out that there was a baby on the way.

Everything changed in an instant. The girl who said she didn’t want kids felt an immediate connection to her
unborn child. She and Charlie wanted to keep and raise this child.

In October they moved to Prairie Home, Missouri to live with Lacey’s maternal grandmother. They moved there with the hope that Charlie would have an easier time finding work. However, it did not pan out as they planned. There weren’t many jobs to be found in Prairie Home, and in November they moved back to Columbia to look for work. Charlie found steady employment in Columbia, but they didn’t yet have enough money saved for rental security deposits. They had signed up for public housing in January and were saving for that move, but they were on a waiting list. It was March, still cold outside, and Lacey was 36 weeks pregnant.

In February My Life Clinic had referred them to St. Raymond’s Society. When the couple was kicked out of their apartment St. Raymond’s Society met their immediate and most pressing need by providing a hotel room for them for a few days. SRS went on to help them find a place to live that fit within their budget. They helped the couple sort out some messy paperwork that was required in order to rent the apartment, but perhaps most importantly, they provided the mandatory security deposit. St. Raymond’s eased their financial burden a little further by paying the first and second month’s rent as well as the first month’s electric bill. They provided diapers, baby shampoo and soap, clothes for Coraline, cleaning supplies, and some furniture. When SRS found out that Charlie was getting to work every day by riding his skateboard, they helped the couple secure a reliable car for transportation.

The couple is building a stable and loving life for their daughter. Charlie is currently employed at Boys and Girls Town. Lacey focuses on caring for Coraline, but she is also working on her GED. They participate in the City of Columbia’s Parents As Teachers program, and Lacey has been paired with a mentor from St. Raymond’s Society.

Lacey states that they are more than grateful for everything they have been blessed with. She says that without SRS she has no idea where they would be at this moment. She says of St. Raymond’s Society, “They have helped us more than anyone in my life, but not just financially; they gave us hope for ourselves to raise Coraline and that there actually are good people in this world. We couldn’t say enough thank you’s.”

**When I asked Lacey what her favorite part of being a mom is, she answered simply, “Coraline.”**

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Saint Raymond is the patron saint of childbirth, midwives, children, pregnant women, and priests who want to protect the secrecy of confession.
Birth Announcements

Josiah - Born October 15

Lorelei Colleen born Aug 20

A special thank to the Immaculate Conception Leadership Group for cleaning out our furniture storage garage!

Welcoming Emma Benham to SRS! Emma will be the Columbia Program Director beginning in 2014.

Board Members:

Mike Hentges, Co-Founder
Steve Smith, Co-Founder
Shauna Balk, Chair
Kevin Heislen, Treasurer
Mary Chen, Program Director, Jefferson City
Emma Benham, Program Director, Columbia

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Thank you for supporting the St. Raymond’s Society. Whether you would like to contribute financially, and/or with your time and talent, please complete the following form and return to PO box 105554, Jefferson City, MO 65110

Name __________________ Email __________________
Address __________________ Phone __________________

Became a Financial Sponsor -----------------------------

☐ monthly contributor * $ ______ per month
☐ special gift $ _________

* If choosing to donate monthly, a form will be sent to you to set up automatic monthly payment.

Make checks payable to St. Raymond’s Society. All contributions are tax-deductible and donations over $100 qualify for a 50% state tax credit. A charitable receipt will be sent to you at the end of the year.

Volunteer -----------------------------

Administrative/Program Services:

☐ Grant Writing
☐ Legal Advice
☐ Auto Repair
☐ Childcare/Babysitting
☐ Handy man services
☐ Providing Meals
☐ Moving Furniture

Client Services:

☐ Mentoring
☐ Budgeting/Financial Planning
☐ Spiritual Guidance
☐ Health/Dental Care
☐ GED Tutoring
☐ Employment/Job Search Advising
☐ Parenting Skills Training
☐ Life Skills Training
☐ Legal Advice
☐ Computer Training