FROM OUR FOUNDER

It seems like yesterday St. Raymond’s Society was born and, just as a baby rapidly changes in size, appearance, and ability in his or her first years, so too this organization. First of all, I want give credit to an awesome God who initiated and has blessed St. Raymond’s every step of the way. It’s hard to believe where the organization is just six years after inception. We recognize that our success has come from a tremendous team which includes our Board of Directors, staff members, and the supportive communities who have opened their arms to us.

As you read this newsletter, you will find out that 2016 was an amazing year for St. Raymond’s Society as we opened up our third and fourth locations. Our goal has been the same since day one, to offer long term support to mothers who need help as they bring their children into the world. This mission remains the same as our vision of expansion takes shape. With faithful hearts and intentional actions, we move forward to expand God’s reach to the women and children we have been called to serve.

With our goal to grow into new areas, we wanted to reiterate that donations received will stay in the community from which they came. As new St. Raymond locations open, each one will rely on its local community for the support necessary to sustain it.

Words cannot express our gratitude for the overwhelming support we have received in all the communities we have the honor to work in. A sincere thank you goes to all who have helped transform this simple idea into an incredible reality.

Sincerely,
Mike Hentges
Co-Founder / Executive Director
St. Raymond’s Society

BEYOND THE FOOTBALL FIELD

Two mid-Missouri football teams shared their time and muscle to help our local St. Raymond’s houses. Helias High School players mowed, trimmed, and weeded our yard in Jefferson City, and Tolton High School players cleaned and re-organized our storage garage in Columbia. Many thanks to these fine young men and their coaches!
SRS IS OPENING IN ROLLA

As the hometown of co-founder, Steve Smith, and an active pro-life community, Rolla, MO has been a community on the St. Raymond’s radar since our beginning. When we obeyed God’s prompting to expand our services to at-risk families, we were confident that He would help us meet the challenges of launching our 3rd St. Raymond’s Society home in Rolla. It is obvious that our Father went before us, preparing the way!

As we are making our way around the city meeting with key individuals and introducing our program, we are delighted by the responses we are receiving. Every established referral agency has warmly welcomed us into the Rolla Community. In fact, we have already provided services to 12 new mothers, which were referrals from these agencies! Every church leader and congregation have committed their support and assistance as evidenced by almost 1,000 volunteer hours devoted to preparing the House for opening later this month.

We know that many of God’s people are in great need of the basic necessities of life and we are honored that He has allowed us to serve them. We invite you to see first-hand the most fruitful part of our program – our transitional home – where the Seven Core Competencies of Self-Sufficiency are instructed, implemented and achieved.

Watch for our open house announcement on Facebook, Rolla Daily News and local radio stations. If you would like to schedule a private tour for yourself, family or a group, please contact Jane Dalton, Program Director at 573-341-5263

MEET JANE DALTON
Title: Program Director, Rolla House

Previous Experience: Co-founder of the Pregnancy Resource Center of Rolla. The success of this center continues to draw national attention because more than 2,000 babies have been saved at this facility, representing a 99.8% success rate among abortion-determined clients.

Community Involvement: Faculty member of Professional Christian Coaching Institute, Co-founder of In HIS Image Ultrasound which has placed 130 ultrasound machines, free of charge, in pregnancy centers around the United States and in 20 countries. Family: Joe (husband of 19 years), 11 children
Hobbies: traveling, home-educating, hiking and volunteering
SRS recently hosted a Fall Festival for current and past residents of the St. Raymond’s houses in mid-Missouri. Thank you to our volunteers, Beth and Bailey Berhorst, for helping make this very special day possible! We visited a local pumpkin farm where we took a hayride, drank apple cider, ran through the sunflowers, and met lots of real farm animals!

CLIENT PROFILE: Caroline

Caroline is like many of the women we serve at our St. Raymond’s houses in that she faced an unexpected pregnancy and needed help as she became a new mom. What makes Caroline’s story unique is where she comes from and how quickly she had to make her decision about parenting.

As an international student at a mid-Missouri college, Caroline, who speaks five languages, was studying to become an interpreter. She was half a world away from her family and homeland, the island of Vanuatu, when she began experiencing some abdominal discomfort. Nothing could have prepared for the news she would receive when she sought medical attention; she was pregnant and would be delivering a baby any day! Caroline was one of those unusual pregnancy cases where the typical symptoms of pregnancy were not present, and although she saw subtle changes in her body, she was completely surprised to learn she was expecting. The following week she gave birth to a healthy baby girl she named Celina.

“I was overwhelmed at first, but after a few weeks, it was fine.” Caroline explained. In fact, she says being a mom is “a lot of fun!” Because the campus housing she lived in does not allow children, Caroline could not return to the dorm, and wasn’t even sure of she would be able to continue her coursework. With the help of supportive staff at her school, and social workers at the hospital, Caroline was given the name of a local organization who could offer a safe and supportive place for her and Celina to stay while she revised her vision for the future; the St. Raymond’s Society.

“I don’t know where I would have gone if it wasn’t for St. Raymond’s,” she said. “This has made everything easier.” During her time at the St. Raymond’s House, Caroline has been working on getting the documentation Celina needs in order to travel to Vanuatu to meet her family. Caroline’s parents were surprised to hear she was having a baby, but have been very supportive and look forward to meeting their granddaughter. After a visit home, Caroline hopes she and Celina will return to mid-Missouri to continue with her educational goals. SRS staff member, Jessica Luetkemeyer, is working with Caroline to help her find affordable housing and childcare near her school. “Caroline amazes me each and every day with her ability to take any situation or task and tackle it”, explains Jessica. “Caroline is a bright, positive individual, and I know the future holds great things for both her and her daughter.”

FALL FUN!
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
Lacey and little Coraline

# of Years working with her SRS Mentor: 3

Goals met: Earned her GED, Obtained Driver’s License, Working a full-time job

Lacey’s future goals: maintaining her independence, finding good child care for Coraline

Little Coraline’s goals: to become a mermaid

TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE

SRS is certified as a maternity home and that qualifies us for state tax credits of 50% of the donation. Donations over $100 qualify for state tax credits in addition to state and federal tax deductions

Assuming a person or business in the 39% tax bracket;

$10,000 donation
-$ 5,000 tax credit
-$ 600 state tax deduction
-$ 3900 federal tax deduction
$500 out of pocket expense

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
www.SRSHELP.org