All in the Family

“...So it was one of THOSE mornings...the kind where you sit down to breakfast with strangers and end up making some good friends...the kind where you get to see our co-founder Steve doing what he loves most - holding a precious baby...the kind where you feel comfortable enough in a group to share some of your innermost feelings...and if all that wasn’t enough, it was the kind of morning where you get to see a very deserving mom-to-be surprised with a new car! Mornings like that don’t happen all the time at St. Raymond’s, but they DO happen, and for that we are humbled and grateful! What a blessing it was to join our Columbia and Jefferson City houses together today in fellowship!”

St. Raymond’s Society Missouri campuses are starting this quarter with a bang as we develop our collaborative program efforts. The opportunity to build bonds that will last a lifetime is why we call St. Raymond’s – a family. To further strengthen our mission, vision and core values - St. Raymond’s launched collaborative efforts with both the Columbia and Jefferson City programs this October! Staff and Residents started this quarter by spending time traveling to each other’s community to get a glimpse at “SRS” programs throughout the state. Fellowship over breakfast and sharing the 12-Week Bible Studies Series ALPHA was not only pure FUN, but relaxing, helpful and restoring as residents and staff took time to reflect, explore spiritual truths and have good old-fashion “lady-talk” on Friday mornings.

A Legacy Changed – A letter from a former client:

Hi Mike. You may not remember me, but I remember you. I know you and your organization have helped so many people throughout the years, so no worries if you don’t. You helped me and my family (which was just myself and the oldest two kids at that time) when I was pregnant with my third child - the littlest boy in the picture sitting on my lap. His name is Cedric. He is four years old now and doing very well. I have since gotten married (to the father of my older two kids) and we had a fourth child. We went through a step-parent adoption last year for Cedric as well, which was great for everyone. We live out in the Washington DC area now and I work as an organ transplant coordinator. It’s great work and I’m so glad to be doing it. Anyways, thank you to you and your organization for believing that I would be a good chance to take - for believing that I was a good investment. I was incredibly down on my luck at that time and it was such a difficult situation. I couldn’t see my way out of it at the time and we met because I was even considering an abortion. You helped me see there was possibly a way through the situation. And I’m very grateful for that. My family is grateful for that. I hope you are well and that you keep doing the work you are doing.
Volunteer Spotlight - Verlin

“Healthy Meal. Healthy Family.”

The St. Raymond’s Society Columbia home has officially launched a nutrition program for residents. Each month we are joined by our partner Verlin Beam. Verlin teaches awesome courses on how to prepare healthy meals efficiently. Verlin’s style of preparing scrumptious meals includes a dash of love, a shigging of attentiveness and an infusion of nurture as she guides moms on how to manage efficient culinary skills. The recipes and techniques she instills encourages moms to explore healthy meal practices while balancing busy schedules. Her tips have allowed moms to pick up invaluable knowledge on how to maintain healthy nutrition for themselves and families. Verlin introduces recipes that utilize fresh ingredients, promote week-long meal planning and are essentially budget-friendly.

ST. RAYMOND’S IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Hooray for Reva!

When I first moved into St Raymond’s house, I wasn’t expecting very much. I just thought me and my baby would not have to worry about where we would sleep from day to day. I did not expect to receive as much support as I have now. When I learned about the Savings Match Program, I looked at it as a new start for me. I admit that I am horrible with saving money, and I knew this would be a good way to start. I did not have a lot of money because I am still securing stable, gainful employment with the help of St. Raymond’s’ but any extra money that I did receive through working odd jobs and state assistance, I put into savings.
Client Spotlight

“Boldly Brooklyn, Better than Ever.”

“I grew up in a middle class home and had everything I could ever need. Although I grew up in a good home and my parents were married for twenty plus years I had never been real close with them. I had grown up distant from them. My junior year of high school I was told I would never be able to have kids. Since I was told that, I stopped taking my birth control and didn’t have any issues up until fall of 2016 when I found out I was expecting. At that time, I was a Freshman in college and had no idea what to do or if I would be able to continue with school. I also knew once my parents found out that I would not be able to live with them. The main reason was because I was now a mom, and I must learn to suffer the consequence and responsibilities of my actions. So I met with a caseworker to see if keeping the baby or adoption of the baby would be best. We both agreed keeping the baby was best and she got me in touch with St. Raymond’s Society. I now have been a part of the house in Columbia, MO. I am the house mom there and I love it. I also love the small group time and learning we do as a house and how they truly accept me for who I am. I have found a job and have been able to continue my education with a roof over my head thank to St. Raymond’s Society. They have also been just a great support because being a single struggling mother is not easy, I can’t thank the staff and organization enough for all they have done.”

Brooklyn is a phenomenal young woman. She is fearless, poised and productive beyond measure. Since entering the St. Raymond’s home here in Columbia, she has looked forward to the bright future God has had in store for her and never turned back. Brooklyn is a resident that knows where she comes from, where she currently is and where she is going. She constantly challenges herself to new heights and just when staff believes she has settled into a new level of goal-setting and responsibility building – she takes several leaps forward to attain strides in her “Amazing Plan”. Brooklyn is a phenomenal mother, full-time college student earning her bachelor’s degree and full-time employee. She keeps a tight schedule filled with healing steps on her path towards wholeness, success and destiny.

OUR TOWN: Community Partner
The Crossing Church

St. Raymond’s Society thanks The Crossing Church for their partnership and continued support this year! The Crossing Church has supported the St. Raymond’s “One Mother, One Child” Mother’s Day campaign which sought to build stronger relationships with local churches here in our community. Through their “Equipping the Saints” initiative, they further helped share information about services offered to mother’s at most need through the St. Raymond’s program. St. Raymond’s was one of four partners selected to work with the ministry every Sunday in July by setting up a display, sharing more information about SRS and receiving donations. In addition to this opportunity, St. Raymond’s Society has been provided opportunities to speak with members during their Sunday “Baby Boomers” class and their Wednesday night session on Christian Ethics. We want to thank Pastor Shay Roush for working closely with the SRS Columbia staff for these efforts. We also thank Pastor Dave Cover, Pastor Keith Simon and Shelly Mayer for their support and leadership as we work together to care for mother’s and children here in Columbia. We thank all of the members of The Crossing for supporting St. Raymond’s!
The SRS Family keeps growing!

St. Raymond’s Society
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