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-fashioned “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.
Client Spotlight - Alexa

Focused on Healing

As a resident of the Jefferson City SRS House, Alexa is focused on healing; not just herself but others. Following years of both physical and mental health challenges, Alexa had established a network of support including counselors and a DFS caseworker who knew about the St. Raymond’s Society. It was obvious that Alexa was on her way to becoming self-sufficient, but she lacked one of the most basic necessities for survival and success; stable housing for herself and her two year old daughter, Lillianna.

Alexa explains that the St. Raymond’s House has provided “a positive environment with lots of support” that is enabling her to focus on her goals. “I had nowhere to go”, she says, but after just a short time as a resident she and her daughter are feeling a sense of peace. Alexa says the structure and consistency of the SRS program are the greatest benefits. “When you’re out in the real world you have to do all these things on a daily basis anyhow so it’s nice staying in a routine”. Right now Alexa’s routine includes being a full time student in massage therapy. She will graduate in March and is looking forward to a career in holistic healing. She was drawn to this field because of her own experience with chronic back pain and explains, “I’ve found less invasive ways to deal with my own pain” and she wants to combine this knowledge with her desire to care for others.

As Alexa prepares for her future she is also working on financial goals. She has diligently saved money and recently was awarded with the dollar for dollar match our organization provides when a resident reaches $300 in savings. She also recently participated in a personal finance workshop offered at the SRS House. “Alexa has a clear vision for her future and understands exactly what she needs to do to be successful” explains Program Director, Mary Chen. “Everyone around her is inspired by her focus and her enthusiasm!”

Save the Date!

4TH ANNUAL SHINE EVENT

Tuesday, March 6th, 2018
5:30-6:30
MILLBOTTOM EVENT CENTER, JEFFERSON CITY

A spectacular evening of live music, great food, and inspiring stories of single moms transforming their lives with the help of St. Raymond’s Society.
MORE INFO TO FOLLOW

All proceeds benefit the St. Raymond’s programs in Columbia and Jefferson City
A Beautiful Place to call “Home”

“Transformation” is a word often used in association with the clients of the St. Raymond’s Society, but right now it is also being used to describe the place they call home in Jefferson City! Through the generosity of local donors, some very committed volunteers, and a local business with a heart for community service, our home of six years is undergoing a major facelift. “When we first opened our doors, we gathered used furniture and donated household items to make the house functional”, explains Program Director, Mary Chen. “A team of local decorators donated their time to create a comfortable and inviting space with our second hand furnishings, but time had taken its toll on what we started with and we knew it was time for a renovation. We merely put the word out, and the community support was overwhelming!” Blessings of time, talent, and treasure all combined to transform the living room, family room, and all five bedrooms. “We had a group of volunteers from First Christian Church come in and paint for us, and a group of Target employees who came in and assembled furniture” says Chen, “and we were especially fortunate to win a ‘Room Rescue’ contest from the Schaefer House”. Susie Hinds, owner of the Schaefer House, a local home décor and gift company, selected the St. Raymond’s House living room for a makeover because “After having three kids of my own I just really feel like it’s such a sad thought that somebody doesn’t have the support network to help them, and I know that St. Raymond’s is doing that for so many women that need a safe haven. It’s just a great opportunity to share our gifts with others.” The new living room is the first place you see when you enter the house and it really sets the tone that you are entering a special place! Thank you to everyone who helped make our transformation possible!

Susie Schaefer Hinds after the completion of the St. Raymond’s House “Room Rescue”
The SRS Family keeps growing!

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