Mother’s Day
A Message from Co-Founder, Mike Hentges

As I gain more perspective in life, I grow in my appreciation of Mother’s Day and the heroes that it celebrates. It seems that a “Mother’s Week” would be more appropriate for the role that a mother plays in the lives of her children.

Through the life experiences with my own mother, my wife’s mothering of our children, and the mothers I have had the honor of meeting through St. Raymond’s Society, I have a deeper appreciation of those that are blessed to carry this most distinguished name of mother.

I’m not sure how to fully express those feelings through words, but I will attempt to in this simple poem, expressed through the eyes of a child. Maybe what I would have said as a youngster if I could, but wasn’t able to until now.

Mom,

Our time together started in a most special way,
Days I don’t remember, yet the bond is here to stay.

Early memories I have were made by your side,
Walking hand in hand, you my trusted guide.

You work in many ways to make sure I am clothed and fed,
You comfort me when sick, and make sure I’m tucked in bed.

When we’re together, you make sure I’m safe and in good care.
Even when we’re apart, your concern for my well being is there.

As time moves on, there will come a day with distance between you and I,
Though space can separate us, our connection cannot be denied.

And just like in the beginning when I was carried by you,
Now I in turn, carry a piece of you and pass on a love so true.

Happy Mother’s Day
SHINE: Columbia's 1st Annual SHINE Event

This year St. Raymond’s Society – Columbia was excited to host our first SHINE event. SHINE is an annual celebration and fundraiser to help sustain local programming and services. During SHINE, inspiring stories are shared of SRS single moms and their success celebrated. SHINE is a drop-in style event with complimentary appetizers and beverages. Admission is free but good will donations are encouraged each year as St. Raymond’s Society sets a goal to raise at least $150,000 to sustain each home in mid-Missouri. This year’s event was a great success thanks to our supporters, friends and donors. Thank you so much to everyone who came out to celebrate with us and support the SRS mission as we grooved to great, live musical selections shared by “No Boundaries Band”. Special congratulations to our 2019 Shining Stars, Torrianna Hardiman and Amber Barnett for graduating from the Columbia residential program. Special thank you to Lana, owner of Art and Soul Photography for capturing beautiful event highlights and Stephens College for hosting the lovely evening.

OUR TOWN: Moms participate in the UCB Transformation program!

St. Raymond’s Society Columbia is excited to continue our community partnerships. This spring moms had a great time working on life planning, goal and vision setting with Executive Director Damien Dean of the United Community Builders “Transformation Program”. Damien worked with moms to set a course for destiny as they discussed their goals for success. The Transformation Program is a faith-based job readiness training program for individuals entering or re-entering the workforce. The program balances career exploration and attainment, while providing tools for healthy parenting, life-balance and communication.
Her Story: 
Meet SRS Resident Torrianna

“Dear St. Raymond’s Society...Thank you for all you help to let me transition into my own place. Saying thank you feels like it’s not enough, but that’s all I can think of to say...I am saying thank you for everything your company has helped me accomplish. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you for everything your company has done for me.”

St. Raymond’s Society is excited to introduce one of our latest alum residents, Torrianna. “Tori” came through the Columbia doors with twin girls not yet one year old. Humble and ready to embark upon her next steps, Tori reached out to St. Raymond’s Society for help. Homeless, unemployed and with no where to turn she was approved for residency, and after just a few days of personal time and healing she sat out to quickly begin working on “My Amazing Life” goals. In a short time, Tori earned her driver’s license, completed required counseling and began working with a local program partner Job Point. Tori has secured her very own housing, works daily in temporary employment and has even greater plans of being reunited with her other children currently living in St. Louis, MO with immediate family. Tori was an amazing resident who did not let anything stop her. We were excited to honor Tori as a recent graduate at this year’s SHINE event. As Tori accepted the honor, she cried tears of joy and thanked everyone for supporting her journey towards self sufficiency.

MY AMAZING LIFE: It’s A Match! Budget & Finance Goal Accomplished at St. Raymond’s

Congratulation to mom Kate for meeting her savings match goal this spring! Kate, who works full time, is a new mom of the beautiful miss Georganne. Kate had a major goal this year of saving enough money from her paychecks to afford to move into her new place once she secured housing. We are excited that Kate exceeded her funding goals and is able to benefit from the St. Raymond’s savings goal match program. We are also excited to share that Kate will be using her savings to move into her new residence May 2019. Way to go Kate! We are super proud of you and all of your hard work.

OUR TOWN: 
Tolton Students Still Going Strong!

St. Raymond’s Society is excited about all of the amazing volunteer and service projects happening as we wrap up our final phase of renovations for the Columbia home. Special thank you to Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School House of Gonzaga for helping organize our supply and storage spaces. Job well done! We are so grateful to be the house partner charity and love working with these awesome students. Thank you to St. Raymond’s administrator Jami Hentges for coordinating service projects for the students with the staff at Tolton High School. We appreciate you!
St Raymond’s Society is more to me than just housing for single moms. They are family. They guided me through the dark tunnels when I lost my babies for 5 months. They helped me get them back. They provided me with the tools I needed to succeed in life. They provided me with housing, food when I couldn't get my own, a car, and a mentor who helped me get my license. So if you’re in there and you see this, please take it serious. Let them help you. You can do this! If you’re in a dark place just know St Raymond’s is your light!

St. Raymond’s let me know I wasn't alone. I wouldn’t trade life right now for anything. I’m happier now than what I’ve been in a long time...a long time.

I moved out to my own apartment and I was able to pay two months’ rent, my deposit, and a couple of my first utility bills all with money I saved at St. Raymond’s.

### Our Tax Credits

**A Great Return on Your Donation**

Any donation to St. Raymond’s Society over $100 qualifies for Missouri State Tax Credits. The chart below demonstrates the power of these tax credits.

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**HERE’S HOW IT WORKS:**

50% State Credit + 6% State Deduction + Federal Deduction

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