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
A Second Chance Leads to Success

Being a part of the St. Raymond’s program takes courage and commitment to make the necessary changes to reach one’s full potential. Sometimes we have residents who discover they really aren’t ready to do the hard work of transforming their lives, and they choose to leave our program sooner than we would have liked. But the story often does not end there. We make a point to tell our moms that once they are a part of the St. Raymond’s Family, they are a member for life! Wendie Messer took those words to heart. Three years ago she spent a brief time living at the St. Raymond’s House, and chose to leave early. Several months ago though, she reached out to us again and said the only two words that really matter: “I’m ready”. She joined our new Community Client Program, which is designed for moms who already have housing but need support and accountability in other areas of their lives. Wendie met with Client Success Coach, Jessica Luetkemeyer weekly for several months and this story has a very happy ending! She is now employed full time, managing her finances responsibly, and most importantly to her, she is ready to be a devoted mother to her children. Jessica believes that Wendie has set herself up to be a success by the commitment she has shown to her goals. “Wendie has grown in her relationship with God, and her faith has given her the strength to persevere”, she explained. Wendie was recognized as our 2019 Shining Star at our recent SHINE event, and we are so proud of this amazing young lady!

Thank You for Helping Us SHINE!

Our 5th Annual SHINE event was held on April 9th at the Millbottom. With God’s help, and the awe-inspiring generosity of the Jefferson City community, we celebrated a record setting year:

- Offering services and support to our 500th single mom!
- Hitting a new benchmark of SEVEN self-sufficiency goals achieved on average for each resident!
- Exceeding our fundraising goal!

Thank You for Helping Us SHINE!
A group of Junior High students from St. Peter’s School in Jefferson City toured the SRS House recently and presented us with a check to purchase a much needed new dishwasher for our residents! This was the largest group to ever tour the house, and our staff was so impressed with their insightful questions about the women we serve. The students partnered with Chick-Fil-A on this fundraiser, and we are grateful to all who participated!

Another SRS alum has earned her college degree! Congratulations, Alex and family! Nothing makes us more proud than seeing the seeds planted at the St. Raymond’s House coming to fruition! Your grit and determination are inspiring!

“Thank you to St. Raymond’s for pushing me to start by getting my GED. I wouldn’t be here without your love and guidance!” – Alexandria Allen

Baby Boom! We have three new residents at the Jefferson City SRS House, all of whom are expecting babies soon. Please keep these moms, and their precious little ones, in your prayers!
Sheri

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!

Rita

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.

Brooklyn

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

St. Raymond’s Society
PO BOX 105554
Jefferson City, MO 65110