



St. Raymond's
S O C I E T Y

FALL 2018 | SRShelp.org

What It's Like

A Message from Co-Founder, Steve Smith

In 1998 a song was released by Everlast that has haunted me to this day. The song is entitled "What It's Like". It tells three stories of people going through trying times. The singer asks us to put ourselves in the shoes of each of the people and their situations. Here is part of verse two:

"Mary got pregnant from a kid named Tom that said he was in love
He said, "don't worry about a thing, baby doll I'm the man you've been dreaming of." But three months later
he say he won't date her or return her calls."

There's obviously a fourth line but I didn't print it. Honestly because the emotion expressed is raw. As it is with people who find themselves in these situations. This young women finds herself in an unimaginable place. She's alone, pregnant, and rejected.

After 8 years of hearing the stories of women who have come to St. Raymond's Society, I may not be able to "walk in their shoes" but I understand better than I ever could have before meeting these amazing women. We want to be the people that understand and help them through a process of first coming to terms with their current situation. Second we want to be there to help them transform their life and that of their children. Over the last 8 years we have helped the women do both of those things. Our services are expanding. We are doing more work in the communities with women who don't need to be in one of our homes. Oh, our houses stay full, we've just expanded. That's what your generosity helps provide.

Let me finish with a different story than the one the song represents. I attended a presentation for St. Raymond's at a friends home. It was a way to educate the public on what we do and to raise funds. We had one of the women who lived with us for several months there to present. When we were almost done a question came from one of the guests. The question was "Do you know of any cases where an abortion was forgone because of our work"? In unison our speaker, two St. Raymond's employees and myself all said at once "YES". I gave a couple of examples. Next our young mom who had been with us (whom I'll call Sarah) shared a story. Recently a friend of Sarah's discovered that she was pregnant. Because this woman already had an older child, she was ready to abort. Our fearless ex-resident Sarah told her friend that abortion was not the answer. Sarah explained to her friend how much she would regret the decision. But it wasn't just talk. Sarah helped her friend resources in the community. Sarah, had been there. She knew how to help. Sarah introduced her friend to St. Raymond's Society. She wasn't able to move into the house because of the older child. However we are helping her with our outreach program. Then Sarah ended with "and my friend had her baby on August 15th and she couldn't be happier". Sarah's friend will be aided. She will make it. We rejoice with her in the birth of her baby. We rejoice that a young woman who had been in the same situation a little over a year stepped up. We rejoice that we have supporters like you to make these transformational dreams come true!



The Table of AWESOME

Your SRS moms were VIP guests at the Pregnancy Resource Center of Rolla's 12th Annual Banquet. Four moms and their five sweet babies were seated at a front table which was *rightly* nicknamed by the event host as - "**The Table of Awesome**"!

Two of these courageous mothers impressed the 450 banquet attendees by openly sharing their stories and how St. Raymond's Society has impacted their lives and the lives of their children.

Faith bravely shared her heart felt story that led to her becoming a pregnant, single, homeless woman at the age of 21. She candidly shared her experience: from her first joy and excitement of discovering she was a mother to the overwhelming heart-break of **her fiancé demanding she abort their baby**.



Another VIP guest, Congressman Jason Smith, couldn't resist visiting **The Table of Awesome** and playing with all of the babies.

**Watch Faith's entire story
check out the video at srshelp.org
or FB page at [StRaysRolla](https://www.facebook.com/StRaysRolla)**



Faith and her sweet baby, Noah are joined on stage by Joseph Dalton, Executive Director of PRC of Rolla.

Faith identified, "**Moving into St. Raymond's House was the turning point in my life.** I was given this golden opportunity to become the person God created me to be and I took full advantage of it!

In less than a year's time, I went from a homeless, pregnant, part-time waitress to a breastfeeding mom, a college graduate, employed in my field of study, with a 401k, a business owner and MOST IMPORTANTLY, I became a baptized Christian!"

If you are the kind of person who likes to give a *"hand up"* rather than a *"hand out"* then St. Raymond's Society is the perfect fit for your giving!

Give online @ srshelp.org or mail your check today: St. Raymond's Society, PO Box 14, Rolla, MO 65402

Education is KEY

Single mothers who have inadequate education, or who lack job skills cannot achieve self-sufficiency wages without first addressing her education and/or job training – **so that is right where our program begins.**

SRS mom, Zuleima shared, "I've always wanted to continue my education, but it wasn't possible before now. I had to work two jobs just to be able to pay all our bills so I didn't have time to go to class and to study. I thought that was the way I would have to live the rest of my life, always barely scraping by.

But living at St. Ray's, I have time for school, because I only have to work one job! I am eager to accomplish my education goals and begin my career.

It feels good to have people that want you to succeed and believe you can. I feel so blessed to have this opportunity! And I am making the most of it!"



Several times a week, this is a common scene at your St. Ray's House - moms deep in study, with textbooks, laptops and children spread about.

BUDGET - by Dave Ramsey



Financial Peace University© is a GAME CHANGER! It's been a true eye-opening experience for our clients to recognize their spending habits and begin redirecting them so that they are in control of their money. **All twelve class participants** successfully designed a working budget and have already managed to **set aside a \$1,000 for their emergency funds in record time.**

Dave Ramsey reminds us, "Unless you control your money, making more of it won't help!"

For many low-income families, the barriers to self-sufficiency are accentuated by an absence of savings. **For single mothers with no savings, the slightest set back, i.e. an ER visit, a car repair or a reduction in work hours, can trigger a major financial crisis.**

This is precisely why our program focuses on training Budgeting/ Personal Finance knowledge and skills to both, *moms living in St. Ray's House and moms living within our community.*

We believe that when families are able to support themselves—our community is stronger!

*If a person is surviving,
She can't dream.*



Not only does St. Raymond's Society provide a home and a safe environment where she is **FREE TO DREAM** - we provide a program called, **My RIDICULOUSLY AMAZING Life©**, that assures her **DREAMS COME TRUE!**

SRS Partners with Local Churches

SRS has a proud history of partnering with area churches of all faiths to support single moms in the community. We recognize that all Christians are called to serve, and we have been blessed and humbled by the volunteer and financial support we have received from many churches in the Central Missouri area. During the month of October, recognized by Catholic churches as Respect Life Month, SRS will be speaking at masses and organizing youth group activities in several parishes to encourage support for women who choose life for their babies.

SRS Co-founder, Steve Smith, and Program Director, Mary Chen, recently met with Bishop Shawn McKnight of the Jefferson City diocese, and were very encouraged by his expressed support for our organization. "He has a clear understanding of the need for services for pregnant women and new moms in our community and is sincerely committed to supporting our efforts. Partnering with area churches during Respect Life Month was a natural fit."

Any churches interested in supporting the work of SRS should contact Headquarters at (573) 893-2067.

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.

| Tax Rate | Donation Amount | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | \$500 | \$1,000 | \$2,500 | \$5,000 |
| | Out-of-Pocket Expense | | | |
| 28% | \$80 | \$160 | \$400 | \$800 |
| 33% | \$55 | \$110 | \$275 | \$550 |
| 35% | \$45 | \$90 | \$225 | \$450 |
| 39% | \$25 | \$50 | \$125 | \$250 |

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:
50% State Credit +
6% State Deduction +
Federal Deduction



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