



ALMOST HOME, INC. THE ADVOCATE

VOL. 15, ISSUE 1 – WINTER/SPRING 2008

SERVING THE GREATER ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1993

CONTENTS

- Almost Home Members ~
In Their Own Words ... 1
- Executive Director's Corner ... 2
- Poem ... 2
- Special Events ... 3
- Almost Home Ambassadors ... 3
- Valuable Volunteers ... 3
- Members on the Move! ... 4
- Program in Practice ... 4
- Members' Achievements ... 4
- Old Newsboys' Charity ... 5
- "Maternity Home" Tax Credit ... 6
- Donation Options ... 6
- Donor Thanks ... 7
- Wish List ... 8

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ALMOST HOME'S MISSION

Through the ministry of transitional housing, education and support systems, Almost Home provides a safe and compassionate environment where young mothers who are living on the margins of society today are empowered to develop their emotional, social, economic, academic and family skills to become self-sufficient, responsible adults and caregiving parents to their children, positively affecting future generations.

ALMOST HOME MEMBERS ~ IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Each year, caring members of the Almost Home family collect Christmas presents for the homeless teenage mothers and their children who live here. We are all deeply touched by this show of love for our young families who are growing up and learning how to be independent. Here are some letters written by our teen moms, expressing their gratitude:

When I moved to Almost Home, I did not have a lot of things, and the large room that I moved into gave me my own place. Now, the Christmas gifts I received helped me make the room feel more homey. The pretty sheet set and comforter decorated the room with the right colors and I am glad to look at them every day. I am also glad to get ready to go to sleep with the new pajamas and robe. The fit me so well that I now get enough sleep and am ready for school in the morning. ~M.C.

Thank you for making my Christmas a lovely one. You people really put a smile on my face and joy into my heart. Not because you brought me and my child gifts but because you showed me that you cared and you know nothing of me. I never was shown the love and affection until I saw all that you did for me and my child. I am so grateful for everything that I received. Words can not explain the joy that came over me. So again I say thank you and may many blessings come to you. ~B.W.



Being at Almost Home for Christmas gave me a feeling that I belong, that I'm not alone. For two years I have been away from my family, but they live here in St. Louis. From house to house I lived and it was hard to stay focused on my education. Now I have my daughter who is two months old and a place to live. At the Christmas party, I was given a lot of gifts, but I am happy that Almost Home gave me a place to belong. ~D.W.

The other young mothers have been friendly and helpful with my pregnancy, but I was happy to get special presents for Christmas. Every month, I have to be very careful with my health so the first aid kit I got reassures me. And the clothes fit me just right with no real pressure on the baby's development. I thank you again for the Christmas gifts and Almost Home for giving me a place to feel happy and sure at. ~C.W.

Thank you for making me and my daughter happy. The colorful sheets and comforter are the right things to help me relax at the end of the day with my radio. I also want to thank you for the Christmas gifts for my daughter, the coat, boots, clothes and toys. When my daughter and I opened the gift packages, she was so happy to see all the things and it made me feel good that they were all things that she liked and fit her. ~V.B.



How can I start by saying thank you for showing me and my son so much love? He got a big toy caterpillar that he can pull by string. I had not worked to have extra money for any toys so I really want to say thank you for making my son so happy. I do appreciate the things that you gave me, especially the radio that lets me listen to my music. ~M.F.

Thank you. My son and I have never received so many gifts for Christmas and it was truly a blessing. We had a wonderful Christmas that couldn't have been possible without you. ~D.J.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Hello from Almost Home!

This Fall and Winter have been so exciting for us! Our new playground was completed just before Halloween, and our toddlers tried it out on their way to "trick or treat" at St. Louis University (see photos below). Over 125 friends and family joined us for Thanksgiving dinner, which was prepared by the ladies of the Heroines of Jericho, Queen Victoria Court #9. Among the guests were City License Collector Mike McMillan and our Alderwoman Marlene Davis. Christmas was a more private celebration, although Santa and an Elf made an appearance (thanks to House Parents Bernice Tartt and Sheila Williams!). Other elves scurried behind-the-scenes to deliver presents to our Members' bedrooms during dinner – thank you to the dozens of friends who collected these for our teen moms and their children.

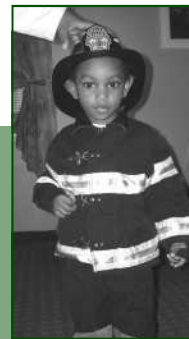
You'll see a new section in this newsletter, "Almost Home Ambassadors". We have some wonderful friends who make it their mission to promote Almost Home to their family, friends and coworkers. They bring us greater support from the wider community, and we want to recognize and thank them for their tireless efforts. We also welcome four new Board members, whom we are pleased to have: Mary Jane Brecklin (Director of Human Resources, SSM Network Operations and Physicians Organization); Julie R. Jones (Attorney/Principal, Jones Law Firm LLC); Georgina R. Lehn (Manager of Print/Mail Service, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield); and Kathleen McNeal (Corporate Planning, Anheuser-Busch Companies).

Almost Home continues to increase its public visibility. It was selected to be the Chairman's Charity for Old Newsboys Day, and was featured in a half-page article of the special edition of the Suburban Journals in November (see page 5). New support also came from our appearances at United Way company rallies, and many have responded with financial or in-kind donations; special thanks go to the employees at Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Armstrong Teasdale LLP, Fox Galvin LLC, HOK Architects, Nestle-Purina, and Scrubs and Beyond.

Everyday, we see the care and love that the community has for our young families, and we are grateful for it. 2008 marks Almost Home's 15th anniversary, serving homeless teenage mothers and their children. I invite you to join us in making this year a very special one.

Thanks for your ongoing support, and bless you and your family.

Sheroo Mukhtiar, MSW
Executive Director



ADVICE TO THOSE WHO RUSH THROUGH LIFE ~ ANONYMOUS

Take time to think – thoughts are the source of power.
Take time to play – play is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to read – reading is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to pray – prayer can be a rock of strength in time of trouble.
Take time to love – loving is what makes living worthwhile.
Take time to be friendly – friendships give life a delicious flavor.
Take time to laugh – laughter is the music of the soul.
Take time to give – any day of the year is too short for selfishness.
Take time to do your work well – pride in your work (no matter what it is) nourishes the ego and spirit.
Take time to show appreciation – thanks is the frosting on the cake of life.

ALMOST HOME, INC.

**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR
HOMELESS TEENAGE MOTHERS
AND THEIR CHILDREN**

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SPECIAL EVENTS AT ALMOST HOME

“RED DOOR” PARTY

Every year, Quint and Lisa Feltner have hosted a holiday party for their friends, choosing a different charity to promote. For the December 1, 2007 party, they selected Almost Home to be the beneficiary. By holding the paparazzi-themed party at the Ferguson Katzman photography studio, about 100 guests were able to attend and have a fun time. The evening included a red carpet entrance, champagne, live music by the Farshid Etniko Trio, a face-and-body painter, photos with a Ferrari, watching the Mizzou-Oklahoma football game, and karaoke with a DJ into the wee hours. Nearly \$7,700 was raised, and more people in the community learned how Almost Home is helping homeless teenage mothers learn to become self-sufficient. Thanks to everyone who made it a special night!



ALMOST HOME AMBASSADORS

Like the Feltners did with their Red Door party, other Almost Home supporters are sharing our story with their friends. We are very fortunate to have special friends who not only support Almost Home themselves, but make a point of involving others from their workplaces, churches and social groups. These Ambassadors go out of their way to promote Almost Home in the community. They bring other people into our family through fundraising, networking, supply-drives or activities with our Members.

For many years, Catherine and David Unseth have collected financial donations, clothes and toys for Almost Home from family members and their friends in the nearby Compton Hill Reservoir Square neighborhood. This support has made such a difference in the lives of our young families.

Amy Reeves has coordinated the efforts of the parents of Together We Can daycare. They have partnered with us to not only collect Christmas presents since 2006, but also to sponsor fundraisers and activities. Last July, some of them organized games and painted faces for our Members' Back to School BBQ.

We are grateful for these and all our Almost Home Ambassadors!

OUR VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

We are grateful to the many members of fraternal organizations who help Almost Home by hosting activities, fundraisers, special collections and awareness-raising lectures. Members of the Daughters of Isis, Medinah Court #15 and the Knights of Columbus Crusader Council Ladies' Auxiliary have long played a part in holidays and special events in the lives of our young families. This past Thanksgiving, we were treated by the Heroines of Jericho—Queen Victoria Court #9, who prepared the annual dinner we share with our Members, staff, volunteers and friends. These wonderful ladies brought turkey, ham, stuffing, sweet potatoes, salads and other tasty dishes. Because of them, over 125 members of the Almost Home family were able to enjoy a delicious meal and share their gratitude for the many blessings in their lives. Thank you, ladies!



MEMBERS ON THE MOVE!

The end-of-the-year holidays provide lots of occasions for our teenage mothers to interact with the wider community. St. Louis University invited our moms and their children to their annual Halloween haunted house; everyone enjoyed dressing up, and returned home for a fun party. On November 20, they served as hostesses for our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Guests had the chance to talk directly with our Members, at each dinner table. In this way, our supporters were able to learn more about Almost Home, and our young mothers were able to practice their public speaking skills.

On December 3, our Members and staff helped our sponsoring organization, Franciscan Sisters of Mary, decorate for Christmas. We spent the afternoon and evening at their St. Mary of the Angels convent, setting up numerous trees and decorations in the chapel, the skilled-nursing wing, the lobby, hallways, dining and sitting rooms. Some of the sisters helped care for the babies and toddlers, and others chatted with us and kept us company. This was a great opportunity for our young moms to both learn the value of giving back to others who need help and to get to know some of those who care and support them.



PROGRAM IN PRACTICE

A significant part of the Almost Home Program is our Life Skills Training. Our teen mothers must attend on-site life and job skills classes four nights each week, and they also learn informally through staff guidance. The new skills, habits and knowledge our Members develop through this can last a lifetime and change the future for them and their children.

Through the evening Life Skills classes, our Members continue to gain knowledge for everyday living. Topics include household management, financial planning, safe dating and relationships, conflict resolution and anger management, personal health and hygiene, effective parenting and job seeking-and-keeping skills. Recently, new classes have been held on etiquette, finding college scholarships, preparing taxes, sewing and developmental learning skills for children. Operation Food Search has sponsored weekly cooking classes, and volunteers from Parents As Teachers teach childcare and parenting skills. Our young mothers are able to use this new information and put these new skills into practice while still living at Almost Home.

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

Last year, Almost Home provided 52 teenage mothers and 56 of their children with a safe home, education, therapeutic and supportive counseling, life skills training and support. The average age of our mothers was 17 years old; the children's average age was 13 months. Our Members worked very hard to improve themselves through education: all of them attended school, three were on the honor roll at their schools, four earned a high school diploma or GED, and two enrolled in college. Two Members received certificates of achievement in mathematics from Job Corps, and one successfully completed the culinary arts trade program at Job Corps. Three Members successfully completed the transitional housing program and moved into their own apartments. Seven Members had part-time jobs, in addition to attending school. All Members attended the on-site Life Skills training classes, four nights a week, which cover topics on appropriate parenting and self-sufficiency skills, and all were assigned regular household "chores" that reinforce the lessons they learn.

Our older single mothers (ages 19-24) in our on-campus 12-unit Apartment Living have also been bettering themselves. Four attended college, majoring in Education, Accounting, Medicine (Gynecology) and Nursing. Two attended vocational school, training to be a Medical Assistant (graduated) and a Certified Nurse's Aide. Ten have been working, either full-time or part-time. One was promoted from a Food Server/Cashier to Assistant Store Manager, and three changed jobs: from a Physical Therapist Assistant to a Flight Attendant; from a Housekeeper to a Medical Assistant; and from a Certified Nurse's Aide to a Nurse's Assistant.

ALMOST HOME — OLD NEWSBOYS' CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY, 2007

The new chairman of Old Newsboys Day, Bob Ciapciak, selected Almost Home to be the 2007 Chairman's Charity. He and some of the Suburban Journals staff visited us in October, to the delight of some of our young families (see photo below). Mr. Ciapciak and his family have been involved with Almost Home for a number of years, and we are grateful for this honor. In addition to a special donation from Old Newsboys, Almost Home received wide publicity through a large, page-two article which appeared in the Old Newsboys edition of the Suburban Journals, November 15, 2007. By permission, here is a reprint of that article:

"Chairman's charity aids young women in need" by Kelly McCann, Suburban Journals

While most St. Louisians have a warm bed to return to each night, many teenage mothers struggle to survive. There are thousands of young women here in St. Louis who have no one to turn to, no place to call home, no parents or guardians to support them. They are living in desperate measures; poverty stricken, homeless and suffering from the emotional effects of abuse and neglect.

Since learning the stories of these women nearly 10 years ago, Old Newsboys Day Chairman Bob Ciapciak has been inspired to help. In honor of serving as chairman, Ciapciak was given the opportunity to select one charity to receive a substantial donation in his name. Ciapciak selected Almost Home, which provides transitional housing for teenage mothers and their children.

Founded in 1993 by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, Almost Home provides a safe and compassionate environment where young mothers who are living on the margins of society today are empowered. The women develop their emotional, social, economic, academic and family skills to become self-sufficient, responsible adults and caregiving parents to their children positively affecting future generations.

Ciapciak's family was initially introduced to the organization through an acquaintance at Villa Duchesne where his daughter, Tina, attended grade school.

"It prompted us to go down and meet the people and take a tour and better understand the work they were doing," said Ciapciak. "The thing that was most compelling was they gave people assistance for a finite period of time, and helped people to help themselves."

Ciapciak and his wife Mary used the experience as an opportunity to teach their three children the importance of community service.

"As a parent, your children are most likely going to do what they see you do," said Ciapciak. "Our children have had the opportunity to observe both of us working for various charitable organizations, and we hope that that instills in them a commitment to giving back to the community."

As eighth grader, Ciapciak's daughter Tina decided to get more involved with Almost Home by organizing a fundraiser involving girls from school. For the past seven years, Tina, 20 and a junior at Miami University of Ohio, has hosted a Christmas caroling party to raise money for the organization.

"It seemed like a really good cause and empowering to help other girls that could very well be our age," said Tina.

Adriene Boyd, program manager for Almost Home said the substantial grant will help the organization purchase supplies for its members, including hygiene products, bedding, baby supplies, toys, clothing and school supplies. New items for the Member Store will also be purchased, which is used as part of the motivation enforcement system.

"The members receive Almost Home Bucks to purchase luxury items like a brand name shampoo or hair accessories as a reward for good behavior and staying on target with their goals," said Boyd.

As part of the Almost Home program the mothers, ages 12 to19, learn basic life skills, including parenting skills, financial management, planning for future independent living, homemaking and job skills. In addition, the members must commit to graduating high school or getting their GED. Counseling, both group and one-on-one is also required.

According to Almost Home Executive Director Sheroo Mukhtiar, the program depends on intensive, direct interaction between program staff and members. House parents provide 24-hour coverage to handle crisis situations and to assist with day-to-day operations. Other program staff teaches members how to be appropriate tenants, including household management, budgeting and relationship building.

" Oftentimes these women have had no structured supervision before they get here and no appropriate adult role model," said Mukhtiar. "The role of the house parents is very important in mentoring and pointing the members in the right direction."

Upon completion of the transitional living program, some members ages 19-24 graduate to the Almost Home subsidized apartment living as the next step toward complete independence. The partially furnished apartments are located on the Almost Home campus, allowing the members to continue with some of the center's services including counseling, case management, and educational programs.



Through these practices, Almost Home seeks to intervene and break the cycle of homelessness, poverty, neglect and abuse for both mothers and children.

"These teens are vulnerable members of our society who desperately need a chance to succeed," said Ciapciak. "Through the efforts of Old Newsboys Day and the generosity of the community, these teenage mothers are one step closer to overcoming the challenges that they face." ♥

RICK GRAEFE PHOTO • Old Newsboy Chairman Bob Ciapciak reads a book to 1 year-old Iesha at Almost Home as Iesha's mother, Miesha, looks on.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In Memory of Nelly O. Adriano

~ Amelia O. Halili

In Memory of Peter O. Adriano

~ Amelia O. Halili

In Memory of Dr. Amado V. Halili

~ Amelia O. Halili

In Memory of M. Amanda O. Halili, OSB

~ Amelia O. Halili

In Memory of Dr. Purificacion O. Halili

~ Amelia O. Halili

In Memory of Rosario Elbo Ongkiko

~ Amelia O. Halili

In Memory of Thomas Pitlyk

~ John Pitlyk

In Memory of Mary Jane Stann

~ Patrick & Kerry Cavanaugh

~ Bill De Roze & Marianne Griesedieck

~ Linda & Francis Dickmann

~ Cecelia & John Dooley

~ David & Mary Ann Golden

~ Helen Hankins

~ Debbie Hoffman

~ Gerald & Louise McNeive

~ Alvina Mueller

~ John & Patricia Mueller

~ Mary Beth Ortvals

~ Roeslein & Associates, Inc.

~ Schuchat, Cook & Werner

~ John Stann

~ Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Stutte

~ Dr. George Suggs

~ Nancy Watkins-Owen

~ Charles & Mary Werner

In Honor of Steven Barney

~ Colleen Kannaday

In Honor of Doug & Linda Elden

~ Alvina Mueller

In Honor of Sr. Jacinta Elmendorf, FSM

~ Mike & Jane Sandsmark

In Honor of Patty Herpel's birthday

~ Georgia Herpel

In Honor of Sherlyn Hailstone

~ Franciscan Sisters of Mary, St. Charles

In Honor of Dixie Platt

~ Colleen Kannaday

In Honor of Sr. Irene Radtke, FSM

~ Mike & Jane Sandsmark

In Honor of Sr. Mary Jean Ryan, FSM

~ Colleen Kannaday

In Honor of William Schoenhard

~ Colleen Kannaday

In Honor of William Thompson

~ Colleen Kannaday

In Honor of Mary Venegoni

~ Hartford Financial Services Group

In Honor of Kris Zimmer

~ Colleen Kannaday

When recognizing the special people in your life, please consider making a special gift to Almost Home. We will send an additional notice to them or their family of your gift. Please keep us in mind to mark graduations, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, memorials, jubilees, job promotions and holidays.

MISSOURI "MATERNITY HOME" STATE TAX CREDIT

Please keep this information in mind, as you make your charitable donations.

Did you know that by choosing to give to Almost Home, **you can save even more money on your taxes?** For corporations and individuals in Missouri, there are additional tax advantages to donating to Almost Home. As a state-designated "maternity home", donations between \$100 and \$100,000 are eligible for a 50% credit against taxes owed to the State of Missouri.

This tax credit is in addition to the usual state and federal itemized charitable contribution deductions.

A tax credit is a deduction taken directly off the final total of taxes-owed to the State of Missouri during a taxable year; this will significantly reduce your real out-of-pocket cost when making a donation to Almost Home. Donations for this purpose must be cash, stocks, bonds, securities or real property.

For example, contributors in a 20% tax bracket: their \$1,000 donation to Almost Home will qualify for a tax credit of \$500 that can be used to reduce their Missouri state income tax any time during a five year period. This credit is in addition to the federal and state charitable deductions on itemized tax returns

After taxes are paid, the actual out-of-pocket cost for donating \$1,000 to Almost Home would be only \$240. A donor who wishes to spend only \$1,000 on contributions to Almost Home could actually donate \$4,167 to and accomplish the same result. Three actual out-of-pocket costs to the hypothetical donors above are listed below:

Charitable Gift	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,167
Federal tax reduction – 20%	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 833
Missouri tax reduction – 6%	\$ 30	\$ 60	\$ 250
Missouri Tax Credit – 50%	<u>\$ 250</u>	<u>\$ 500</u>	<u>\$ 2,084</u>
Out-Of-Pocket Cost after Taxes	\$ 120	\$ 240	\$ 1,000

It is very easy to take advantage of this opportunity. When Almost Home receives your contribution, we will send a Tax Credit Application for you to complete and sign. This must be sent back, in whole, to Almost Home. We will sign and mail it to Jefferson City. Once the State has processed it, they will mail your copy of the Application back to you with your tax credit noted on it. We will be happy to answer any further questions

GIVE YOUR GIFT CARDS

Have you received any gift cards recently? They have become the "in gift" for special occasions. But every year, over 68% of all gift cards are never used or cashed in. People receive these gift cards yet never take the time to use them. As a result, they stay unused in wallets, purses or dresser drawers.

Almost Home can use them! We give them to Members for birthdays, as incentives for working hard to achieve goals, or to mark special moments or accomplishments. We also use them for the direct benefit of our Members: to help purchase a graduation outfit, uniforms for school, and books or school supplies.

Almost Home invites you to send us any gift cards you may have received and are not planning on using. Please mail any unused gift cards to Executive Director Sheroo Mukhtiar at the address on the back of this newsletter.

SUSTAINING DONORS

Please consider becoming an Almost Home Sustaining Donor. When you give by credit card, just make an extra note on the return envelope indicating that you want to charge the amount for three, six or twelve months.

Sustaining Donors will be recognized in future newsletters.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!

LISTED HERE ARE THOSE WHO GAVE BETWEEN OCTOBER 26, 2007 AND JANUARY 31, 2008.

INDIVIDUALS

GOLD BASKET LEVEL **\$1,000 - \$5,000**

Anonymous
Ted Christner & Claudia Trautman
Cecelia & John Dooley
Quint & Lisa Feltner
Donald & Patricia Hagen
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kaiser
Kim & Colleen Kannaday
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Prusaczyk
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rallo
John & Lauren Rice
Warren & Judy Steffens

SILVER BASKET LEVEL **\$250 TO \$1,000**

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Becker
Mrs. Frank Bick
Bob & Mary Ciapciak
Ronald Fox
Richard Geissal
Jonathan & Kristin Kimerle
Gerald & Louise McNeive
Dr. & Mrs. David Meiners
Mr. & Mrs. John O'Connell
Mary Beth Ortvals
Mr. & Mrs. John Pascucci
John Pitlyk
Que & Betty Purnell
Helen Riechmann
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Stutte
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Vrabel
David & Corinne Walentik
Katherine Walsh
Tom & Trish Zupon

BRONZE BASKET LEVEL **\$100 TO \$250**

Zachary Adams
Lisa & James Avery
Robert Bachmann
Mr. & Mrs. William Ball
Margaret Barnhart
Lisa Bast
Carla Baum
James & Brenda Bax
Alene & Jonathan Becker
Wendy Bell
Genevieve Bell
Craig Boles
Jane Callahan
Ann Smith Carr
Sophia Chung
Janet & Larry Conners
John & Shari Crutchfield
Bob Curran
Bill De Roze & Marianne Griesedieck
Mary Deck
Doug & Linda Elden
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Elmendorf
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Fox
Thomas Goulden
Elsa Herzog Greenblatt
Amelia O. Halili
Sally & Robert Harrison

Janet & Richard Hollocher
Lisa & John Holtzman
Michael & Jane Holtzman
Rick Hummel
Robyn Hunter
Bob & Debbie Jakubczak
Monica James
Barbara & Michael Jones
Christine Keil
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REED BASKET LEVEL **UP TO \$100**

Barbara Barrier
Robert Barringer
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Marjorie Beer
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Robert & Lorraine Brennan
Joan Briccetti
Patrick & Kerry Cavanaugh
Donna & Kenneth Clements
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Luke & Elizabeth Pascale
Barbara Paulus
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Kara & Tyrece Sneed
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Dr. George Suggs
Diane & David Swanson
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Catherine & David Unseth
Jan & Marty Unterreiner
Jerry & Sandra Wade
Molly Walsh
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Wankum
Nancy Watkins-Owen
Earl & Mary Wehrheim
Charles & Mary Werner
L.L. White
Francis Young
Patricia Zellner

FOUNDATIONS

Daughters of Charity Healthcare Foundation
Fischer-Bauer-Knirps Foundation
John & Margaret Dunsford Fund
John R. Goodall Charitable Trust
Lence Charitable Trust
Marian Foundation
Old Newsboys Fund for Children
Realtor Housing Assistance Fund
Scroogebusters
St. Louis Italian Invitational
St. Louis Mental Health Board
St. Louis Philanthropic Organization
United Way of Greater St. Louis
Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis
Webb Foundation

CORPORATIONS

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
BSI Constructors, Inc.
Classical Heritage, Inc.
Epic Systems Corporation
Fox Galvin, LLC
Goldstein & Associates
Hartford Financial Services Group
HOK
Maloney's Lawn Service
Rodemyer Christel, Inc
Roeslein & Associates, Inc
Schuchat, Cook & Werner
SSM Healthcare- St. Louis
White-Rodgers

GOVERNMENT

St. Louis City - FESG

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Basilica of St. Louis – The Old Cathedral
Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Monastery of the Visitation
St. Clare of Assisi Parish

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Macy's Foundation Matching Gifts
Missouri State Employee
Charitable Campaign
United Way - Special Distribution Account

SUSTAINING DONORS

Christine Keil

**THANKS TO ALL OF OUR
IN-KIND DONORS, WHO ARE
TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST.
YOU MAKE OUR MINISTRY WORK!**

We apologize for all errors and omissions. Please contact the Development Department with corrections, (314) 771-4663 ext. 409.



ALMOST HOME, INC.
THE ADVOCATE

Almost Home, Inc.
3200 St. Vincent Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63104

www.almosthomestl.org

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 3687

WISH LIST

General Needs

- Minivan or larger passenger van to transport Members and supplies

Children's Needs

- Small plastic barrettes /ponytail holders
- Baby shampoo
- Baby bath soap
- Baby lotion
- Teething rings
- Oragel
- Thermometers
- Pedialyte
- Infant and toddler clothing
- Infant and toddler pajamas
- Crib sheets
- Baby bath tubs
- Toddler bath tubs
- Diapers and pull-ups
- Baby wipes
- Cloth diapers ("burp rags")
- Potty chairs

Teen Mom's Needs

- Women's pajamas (S-XXLarge)
- Slippers for moms and children
- Fitted twin bed sheets
- Pillow cases
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Shampoo
- Vaseline
- Bar soap (Dove)
- Neosporin
- Women's deodorant (Secret)
- Toothbrushes / toothpaste (Colgate)
- Lotion (Lubriderm, Suave, Vaseline Intensive Care)
- Body wash (Suave, Caress)
- Feminine hygiene (Always with wings)
- Tissues (Kleenex and bathroom)
- Teen jewelry and hair accessories
- Hair products (hairspray, gel, blow-dryer, perms)
- Teen books & magazines
- Dictionaries & thesauruses
- Encyclopedia (recent)

Household Needs

- Vacuum cleaner / bags
- Irons
- Laundry detergent
- Batteries (AA, AAA, D)
- Single-use disposable cameras
- Birthday wrapping paper
- Back packs / School supplies
- Alarm clocks
- Bedside throw rugs
- Gift bags & tissue paper

Gift Certificates / Cards

- Walgreens
- Walmart / Target
- Schnucks
- St. Louis Galleria
- Payless Shoes / Shoe Carnival
- Ted Drewes / Dairy Queen
- McDonald's
- St. Louis Bread Company
- Subway restaurant
- Science Center
- City Museum
- The Magic House
- Zoo parking
- Movie theaters

We cannot accept: • Crayons • Markers • Play-doh / clay • Marbles
• Items not suitable for ages 0-3 • Toys with small pieces/parts • Balloons

Almost Home is proud to be supported by



Pictures of some Members in this newsletter have been blurred to ensure privacy.

"ALMOST HOME: MAKING A DIFFERENCE, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME"