

### Joe's Place Residents and House Parents Get the Program Kicked off Right

Dan and Alyssa Reeve spent the last part of 2006 excited about turning Joe's Place from their house into a caring home for young men in need.

Along with their six-month-old son, Carter, Dan and Alyssa moved into Joe's Place in December. They were chosen as the Joe's Place house parents earlier in the fall and began eagerly anticipating helping young men in need.

The first resident of Joe's Place joined the Reeves in early January, and the second was just a couple of weeks behind. The house will eventually be home to four young men, but easing into the full house has been a positive experience for everyone. With only two residents, they have been able to try out all the "house rules" and procedures that are in place, allowing Dan and Alyssa the opportunity to consider changes to the program's structure before it is running at full capacity.



When Dan and Alyssa first heard about Joe's Place, they knew they wanted to be involved in some way. They considered the possibility of becoming house parents, but were not sure how that would work with a newborn baby. After they were approached about the opportunity by a Joe's Place board member, they were excited to learn more.

Dan and Alyssa have a history of helping others, so serving as house parents seems natural to them. They were each raised by parents who always reached out to help others and cared about their community. Dan and Alyssa's experiences, among many others, include a summer trip to Haiti where they worked with a group that was building an orphanage. According to Dan, the couple has, "a heart for wanting to serve the community together."

Leading up to the arrival of the boys, the couple worked with Joe's Place committee members to put the house policies and schedule together, details that are agreed to by each boy who enters Joe's Place and his guardian. A clear understanding of the house rules, including those related to academics, curfews and responsibilities, is very important to all involved with the project.

As a teacher at MRH Middle School, Dan knows that he and Alyssa will be able to help the boys with their academics and keep up on their progress. His established relationships with MRH High School teachers will be a benefit to them as they help the young men reach the goal of graduating from MRH High.

As for the littlest resident of Joe's Place, Dan and Alyssa believe Carter will learn a lot growing up in such an environment. He'll instantly have four "big brothers" he can learn from and who will learn from him. The couple, and Joe's Place organizers, believe that the young men of Joe's Place will benefit from having Carter in their lives.

#### Life at Joe's Place

The Reeves and the residents of Joe's Place function as a family of sorts, and like most families, there are schedules and rules to follow.

Along with members of the Joe's Place committee, Dan and Alyssa have put house rules in place that will help ensure that the house runs smoothly and that the boys can work toward achieving their goals.

#### Life at Joe's Place includes:

- Weekly house meetings with an educational support counselor who is being funded by a Missouri Safe Schools Grant
- Weekly one-on-one meetings for Joe's Place residents with the educational support counselor
- Time devoted each day to academics for residents, in which they must complete assignments and study
- Meals provided at least two nights each week by local organizations and restaurants, with residents and the Reeves sharing cooking responsibilities the other nights
- Shared household responsibilities and chores among all the residents of Joe's Place
- Care provided to the boys of Joe's Place by a respite care giving family. This allows the Reeves to have some time to themselves while making sure the young men are still cared for.

# Thank you, Joe's Place Donors!

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*Thank you to everyone who has made a donation or pledged help to Joe's Place. Since the project was introduced, the entire house has been furnished and many generous individuals, families, groups and businesses have come forward to help. The organization is still in need of financial donations to reach its current fund raising goal. For more information, visit [www.mrhsd.org/joesplace](http://www.mrhsd.org/joesplace).*

*All efforts have been made to include all Joe's Place donors on this list. If your name is missing, please email [d.kuschel@mrhsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:d.kuschel@mrhsd.k12.mo.us)*

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