

Joe's Place offers homeless teenage boys in the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District a supervised, caring home environment, supporting them in graduating from high school and creating positive futures for themselves.

Check us out  
online



To receive further information please send your e-mail address to:  
joesplacestl@gmail.com  
or click on e-mail from our website:  
<http://www.joesplacestl.org/contact.html>

Volume 1, Summer 2013

## "From the House Parents"



### From Dan and Alyssa

It is that bittersweet time of year again, for Alyssa and me, when we have two seniors graduating from high school and beginning their next chapter of life at junior college. Sweet, because we are so excited to see our two seniors, Robert and Cristo, graduate and to celebrate all the work, growth, and perseverance they have demonstrated in their lifestyle. Bitter, because we have to adjust to life at Joe's Place without them, but we will be excited to see them and check in on them during their freshman year of college. These two, as well as all of our boys here, inspire us and teach us what is possible when a community surrounds the Joe's Place family with so much love and support.

As we wrap up the seventh school year of Joe's Place, we continue to talk about the overwhelming kindness of so many who have given to support the twenty boys who have benefitted from the mission and heart of Joe's Place. Every time I get a chance to talk about our work in this house I say that we do it on the shoulders of many. We could not be here without so many of you who are reading this newsletter. We look forward to how our boys, past, present, and future, will continue to grow and thrive because of the community that has become Joe's Place.



To Volunteer  
at  
**Time for  
Dinner**

Please Contact  
**Megan Moylan**

(314) 348-7191  
or  
meganomal  
@hotmail.com

Meals from  
*Time for Dinner*  
in Brentwood  
are a great way  
to have your  
volunteer group  
prepare deli-  
cious, easy food  
for *Joe's Place*.

*These meals are  
appreciated by  
the boys and the  
house parents.*

# Donors & Volunteers Support Joe's Place Tanya Yatzeck



The McMackins felt that early support of this idea was important for its success.

"It felt like there was some potential for backlash. There are people who would say 'No other school is doing that' as a reason not to continue to make it

happen. I wanted Linda and the Board to be able to say 'We're getting support from the community,'" Pat said.

With twin boys finishing 4th grade this year at MRH Elementary, the McMackins view their stewardship of Joe's Place as an investment in their children as well as the community.

"We like to keep our philanthropy in the community and feel like this is an investment in a good solid school district for the boys," Stacey said.

Pat and Stacey McMackin have been giving to Joe's Place since Pat first read about it in the local pages of the St. Louis Post Dispatch. "I wrote my check as soon as I finished reading the article," Pat said. "I said, wow, this is a really great idea and I think a lot of people didn't know that the need existed."

That was in 2006, the year that former MRHSD Superintendent Linda Henke's idea of Joe's Place took shape in the form of the purchase of the house, the formation of the board of directors, and the hiring of house parents, Dan and Alyssa Reeve.

Any new venture requires investment and enthusiasm to get the project off the ground.



ingredients, then take them home to freeze and eat later.

Members of the Church congregation prepare about 15 dinners each time they go, and have made this contribution several

times. The Joe's Place family also participates, and teams up with Church members to prepare the meals at Time for Dinner. Members donate funds specifically for meals, and any additional needed money is covered by the Church. "It's a fun activity for our congregation, with a really nice end result.," Julia said.

"They really appreciate the Time for Dinner meals. It gives the boys the opportunity to try different things. They are well-balanced, nutritious, home-made meals," Julia said. In addition, the Church members get an opportunity to meet and work with the Joe's Place boys with Alyssa or Dan.

Jan said, "We really support Joe's Place and what they're doing for young people, and we are very grateful for the School District's involvement. And we are very grateful that we have resources in the congregation. "

"It goes back to that old cliché it takes a village," said Julia. "The benefit of this type of program to not only the boys who are there, but also to the community, is so vast on so many levels. I just wish there were more programs like it."

Since Joe's Place opened, the Maplewood United Methodist Church on Flora Avenue in Maplewood has donated paper products for the house. In the last few years, it has also provided funds for, helped organize, and participated in the assembly of meals for Joe's Place.

Julia Schaffner and Jan Harsh are key volunteers for Joe's Place within a congregation of about 100 members from the Church. Jan works with the congregation to provide paper products. "Basically, we collect paper products from the congregation: toilet paper, paper towels, tissue, and napkins...Usually about four to five times a year we deliver a good supply of things."

The Church got involved in helping Joe's Place because of the congregational commitment to help the community. "So much of the time, a lot of our efforts, and money, goes to the larger Methodist efforts," Jan said. "The last five or six years we have been trying to focus on ministering to the needs in the community, in addition to sending money to others."

Julia organizes the congregation to help prepare meals for Joe's Place at Time for Dinner. Time for Dinner is a meal assembly business located on Manchester Road in Brentwood, where customers assemble meals made from prepared





# From the President

Joe's Place recently celebrated the graduation of Christopher (Cristo) and Robert from both Maplewood Richmond Heights (MRH) High School and from Joe's Place. Living with their classmates, sharing meals, chores, and building relationships with the house parents has given them the opportunity they deserve to successfully complete this chapter in their lives and move to the next.

We know through our work that the mission and model of Joe's Place gives students the supportive home environment they need to successfully complete high school. Of the 19 boys who have experienced the love, support, and home setting of Joe's Place, we are proud that 18 of them have graduated from high school over the past six years. Conversely, of the 14 other MRH students who were eligible to enter Joe's Place and did not, only one has graduated.

Support from charitable contributions and in-kind donations allows Joe's Place to provide not only food and shelter, but also an encouraging family setting, therapy, tutoring, and a stable home environment which supports the residents in their studies and in graduating.

Each day I receive inspiration and hope from the generosity of the individuals and other partners who join us in ad-

ressing the challenges that homeless teenagers face in order to graduate from high school. One inspiring story comes from Mia Rintoul, in the eighth grade in MRH Middle School. Following the encouragement she received from her grandfather to make a habit of giving to charitable organizations, Mia decided to give a substantial amount of her holiday gift money to Joe's Place.

Joe's Place may be a small organization, but it delivers a huge impact to the lives of its residents. It represents a network of generosity that unites donors like Mia with church partners like the Maplewood United Methodist Church, and other community groups. Our donors, volunteers, and community believe in the powerful mission of Joe's Place. Our support comes from people like you, who believe that through one house and two parents, we can help homeless teenagers graduate by providing them with the foundation for many future successes in their lives.



Julie Pole, President

# Artists create unique support through the Open Door Art Show

Joe's Place held a unique fundraising art exhibition in March which brought area artists together for an evening of entertaining and art to raise awareness of Joe's Place. Volunteers from Moosylvania organized the "Open Door Art Show"

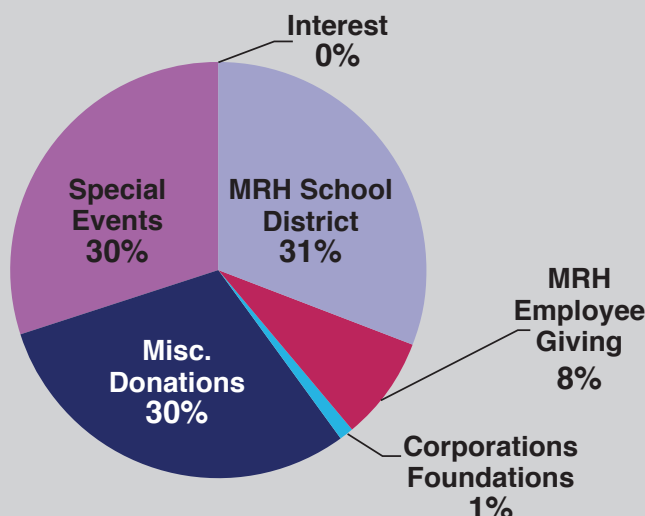


which was held at the Koken Art Factory. Koken donated old doors collected from abandoned buildings and city rehabs, which were then offered for a small donation and exhibition fee to area artists. Koken then graciously opened their doors to the hundreds of guests who attended the event.

Area artists turned doors into tables, wall art, benches, swings, and shelves. Maplewood Richmond Heights students also took part in designing doors to reflect what 'home' means to them. The doors were auctioned while guests enjoyed food, drinks and live entertainment.

All proceeds from the Open Door Art Show were donated to Joe's Place and all doors went home with happy, new owners. Special thanks to Koken Art Factory, The Post Restaurant in Maplewood, Citizen's National Bank, Moosylvania, Frostbite Gourmet Ice Cream, and the talented artists who so generously gave of their time, efforts and finances, to make this such a wonderfully successful event.

## 2012 Sources of Revenue





Scan to get more event info

RSVP to Megan Moylan,  
(314) 348-7191 or meganomai@hotmail.com

\$50 per person

Sunnen Corporation  
7910 Manchester Road • St. Louis, MO 63143

**Saturday, September 7, 2013 | 7:30-9:30pm**

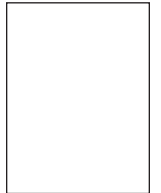
*(with Live & Silent Auctions for incredible trips)*

# Drinks, Desserts, Dancing and Destination Dreaming

***Please join us for our Annual Fundraiser!***



P.O. Box 434057  
Maplewood, MO 63143-9998



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