



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.

From the House



Greetings from Joe's Place,

This will be a busy spring around Joe's Place! We will be in the heat of things at school and end the year celebrating another JP graduate. The house is at capacity with four boys and we will also be adding a little Mapp to the mix this spring. Yes, Baby Mapp will be here hopefully around mid April. This will be a huge transition for the boys, the entire Joe's Place family, and us. We are working right now to make this transition as smooth as possible.

We had another fantastic holiday season thanks to some AMAZING supporters! The boys were truly grateful for all of the generosity shown to them and it was extremely helpful to us to have so much support. We have had phenomenal support in the area of meals and groceries. We are thankful for all of the partners surrounding us that make our work successful. We look forward to sharing more information about our growing family, our JP graduate, and the end to another school year in the near future.

Thank you all for your support. We wish you a happy spring from the Joe's Place family to yours.

Best,

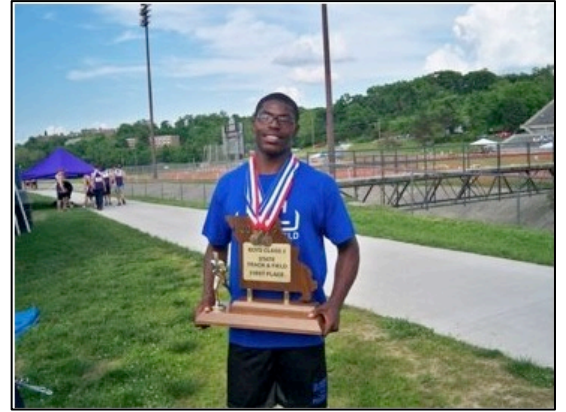
Jeremy and Rachel Mapp

***For more information, please visit our NEW website:
www.joesplacestl.org***

Joe's Place Alum

Congratulations to Fred Taylor who will graduate this spring with a Bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sport Science with a minor in Public Health from the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Fred was in the first Joe's Place graduating class in 2009 after living there for two and a half years.

Fred said, "The first week was a trial week to see if you like it or not, after that you're just living there. I thought it was going to be strict, that I would have to follow rules. But the rules were not so bad—doing chores, homework. After the first week or two, after everybody started getting to know each other, we didn't need the rules at all. Everybody was getting along."



Dan and Alyssa Reeve were the Joe's Place houseparents when Fred moved in. At that point, their son, Carter, was a few months old. Fred said, "It was a blessing seeing him grow and being a big brother to him. It was like we blended together as family."

"My best memory was when we all went on a camping trip to Mark Twain National Forest. It was my first time in the middle of nowhere. The whole family came--Dan, Alyssa, Carter. I'm a city boy, so I thought, 'This is weird.' We couldn't walk anywhere. But we floated across a huge lake, it had to be 200 yards."



"I'm in touch with Dan and Alyssa as much as possible. When I get a chance I text or call them--everybody is in a different time zone," Fred said. Dan and Alyssa Reeve resigned as houseparents of Joe's Place in 2015 in order to move to Seattle and be closer to family.

Fred's younger brother Ty're is also a graduate of Joe's Place. He moved when he was in middle school while Fred was still a resident, and graduated in 2014. Fred said, "I was glad he was there. Me and him were joined at the hip since he was born. He always looked up to me--we were 6 years apart. We've got this connection." Fred reports that Ty're recently turned 21 and is getting ready for college. "He wanted to find a school where he can play basketball and also take a break from high school."

After graduation, Fred is moving to Tennessee to be near his girlfriend and to train. "I want to work with kids. I want to mentor them and show them there is more than one way to make it in life." He also says, that, "without Joe Place I wouldn't have graduated high school. After my mom passed, I felt like giving up. But I had people to care about me, show me I can keep going. Telling me positive things."

From the President

The Fall of 2016 will mark the ten-year anniversary of Joe's Place. Joe's Place persists as a unique model of a community partnership connecting a school district, churches, businesses, volunteers and individual donors to a house - and a shared mission - to address homelessness among our student population. To date, 23 of the 24 high school boys who have experienced the love, support, and home setting of Joe's Place have graduated from the MRH High School, and we continue to hear from other communities around the country who look to Joe's Place as a model for their own programs and initiatives.

As the incoming President of Joe's Place, I have the opportunity to reflect on the enduring legacies that built Joe's Place. Joe's Place began through the vision and leadership of Linda Henke, former Superintendent of the MRH School District; its original house parents, Alyssa and Dan Reeve, the MRH Board of Education and a partnership with Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Maplewood and its Pastor, Andrew VanderMaas. The work of Joe's Place continues through the strategic support of many, including Karen Hall, Superintendent of the MRH School District, Jeremy and Rachel Mapp, its current house parents and the board members, teachers and staff of the MRH School District.

I would like to extend my thanks to my predecessor, Susan Lee. Susan's leadership has contributed to the mission of building an affirming, collaborative environment for our extraordinary house parents and residents. Seven MRH High School students have graduated during Susan's term as President. We are going to miss Susan's friendly and energetic presence, her organizational and professional skills and her intelligent and thoughtful communication. Susan, thank you for your commitment to Joe's Place and our community!

Fred Taylor's inspiring story of ongoing persistence and success, featured in this newsletter, points to a larger story of why Joe's Place continues, and we hope you will continue to support us. We look forward to graduation, GiveSTL Day, the 3rd Annual Maplewood Shuffle and celebrations to come for Joe's Place 10-Year Anniversary. I look forward to strategically supporting the vision and commitment that sparked the idea for Joe's Place. I want to express my personal gratitude for your support and investment in our mission.

Sincerely,

Heath Moylan
President, Board of Directors

How to Get Involved

Volunteer at Time for Dinner

Preparing food at Time for Dinner in Brentwood, MO is a great way for your volunteer group to provide delicious, easy meals for Joe's Place. The family is going to need meals beginning in the fall.

Make a Gift or Donate Household Items

Throughout the year, the Joe's Place family needs various household items.

For more information or if you are interested, please contact
Megan Moylan.

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COMING SOON!

giveSTLday

WHAT CAN WE DO IN A DAY?

May 3, 2016

Thank you to all those who helped us raise over \$6,000 in 2015 to further our work with teenage boys at risk for homelessness. Please consider partnering with us again or as a new supporter on this day to raise even more in 2016!

Visit www.givestlday.org or follow Joe's Place on Facebook for more details.

Save the Date!



Saturday, June 18, 2016

The Maplewood Shuffle is an event where teams gather for an entertaining and competitive evening of a combination trivia contest, scavenger hunt, and pub crawl to explore downtown Maplewood and support the mission of Joe's Place.

Visit www.maplewoodshuffle.com for more details.