

# Joe's Place

NEWS & NOTES

A community partnership

December 2011



## Time for Dinner at Joe's Place

Time for Dinner creates a new volunteer opportunity for Joe's Place. Each month, Joe's Place supporters can meet at Time for Dinner to prepare tasty meals for the residents of Joe's Place.

In years past, Joe's Place has been blessed with the support of many diverse groups of people and individuals throughout the community who donated time and delicious meals to the house each month. But with so many different groups donating meals, house parents, Dan & Alyssa, found that they were spending hours each week working to coordinate meal drop off.

"Monthly meal donations have been such a huge help to us here at Joe's Place," said Alyssa Reeve, "The only downfall was the amount of time it took to coordinate drop off. Time for Dinner takes away this stress... And the food is amazing!"

**What is Time for Dinner?** Time for Dinner offers a well stocked kitchen, pre-planned menus, as well as groceries for people to prepare meals to take home for dinner. They are conveniently located on the corner of Brentwood and Manchester Rd. **How does it work?** Guests of Time for Dinner can visit their website and choose meals online. Once meals are selected, Time for Dinner prepares all of the ingredients and cooking supplies. Grab a few friends and prepare your meals right there in the Time for Dinner kitchen. Then Time for Dinner takes care of clean up and delivery of meals.

**How can I get involved?** Joe's Place supporters meet each month at Time for Dinner. Anyone can sign up to prepare meals for Joe's Place. Some people donate one or two of the meals they make to JP, and take the rest home for their families. Others, prepare all their meals to donate to Joe's Place. Last month, the boys of Joe's Place came to Time for Dinner and helped to prepare meals as a special treat for Alyssa, Joe's Place house mom.

If you would like to get involved with Time for Dinner for Joe's Place, log on to [www.timefordinner.com](http://www.timefordinner.com)

We hope you are able to drop in Time for Dinner for Joe's Place soon!

## Thank you Classes of the 60's!

This fall the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District alums of the Classes of the 60's came out in full force to support Joe's Place. Among their reunion vestivities, the Classes of the 60's organized a charitable golf tournament and collected donations to support the Joe's Place Capital Campaign. All said and done, this group raised over \$5400 for Joe's Place. Thank you all for the time and energy you put into creating this wonderful reunion event in support of Joe's Place!

## Support Joe's Place With These Two Great Stocking Stuffers!

To purchase a DVD or T-Shirt, stop by MRH School District, 7539 Manchester Rd Maplewood, MO 63143 or download an order form from our website and fax to 314-781-3160.



**Joe's Place DVD  
& Joe's Place T-Shirts**  
**Just \$15 each!**  
Online purchase coming soon!



## Simple Little Things

So here we are in the sixth school year of Joe's Place. It's amazing for Alyssa and I to think of how much time has passed and how many boys have entered our lives since we said yes to the Board's job offer in December of 2006. We really didn't know what we were getting ourselves into, becoming houseparents to homeless teenagers. I mean, we really didn't. But here is the thing: we also had no idea how this job would impact us. This is by far some of the most challenging and stretching work Alyssa and I have ever endeavored to undertake. Yet, to be on the receiving side of the relationships and friendships of the most resilient young men we have ever met, has been a life changing experience for Alyssa, for our own children, and for me.



*Joe's Place by Billyo*

Now as we welcome our 16th boy into the house and continue to serve our longest resident, Ty're, who has been living with us four years and counting, we come to realize how much of our energy for this work is fueled by those around us. Those who deliver meals, who are the Program Committee, who take the boys shopping, who attend our fundraisers year after year, who make our front yard beautiful and who are the Joe's Place Board. Alongside

all of you we strive and seek to give our boys the fullest and richest life possible in the time they are with us.

The other day, we were all sitting around the dinner table. The painting by Billyo of our 09 graduates hanging on the wall behind me and our current boys seated on the other side of the table. Claire was pointing and smiling at Robert. Carter, pushing food around his plate. And Alyssa, trying to get Ty're to eat some green vegetables by telling him it tastes like bacon. He went for it, vegetables 1 and Ty're 0. Alyssa then asked Robert how he was settling into the house and how he felt about staying at Joe's Place. He said, "It's good, I'm feeling more comfortable here each day."

I looked at the boys and thought about what was connecting us in that moment. It was a meal shared, it was a roof, it was the space to be the Joe's Place family and it was all of us coaxing Carter and Claire to finish their meals. For Ty're and Robert it's the loss of loved ones, the struggle to find their way alone, and the opportunity to live at Joe's Place. I see both Ty're and Robert taking comfort in being here and I watch as they grow more comfortable with themselves each day. It is a wonderful thing that, due to your support and the support of the ever growing Joe's Place family and community, we can offer these boys comfort.

So thank you all and we'll see you around soon.

*- Dan & Alyssa*

Joe's Place House Parents

## Holiday Wishes

This holiday season, we asked Dan & Alyssa to think big. If they could give these boys one great gift, what would it be? "We would love to have a small basketball court in the backyard. When we have a good hoop and a ball, the boys from across the neighborhood fill the yard. It is so wonderful to see them all together out there," said Alyssa.

Costs for building the half court are estimated at \$2000. If you would like to make a donation to help us reach this goal, please mention the basketball court in the memo line or in an enclosed note.

Joe's Place is also grateful to receive gifts of support in other ways too. Dan and Alyssa have suggested gift cards to the following shopping centers to suit the needs of their current residents this winter:

<b>Target</b>	<b>Trader Joe's</b>
<b>Walmart</b>	<b>Best Buy</b>
<b>Sports Authority</b>	

As always, Joe's Place wishes you and your loved ones a happy and safe holiday season. We would love to hear from you, too! If you would like to make a donation, or simply send a message of encouragement, please send them to:

Joe's Place  
PO Box 434057  
Maplewood, MO 63143

Thank you for your continued care and support!

Joe's Place is a 501(c)(3) organization, your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.

***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.***

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## House Parents

Dan & Alyssa Reeve

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