

Joe's Place

NEWS & NOTES

A community partnership

December 2010



Joe's Place Premieres on the Big Screen

Join us this spring for the premiere of the Joe's Place documentary! On April 2, 2011, Anna Stasis Films will release the story of three boys and their journey through high school as homeless teenagers. The premiere of *Joe's Place* will be a fundraising event held in the MRH Theatre, 7539 Manchester Rd., Maplewood, MO 63143, and will replace the annual charity auction this year.

"This story is something people need to hear about," says Matt Seilback, Anna Stasis Films. "Key area leaders took a chance on this program, and these kids, and it has been such a success."

Seilback began work on the film in the fall of 2008. And now the project, two years in the making, shows the reflection of change and renewal that started in the house and has spread through community. Joe's Place is Seilback's first documentary, and as he began to navigate the world of film, he found warm welcome from the residents of the house. "The boys have such a love for people and a respect for others," says Seilback. "Given the hardness that they have already encountered in this world, it is a testament to the relationships they have developed together and with the house parents, Dan and Alyssa Reeve."

Seilback searched for a narrator, he was quick to find David Oyelowo, best known for his role in *The Last King of Scotland*. Oyelowo, an active advocate for helping people in need, did not hesitate to volunteer his time and talent.

"I think it's easy for people to focus on the hurt they see in the world. Sometimes it is difficult to know how to take steps to address that hurt," says Seilback. "By watching what is happening at Joe's Place people can be encouraged. I hope that they find themselves opening up to new possibilities and that they are amazed by what changes in themselves and in our world."

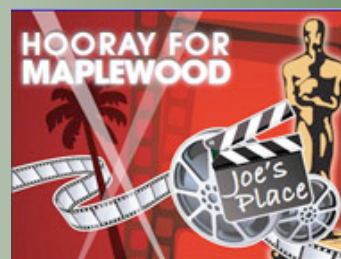
The premiere of *Joe's Place* will offer an inside view to see how your support has touched the lives of the boys in this unique home. We hope that their stories will touch your life, as well.

More details on the event, including show time and pricing will be announced soon.

See clips of the Joe's Place Documentary at
www.joesplacedoc.org

Thank you Auction Supporters!

A great big thank you to all those who helped support the Joe's Place auction in June. The event was a great success, raising over \$23,000! These funds help us continue the work of supporting and leading the young men in the MRH School District to a positive future. We could not do it without you!





Kaylon shares a bit of holiday joy with the newest little elf at Joe's Place, Claire Reeve.

Holiday Olympics at Joe's Place

As we approach our fourth Christmas here at Joe's Place, Alyssa and I look forward to the traditions that have started with our first residents and are now carried on by our current residents. Each year, we decorate the house and trim the tree on the first Sunday following Thanksgiving. The boys usually help me with the outdoor lights, while Carter decorates the tree (using a singular cluster of ornaments). Alyssa brightens the rest of the house with touches of green, poinsettias and a cranberry topiary. The finishing touch that gets us all in the holiday spirit is hot chocolate. She always has it ready for us when we come back inside.

By far the funniest tradition started by our first set of gregarious graduates is one that is now referred to as "The Joe's Place Olympics." These winter games consist of five events with points awarded to each finishing position. The events, which require extensive training (and/or stretching) are as follows: Staircase Handrail Iron Cross, Mario Cart played on the Baby Track, Basketball Shot Out of Kitchen Window into Backyard, and the \$5 Mall Scavenger Hunt. It has been suggested that we add some volunteers to the Rules Committee, as the rule interpreting always seem to benefit *me* when controversy arises. This year the competition is steep and I must admit that I'm a little worried about keeping my title. Alyssa has been practicing Mario Cart during Carter and Claire's rest time, Ty're's basketball shot is money, Kaylon has been hitting the weight room, and Roy has been logging some significant mall mapping hours.

The other tradition that has taken root at Joe's Place is the generosity of everyone who works to make this innovative house and program possible. We find that every year we can count on deliveries of meals, KFC, goodies, paper products and gift cards. The boys can count on an annual shopping trip to the mall to get ready for the school year. We can count on the giving of the MRH staff and teachers. We can count on the families, unseen and unknown, that help these boys. We are grateful that we can count on you, because these boys need us to count on them.

Thank you, and happy holidays!

- Dan & Alyssa

Joe's Place House Parents

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House Parents

Dan & Alyssa Reeve

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Kat Norton

Check Out Reeve's Rantings

House parents Dan and Alyssa's blog is a great place to catch up on what's new at Joe's Place. *Reeve's Rantings* gives readers a taste of what life is really like in this unique and dynamic home. The everyday moments that take place throughout the year will warm your heart and remind you of the depth of love that exists within the Joe's Place community. Visit today, and begin sharing your thoughts and words of encouragement.

Visit reevesrantings.blogspot.com

Warm Wishes and Holiday Cheer

Joe's Place wishes you and your loved ones a happy and safe holiday season. We would love to hear from you, too! Seasons greetings and uplifting notes are welcome and much appreciated this time of year.

If you would like to send a holiday gift to the family at Joe's Place, Dan and Alyssa have suggested gift cards to the following shopping centers to suit the needs of their current residents this winter:

Target

Walmart

Sports Authority

Trader Joe's

Best Buy

Thank you for your continued care and support!

Donations, Gifts, and Holiday Greetings can be sent to:
Joe's Place
PO Box 434057
Maplewood, MO 63143

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.

Joe's Place P.O. Box 434057 Maplewood, MO 63143 www.joesplaceatl.org