



Spring/Summer 2018

JOE'S PLACE NEWS



Joe's Place offers homeless teenage boys in the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District a caring home environment that supports them for high school graduation, self-sufficiency, and positive transitions into their adult lives.

Thank You to The Mapps

A Four-Year Legacy of Family Memories

By Julie Pole



Newlyweds Rachel and Jeremy Mapp (married for only three months) decided to apply for the positions of house parents for Joe's Place four years ago. In researching the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District for

a teaching position, Jeremy was immediately attracted to the mission and work of Joe's Place. Jeremy called Rachel at her work and Rachel began to explore Joe's Place "by watching video clips of Matt Seilback's documentary film about the house", said Jeremy. Once she began to cry, Rachel remembers, she knew she would agree to the house parent role with Jeremy. Since becoming house parents, the Mapps have devoted four years to taking care of the boys with unconditional love, patience, counsel, understanding and support.

Rachel and Jeremy have celebrated the high school graduations of six boys since joining the Joe's Place family. From the beginning of their commitment to the home, they have had many "aha" moments and have built many memories. Rachel shared recently that she was impressed by three of the boys being able to "adopt" one another unconditionally when they lived at Joe's Place together. When one of the boys had a serious breakup with his girlfriend, one of his Joe's Place "brothers" dropped everything to go out with Rachel and take his friend over to the high school track for some fresh air and then go out for dinner to offer love and support. One special Christmas, Rachel remembered that one of the boys was more excited about what his "brother" would receive than any other preparations they went through to get ready for the holiday. It seems that for many of the boys, living in this home with their Joe's Place family created many opportunities for the boys to think about themselves and others. Rachel and Jeremy always worked hard to create special occasions for the boys to celebrate - like birthdays - and discovered that one of the boys had never really had a homemade dessert, decorations around the house, or other things families typically do together to celebrate a birthday. Rachel shared that building these activities into the everyday routines was one of the special roles she and Jeremy always

enjoyed together. Jeremy shared that both he and Rachel have recognized that some of the boys come to the house with a team to support them. For some of the boys' networks of parents, family or friends, the desire to collaborate with the house parents and the school district has been instrumental in the success of the boys.



For Rachel and Jeremy, their work and devotion to Joe's Place has been a family affair. Both sets of their parents have provided guidance to them and have supported Joe's Place in a variety of ways. The Mapps have received encouragement for things like learning patience with teenagers to reminders about their own work and life balance. *(continued on page 2)*

Your Invitation to a Week at Tapped

From Lindsay Reel, Co-owner of Tapped

Dear Joe's Place Supporters,

We are excited to partner with Joe's Place again in 2018! Our **Tips to Charity** program for local non-profit groups has really grown and we hope to partner with 44 charities in 2018. With our self-pour taproom concept, we pay our staff a living wage and any tips offered at checkout are donated to a local charity that changes weekly. Tips to Charity has been overwhelmingly well received and appreciated by the local community. Last year we were able to donate over \$60,000 to local charities from May to December!



We look forward to hosting Joe's Place as our charity of the week July 31- August 5. So, mark your calendars now to stop by and enjoy a night at Tapped!

Cheers!

Lindsay Reel

Tapped, Co-owner



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CELEBRATING

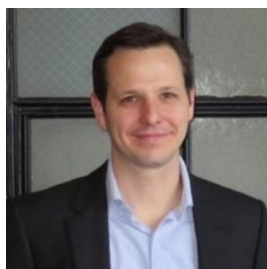


Letter from the Board President

Sometimes, a Few Words Make a Big Difference

By Heath Moylan

Joe's Place has been remarkably successful in fulfilling its mission during the past 10 years, with all but one of our 25 students receiving their High School diploma, or being on track to do so. But as we have learned during our 10+ years of operation, the struggles and barriers do not end when they cross the stage for graduation.



BOARD PRESIDENT
Heath Moylan

A non-profit is defined by its mission statement, and while our original mission contemplated the post-graduate success of the young men we serve, it was designed to focus on High School graduation as the key to that success. After careful deliberations, and reaching out to other resources and organizations who face similar issues, we are excited to announce our newly-adopted mission statement:

Joe's Place offers homeless teenage boys in the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District a caring home environment that supports them for high school graduation, self-sufficiency, and positive transitions into their adult lives.

The wording changes are minor, but with significant impact to our program. We are formalizing and expanding the support Joe's Place provides to our students to help them succeed after High School, which includes additional post-graduation preparation while they reside at Joe's Place, and provides ongoing support towards education and career goals after they leave.

This is a tremendously positive step forward for Joe's Place, but it also means our needs have never been greater. Please keep reading to find out ways to donate, and help these young men achieve their full potential.

Joe's Place Expands Board

Joe's Place welcomes the following new board members:

Rev. Todd Denholm Lead Pastor, Crossroads Presbyterian Fellowship

Erika Gonzalez Manager of Urban Education Initiatives, The Brown School of Social Work, Washington University

Julia Schaffner Coordinator, St. Louis Arc; Maplewood United Methodist Church Administrative Council

Aaron Telle President & CEO, Telle Tire & Auto Centers

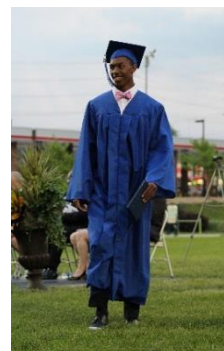
Serve as a Joe's Place House Parent

The Volunteer Act of a Lifetime

By Karen Hall and Heath Moylan

Joe's Place is searching for house parents for the 2018-2019 school year and beyond. This is a life-changing opportunity to be part of an innovative, nationally-acclaimed organization.

Joe's Place House Parents facilitate a safe and stable environment for the residents of Joe's Place by overseeing the day-to-day workings of the house and ensuring the care of its residents' physical and emotional needs. Being a House Parent for Joe's Place is more of an "art" than a "science". House Parents will need to be able to employ wisdom and discernment in mentoring and guiding the residents. The following are character traits that will be needed at one time or another: wisdom, compassion, courage, joy, patience, and consistency.



All qualified persons who would like to be considered as a candidate for this position are encouraged to apply online at: <https://mrhds.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>

(continued from The Mapps page 1) Their parents have attended the boys' soccer and basketball games, graduation parties and other celebrations. Like Rachel and Jeremy's parents did for them when they traveled to Truman State University to begin their lives in college, the Mapps drove four of the boys to college and helped them move in. Witnessing each of the boys' feelings of independence and accomplishment has given Rachel and Jeremy a tremendous sense of completion.

Building on the many ways in which family unfolds, Harris Mapp, who was born two years ago, has only known Joe's Place as his home. Looking ahead to the end of the school year, Rachel and Jeremy plan to move on from Joe's Place with Harris continuing to help people through their professions - including their new roles as "agents of change" with Clarity Street Realty. They both see their work helping people own their first home as a "big, empowering accomplishment" for people living in their community. Jeremy plans to finish his EDD in Educational Leadership at Maryville University in May 2019. Both of the Mapps are committed to continuing their work focused on youth and development.

For over 10 years, Joe's Place has built a foundation of love and support provided by house parents Alyssa and Dan Reeve and Rachel and Jeremy Mapp. Like the Reeves, Rachel and Jeremy have made a lasting impact on the lives of the boys they cared for and we wish them every happiness, new adventure and success as we thank them for their years of devoted service to Joe's Place.



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Are You Ready to Shuffle?

By Teri Brickey

Registration is now open for the event you've all been waiting for...*The Maplewood Shuffle!*

When?

Saturday, June 16, 2018 – 4:00pm – 8:00pm

How to Register?

Visit www.maplewoodshuffle.com to register!

What is the Maplewood Shuffle?

The Maplewood Shuffle is an annual event where teams roam downtown Maplewood and engage in feats of skill, wit, and hilarity. All funds raised directly benefit boys at Joe's Place.

Activities Include:

- Trivia, Games & Challenges at Each Stop
- Promotional Specials at Participating Venues
- Prizes Awarded at the Final Check-In

Maplewood Shuffle participants will have access to activities and promotional specials at participating venues, and a chance to win great prizes including gift certificates from local businesses.

The Route

We will start at Crossroads Presbyterian Church, as we have every year. The Crossroads folks have been great supporters of Joe's Place and the Shuffle, and we could literally not do this without them! After check-in, we will shuffle through downtown Maplewood, visiting a mix of new and returning host venues for challenges and trivia that will test your skill and your wit. All of this while spending a few hours with good friends in great local businesses. We will conclude this year at Immaculate Conception church, where you just might have to complete one final challenge! While we tabulate the scores, we will draw our raffle and hold a live auction for some one-of-a-kind prizes!

Don't Forget About Your "Team Look"

Remember to gather your team and get started on your "team



look"! We are continually amazed by the creativity and skill that our Shuffle teams exhibit in their choice of fashions. The judges love to see a team that clearly makes a statement!

Business Sponsorship Information

By Teri Brickey

We invite your business to participate in this year's Maplewood Shuffle for Joe's Place, on Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 4:00-7:30 p.m. Your business location is on our Shuffle route. Participating as a Host Venue or Scavenger Stop would bring in business and foot traffic from Shuffle participants. It is a fun afternoon for a great cause!

How to support the Shuffle financially:

1. **Shuffle Sponsor:** Sponsorship levels are Platinum (\$1,000), Gold (\$500) and Silver (\$250), each of which includes varying levels of exposure for your business, including web and print materials. The Platinum level also includes a complimentary team entry.
2. **Shuffle Round Sponsor:** With a gift of \$100, your company name or logo will be displayed on one game or trivia round, as well as other event advertising.

How to support the Shuffle and increase foot traffic into your location:

1. **Shuffle Host Venue:** A required stop on the Shuffle route, where participants will have an activity to complete on site and can earn points for purchases. We ask host venues offer a special or discount on food or merchandise for Shuffle participants.
2. **Shuffle Scavenger Stop:** An optional stop on the Shuffle route, where participants can find a hidden logo.

Other ways to participate:

1. **Shuffle with a Team:** Teams may include up to 8 people, 21 and over. Registration is \$35 per person. We encourage team costumes - giving a prize to the best one!
2. **Donate a Prize:** We award prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams and hold a raffle for smaller prizes. Past team prizes have included restaurant gift certificates, sports tickets, and other group prizes, typically valued at \$200-\$300. Raffle prizes vary in value and often include gift cards and baskets from local businesses.

If you are interested in being a Host Venue, please contact us as soon as possible. Past attendance leads us to expect 150-200 people participating. Please feel free to call or email with any questions on how to get involved!

Teri Brickey, Chair, Maplewood Shuffle
(314) 374-8742 or brickey.t@gmail.com
www.maplewoodshuffle.com



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Donor Spotlight

Pastor Kim Shirar & Maplewood United Methodist Church

By Heath Moylan & Sandra Richason

Last year's matching campaign inspired one of our long-time supporters to respond with great enthusiasm – Maplewood United Methodist Church (UMC).

Since Joe's Place originated a little more than 10 years ago, UMC has been there in full support, whether its donating paper products and meals or inspiring their congregation to give financially.

When we recently visited with Pastor Kim Shirar, and congregation members Julia Schaffner and Jan Harsh, they expressed a profound passion for Joe's Place and MRH community. They truly understand and boosts Joe's Place mission at every opportunity. ***"The people of Maplewood United Methodist Church are committed to being good stewards of our financial resources by ensuring that a healthy percentage is donated outside of the walls of our church. We are so very blessed by a generous and growing congregation that strives to live into our mission and vision, which leads us to share God's love in tangible ways in our MRH community."***, said Schaffner. Schaffner is so committed she recently joined Joe's Place Board of Directors.



As our conversation continued, Pastor Shirar voiced her concerns for the future needs of youth in the MRH community and Joe's Place residents and graduates. Her compassion for youth focused on our need as a community to mentor and support them during their challenging years of growing into adulthood. She continued by saying, ***"In the best of circumstances being a teen can be difficult. When life is compounded by stressors like housing and food insecurities, complicated living environments, and lack of predictability, focus on school and future can be impossible...The Maplewood United Methodist congregation believes every child has the right to take full advantage of education...we believe we must share in the community's responsibility to help."*** UMC did just that. They were the largest donation during last year's matching challenge, giving \$3,500 to our campaign to be matched by an anonymous family foundation.

We are truly grateful Pastor Shirar and UMC congregation for understanding financial gifts and ongoing support like this make graduation from high school a reality for residents of Joe's Place.

Board of Directors

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Heath Moylan, *President*
RGA

Leslie Rigsby, *Vice President*
Washington University

Howard Goldberg, *Treasurer*
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Teri Brickey, *Washington University*

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Erika Gonzalez, *The Brown School of Social Work, Washington University*

Karen Hall, *MRH School District*

Dan Keating, *Washington University School of Law*

Maria Langston, *Missouri Credit Union Charitable Foundation*

Julie Pole, *Food Outreach*

Matt Seilback, *Varsity Tutors*

Julia Schaffner, *St. Louis Arc; Maplewood United Methodist Church Administrative Council*

Aaron Telle, *Telle Tire & Auto Centers*

House Parents

Rachel & Jeremy Mapp

Staff & Support

Vince Estrada, *MRH School District*

Sandra Richason, *Administrative & Development Coordinator*

Newsletter design by Rachel Silverberg, Chief Creative at *Think Creative*

Connect With Us



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