

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President
Julia Schaffner
St. Louis Arc
Maplewood UMC

Vice President
Facundo Oyenard
Bayer Crop Science

Treasurer
Howard Goldberg
Royal Banks of Missouri

Secretary
Erika Gonzalez, MSW
Washington University

MEMBERS

Kierstin Covert
Vibrant You

Josiah Green
Crossroads Presbyterian

Brandi Herndon-Miller
Law Offices of
Brandi Herndon-Miller

Stacey Kelley
Crossroads Presbyterian

Roxanna Mechem
MRH School District

Ralph Posley
Word of God Christian
Church

Aaron Telle
Telle Tire & Auto Centers

HOUSE PARENTS

**Amber Compton
& Matt Bauersachs**

STAFF & SUPPORT

Vince Estrada
MRH School District

Rachel Mapp
Case Manager

Sandra Richason
Administrative &
Development Coordinator



FALL 2020

CAROLE ANNE GAULT - A LOVER OF ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL

Over the summer, Joe's Place lost one of its long-time supporters, Carole Anne Gault (nee Clement). (June 10, 1935 - June 11, 2020)

Carole grew up in Maplewood and was an MRH graduate of 1953. According to her daughter, Elizabeth Lewis, Carol's favorite teacher was her English teacher and personal mentor, Mrs Helen Hamin. After graduating high school, she married Harold Fred Gault (MRH class of '52) in 1956. Mrs. Hamlin was at the wedding. Carol began working in a gift shop and taught herself how to create floral arrangements. In 1986, she went into business for herself and opened Hathaway's Gift and Floral shop in Crestwood Plaza followed by additional locations. Her next career was travelling as a silk floral and gift sales representative. She would drive her mobile showroom, a converted trailer home, along the back roads and blue highways of the Midwest.



Carol with her husband Fred

Carole loved Joe's Place because her parents were unable to care for her during WWII. So, she was raised by her Aunt and Uncle Blatti on Rannells Avenue in Maplewood. She was forever thankful she had a safety net of family. That's why years later, she believed Joe's Place was a charity she could support through her monthly MRH class of 1953 Lunch Bunch. Each month Carole and classmates would donate to Joe's Place. Carole was able to enjoy her Lunch Bunch up until 2 years ago, when her Parkinson's began to hold her back from social activities.

Described as a lover of all things beautiful, Carol would often tell her children to deal with the hard times with jokes and laughter. Carole loved golf, art, and watching NCIS with her family. She was also an avid volunteer throughout her life for many organizations. Carol's last act of kindness was requesting that memorials be sent to Joe's Place in her name. Her spirit for supporting children, nonprofits, and the Black Lives Matter movement will be greatly missed. Carole was a Mom of 3, Grandmother of 3, and Great Grandmother to one. We send our thoughts and prayers to her family and friends.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

During the pandemic, nonprofits throughout the U.S. are struggling to meet their financial goals and fulfill their missions. Joe's Place is no different. We remain grateful to our community partners that have stood by us. Their support during the pandemic has helped Joe's Place mission stay alive, and therefore, we are indebted to the following foundations and companies for their ongoing generosity and faith in our programs, like:

Covert Foundation
First Unitarian Church of St. Louis
Florence Heiman Charitable Trust
International Charitable Foundation
Lockton Companies
Margaret Mudd Fletcher Charitable Foundation

Maplewood United Methodist Church
MRH Teachers and Staff
Professional Firefighters of Maplewood
QuikTrip
Saigh Foundation
St. Louis Community Foundation
Tapped



theSAIGHfoundation



LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

November. The month of gratitude. An emotion that might feel distant considering the events of 2020. On a personal level I realized early in the pandemic that making a conscious effort to take notice of daily experiences that create the feeling of being grateful, and appreciating even the smallest of those gestures, would be important. For example, I no longer overlook a kind word or text, a beautiful sunset, a hug from someone in my household, or even a snuggle from our cat. This act of being present helps me find connection and joy.



I am humbled to be a member of the caring community of Joe's Place. It has been a privilege witnessing the love and commitment of our house parents who continue to give so unselfishly; the generosity of a community that opened their hearts and rallied behind our two MRH 2020 graduates; the dedication of MRH District and high school staff that go above and beyond each and every day; the pledge from foundations, funders, and community members to serve the vulnerable members of our community; the flexibility and enthusiasm from our new part-time case manager to successfully launch the new Joe's Place graduate program during a difficult year; the energy and commitment of current and previous board members and volunteers who work to ensure stability in the lives of young men; the creativity and generosity given by our part-time administrative and development staff; the perseverance of current Joe's Place residents and alumni even when facing extreme adversity.

The foresight of the Joe's Place Board and staff to formally expand service delivery in 2019 also fills me with gratitude. Considering the pandemic, formalizing supports for our alumni was implemented at the right time. Joe's Place now offers three programs for its residents and graduates that are overseen by the Board of Directors, a Program Committee, house parents, and a part-time case manager.

Resident

Every school year up to four male students live at the house under the supervision and guidance of two house parents. The residents are given a loving home, regular meals, tutoring, professional counseling, transportation, summer enrichment opportunities, and a support system with an emphasis on high school graduation, college, and career readiness.

Senior

This program focuses on seniors within our resident program. Participants receive intensified preparation for post secondary education and career readiness. They also receive additional mentorship, application assistance, and counseling to prepare them for college, trade school, or military enrollment.

Graduate

The graduate program is supported by a case manager who works with our alumni who find themselves experiencing housing insecurities during periods of transition such as college breaks, post-secondary graduation, and job changes. Participants receive assistance with college and career choices, housing, and mental health needs. This supplementary layer of support ensures our graduates will experience the stability necessary to focus on a healthy, independent, and rewarding future.

With deep appreciation,

Julia Schaffner
Board President, Joe's Place

A FOND FAREWELL TO DR. KAREN HALL

Joe's Place expresses its deepest gratitude to Dr. Karen Hall for her leadership, guidance, and service to the young men who call Joe's Place home. Dr. Hall served on the Joe's Place Board of Directors from July 2012 to October 2020. We are indebted to her unwavering commitment to equity and social justice. Due to the timing of print of this newsletter, a more fitting tribute to Dr. Hall will be forthcoming.



*Karen Hall with her
Maplewood Shuffle Team 2017*



BOARD UPDATE



Heath Moylan

Due to COVID-19, we did not mail a spring newsletter. The Spring Newsletter usually includes announcements about new board positions and those stepping off. Since our last newsletter in the winter of 2019, there have been many changes on our board.

In January, we installed and welcomed our executive board leadership from experts in their field.

- Board President: Julia Schaffner, Coordinator, St. Louis Arc; and Member, Maplewood UMC
- Vice President: Facundo Oyenard, Commercial Strategy Performance Management, Bayer Crop
- Treasurer: Howard Goldberg, Senior Vice President, Royal Banks of Missouri
- Secretary: Erika Gonzalez, Faculty, The Brown School of Social Work, Washington University



Dan Keating

After installing the new executive leadership, long-time MRH volunteer, Heath Moylan, stepped down as Board President and was presented with a gift for his years of service from the board. Heath joined the board in 2014 and served in various roles, including board president from 2016 - 2019. Under Heath's leadership, the board implemented a senior and graduate program, hired two staff positions to grow the organization, spearheaded a three-year strategic plan, and oversaw The Maplewood Shuffle for many years. We are truly indebted to his guidance and dedication. We are also very grateful to his wife and Richmond Heights Councilwoman, Megan Moylan, for Heath's time away from his family and for her countless hours of volunteering behind the scenes.

A few months later in the summer, Dan Keating retired from the board. Dan had served on the board since 2014. As a professor at Washington University School of Law, his knowledge and experience were significant assets to our team. We owe Dan a debt of gratitude for his willingness to serve and counsel, as well as his dedication to the mission of Joe's Place. We look forward to keeping in touch with Dan and seeing him and his wife, Jane Keating, at future Joe's Place events.



Maria Langston

Joe's Place also shifted our board liaisons with the MRH School Board. This year Brandi Herndon-Miller and Ralph Posley exchanged places with long-time board volunteers Maria Langston (since 2009) and Francis Chmelir (since 2016). We are thankful to Maria and Francis and to the MRH School Board for their ongoing partnership, guidance, support, and humble service.



Francis Chmelir

Most recently, we welcomed new board members Stacey Kelley, a Digital Portfolio Management employee at Ameren, and Pastor Josiah Green. Both members will carry on the tradition of serving on our board as charter member liaisons for Crossroads Presbyterian Church. We are thankful for their willingness to serve.

END 2020 BY MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUTH

To say the least, 2020 has been a most challenging year for all of us, yet the needs for youth in our area continue. Throughout the pandemic, community members like you, our board, and staff continue to keep our Joe's Place programs running. However, our programs cost money; and therefore, need your financial and in-kind support. Our daily programs that make a difference in the lives of young men in our community need support now more urgently than ever. Your support sustains our daily operations and helps the boys reach their life goals.

How can you help?

1. Make a One-Time Gift Between Now and the End of the Year
A one-time gift helps provide food, clothing (including winter coats), shoes, tutoring, and counseling. To make your gift today, you may use the enclosed envelope or donate online through our website at www.joesplacestl.org. Also, due to the pandemic, many companies are matching their employee contributions - some are even double and triple matching. Ask someone in your employer's Human Resources Department about their employee matching gift program to take advantage of this opportunity.

2. Become a Sustaining Donor

We are proud of our group of community members that signed up to give a monthly donation. Our sustaining givers demonstrate their passion and dedication to Joe's Place through their monthly gifts. Gifts as small as \$10, \$15, or \$20 a month sustain our budget to purchase weekly groceries, counseling services, and clothing for our current residents and graduates. Becoming a sustaining donor is easy; simply visit our website www.joesplacestl.org, select the PayPal button, enter the amount you would like to donate along with your PayPal information, or set up the transaction directly through online banking. For a small nonprofit like ours, monthly donors create lasting impact for day to day needs and ensure our mission and programs continue from year to year.

3. Participate in GivingTuesday on December 1, 2020

Every year GivingTuesday inspires millions of people to give back and support the causes they most believe in. This year GivingTuesday is taking place on Tuesday, December 1st. You can join this wave of generosity by giving to Joe's Place on December 1st and making a donation through www.joesplacestl.org.

REFLECTIONS FROM CASE MANAGER RACHEL MAPP

At not quite the one-year mark with the new Joe's Place post-graduate program, we are working to position the organization as one that continues providing meaningful support and a sense of belonging to alumni long after high school graduation. The goals for the first year were to reconnect with alumni and create a plan to stay in regular contact, assess needs, and create a plan to provide appropriate support. To date we have connected with all the alumni and are cultivating a relationship with each young man. We also created and implemented a voluntary quarterly check-in survey to gauge alumni's success, needs, stress level, and barriers, which is providing important data.

Another ongoing goal for the graduate program is identifying other organizations or targeted resources that can support alumni in their current communities. One great example of this is an alumnus for whom Joe's Place quickly became a regular support system through direct assistance and facilitated connections with other organizations for food resources, utility assistance, goal setting, career planning, resume critique, mental health check-ins, and regular personal encouragement. After nearly 10 months this young man has finished a certification program, found gainful employment in his field, and has reported an improved mental health standing. In fact, he has volunteered his time and energy to give back to Joe's Place in the last few months and requested to repay the monetary support Joe's Place gave to him in his time of need.

Other examples of the support provided to Joe's Place alumni through the new graduate program and expanded community support include:

- furniture for independent living
- job/interview coaching
- clothing assistance for interviews
- parenting resources
- FASFA assistance
- housing search
- transportation to medical appointments
- resources to obtain higher or technical education
- scholarship application assistance
- college search and application process with high school seniors
- post graduation housing plans with high school seniors
- socially distanced graduation celebration for high school seniors

The focus for next year will be to continue the goals of this year and build out a more robust support system and resource network. Beginning this fall we are piloting a mentorship program. We hope to build this opportunity for all alumni who feel they might benefit from a mentor / mentee relationship with professionals in our community for networking, advice, problem solving, general support and encouragement. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity please email us at Joesplacestl@gmail.com using the subject line "Alumni Mentorship".

Thank you so much for your continued support of our Joe's Place residents and alumni!

Rachel Mapp officially re-joined the Joe's Place family last year as a case manager for the new graduate support program. The case manager position was developed to help Joe's Place high school seniors transition to their post-high school plans, as well as ongoing support for the ever-growing number of Joe's Place alumni. Rachel came to the position with years of experience having served in the role of houseparent with husband, Jeremy, from 2014 - 2018.



HOLIDAY WISH LIST FOR THE BOYS

Would you like to make this holiday season extra special for Joe's Place? An Amazon wish list has been created with special gifts of all sizes for our residents and alumni. To contribute, please visit: <https://amzn.to/3eqdQaF>

As an alternative, current Joe's Place residents enjoy the opportunity to try new foods. Gift cards to local restaurants for meals or desserts are always welcomed and appreciated. There are no current allergies or food sensitivities in the home.

Or, if you would like to support our young adult alumni served through the new graduate program, gift cards to Schnucks, Walmart, or Target are also appreciated.

Thank you for making the holidays special and memorable for our Joe's Place family!



BOB'S TRASH-A-THON



Recently, Maplewood resident Bob Weidenbenner contacted Joe's Place with a unique idea to host a Trash-A-Thon. Bob explained that he enjoys walking and likes to keep the City streets clean of trash while doing so. Bob says, "With the recent changes in our world I've found myself expanding these trash walks and they've become almost daily." During these walks Bob realized that his efforts might be able to raise awareness and funds for local non-profits, thus the Trash-a-Thon was born.

"I'm pledging to keep picking up trash once a week for a year and in return, I'm asking for sponsors for my efforts. Sponsors simply give a donation to a charitable group that is working locally to improve our city. I'm asking for donations for this year to be made to either Cornerstone Center in the Shaw area of the city or Joe's Place here in Maplewood or both. You can see what kind of services these places offer as well as donate to them on their websites. If you lack web access you can send a check, their mailing addresses are below. I'm asking the donation to be made in honor of "Trash-a-thon". Both places will keep track of the donations for me. I'm not making a mailing list and have requested the same of both organizations, they may send a thank you note though. I'd like to see how much was raised but mainly would like to show potential volunteers that their work can have immediate as well as long term benefits in more ways than they might think."

Bob collects trash in the area bounded by Zephyr on the north, Flora on the South, Sutton on the west and Marshall / Oakview Terrace on the east, as well as Rule near the railroad tracks. He has friends that took over their block of Oakview between Lohmeyer and Lyndover. If you live in that area and see Bob picking up trash, please thank him for caring so deeply about our community, children, and youth. If you are able, please take him up on his challenge by donating to the Trash-A-Thon:

Joe's Place
PO Box 434057
Maplewood MO, 63143

Joe's Place works with homeless teenage boys in the MRH school district. Please make a check payable to Joe's Place.

OR

Cornerstone Center
3901 Russell Blvd
St Louis MO, 63110

Cornerstone Center provides early daycare and pre-k learning services for many families that can't afford it. Please make a check payable to Cornerstone Center.

Bob's efforts have already raised much needed funds for Joe's Place, helping cover the cost of a new washing machine. Hat's off to Bob for using creative volunteerism to bring together a community and making it better for all!

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Join our monthly donor program. A small monthly gift of \$10, \$15, \$20 or more, makes a significant impact over time.
- Prepare meals for the family by visiting Time for Dinner.
- Donate your personal unused gift cards this holiday season.
- Write us a letter or quote of support we can share with foundations and corporations.
- Donate tickets for the house parents and boys to use, i.e. Cardinal tickets, Blues tickets, concert or movie tickets.
- Tell others about us and share our future posts and announcements on your social media pages.
- Ask your employer's Human Resources Department about their employee matching gift program. Then just send in your donation with the matching gift form.

"If I was not at Joe's Place, I would not have food, stability, or accountability and it would be nearly impossible for me to succeed in school."

Joe's Place Resident



P.O. Box 434057
Maplewood, MO 63143
314-446-1776
www.joesplacestl.org
Email: joesplacestl@gmail.com

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.

Connect with us:



JOESPLACESTL.ORG

CREATING MEMORIES THROUGH MEALS

"What is one special dinner request?" Joe's Place house parents Amber Compton and Matt Bauersachs ask each young man moving into the home this simple but meaningful question.

Do you remember your special meal from your childhood? That very favorite dish for a birthday celebration or as recognition for a job well done? Perhaps you even learned how to prepare it to share with your own family (or taught your partner how to make it for you!).

Amber and Matt recently explained that the simple question serves multiple purposes. In addition to providing that meaningful meal for the household to share while celebrating one of their own, it also provides each young man a quick successful experience in using their voice in an assertive manner, a valuable lesson they try to build upon every opportunity possible. They also find that it sparks an interest in learning about cooking and kitchen navigation, important for life skill development.

Self-proclaimed foodies, Amber and Matt believe in sharing their love of good food with the young men who call Joe's Place home. Their kitchen is the epicenter of the home. Amber takes the lead on the gourmet dinner prep and baking, while Matt is the grill master, short-order breakfast cook, and creative leftover guru. Both take great joy in sharing their culinary skills, helping the young men explore their palates, and making cooking and eating together fun and meaningful. Their belief in the power of meals to foster a sense of community could not be timelier, particularly considering the pandemic and serving as house parents through the shelter in place order last spring.

One Joe's Place resident says, "I LOVE Amber's shrimp & grits!", a sentiment shared by Matt and apparently one of the household's favorite special meals. This resident went on to say, "I am also learning how to prepare my own meals and trying foods I have never had before."

So, what is that special family meal that holds firm in your memory and brings a smile to your face? Ask any Joe's Place resident and you are sure to get a delicious response!

To help on busy nights the Joe's Place family always welcomes home-made and restaurant supplied meals, as well as gift cards for local grocery stores or restaurants. If you are interested in supporting this endeavor, please let us know by emailing us at joesplacestl@gmail.com. We know the family would appreciate it!

