LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home

LIFEHOUSE CHANGES LIVES

Because of your support, LifeHouse provides much more than safe shelter.

Resident turns from a life of drugs and living on the streets to become a devoted and hard-working mom.

Avery, a tall, dark-haired and articulate young woman, came to LifeHouse in February. Her mom was an alcoholic who both physically and verbally abused her. Avery ran away from home at 15, hopping trains and hitchhiking across the western U.S. “It was a horrible time. I started taking drugs. I’d try to get clean and sober by myself. But I always started again. Eventually I just gave up on even trying. I slept on the streets. But then I got arrested and spent four months in jail. I got scared.” After a few starts and stops in drug treatment, Avery found out she was pregnant. The combination of time in jail and being pregnant provided new motivation for Avery who was referred to LifeHouse by the Carol Jones Treatment Center.

“I was searching for some type of stability, some way to change. I didn’t know how to do it myself. LifeHouse provided the structure. They helped to guide me and gave me ideas and resources. They helped me to grow on my own. I’m serious now. I want a life for myself and my family. I know I can’t do it if I’m not clean and sober, have an education, a driver’s license, a job.

(continued inside)
Thank you for caring.

"I had an epiphany—I can choose what to do with my life. I can choose my attitude about it. I can be a victim or I can quit talking about it and do it."

And Avery has been "doing it!" She completed her drug treatment course, obtained her GED, and is taking full advantage of all the classes and appointments that LifeHouse offers.

"I feel like I'm excelling now. I'm happy doing these things. That part doesn't surprise me because this is what I always wanted to do but I didn't know how. But I am surprised because I learned how strong I am. I always thought I needed someone else to help me. Now I know I can do it on my own."

Strong and optimistic, Avery is growing into the type of person she always wanted to be. She is planning a bright future, not only for herself but her whole family.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Avery's baby was born on September 14. He weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. He's healthy and looks just like his doting mom.

"I had no idea ALL this happens here!"

(This is something we hear from visitors who take a tour of LifeHouse)

It is our privilege to show you what you are making possible. LifeHouse is an amazing place of hope. If you haven't visited before, please come and see how lives are being changed every day. If you have taken a tour, come again and see what's new.

To schedule a tour, contact Maureen Jersak at (417) 720-4213 or mjersak@ccsono.org.
Thank you for being a part of their journey.

FINANCIAL COUNSELING AND GENEROUS DONOR = A BETTER LIFE
DESPERATE PRAYER ANSWERED FOR SINGLE MOM

Diane was crying when she entered our Financial Counselor’s office. A survivor of domestic violence, Diane is a single working mom, going to college and struggling to make ends meet. She was behind on her rent and out of food. The last straw was when her transmission went out on her car.

“I always pray for my clients, and I told her it would be OK and that we would work through all of her hurdles together.”

Our counselor began by giving Diane words of hope and encouragement. “I always pray for my clients, and I told her it would be OK and that we would work through all of her hurdles together.” The counselor ran a credit report, designed a budget, referred Diane to several companies for employment, and began working with her weekly.

Then Tom Faulkner, Director of Crosslines, a program of the Council of Churches, called to say he had someone wanting to donate a car, specifically to a single mom who was working and going to school. What a blessing that day was for all involved! The client was so appreciative, saying “I was at such a very low point in my life. I didn’t know what to do. [My counselor] and Catholic Charities are like little angels put in our lives. I am so grateful!”

Diane continues to receive counseling each week as she makes progress toward complete self-sufficiency.

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DISASTER RESPONSE
HOME REPAIRED AND MADE SAFE FOR THIS WORKING MOM

This full-time working mom and her son live in Mississippi County in the home where her grandparents and parents had lived. It is where she grew up, and it is special to her. However, the home was badly damaged in the flood of 2011 and there was no money for repairs. When CCSOMO arrived, the floors were giving way and there were sections where someone could actually fall through. The toilet had to be propped up by boards.

With the help of volunteers, a local contractor and additional funds from the County Long Term Recovery Committee, the damaged floors and walls were removed, new floor joists were installed and new drywall hung. The repaired house was given back to the owner in safe condition.

The client told her case worker, “It’s wonderful not worrying about falling through the floor ... We are so happy it’s fixed and so grateful.”

HOME REPAIR AND REBUILD PROGRAM FOR SENIORS
THANKS TO YOU, WIDOW NOW FEELS SAFE IN HER HOME

Mrs. B, an 80 year old widow with limited mobility, lives alone in an older home. Due to its condition, Mrs. B didn’t feel safe in her home. With the collaboration of the City of Cape Girardeau and the Senior Citizens Services Fund, we were able to make extensive repairs and weatherization updates.

Catholic Charities’ Construction Manager coordinated the work of fourteen volunteers who made repairs, replaced windows, added new water lines, insulated, and installed a new storm door. Through the use of volunteer labor, we were able to provide $8,135.39 worth of repairs for a total cash outlay of $1,820.89. Our client and her daughters who came from out of state to help with the painting were very grateful!
Today, a life is better because of you.

HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

"I DID IT!"
WITH JUST A LITTLE HELP OVER A SHORT TIME, THIS DESPERATE, WORKING WOMAN OVERCAME HER FINANCIAL STRUGGLES.

Short and tiny, with a dynamite personality and always a genuine smile" – that’s how Ms. G’s case worker describes her. However, Ms. G wasn’t smiling when she came to Catholic Charities this year. She was facing eviction from her home and she was scared.

Ms. G had been working two jobs in the in-home health care field but lost one of them prior to becoming ill. Her medical issues landed her in the hospital and she fell behind on her bills. On returning to work, her hours were cut, and at minimum wage she couldn’t pay all her bills. Ms. G felt desperate and hopeless.

Through the Homeless Prevention Program, the landlord agreed to work with Ms. G and her case worker. CCSOMO started paying the current rent which enabled Ms. G to pay off the back rent she owed. During this time, Ms. G also received financial counseling. She eventually landed a second job and increased her hours at her original job. With the added income, Ms. G was able to complete the program in three months.

Ms. G was so proud of herself and amazed at her accomplishments, saying, "It didn't take me long at all!" She was also so appreciative, telling the staff "You all are the bomb!"

A SINGLE FATHER DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER FACES EVICTION
YOUR DONATIONS KEPT THE FAMILY IN THEIR HOME.

Tony, a single father of a 10-year-old girl and a 14 year-old-boy, had always been able to provide for his family until he was diagnosed with throat cancer and needed surgery. The son took over household duties including the cooking. He said, “Dad had to totally depend on us.” When Tony could no longer pay his rent, he reluctantly turned to Catholic Charities. We began paying rent and utilities, assisted with medical bills and helped purchase the nutritional supplement needed for his feeding tube.

Today, Tony has finished 36 rounds of radiation and 10 rounds of chemotherapy. “Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri has helped me out in every possible way. They have been a blessing to me. I don't know what I would have done if it hadn't been for them," Tony said. Tony will soon learn if his cancer has been contained or has spread.

He was told that after this article appeared, there would be a lot of people praying for him. Tony smiled and said, “Thank you!”

“Amen, I say to you. Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40
GoodFinds helps family even before opening

Family who lost their home and possessions in fire helped by your GoodFinds donations

The sign says “GoodFinds,” and it’s a great place to shop. But, it’s really much more than that.

Even before the Grand Opening of GoodFinds, our fantastic new resale shop in the heart of downtown Joplin, your donations to GoodFinds were used to help a family through a tragedy.

A couple and their two children, a boy and a girl ages five and ten, lost their home to a house fire, as well as all their personal belongings. Catholic Charities case manager Jackie Menezes and staff from GoodFinds pulled together to provide the family with personal hygiene items, clothing, bedding and shoes. Jackie also opened a case management file to provide longer-term rebuilding resources for the entire family. This help wouldn’t have been possible without your donations made to GoodFinds. Thank you!

We celebrated the grand opening of GoodFinds on October 3 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Joplin Chamber of Commerce. Bishop Johnston was present to cut the ribbon. The bishop also recognized some of our Charter Members in the Joplin area who attended the ceremony, thanking them with the presentation of a framed Episcopal Blessing.

TO DONATE ITEMS OR TO VOLUNTEER AT GOODFINDS, CALL TIM AT (417) 623-2200.

The goals of GoodFinds:

- Our GoodFinds store provides quality items to shoppers at affordable prices.
- In addition, our case managers are able to shop GoodFinds to supply basic necessities for our clients in need.
- And most importantly, all profits are used to sustain Catholic Charities’ programs that serve those in need.

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri Programs and Services

- Developmentally Disabled Service Coordination
- Disaster Preparedness, Response & Long-term Recovery
- GoodFinds Resale Shop
- Homelessness Prevention
- Home Repair & Rebuilding for Disaster Survivors and Low-Income Seniors
- Housing and Financial Counseling
- Income Tax Preparation Assistance
- LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home
- Mental Health & Family Counseling
- Pregnancy & Parenting Support/ Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Program
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance) Enrollment
- Support Services for Veterans and their Families
- Youth Mentoring/BUDS Program

At Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, we respect everyone who comes to us for help—and many are working toward a fresh start in life. So while their stories are true, some client names and images may have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.

Coming soon! Launch of Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families program. Look for your next issue of Reaching Out for information on how your donations are helping our returning veterans.
May the grace you bring others, return to you.

We are so grateful to the following businesses, organizations and individuals for sponsoring Dinner for Life 2014 in support of LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home. Thank you for caring about these homeless pregnant women who have chosen life for their babies!

**Partners in Changing Lives:** Dr. Kenneth and Angie Neu • Drs. David and Ann Smid • Dr. Nancy O’Reilly

**Partners in Providing Brighter Futures:** Bob & Becky Bach • Jim and Cathy Moore • David O’Reilly

**Partners in Offering New Beginnings:** Matt and Beth Bedinghaus • Charlie and Mary Beth O’Reilly • Rosalie Wooten O’Reilly

**Partners in Creating Opportunities:** Deacon Tom Brewer and Dr. Pat Dix • Dr. Paul and Debby Freiman
Ralph and Laura Graham • Dr. Melvin and Linda Walker

**Friends of LifeHouse:** John Carroll • Dr. Steve and Kris Garcia • Dr. Mike Horan • Dr. Roy and Terri Libel • Dr. Randy and Nicola Mullins • Tom and Joyce Samsel

**Church Table Sponsors:**
Holy Trinity Church • Our Lady of the Lake Church • St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church • St. Joseph Church - Springfield

**In-kind Sponsors:**
O’Reilly • Mercy

Did you know that 50% tax credits are available for donations of $100 or more to LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home? LifeHouse has a limited number of Maternity Home Tax Credits for 2014. So reserve yours today!

For more information, visit ccsomo.org, or email mjersak@ccsomo.org, or call (417) 720-4213.

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

YES, I want to help our neighbors in need. Here is my gift of $ __________.

You may use this form and mail your donation in the envelope included with this newsletter.

☐ Enclosed is my check made payable to Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri OR
☐ I prefer to donate by credit card. Please charge my __Visa ___MC ___Discover ___AmEx

Name: ___________________________ Phone: _____________
Address: _________________________ City: _____________ Zip: _____________
Email: ____________________________ Exp Date: _____________

Credit Card #: ____________________ Signature: __________________

Security Code (on back) ____________

You’re a vital part of our stories!

To ensure that our stories of help and hope can continue, please donate today.

Whose life will you help make better today?

Thank you for your donation! We would be delighted to speak to you anytime about your support. You can call us at (417) 720-4213 to ask about your gift in action, or other ways you would like to support our programs. THANK YOU!