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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.



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ABOUT JOE'S PLACE

Since 2006, Joe's Place has been an innovative idea born from a perpetual need in the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District (MRH). Every year male high school students in our district find themselves without a home due to serious family difficulties. To respond to this dramatic need, a community-wide collaboration of MRH, local churches, and volunteers came together to form Joe's Place. After this, the school district purchased a house, developed a program, and hired house parents. In 2007, the first group of male students moved into the house and became a family with a purpose - to graduate high school. In 2019 as part of our strategic plan, we created an alum program to provide needed services for our graduates up to age 24. Our education and social service model was the first of its kind in the United States.

YOU TOO CAN SUPPORT JOE'S PLACE



You can see from this graduation photo next to this article this is why we do what we do. Our Joe's Place program makes a difference in one MRH student at a time. Your support this time of year is crucial for our residents and senior programs to continue so young men like KK can graduate high school and pursue their secondary education and career goals. Your support also helps our alums stay on course to reach their goals and achieve financial and emotional independence. There are various ways to help one of our young men this holiday season. You can sign up as a monthly donor by scanning the QR code, mail a check in the envelope provided, take advantage of your employer's matching gift program, or introduce our organization to a foundation or corporation. From time to time, we also need volunteers to make meals, work in the garden, or provide maintenance around the house. However you give, your support of our programs is critical so these young men can achieve their education and career goals and end the cycle of poverty in their lives. So, this holiday season, please consider one of the many ways to make a difference. Any gift you can make is greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Joe's Place Board, thank you for considering a donation to our programs, and Happy Holidays to you and your family!



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FALL 2022

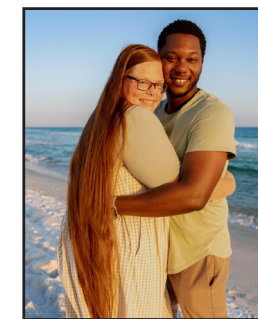
WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOUSE PARENTS ANGELA AND BRANDON MARTY

At the beginning of the school year, Joe's Place Board Members hired new house parents for our resident program after Sam and Katie Blue relocated to Florida. Welcome to our new house parents Angela and Brandon Marty. Angela and Brandon were familiar with our program and were excited to apply for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our residents. They grew up in Arnold, Missouri and have been married for four years. Angela is a 4th-grade teacher and has had many experiences working with youth through babysitting, gymnastics, church mission trips to Guatemala, and coaching kids' teams. Brandon works for ATB, a technology company, and has a robust technological background, making it easy to connect with the boys. They also have a 2-year-old husky named Oakley, who has settled into the home. The Marty's enjoy anything Disney, music, hockey, gaming, and disc golf. *"We already feel so welcomed at Joe's Place and have loved getting to know the boys. Our goal is that the boys know that they are loved and supported every day, and to be role models as the boys move towards adulthood and grow throughout our time with them,"* said the Marty's. Board President Facundo Oyenard is thrilled a reliable and caring couple could be found and is eager to make a difference in our community. If you would like to learn about ways to support our new house parents, please send an email to joesplacestl@gmail.com.



Angela and Brandon Marty

ALUMNI & PAST HOUSE PARENT UPDATE



Sam (*Joe's Place Alum*) and Katie Blue (*Joe's Place House Parents 2021*), are currently nestled away in northern Florida, enjoying the sun and beach together! They are leaders at Chick-fil-A and helping to prepare the team to transition into a larger location in December. Sam is leading in the kitchen, and Katie is leading in the front of the house while doing the schedule for the front-line employees. They continue to check on the guys at Joe's Place and encourage them to be the best versions of themselves they can be. They miss their Joe's Place family and are excited to see what this coming year brings, and they look forward to coming back to visit in November!

HOME IMPROVEMENT

This past year, Joe's Place Board approved an improvement project for the house that included repairs to the basement - which is used as an entertainment area for the family - and an unused area to be converted into an extra bedroom. Thanks to funding from the **Regional Business Council** and the **First Unitarian Church's First Church Community Fund (FCCF)**, an egress window and furnishings will be installed to make the bedroom safe and comfortable for any resident. The board is grateful that funding could be found to cover this project. Joe's Place Board President said, *"We sincerely appreciate the support we've received from members of the Regional Business Council and members of the First Unitarian Church. Their confidence in this project will enable us to make our house more efficient and impactful to our resident program and the community at large"*.

LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

I can recall the first time I heard about Joe's Place and how I felt immediately inspired by its vision. It was a vision consistent with the outreach that is the very thread of the MRH community. Thus, I suppose it should not have been surprising to find out that an organization was in place to support its most vulnerable students with a home and adult guidance while attending MRH High School.

My curiosity had been sparked, so I soon decided to become more involved and learned more in depth about Joe's Place. I quickly discovered that providing a home and guidance for its students were just a portion of how Joe's Place impacts its students as well as the entire community.

Many of us take for granted what our parents and family provide for us when we are growing up. Joe's Place reminds us that this is not a reality for everyone.

Joe's Place is not just a house, it becomes a home for these students. It becomes a village - an inclusive community that supports them as they become young adults. The Joe's Place community becomes their family alongside them for both the ups and the downs that life brings. Its impact stretches far beyond a high school diploma, although this is undoubtedly an important and empowering milestone!

As soon as a student crosses its threshold, Joe's Place focuses on helping to build their confidence so that they can begin envisioning their future. Joe's Place helps nurture the goal of becoming forward-thinkers, of graduating from high school, considering advanced education/training, seeking employment, and one day raising a family.

Of course, while the students are in Joe's Place, the journey is not always easy. These students encounter challenges and speed bumps, and JP is there to encourage them to lean into their "village" for love, friendship, and support. This incredible support comes from their MRH teachers/staff, the JP house parents, and the many volunteers from our community that become the students' network both while they are living at JP as well as after graduation.

To have an organization like JP in our community is inspiring. Please do not let this article be your only engagement with Joe's Place...take the next step! Ask us more questions, engage other community members and friends, and take the initiative to become more involved. Become an active participant in an organization that gives students a space to dream, the tools to help make their dreams a reality, and helps foster their sense of community and family. With more community members engaged with its vision, Joe's Place can continue to provide its students with an experience that can change the trajectory of their lives forever.

Thank you for caring and supporting Joe's Place. I wish you and your family a Happy Holiday season!

Facundo Oyenard

Facundo Oyenard



JOE'S PLACE HAPPENINGS

A special thank you to Karen Nickel of Private Gardens who has been working with volunteers to landscape the front yard at Joe's Place. Also a big thank you to Lou at Garden Heights Nursery for donating all of the plants!



Joe's Place Board members, support staff, and special guest Dr. Bonita Jamison (MRH School Superintendent) on Zoom, working on the Strategic Plan for 2023-2025.

Brandon and Angela Marty at a Cards game with the boys. Tickets courtesy of Central Christian School.



Stacy and Dan Dick, and Joe's Place Board Member, Rachel Goltzman, enjoy mingling with guests at the annual Party for Joe's Place held earlier this year.

HOLIDAY WISH LIST

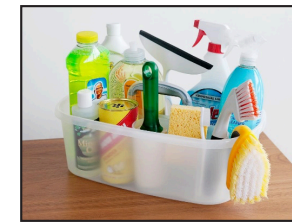


Would you like to make this holiday season extra special for Joe's Place family and alumni? You can by visiting their wish list on Amazon and ensuring that each resident and alumni has something to open on Christmas. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yzm6ymdp> or scan the QR code. In addition, gift cards to local department stores are welcomed. If you would like to support our alumni, gift cards to Aldi's, Schnucks, Walmart, or Target are also appreciated. Thank you for making this holiday season special and memorable for our Joe's Place family. Happy holidays!



ONGOING HOUSE WISH LIST

Many times throughout the year, neighbors and friends of our community will ask what the family needs to keep the house running smoothly. So, the next time you're out shopping and have an opportunity to add an extra item to your cart, please look at the list below. No need to deliver your item; make arrangements for a porch pickup, and one of our volunteers will pick up your donated items from your location. To make arrangements for a porch pickup, send an email to joesplacestl@gmail.com or call 314-446-1776 and leave a message. We appreciate your support and helping us keep our house a home.



Cascade Platinum Pods for Dishwasher
Lysol Wipes
Paper Towels
Shampoo/Conditioner (The boys appreciate anything. Old Spice is fine.)
Spray deodorant (Old Spice or Axe)
Tide Pods/Gain Pods for Laundry
Toilet Paper

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE, FAITH-BASED, FAMILY AND PRIVATE FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

The Joe's Place Board and family thank the following corporations, churches, foundations, and organizations for their ongoing generosity during the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 school years. Their support- especially during the pandemic - helps our mission and programs thrive. We could not do the work we do without them. We also especially thank the **Saigh Foundation** for their years of dedication to our small but mighty program. Their increased support in 2022 helped supplement financial loss due to the past two years of the pandemic. We are most thankful to the following:

Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation
Dana Brown Charitable Trust
Edgar Schmidt Charitable Fund
First Church of Christ, Scientist - Brentwood
First Unitarian Church of St. Louis
Florence Heiman Charitable Trust
International Charitable Foundation

Kiwans Club of Maplewood
Lesley McIntire Charitable Fund
Lumpkin Family Foundation
Margaret Mudd Fletcher Charitable Foundation
Marian Foundation
Maplewood United Methodist Church
MRH High School Class of '71

MRH Teachers and Staff
Old Newsboys Day
Regional Business Council
Saigh Foundation
Skimiti Scholarship Fund
St. Louis Community Foundation
Telle Tire & Auto Centers
U.S. Bank (Employee Matching Program)

Thank you to the following families whose contributions exceed \$500+ per year or who donate monthly or quarterly. Many families and individuals have supported us for years - some since JP started in 2006. We are indebted to their generosity and commitment.

Somer and Dustin Anderson
Faye and William Bartley
Katy and Michaela Benoit
Jeanine and Robert Blaskiewicz
Susan Bloemke
Gail and Rhein Dabler
Lucie and David Dempsey
Stacy and Dan Dick
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