



2732 Troost
 Kansas City, MO 64109
 816.231.8782
 Fax: 816.231.8981
 www.amethystplace.org



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The mission of Amethyst Place is to provide safe and supportive housing to women recovering from drug and/or alcohol addictions, and their children.

On behalf of the women and children of Amethyst Place we would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year. We couldn't do it without your help! We wanted to list you all but were afraid we might leave someone out! Thank you for your generosity. We are grateful for your continued support.



Amethyst Place
 "Where Families Come Home to Heal"

House Lights

Informing, Inspiring and involving our COMMUNITY

Winter, 2013 Volume 7, Issue 2

Our Underwriters:



Duke Family

Our Table Sponsors:



J.P.Morgan



**Karen Daugherty
 Krista and Jeremy Fort
 Doug and Irma Robinson
 Rachel Whipple**

6th Annual Harvest A Change

Our heart-felt thanks to all of the sponsors, guests and donors who made the 6th annual Harvest a Change possible. About 150 guests were treated to a panoramic view of Arrowhead Stadium while learning more about Amethyst Place. We saw lots of our old friends and met many new ones. Guests were able to bid on over 60 items in the silent auction and enter a raffle for an iPad mini. Everyone dined on wonderful food from Levy Restaurant while KSHB news anchor Christa Dubill emceed our program. Our very own resident, Libby C. was our featured speaker and told her story to the crowd who gave her a standing ovation. Amethyst Place also honored Sister Jeanne Christensen and Sharon Ell for their dedicated work to our organization. The evening was topped off by a special guest appearance from KC Wolf, the KC Chiefs mascot. A very special thank you to Krista Duke and Kim Brown for the countless hours spent putting together such a wonderful evening. We look forward to seeing you all at our 7th Annual Harvest a Change in October of 2014.



Sharon Eli
 Guardian Angel 2013



Christa Dubill our emcee
 for the evening



Sister Jeanne Christensen
 Guardian Angel 2013



Our guest speaker
 Libby C.



Guests were able to hang out on the terrace

Lots of bidding wars at the silent auction tables

What a great view of the field

Staff Spotlights



Jessica Baeuchle – Family Support Therapist - We would like to introduce our new Family Support Therapist, Jessica Baeuchle. Jessica was born and raised in Leavenworth, Kansas. She received her B.A. in Psychology from Park University and her Masters in Science in Family Therapy from Friends University. She is trained in play therapy and EMDR. Prior to coming to Amethyst Place, Jessica worked at the Guidance Center in Leavenworth with the youth psychosocial program. Jessica states, she is “excited for the opportunity to work with the families here.” Welcome Jessica!



Shelby Alvarez – MSW Intern - Amethyst Place is very fortunate to have a social work intern from the University of Kansas - School of Social Welfare. Welcome, Shelby Alvarez. Shelby received her undergraduate degree in Psychology with a minor in Applied Behavioral Sciences from KU. She plans to graduate with her Masters in Social Work, with a concentration in families and children in May of 2015. Shelby says she chose our agency, because “Amethyst Place centers on the family unit as a whole. I have always wanted to interact directly with adults, mothers especially.” Shelby further states, “Amethyst Place has a lot to teach me about adult interactions and how to help families with basic needs and life skills.” Her future plans are to delve further into family therapy, pediatric or school social work and mental health. Thanks so much for all the fine work you are doing here!

Volunteers give their time and share their passion at Amethyst Place



Family Photos - Courtney Kiersznowski is a 17 year old senior at Blue Valley North who for the past 2 years has volunteered in the childcare room and helped with community events. She wanted to incorporate her passion of art and photography into her volunteer work. With that in mind she came up with the great idea of taking family photos of Amethyst Place families. Courtney spends 3 to 4 hours a month taking pictures and states, “Amethyst Place is the best place to take family pictures because some of these women may be living with their kids for the first time and I want to give them pictures to have and cherish as their kids grow older.”

Robotics Club - Amethyst Place has a new Robotics Club headed by houseparent Jerry Jones and volunteer Cemal Gungor! Residents 7 to 16 years old meet twice a month and are learning to program a LEGO Mindstorms robot to follow a line, move with sound or motion, play tug of war, and much more. Our kids are learning teamwork, engineering, programming, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills all while having fun! But most of all they are learning not to panic when the road ahead looks unfamiliar—to have a sense of optimism when faced with failure, because they learn again and again how to find their way to success.



Dance Class - Brooke Erickson, a 15 year old sophomore at Shawnee Mission East, came to Amethyst Place two months ago with an idea to teach a dance class. Once a week for an hour, Brooke teaches proper warm up stretches, fun dance moves and teaches the children the names of these steps. Our children are learning the difference between a passé and plié. When asked why she wants to do this, she replied, “I have been dancing forever and it has given me confidence. I want to give that to these children.”

Events at Amethyst Place



Thanks to the NCL group for creating a fun Halloween experience



Some of our cute trick or treaters



The trick or treaters were loving all the decorated trunks and the treats



Words of wisdom from our graduates



Our graduates, Tina F., Shawanda and Tina K.



Thanks to Silpada Jewelry our graduates received a one of a kind bracelet made just for them

Thanksgiving is a time where families gather, eat, give thanks and create lasting memories. Amethyst Place families will be doing the same, many for the very first time. Cooking holiday favorites, baking pies, and sitting down for Thanksgiving dinner are new traditions for the women and children of Amethyst Place. Your donations help us create a safe place full of Holiday traditions. Consider a donation to help us bring a lasting memory.



Immediate needs at Amethyst Place Can you help?

- Cleaning Supplies
- Mattress Pads for twin/full and crib size beds
- Volunteers to help move furniture
- Volunteers to help with childcare
- Volunteers to help organize our donation space

Call our volunteer coordinator, Irma at 913-669-2029 for more information

Thanks to all of our tutors for giving their time to help our moms



Lyn Zeller, right, comes weekly to tutor



Pam Gray, right, also volunteers weekly