

A is for...

Alternatives For Girls Annual Report 2016

ALTERNATIVES FOR GIRLS

A link that *lasts a lifetime*.

Alternatives For Girls helps homeless and high-risk girls AND YOUNG WOMEN AVOID violence, teen pregnancy, and EXPLOITATION & helps THEM explore and access the support, resources, and opportunities necessary TO BE SAFE, TO GROW STRONG, and TO MAKE positive choices in their lives.

Nou I'm home. Juras homeless.

STORIES OF HOPE





My name is taliyan Figueroa. Im ten years old. I have been a Participant in After School program For one year. My friend friend From school who has in the program for Five years told me about Afg. If My morn and I decided I would come to AFter School program So I Could be involved in new activities and Make new steind friends. It home, I Stayed inside a lot because the hids on my street always get introuble and I wanted to stay away from them.

DONNA'S STORY



Jama Peer Leader for G.F.G. New Chrices program and I have been coming to G. F. G. for four Jens now. My life before a. F.G. was in total turmail. My mother died when I was 8 years old, she had a brain tumor, clended up with my father. He manipulated me into staying with him, instead of letting me stay with my mother's family, where I wanted to be. We couldn't get along and he was abusine. Jimally, after the final abusine existe, of packed up my clothes und went to stay with my aunts

Story continued on page 10.







One person at AFG that I will never forget is Ms. Denise. She came out and supported me at My Senior Pinning When I gave 4p hope that no one would show up for me. She showed me that it doesn't take a life time of someone Knowing you to care and love you like she did.

My name is Sheria and I am 18 years old.

I ended up at AFG because there was conflict at home, and my mom wouldn't allow me to live with her anymore. Things were difficult when my mom first kicked me out of her house; I become homeless, and needed AFG's shelter, but I also didn't hold a grudge towards her.

Aaliyah

When I come to AFG, I learn new things, make friends who won't get me into trouble, and have fun. In my favorite workshop, we get to talk about how we feel without being judged. Our group practices how to treat others when they are going through a hard time. We have also learned how to do Folklorico dancing and Zumba! Since I've come to AFG, I've felt more excited and happy because of the new friends I have made and the fun things we get to do. Every day, I am more excited to get out of school, so I can come to AFG!

One person at AFG that has encouraged me is Ms. Vonda. She helped me learn how to hula hoop and she didn't give up because she knew that I could do it. When I finally got it, I was so excited to tell her! She is always here at AFG to help us with our homework, cook us dinner, and play fun games. Without Ms. Vonda, I would be very bored and disappointed.

I am also a part of the Asset Building Project. We get to talk about how to save money while we're in college and how to be able to pay for our books and our classes. We talked about how we were going to set our goals and how to push ourselves to achieve our goals. When I go to college, I want to be a lawyer or a social worker. I hope to go to Wayne State University. Before AFG, I didn't think about where I would go to college or what I would be. I used to put myself down a lot and think that I wouldn't make it to college. But since I've come to AFG, people have believed in me and supported my decisions.

Without coming to AFG, I wouldn't be the person I am right now.

Donna

In the following years, I started hanging around the wrong people who were bad influences. I was worried about hanging with the in crowd. I really wanted to grow up and get to do what I wanted to do. When I was 18, I had my first son and moved out on my own. A few years later, a friend from my neighborhood introduced me to crack cocaine. I became addicted.

Because of my addiction, I started prostituting. Life was rough. I was a prostitute, I didn't have a job, no income, and I didn't have such a great relationship with my family and friends. The only things that were of important concern to me were ways to steal and scheme to get money for crack. Sometimes I would walk Woodward seven days a week. I would often end up with a man who I knew I could get drugs from. But they all ended up being abusive. My family support decreased. I ended up in place where I didn't know how to handle things anymore.

So when I decided to make some changes and start working on me and some important things in my life, a former member of AFG's New Choices program informed me about AFG. She told me about the resource center and all of the other resources AFG has available. So I decided to give them a call. I called and got an appointment for an intake. That was November 2012. I decided to start attending New Choices workshops two days a week and really enjoyed it. But I struggled to stay away from the negative influences in my life. I fell off and ended up in jail. I got 180 days probation and I had to wear a tether for three months. But I completed all of my probation with flying colors and in September (Continued next page) 2015, I graduated from Drug and Mental Health Court and was the keynote speaker for the graduation.

One person at AFG who has mentored me and inspired me has been Alana. She really cares and shows true love and concern. One time, I had been missing group, and Alana came to the house that I was staying at to check up on me. I will never forget that. She helped me make the decision to really commit to making changes in my life.

I have since become a Peer Leader for New Choices. I have just recently purchased my own home with me and two of my sons. I am 2 years clean from drugs. I am enjoying time with family and friends. I have established a full and wholesome relationship with my three sons and the rest of my family and friends. Out of all of the things that I've been through, I've learned that there is no power, drug, or man greater than the power of God. I've learned lessons from my group members and peers at AFG; how to respect myself and others, manage my temper, work with others, and better my attitude.

I don't plan to stay in the program forever; I plan to use the tools AFG gives me and move on with my life. You have to choose to not want to do it anymore. I plan to graduate from AFG's New Choices program next year and then I'm going to work around my new house, travel, and just enjoy the rest of my life. In the future I would love to come back to AFG and volunteer or maybe get a job. I really want to help other young ladies not to go through what I went through.



When I was moving into AFG's shelter, I was still attending school, and no one at school knew what I was going through unless I told them, because I kept a smile on my face every day.

Sheria

I went to AFG in late November, and I can honestly say that I looked at this as a blessing. After a few days of being able to gather my thoughts, I started to believe that this was part of God's plan. I look at all of my difficult experiences this way, because when I become older I want to be a social worker. I believe that going through an experience like this will help me better understand a child's view who went through hard times in their own life.

Being at AFG taught me that it's okay to ask for help when you need it. Many of the staff members reminded me on a daily basis how important it is to rebuild my relationship with my mom, especially since my dad isn't active in my life. One person at AFG that I will never forget is Ms. Denise. She came out and supported me at my senior pinning when I gave up hope that no one would show up for me. She showed me that it doesn't take a lifetime of someone knowing you to care and love you like she did.

When I first went to AFG I didn't know anybody and as usual I stayed to myself. I didn't get a roommate until a few weeks later. At first I was a little wary about sharing rooms with someone I didn't know so well, but we bonded and became good friends.

All throughout high school, I stayed on the Dean's and Principal's list and my goal was to gain and excel in everything I did. Not only am I a student, I am a student athlete, and I always seek to leave my footprint by impacting other people's lives for the better. I am in the top 10 for the class of 2017 at my high school. Every college I applied to, I have been accepted to, including: Alabama State, U of M Flint, and Bowling Green. As of now, I am still unsure which college I would like to attend, but I know I want to go out of state. I want to be a social worker, and I also want to become an entrepreneur and start my own business. I plan to start an organization that will resemble a recreation center, but it will also be a resource center that aims to serve adolescents in need of help.

When I was moving into AFG's shelter, I was still attending school, and no one at school knew what I was going through unless I told them, because I kept a smile on my face every day. Once I came to AFG, I was able to get the support I needed. I'm thankful for everyone that lent a helping hand.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Revenue and Gains: \$407.907 Special events (net of direct expenses of \$87,098) Donated assets and goods Investment and other income \$18,361 Gain on disposition of fixed assets (\$27,578) Net realized and unrealized gains on investments **Total Unrestricted Revenue and Gains** \$2,595,113 \$926,291 TOTAL UNRESTRICTED REVENUE, GAINS \$3,521,404 AND OTHER SUPPORT

Expenses:

Program Services: Transition to Independent Living Program Southwest Detroit Prevention Program Outreach and Education Program **Total Program Services**

Supporting Services:

Total Supporting Services	
Marketing and Development	
Management and General	

TOTAL EXPENSES

Net Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets

Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: Contributions Net Assets released from restrictions Net Increase in temporarily

restricted Net Assets Net Increase in Net Assets Net Assets, Beginning of Year Net Assets, End of Year

\$1,641,276 \$538,627 \$823,162 \$3,003,065

\$319,693 \$322,368 \$642,061

\$3,645,126

\$123,722

\$416,134 (\$926,291) \$510,157

\$633,879 \$5,058,395 \$4,424,516

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Pledges receivable—current portion (net of allowance of \$13,685) Prepaid expenses **Total Current Assets**

Other Assets:

Pledges receivable (net of current portion) (net of discount of \$4,818)

Total Other Assets

TOTAL ASSETS

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities: Accrued payroll and related liabilities Accrued compensated absences **Total Liabilities**

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted: Designated Undesignated Total Unrestricted Net Assets Temporarily restricted **Total Net Assets**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 201

Grants receivable (no allowance considered necessary)

\$13,158 \$403,724

\$258,411 \$35,195 \$710,488

Investments held in endowment and designated funds

Fixed assets (net of accumulated depreciation)

\$1,314,722

\$55,582 \$2,562,168 \$3,932,472

\$4,642,960

\$46,543 \$80,139 \$91,762 \$218,444

\$1,346,663 \$2,399,976 \$3,746,639 \$677,877 \$4,424,516

\$4,642,960

FOUNDED IN DETROIT, 1987

The inspiration for Alternatives For Girls came in 1985 when a group of southwest Detroit residents, clergy and business people began to share concerns about the alarming increase in drug use, homelessness, prostitution and street activity among girls and young women.

AFG began as a small, volunteer-run neighborhood program, operating as a five-bed emergency shelter at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. AFG has evolved into a multi-service agency with over 50 employees. It is housed in a two-story brick building constructed in 2002.

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THE AFG SHELTER:

Provides safe shelter and counseling to residents and helps them acquire the skills they need to lead independent, productive and fulfilling lives.

- · AFG sheltered 135 homeless young women and their children.
- · 8,069 nights of care were provided to homeless young women and children.
- · Last year, 90% of the young women in the Transition to Independent Living Program were either enrolled in school, working, or both.

THE AFG PREVENTION PROGRAM:

Works with girls ages 4 - 21, who are at risk of teen pregnancy, gang involvement, drug or alcohol abuse and school truancy, to provide safe after-school activities and workshops aimed at developing positive self-esteem and bright futures.

- For the 16th year in a row, 100% of the high school seniors in AFG's Prevention Program graduated from high school.
- 100% of participants ages 10-21 involved in after-school workshops remained drug-free.
- 100% of the girls and young women in AFG's Asset Building Project established Michigan Education Savings Plans and began saving money for their college educations.

THE AFG OUTREACH PROGRAM:

Helps teens and women engaging in high-risk activities to understand those risks and to transition to safe choices and healthy lives.

- · Last year, AFG provided 351 hours of street outreach to girls and women resulting in 648 total contacts. During these contacts, referrals were given out to homeless shelters (including AFG), substance addiction treatment, and other AFG services for further support.
- · Our Crisis Resource Center was open for 1,716 hours. Individuals who called the Center were connected to services at AFG, or they were referred to additional homeless shelters, after-school programs, and health care services.
- 100% of participants in the Alternatives For Girls' Youth Outreach Program avoided early pregnancy.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Alternatives For Girls is pleased to present our annual report for the '15-'16 year. In this report, we are celebrating "Links that last a lifetime." Every day at Alternatives For Girls, the girls and young women in our programs create and cultivate relationships that will continue to encourage them for years to come; e.g. a relationship with a mentor helping them prepare for college, with a volunteer who teaches them how to sew and create handmade goods; with a new friend who is going through the same struggles, letting them know that they are not alone, or with a staff member who listens and supports them in making a tough decision. These relationships help girls and young women create and achieve their goals, gain strength and stability, and inspire them to give back when someone needs a helping hand.

Without your support, none of this would be possible. This year, you have helped hundreds of girls and young women leave behind homelessness, violence, and exploitation. You have helped them find safe housing, graduate high school, and access a whole new world of possibilities. You are the essential link that allows them to thrive.

In the following pages, you will see the impact of your support through the stories of the girls and women that we serve, the annual statistics that reflect the work we do every day, and the latest chapter in the financial story of the agency. You will learn the ways our programs work to help shelter, educate, and prevent risk through the stories of Aaliyah, Donna, and Sheria. You will witness the power of having the support to make positive choices.

Throughout the past year, we have expanded our work in a few concrete ways. First, we've continued supporting victims of human trafficking by partnering with local and federal law enforcement on monthly sting operations - acting as victim advocates and ensuring the safety and recovery of trafficking victims. Second, we worked with 33 young women in AFG's

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Prevention Program to establish Michigan Education Savings Plans and have started them on their journey to becoming financially and educationally prepared to thrive in higher education through our new Asset Building Project. Lastly, we have created a new program that focuses on preventing early pregnancy in teens and young adults.

In our ever-changing economy, we also suffered setbacks this year in the form of losing some long-standing federal and private grants, due to federal budget cuts across the country. Because of our successful four-year "Securing AFG's Future" campaign, in which countless individuals, corporations, and foundations helped us build up \$1.7 million in reserve funds, we were able



to keep our core programs intact, while we continued to make plans for future growth. And, because of your support, we will still be here to help homeless and high-risk girls and young women make plans for their futures. Over the next year, we plan to grow our programs in new ways, as we research and adjust to the changing needs of those we serve. We are exploring affordable housing options for homeless young women and their children, learning how to teach those we serve concrete skills that they can use to support themselves financially, and much more.

Thank you for your support in ways both big and small this past year. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure have made a lasting impact - from mentoring a girl

who is preparing for college, to donating clothing for a young woman looking for a fresh start, to sharing our story with your friends and family, and everything in between. We appreciate all that you do and are grateful for this opportunity to report back the impact you've made and the achievements of the girls and voung women we serve

Amanda (Amy) L. Good, CEO





HONOR ROLL

For gifts received from 10/1/2015-9/30/2016

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Special thanks to Union AdWorks and to photographer Tom Roche for the erous contributions in creating the 2016 Annual Report.

\$14,999-\$10,000

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\$4,999-\$2,500

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\$4,999-\$2,500 (continued)

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\$999-\$500

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