Founded in 1987, Alternatives For Girls helps homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation, and 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.
Dear Friends:

As ever, thank you for your support in ways both big and small this past year. You supported Alternatives For Girls in ways too numerous to count – from spending time volunteering in our Nicholson Library, to digging up vegetables in the AFG garden with our Rise ‘N Shine summer camp participants, to writing a check that allowed us to advance our mission of helping homeless and at-risk girls and young women. We appreciate all that you do and are grateful for this opportunity to report back to the community about the past year’s achievements – and achieve we did! Not only did AFG achieve programmatic success, working with thousands of girls and young women on our campus and in the streets, but we also saw financial achievements, as we were able to pay off our mortgage thanks to a donation from two incredibly generous donors.

That gift has made AFG a debt-free organization and as such, we feel able to move forward more boldly than ever before, ensuring that our desperately needed programs will be sustained for the girls and women of Detroit, now and in the future. To that end, we have organized a group of committed community members who have tasked themselves with raising funds in order to establish a significant endowment for AFG, a working capital reserve fund, and additional operating dollars to support current and future programming needs. We are inspired by the dedication of this group and look forward to including you in this exciting endeavor in the near future!

Like the girls and young women AFG has served since 1987, AFG is committed to positive change and hard work. In the following pages, you will see evidence of this commitment through the success stories of our participants, the annual statistics that reflect the work we do here every day, and the latest chapter in the financial story of the agency. We invite you to enjoy our annual report, and, in particular, the incredible stories of the girls and young women you will find herein. Their stories inspire our renewed commitment to AFG’s mission and give purpose to our daily work. Thank you for all that you do to contribute to their success.

Amanda (Amy) L. Good
CEO
Joya Harris-Sherron
Board Chair
AFG addresses this issue by providing shelter, counseling, and life skills training to 100–150 homeless young women each year.

1 IN 50 CHILDREN ARE HOMELESS
THAT’S 1.5 MILLION CHILDREN
“I am making myself a better person, and a stronger woman. It has begun with building healthier relationships with myself as well as with others, getting my Certified Nursing Assistant license, working to defeat obesity, and finding employment. I have overcome my fears and I am becoming a prosperous, happy, and healthy adult.”

Latrina, former Shelter/TIL participant
This is where girls learn to find self-esteem, get help to improve their GPA, reject drugs and alcohol, choose abstinence, connect with a mentor, and even discover untapped talents. Whether they’re with us for a short period or for many years, using summer and after-school programs, study groups and girls’ clubs, the AFG Prevention program supports girls 5 to 18 years of age and helps them build a foundation of positive choices.

- Served 235 at-risk youth
- 96% of girls and young women participating in after-school workshops reported an increase in self-esteem
- Over the past 11 years, 98% of the girls who were served through their high school senior year graduated from high school and went on to college
- 100% of young women participating in after-school workshops refrained from joining a gang
This is where lives change forever. For the many homeless and young women who face extreme adversity and overwhelming obstacles, AFG provides the assistance and encouragement they need to stand on their own feet again. From finishing diplomas and advancing toward degrees, helping them develop a strong work ethic and gain financial literacy, to finding self-esteem and even supporting young mothers or those who are expecting improve their parenting skills, this is where participants redefine themselves.

- Served 148 homeless young women and their children
- 100% of our young women who completed the life skills development program demonstrated the financial capacity to support themselves and obtain housing
- 95% of minors served (ages 15 to 17) were reunited with their families upon leaving the AFG Shelter
- 91% of the homeless girls and young women served in the shelter succeeded in securing safe, stable, and suitable housing
This is where many young and adult women find the lifeline they desperately need to get off the streets and remove themselves from harmful situations and activities. To help improve their well-being, AFG volunteers provide harm-reduction kits, transportation to AFG and other safe places, referrals, and direct links to life-saving and support services.

- Served 3,771 at-risk girls and women on the streets and in the community
- Provided 867.25 hours of street outreach resulting in 3,722 total contacts
- 75% of women actively participating in New Choices, a program for girls and women who want to exit “commercial sex work,” obtained or maintained legitimate and safe housing
- 72% of the high-risk youth served in the Youth Peer Educator program decreased specific high-risk behaviors, such as using drugs and alcohol or engaging in unsafe sexual activity, after six months of participation
MY STORY

KEE’JANAË (PREVENTION)
CASANDRA (SHELTER)
AKEILA (OUTREACH)

“I realized that I have a voice and I can really stand up and make a change.”

Kee’Janae, Young Women Changing Communities
My name is Kee’Janae. I am seventeen years old and a high school junior. I am a member of my school’s dance team where we express art through various forms of dance. Currently, I maintain a 3.2 grade point average and I aspire to become a student at the University of Michigan where I will major in Education and minor in Accounting.

I have been a part of the Alternatives for Girls family for over 10 years. During my many years at AFG, I have blossomed into the young lady you see standing before you. At the age of 6, my mother enrolled me into the Prevention summer program called Rise N’ Shine, and since then, I have been an active participant of Young Women Changing Communities and Heart of Detroit youth leadership groups.

Growing up with a place like Alternatives for Girls close to home has really had a positive effect on my self-esteem with various self-improvement workshops and mentoring opportunities. I had a wonderful opportunity to be a part of a group called Young Women Changing Communities where we had a chance to express the issues we had within our community and try to make a change.

For example, one issue we had was abandoned buildings. It had been reported that girls had been taken into the abandoned buildings and assaulted. Knowing that something could be done about it, we knew that we couldn’t just sit back and do nothing. To solve that problem, we set up a meeting with Mayor Dave Bing and some of the city council staff to ask them if we could get the buildings we thought were extremely dangerous torn down. The Mayor said yes and worked with us on that issue. The moment he said yes, I realized that I have a voice and I can really stand up and make a change for what I believe in.

Today, I can actually say that a group of young girls motivated me because I saw how passionate each and every one of them were. Before joining Young Women Changing Communities, I thought I was the only one who saw the issues my city had and wanted to actually make a difference. Now I know that I can make a difference using the tools and people that surround me.

“I realized that I have a voice and I can really stand up and make a change.”
My name is Casandra. I’m eighteen and a shelter resident at Alternatives For Girls. When I was five years old, my siblings and I were taken from my parents due to drug-related issues. We were then placed in foster care; my oldest sister adopted the six youngest children.

Growing up with my sister wasn’t the easiest. I had to take care of my younger siblings along with her two little girls when I was just a little girl myself. I don’t really remember being a child; my life has always been all work and no play.

Having to do this at such a young age, I grew up to believe I was grown because I had taken on grown-up responsibilities so young. I grew up to resent my sister. We started to argue about everything. The littlest things would set me off. She kicked me out at the age of sixteen. That was the first time I was identified as homeless.

That’s when I realized I deserve better than what she was doing to me and how she treated me. In May of 2010, I was introduced to AFG.

They helped mold me into the woman I am today. They became my family when I had no family. I learned that it was okay to accept help from others instead of depending on myself all the time. When I first came to AFG, I felt like I had no one and that my life wasn’t worth living. They helped me realize everybody has a purpose. They have given me the support I never expected to get from anyone.

Since being here, I’ve enrolled at Henry Ford Community College, majoring in Culinary Arts. Being at AFG has taught me structure, communication skills, healthy relationships, anger management, and most of all independence and how to take care of myself before I try to take care of anybody else. Being here has given me the opportunity to meet a lot of positive, hardworking, and supportive people.
Hi! My name is Akeila. I’m 17 years old and a senior in high school. I have been involved in Alternatives For Girls for two years. In the past two years of being a Peer Educator, I have gained so many lifelong values and matured into a young woman who tries to make a positive impact on my community.

As I have grown older, I have developed a passion for knowledge. When I came across Alternatives For Girls, I instantly wanted to be in their Peer Education program. Peer Education allowed me to feel important in the community. I have been able to lower young women’s risks and give them the tools to be safe. I feel like I make a difference in my peers’ lives. There have been many times when young women have committed to lowering their risks at the end of our workshops led by me and my teammates.

My involvement with Alternatives For Girls turned my life around. I stopped involving myself in high-risk activities like using illegal substances or getting into fights. I have cleared my mind and become a positive person. I’m so grateful that I found this organization. AFG is always there for me through the rough times with support, positive energy and inspiration. I enjoy wonderful and unforgettable memories that have been created at AFG.

My future plan is to become a criminal justice prosecutor. I’m going to graduate this June, and I’m applying to Howard University and Wayne State University.
“They’ll help you if you want the help ... Now, I have more respect for myself and respect others as well.”

Della, former New Choices Peer Leader
Statement of activities for year ending September 2011

CHANGES OF UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:

Revenue:
- Donated Goods: $62,613
- Contributions: $616,776
- Grants: $1,798,297
- Special events (net of direct expenses of $48,048): $147,592
- Investment and rental income: $21,184

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED REVENUE: $2,646,462

Net assets released from restrictions: $1,108,127

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT: $3,754,589

EXPENSES:

Program Services:
- Transition to Independent Living: $1,408,701
- Southwest Detroit Prevention Program: $677,799
- Outreach and Education Program: $550,506

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES: $2,637,006

Supporting Services:
- Management and general: $332,336
- Marketing and development: $302,987
- Total supporting services: $635,323

TOTAL EXPENSES: $3,272,329

Net Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets: $482,260

CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:

Assets:
- Contributions: $1,700,804
- Net assets released from restrictions: $(1,108,127)
- Net increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets: $592,677
- Net increase (decrease) in net assets: $1,074,937
- Net assets, beginning of year: $3,517,795

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR: $4,592,732
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Statement of financial position as of September 30, 2011

| **ASSETS:** |
| **Current Assets:** |
| Cash and cash equivalents .......................................................................................................................... $328,888 |
| Grants receivable (no allowance considered necessary) .............................................................................. $439,108 |
| Pledges receivable – current portion (net of allowance of $44,652) ........................................................... $94,004 |
| Prepaid expenses ........................................................................................................................................... $18,492 |
| **TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS** ................................................................................................................................. $1,092,834 |
| **Other Assets:** |
| Investments .......................................................................................................................................................... $20,170 |
| Assets held in Working Capital Reserve ......................................................................................................... $397,641 |
| Pledges receivable (net of current portion) (net of allowance of $3,251) .......................................................... $252,487 |
| Fixed assets (net of accumulated depreciation) ............................................................................................... $3,010,719 |
| **TOTAL OTHER ASSETS** .................................................................................................................................. $3,681,017 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS** ............................................................................................................................................... $4,773,851 |

| **LIABILITIES** |
| **Current Liabilities:** |
| Accounts payable .............................................................................................................................................. $53,179 |
| Accrued payable and related liabilities ........................................................................................................ $41,087 |
| Accrued compensated absences ..................................................................................................................... $75,353 |
| Deferred grants.................................................................................................................................................. $11,500 |
| Lease payable – current portion ..................................................................................................................... $0 |
| Mortgage payable – current portion ................................................................................................................ $0 |
| **TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES** ........................................................................................................................ $181,119 |
| **Long Term Liabilities:** |
| Mortgage payable (net of current portion) ....................................................................................................... $0 |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES** .................................................................................................................................... $181,119 |

| **NET ASSETS** |
| **Unrestricted:** |
| Invested in capital assets, net of related liabilities .......................................................................................... $3,010,719 |
| Designated for Working Capital Reserve ....................................................................................................... $397,641 |
| Undesignated ................................................................................................................................................... $129,478 |
| **TOTAL UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS** ........................................................................................................... $3,537,838 |
| Temporarily restricted ....................................................................................................................................... $1,054,894 |
| **Total Net Assets** ........................................................................................................................................ $4,592,732 |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** ....................................................................................................... $4,773,851 |
"The services you provide for others help you gain leadership skills. It helps you help others rather than thinking about yourself all the time."

Breanna, YWCC member (Young Women Changing Communities)
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* Served in 2010 (first part of fiscal year)    + Served in 2011 (second part of fiscal year)
“AFG helped me change my life, so now I want to be able to help others change their lives.”

Aliana, former Shelter resident
Honor Roll

$25,000+
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Big Brothers Big Sisters
City of Detroit
City of Detroit—Bureau of Substance Abuse
Department of Human Services, State of Michigan
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Frederick and Karen Henderson
Hudson-Webber Foundation
A.W. Keros
The Kresge Foundation
McGregor Fund
Jim and Ann Nicholson
The Skillman Foundation
United Way Community Services
US Department of Health and Human Services
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
US Department of Justice
Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

$15,000–24,999
The J. Ferrantino Charitable Foundation

$10,000–14,999
Anonymous
Combined Federal Campaign Metro Detroit

$5,000–9,999
Albert & Doris Pitt Foundation
Ally Financial
Susan J. Berman
Charter One Foundation
Christ Church Grosse Pointe
Comerica Charitable Foundation
Health Alliance Plan
David Kent
Donald and Michele Manvel
Janet McAuliffe
Mercedes-Benz Financial Services
Metro Solutions
Metro West Chapter of Credit Unions
Ronald McDonald Children’s Charities
Ronald McDonald House Charities of SE Michigan
Peter and Dorothy Solomon Foundation
St. John Health
The Suburban Collection
The Lovelight Foundation
The TJX Foundation, Inc.
Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

$2,500–4,999
AAUW Grosse Pointe Branch
Anonymous
Scott and Lesley Atton
Comerica Bank
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan
General Motors Corp.
Agnes and Dennis Hagerty
Henry Ford Health System
Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation
Kelley, Casey & Moyer, P.C.
William & Geraldine Lovejoy
Mark Malin
Merck Partnership for Giving
MGM Grand Detroit Casino
Penske Corporation
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David Seibert
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James Scott Taylor
Trinity Health
Village Community Credit Union
The Village Woman’s Club Foundation
Young Woman’s Home Association

$1,000–2,499
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St. James Episcopal Church Women
St. John’s Episcopal Church-Plymouth
Strategic Partners, Inc.

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St. Paul’s United Methodist Church
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Frank and Mary Ellen Vaydik

Georgeanna Weils

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Alternatives for Girls / Annual Report 2011

Honor Roll
Alternatives For Girls is happy to thank everyone who donated to the program this year. With the help of the community around them, the girls at AFG will continue to grow up in a healthy and safe environment. The success of the Prevention, Shelter, and Outreach programs depends on the contributions from donors and volunteers, whose efforts will ensure stability for years to come.