



Powerful Alternatives

A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

SPECIAL FEATURE -

Something That Will Live On: How to Leave a Legacy

When donors leave a gift to AFG in their will, it makes an incredible lasting impact for girls and young women. Recently, one couple sat down to explain why they made a generous gift to AFG to help the next generation of girls in Detroit.



“We really wanted to make this gift to leave a legacy.” the Johnsons say. “We hope that this endowment will help support AFG long-term.”

Imagine being able to leave behind a legacy of helping girls and women, for years to come. You can! Making a planned gift can sound overwhelming. But as one generous couple recently found out, it’s not as hard as it seems.

Mary and Kevin Johnson (not their real names, as they wish to remain anonymous) have supported Alternatives for Girls (AFG) since its inception. “I

noticed at the time, there wasn’t anyone doing what AFG was doing. I was always impressed by how you started with so little, and built AFG up from there,” Mary explains. “Helping girls and young women is a very big need that is often overlooked. They often have nowhere to go, and AFG has given them a safe place,” Mary continued.

Last year, Mary and Kevin were meeting with their attorney to update their wills and estate plan. As part of this process, they were also looking at the impact of taxes on their IRA and 401(k) funds if these funds became part

[See Leaving a Legacy, continued on page 2](#)

A safe place to land, thanks to you:

You Helped Felicia When No One Else Could

When Felicia became homeless, she had no one to turn to. Because of your kindness, she found a safe place to stay and a support system she could rely on.

Growing up was hard for Felicia*. She was in the foster care system, and had no connection to her mother or father. She dreamed of a day when she could be independent. When she could take care of herself.

After she graduated high school, things seemed to be going alright.

Felicia had a steady job, and an apartment that she shared with her partner. She enjoyed having a place of her own, and being able to make her own choices. Felicia started making plans to go to college for family counseling.

But, unfortunately, those plans were put on hold when Felicia

and her partner were kicked off their apartment. “The person I was in a relationship with was damaging the place, so they told us we had to go,” Felicia recalls.

A Safe Place to Land

Felicia, now 19, had nowhere to go. She had no family to turn to. And she was no longer in the foster care system. She felt her dreams slipping through her fingers.

*Name has been changed to protect her confidentiality.

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Leaving a Legacy, continued from page 1

of their final estate. They also wanted to do something long-lasting for AFG that avoided the complications of traditional trusts.

As Kevin explained, “After some research, our initial inclination was just to name one of AFG’s endowment funds as the beneficiary in one or more of our retirement funds, so that our contribution would flow directly and avoid the complications of probate. But after some reflection, we went a slightly different route that we believe better achieves our goals.”

Specifically, after speaking with Randy Ross of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and reviewing some options, they decided to create an endowed charitable fund to benefit AFG, with the charitable fund being named as a beneficiary in all of their retirement funds. They also plan to begin making contributions to the fund through early donations, including directly transferring some or all of their IRA/401(k) required minimum distributions (known as the IRA Charitable Rollover).

“The advantage of working with the Community Foundation is that they were very flexible with the creation of the fund. Just as important for the fund’s long term viability, they have an excellent track record for investment performance for their endowment funds.”



One day, the Johnson’s gift will help girls and young women access support for college, continue their education, and get the help they need when they’re in crisis.

AFG has an ongoing relationship with the Community Foundation. Through this relationship, any AFG donor has the opportunity to receive assistance from the Foundation in setting up a planned gift or a bequest to support AFG. “I am happy to support our partner organizations, including Alternatives For Girls, and support individuals, families and businesses in the community to accomplish their charitable giving interests,” says Randy.

Half of the annual grant from the Johnson’s fund will provide long-term support for AFG’s programs. The other half will support post-secondary education for AFG participants or former participants, including such items as participation in college tours, application and other fees, room and board and other costs of post-secondary education that might not be covered by traditional scholarships or financial aid. As Mary notes, “We hope that these annual grants will help young women pursue whatever type of

education they want, from college to the skilled trades, with fewer financial barriers.”

“We really wanted to make this gift to leave a legacy. We don’t have children, so we wanted to leave something that will live on,” the couple says. “We believe that this endowment will help support AFG long-term.”

For others considering making a planned gift, Mary and Kevin emphasize: “You shouldn’t wait until you retire to think about how you can support AFG long term. It doesn’t have to be hard, expensive, or complicated. You can name AFG or one of its endowment funds in your will if you have one, or just add it as one of the beneficiaries in a retirement fund. With the help of the Community Foundation, you can also easily set up a separate endowment like we did.”

One day, the Johnson’s gift will help girls and young women access support for college, continue their education, and get the help they need when they’re in crisis. It will truly leave a legacy that will impact the lives of countless young women. Thank you to Mary and Kevin for your incredible support!

If you’d like to include Alternatives for Girls in your will, or learn about other planned giving options, contact Anna Weaver, Director of Fund Development, at 313-361-4000 x 230 or aweaver@alternativesforgirls.org. 

A Safe Place to Land, continued from page 1

When she started looking for a shelter, Felicia remembered AFG. She had heard about it when she was in the foster system, but had never needed support, until now.

Felicia came to AFG, hoping that they would have a space available for her. "They just took me right in," she remembers.

A Support System to Rely On

Now, Felicia has been in AFG's shelter for two months. She still has the same job, and has been making a lot of progress in her counseling sessions and group workshops.

"I've learned how to control my anger," Felicia explains. "My

counselor has helped me with my anger. She's given me a bunch of books that helped teach me how to calm down. Reading, writing, and even coloring have helped me stay calm."

You Make This All Possible!

Felicia is working on getting her own apartment and is looking forward to not having to rely on any one else for her independence. Once she gets settled, she still plans to go to school to study family counseling.

Without you, Felicia's future would still be in jeopardy. Thank you for helping girls and young women who have nowhere to turn.



Mission:

Alternatives For Girls' mission is to help homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation, and help them to explore and access the support, resources and opportunities necessary to be safe, to grow strong and to make positive choices in their lives.

Board of Directors:

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CEO:

Amanda (Amy) Good

Departments:

Shelter and Transition to Independent Living: AFG's Shelter Program provides a stable home, counseling, and life skills training to homeless young women age 15-21 and their children. The goal is to empower them to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

Outreach and Education Services: AFG's Outreach Program helps teens and women engaged in high-risk activities, such as street-based prostitution, drug use, and gang involvement, to understand the risks of such activities and transition to safe choices and healthy lives.

Community Based Prevention: AFG's Prevention Program serves girls ages 4-18 who are at risk of pregnancy, gang involvement, abusing drugs or alcohol and school truancy. We engage them through after-school programs, a teen leadership program, and a summer camp.

Powerful Alternatives is a publication of Alternatives For Girls

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2018 Role Model Dinner

Save the Date: March 28th, 2018

Next Spring, Alternatives For Girls, and event co-chairs Pam Rodgers and Faye Nelson, will host the 29th Annual Role Model Dinner. The 2018 dinner will celebrate the role model awardees and raise crucial funds to help girls and young women.

2018 Role Models:

Alicia Boler-Davis
General Motors

Deborah LaBelle
Law Offices of Deborah LaBelle

Monica Martinez
Comerica Bank

2018 Role Model Dinner

Wednesday, March 28th, 2018

Cobo Center

1 Washington Blvd
Detroit, MI

Sponsorship opportunities are available and offer many benefits. Contact Alexandria Armstrong at 313-361-4000 x 223 for more information.

Tickets are \$200. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit:

www.AlternativesForGirls.org

For all you do, thank you.

BRIEFING ROOM

Make a Difference!

When you support AFG, you provide life-changing help for girls and young women. Here are ways you can make a difference today:

Brighten a Girl or Young

Woman's Holiday: Our annual holiday giving program, Project Giving Tree, is starting soon! Through this program, donors "adopt" a wish list of one of the girls at AFG for the holiday season. For more information or to get involved please contact the Volunteer Services Department at volunteering@alternativesforgirls.org.

In Memory of You: By making a gift in your will to AFG, you can make a tremendous impact for girls in the future. Read the **Special Feature (on pages 1 & 2)**, to learn about one couple's planned gift. For details on how you can leave a legacy, call Anna Weaver at 313-361-4000 x 230.

Volunteer: Help is always needed for our programs' annual holiday parties. To sign up for yourself or your group, email volunteering@alternativesforgirls.org.

29th Annual Holiday High Tea

On December 1st, Shirley Maddalena will host the 29th Annual Holiday High Tea event benefitting Alternatives For Girls. Guests will enjoy a high tea, participate in a fabulous silent auction, and kick-off the holiday season! Regular tickets are \$60 and patron tickets are \$100.

Friday, December 1st, 2017

The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham

3:00 pm until 5:00 pm

Space is limited. For more information or to RSVP, contact Joi Mitchell at jmitchell@alternativesforgirls.org or 313-361-4000 x 273.

Positive Choices, Powerful Lives Event

On September 14th, Alternatives For Girls held the Annual Positive Choices, Powerful Lives event at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. The event celebrated AFG's 30th Anniversary and **raised more than \$26,000 to support girls and young women!** Nearly 160 attendees heard inspirational stories from three young women, one from each of AFG's programs.

"While at AFG I've learned that there are many different things that can happen in life, but as long as you believe in yourself and work hard, everything will fall into place," shared Dale, a current resident of AFG's Shelter, who spoke during the event.

AFG would like to thank the table hosts for inviting their friends and family members to the event, Michelle Crockett, Chair of AFG's Board of Directors, for being our emcee, Barbara Whittaker for making a moving case to support AFG, Guadalupe, Tamia, and Dale, for sharing their inspiring stories, and finally all of the event attendees for spending the evening with us and supporting girls and young women!



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www.AlternativesForGirls.org

At AFG we respect everyone who comes to us for help – as they work towards a brighter future. So, while their stories are true, names and images may have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.