



Powerful Alternatives

A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

SPECIAL FEATURE -

A Safe Place to Learn and Grow - Because of You!

Thanks to you, Alternatives For Girls' After-School Program gives girls and young women in Detroit a safe, supportive place to focus on their education.

A healthy snack. A friendly face. A plan for the future. In October, AFG's After-School Program began another year of fun and learning. Each week, nearly 75 girls and young women come to AFG to receive help with their homework and to learn how to be safe, healthy, and make positive choices.

Every day, the girls arrive at AFG and are greeted with the smiling faces of their friends. After signing in and grabbing a snack, they

sit down to work on their homework together, with the help of staff and volunteers.

Making Positive Choices

Before splitting into their proper age groups, all of the girls and young women have the chance to eat dinner together and talk about the day's highs and lows.

"I love coming to AFG because I get to see my friends and write in my journal. Yesterday, we wrote



Thanks to your support, girls and young women have a safe, supportive place to focus on their education, have fun, and make positive choices. Thank you!

about what superpower we would choose. I picked all of them because it was hard to pick!" shares nine year old Samiah, grinning from ear to ear.

See **A Safe Place**, continued on page 2

Thanks to your kindness:

Finding Her Way: Andrea's Search for a Brighter Future

Because of you, Andrea and her daughter found safe shelter and the support they needed to build a brighter future.

Before Andrea* and her daughter came to Alternatives For Girls' shelter, Andrea was struggling to find her way.

As a new mom, Andrea was doing whatever she could to provide the best for her daughter. Although Andrea's relationship with her own mother was fractured,

Andrea decided that living with her mother would be the safest place for her and her daughter to begin their future together.

After a few months, it became clear that living with her mother wasn't going to work. Andrea decided to leave to avoid further conflict and was able to move in

with a friend. While this provided stability for a while, a case of bed bugs wiped out everything that they had. Without the means to address the issue, Andrea recognized that this was an unsafe place for her daughter to live and began looking for safer shelter.

That's when you were there.

With no where to turn, Andrea found AFG's shelter through a

*Name has been changed to protect her confidentiality.

See **Finding Her Way**, continued on page 3

A new start. Positive alternative

A Safe Place, continued from page 1

After breaking into the elementary, middle, and high school groups, the girls participate in workshops geared towards helping them be safe, healthy, and make positive choices in their lives.

“I learn a lot of new things at AFG. I also learn how to work with different kinds of people,” says Anna, who is 10 years old.

Many of the girls who attended AFG’s Rise N’ Shine summer camp also come to the after-school program for extra support throughout the year. “Rise N’

Shine was so fun,” remembers Samiah. “We learned how to eat healthy and got to try new recipes each week.” Anna agrees and adds, “And now we get to see the friends we made every week!”

Thank you!

“I love being at AFG because they encourage you and help you a lot,” shares Anna.

Year after year, girls come back to the after-school program, a place with people they trust, and that makes them feel safe. Your support makes this possible. ✨

What’s Going On at AFG?

Read all about it:

In August, Alternatives For Girls held its first ever prom! The event was held for the girls and women in AFG’s programs who were not able to attend their own prom.

Before the prom began, the girls and women were pampered by volunteer hairstylists and makeup artists. Once they were ready, they put on their beautiful dresses, shoes, and accessories, and hit the red carpet. After getting their photos taken, the party began!

After some dancing, everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner, complete with dessert. The highlight of the night came when each girl and woman was pronounced Prom Queen! Each of them re-



A member of AFG’s New Choices program gets her makeup done before the event! AFG would like to thank all of the donors and volunteers who made the AFG Prom possible!

ceived their very own crown, and many teared up while putting it on. The dancing continued until the night came to a close. Each girl and woman left with a smile on their face, grateful for experiencing the special evening. ✨

Save the Date:

*2019 Role Model Dinner
March 27th, 2019*

Next Spring, Alternatives For Girls, and event co-chairs Pam Rodgers and Faye Nelson, will host the 30th annual Role Model Dinner. The 2019 dinner will celebrate the role model awardees and raise crucial funds to help girls and young women.

2019 Role Models:

Dr. Althea Simpson
*Director of Discipleship
Franklin Community Church*

Lashinda Stair
*First Assistant Chief of Police
Detroit Police Department*

Linda Taliaferro
*Vice President of Global Quality
Meritor, Inc.*

2019 Role Model Dinner

Wednesday, March 27th, 2019
MGM Grand Detroit
1777 3rd Ave, Detroit, MI 48226
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

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

Tickets on sale soon!

Individual tickets - \$200
Full table (10 tickets) - \$1,750

Finding Her Way, continued from page 1

shelter referral program, and was able to move in the same day. Andrea and her daughter moved into the shelter with only the clothes on their back. Thanks to your support, they received new clothes, baby items, and more.

Most importantly, they are safe.

With the help of the AFG staff, Andrea was able to enroll in school to finish her GED. Through weekly life skills classes, Andrea has learned how to save money and make an affordable budget, how to speak and dress for interviews, and parent-

ing skills that have taught her how to calm her daughter down when she is upset. Andrea now has a job and is working towards getting an apartment for her and her daughter to live.

Because of your support, Andrea's dreams are safe.

Once Andrea earns her GED, she plans to continue her education. She dreams of a day when she has a home for her daughter, where they can have a dog and ride bikes together down the street. Thank you for protecting the dreams of girls like Andrea! ✨

Supporter Spotlight:

Mike Ash of Attack Hunger

In Mike's own words...

My name is Mike Ash. I am the founder of Attack Hunger. 20% of every item we sell, which includes screen printed t-shirts, hats, and more, is used to purchase food or personal care items for shelters aimed at the care of at-risk women and children in Detroit.

About six years ago, a woman that had volunteered for Alternatives For Girls was explaining their various shelter and outreach programs. It became very clear to me that AFG was a place that we would be proud to help.

Since then we have delivered numerous "food bombs" and "pad



Mike, long-time supporter of Alternatives For Girls, shares how he first heard of AFG, and what inspired him to get more involved.

bombs" (in which we drop off food and feminine hygiene items to AFG), held fundraisers, and we always have a direct link to AFG's donation page on www.attackhunger.com. ✨

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.

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Amanda (Amy) Good

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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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For all you do, thank you.

BRIEFING ROOM

Make an Impact!

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

Brighten a Girl or Woman's

Holiday: Our annual holiday giving program, Project Giving Tree, is starting soon! Through this program, donors sponsor a wish list of one of the girls or women at AFG for the holiday season.

For more information or to get involved, contact Jessica at 313-361-4000 ext. 248 or volunteering@alt4girls.org.

Winter Wish List: As the weather turns cold, warm clothing, hats, gloves, and boots are needed to keep those in need warm.

Visit wishlist.alt4girls.org to see the full list of items needed.

Leave a Legacy: Many people like to leave a gift to Alternatives For Girls in their will. **If you would like more information about how to include a gift in your will, please check the box on the enclosed reply envelope.** Or contact Anna Weaver at 313-361-4000 ext. 230 or aweaver@alternativesforgirls.org.

30th Annual Holiday High Tea

On November 30th, Shirley Maddalena, of Maddalena Design, will host the 30th Annual Holiday High Tea, benefitting Alternatives For Girls. Guests will enjoy a high tea at the beautifully renovated Townsend Hotel, participate in a fabulous silent auction, and kick-off the holiday season! Regular tickets are \$75 and patron tickets are \$125.

Friday, November 30th, 2018

The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham

3:00 pm until 5:00 pm

Space is limited. To purchase a ticket or for more information, contact Taylor Gawlik at 313-361-4000 ext. 273.

Thank you!

Positive Choices, Powerful Lives Event

On September 25th, Alternatives For Girls held the annual Positive Choices, Powerful Lives at The Corner Ballpark. The event raised more than \$25,000 to support girls and young women! Over 130 guests heard inspirational stories from three young women, one from each of AFG's programs.

"Before coming to AFG, my grades were low because I was too shy to ask for help. As a Peer Educator, I've learned how to be more confident, to speak up for myself, and feel more comfortable asking for help. I graduated from high school this spring with a 3.4 GPA!" shared Shalicia, a Peer Educator in AFG's Prevention Program, 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, AFG board member, for being our emcee, Don Manvel for making a moving case to support AFG, Shalicia, Jackie, and April, for sharing their inspiring stories and all of the guests for spending the evening with us!



Alternatives For Girls

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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.