

# Powerful Alternatives

A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

BECAUSE OF YOU -

## The Future is Bright for AFG's High School Graduates

*This spring, young women at Alternatives For Girls are graduating high school, and making plans for the future. Below, a resident in AFG's shelter shares her journey to becoming a high school graduate.*

Ever since Michelle\* was a little girl, she knew what she wanted to be when she grew up: a midwife.

After her niece was born, Michelle fell in love with the process of helping women during child birth. She just knew it was the right career for her.

### Bumps in the Road

Unfortunately, Michelle's road to

her future was filled with bumps and roadblocks.

During much of her time in high school, Michelle did not have a stable place to stay and was constantly bouncing from house to house.

"I didn't have the mentors or support system to guide me in the right direction," Michelle shares. Because of this instability,



**Because of you** girls and young women are getting the support they need to graduate high school, go to college, and follow their dreams!

*Photo: Amber Marie Photography*

\*Name has been changed to protect her confidentiality.

See **The Future is Bright**, continued on page 2

Thanks to YOUR kindness:

## Jordan and Her Daughter Find Stability

*Thanks to you, Jordan can rest easy knowing she is safe, has a support system, and can focus on her future.*

Relief.

That's what Jordan\* felt when she and her daughter arrived at Alternatives For Girls.

As she tells her story, she re-lives the emotion. Her shoulders un-tense. She mimics a "pew" sound. She melts into the chair and smiles at her daughter who is

playing nearby.

### Searching for Stability

Jordan's parents both died when she was young. She lived with her sister for a while, but wasn't receiving the support or care she needed.

She was often left to care for her

young nephew after school, leaving her little time to study. After missing an important final because she needed to care for her nephew, Jordan was almost held back a grade.

During her senior year, Jordan found out she was pregnant with her daughter. Her sister kicked her out, and Jordan had to search for a place to stay.

"Ever since that time, I've had

\*Name has been changed to protect her confidentiality.

See **Finding Stability**, continued on page 3

# A new start. Positive alternative

## The Future is Bright, continued from page 1

Michelle struggled to stay focused in school. Her dream of becoming a midwife was so important to her, that she did everything she could to keep her education a priority.

Finally, Michelle's home life hit a boiling point, and she faced being out on the streets on her own.

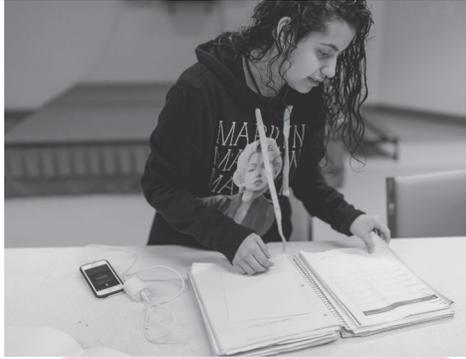
### That's when you were there.

Thanks to your support, Michelle was able to find Alternatives For Girls' shelter.

**“At AFG, I found a stable place where I could rest my head. I don't have to worry if an argument or something else is going to happen. When I come through the doors at AFG, it feels like I am at peace,”** Michelle explains.

Once Michelle settled in, she became laser focused on finishing high school and preparing for college. She researched the best programs, and settled on Western Michigan University.

Not only was Michelle accepted, but she also received a scholarship to put her on the path to becoming a midwife!



At AFG, girls and young women get the support they need to stay focused on their education, graduate from high school, and make plans for the future. **Thank you for helping them follow their dreams!**

*Photo: Amber Marie Photography*

### Looking Forward to the Future

“I'm looking forward to the satisfaction of wearing my cap and gown and saying, ‘I did it!’” Michelle exclaims.

After she gets her diploma, Michelle will begin preparing to move into her dorm room this summer for her first year of college.

### You Help Girls & Young Women, Every Day

Because of you, girls like Michelle come to AFG and get the support they need to stay focused on their education, graduate from high school, and make plans for the future. Thank you! 

## Get Involved

*Here are a few ways you can support the girls and young women at Alternatives For Girls:*



**Become a volunteer:** We are currently in need of volunteers for our Rise N' Shine summer camp, mentors for young women in our Prevention program, and administrative volunteers. **Contact our Volunteer Services Manager, Jessica, at [volunteering@alternativesforgirls.org](mailto:volunteering@alternativesforgirls.org)** to learn how you can become a volunteer!



**Leave a Legacy:** Many people like to leave a gift to Alternatives For Girls in their will. **If you would like more information on how to include a gift in your will, please check the box on the enclosed reply envelope.**



**Support AFG during the Detroit Free Press Marathon:** Are you running in the marathon? You can choose to fundraise for AFG this year! **To join the team, select Alternatives For Girls as your charity of choice when you register for the marathon.**



**Make a monthly gift:** By making a recurring monthly gift, you will join a special group of people who reach out each month to help provide life-changing resources to girls and women. **To become a monthly donor, visit our website.**

## Finding Stability, continued from page 1

a hard time being stable,” Jordan shares.

### Vulnerable. Alone.

Jordan became homeless. For a while, Jordan was able to stay with friends and acquaintances. Finishing her education was so important to her that she managed to graduate high school during this time.

When her options ran out, Jordan faced being out on the streets with her daughter.

Because of you, Jordan was able to find a safe place for her and her daughter at Alternatives For Girls.

### Finding Stability

Jordan called AFG, and was able to move in within an hour. Finally, Jordan was able to exhale. For years, all of her energy was focused on just surviving. Once

she was in AFG’s shelter, she was able to focus on herself, her daughter, and her goals.

She didn’t let any time go to waste. Once she settled in, Jordan began to learn skills that will help her live on her own.

“Now that I have somewhere that can support what I need, I’m able to be more focused on my end goals,” she shares.

### A Bright Future, Thanks to You

Thanks to your kindness, Jordan is working towards getting a good job, a car, and an apartment for her and her daughter. In the future, she plans to continue her education and study engineering.

It’s because of your support that young women have a stable place to stay and the support they need to reach their goals. Thank you for supporting girls and young women! ✨

## You’re Invited!

*During our monthly open houses, you’ll get a first-hand look behind the scenes.*

Have you ever visited Alternatives For Girls for a tour?

Join us during one of our upcoming open houses to tour our building, learn about our programs and find out how you can become a volunteer or get more involved.

Below are the upcoming open house dates:

**Wednesday, July 3rd  
from 10:00 to 11:00 am**

**Monday, July 8th  
from 5:30 to 6:30 pm**

To RSVP, contact Jessica Pate at [volunteering@alternativesfor-girls.org](mailto:volunteering@alternativesfor-girls.org) or 313-361-4000 ext. 248. We hope to see you there!

### 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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Janet Thompson (Parkside Credit Union)  
Nu Tran  
Sammye Van Diver  
Stefanie Worth (Mosaic Youth Theatre Detroit)

### 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 sex work, 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

### Alexandria Armstrong, Editor

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# For all you do, thank you.

## BRIEFING ROOM

### Rise N' Shine Wish List

*AFG's free, six-week summer camp for girls in southwest Detroit begins in July! You can help make this a summer the campers will never forget through a gift of one of the items below:*

Water bottles

New beach towels

New one-piece swimsuits (all sizes)

Sunscreen (SPF 50)

Flip-flops (all sizes)



You can help make this a summer the Rise N' Shine campers will never forget through the gift of one of these items!

*Photo: Amber Marie Photography*

Visit [wishlist.alt4girls.org](http://wishlist.alt4girls.org) to purchase these items through our RightGift wish list. If you live near Alternatives For Girls, you can drop off items at 903 West Grand Blvd from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm on Monday through Friday at the front desk. Otherwise, you can mail your donation to: Alternatives For Girls, Attn: Taylor Gawlik, 903 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48208. *Questions?* Please call 313-361-4000 ext. 273.

## Role Model Dinner Celebrates Strong Girls and Women

On March 27, the 30th annual Role Model Dinner was held and **raised over \$290,000 to support girls and young women!** The evening was full of fun, inspiration, and hope, as we celebrated the 2019 Role Models and the accomplishments of the girls and women in AFG's programs.

Malayshea, AFG shelter resident, shared during her speech, **"Being at AFG, I've learned to never give up, to keep going until you succeed, and that anything is possible. All you have to do is put your mind to it and have a little support behind you."**

A huge thank you to the dinner co-chairs, Pam Rodgers and Faye Nelson, the Role Model Dinner committee, the corporate sponsors, auction donors, our emcee, Rhonda Walker, all of the volunteers who made the event possible, and all who attended to support girls and women!



**Alternatives For Girls**  
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Search "Alternatives For Girls"

[www.AlternativesForGirls.org](http://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.