

Powerful Alternatives

A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

SPECIAL FEATURE:

Celebrating Alternatives For Girls' 2021 Graduates

We are excited to announce our program participants graduating from high school this spring.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 GRADUATES!

There are 19 graduates spanning across our three programs – Prevention, Shelter and Outreach and Education Services – who will graduate this semester! We wish them nothing but success in their future endeavors and hope the things they've learned during their time with AFG will follow them throughout the rest of their lives.



- Alondra – Wayne State University
- Berenice – Wayne State University
- Brionne – Ohio State University
- Enisant - Henry Ford College
- Guadalupe – Oakland University
- Inia – Cosmetology School
- Ja’Lisa - Undecided
- Jewel – Wayne County Community College
- Karen – University of Michigan Ann Arbor
- Karen - Undecided
- Marlen – Wayne State University
- Nicole - Undecided
- Samai – Undecided
- Shalma – University of Michigan Ann Arbor
- Taisha – Undecided
- Takiyah – Clark Atlanta University
- Tyler – Wayne County Community College
- Yazmine – Undecided
- Yuliana – Undecided

A new start. Positive alternatives.

BECOME A DREAM CHAMPION: MAKE A MONTHLY GIFT

Every day, girls and young women are dreaming about their futures. Your gift to Alternatives For Girls helps turn their dreams into reality. With your support, girls and young women who are at risk of homelessness, sex trafficking, gang involvement, and school dropout will have the support they need to become tomorrow's business owners, elected officials, teachers, engineers, and community leaders.

Your gift will be used to make a difference for girls and young women in Detroit who are dreaming of achieving goals that may currently feel impossible. At AFG, we believe in their ability to succeed, and we know you share in that belief, too. Together, we are taking action in support of their success!

When you become a Dream Champion, you will join a special group of people who donate each month to provide life-changing resources to homeless and at-risk girls and women in Detroit, no matter what the year brings.

Did you know \$10 a month could provide:

- One (1) harm reduction supply kit for one trafficking victim
- Five (5) home-cooked meals for one Prevention participant
- Two (2) twenty-four hour Detroit bus passes for our participants

Did you know \$20 a month could provide:

- Emergency transportation for a trafficking victim
- Emergency food for individuals being trafficked on the streets
- One (1) weekend food backpack for Peer Educators
- One (1) backpack with basic supplies for individuals rescued after an FBI sting

To become a Dream Champion, simply fill out and return the enclosed donation envelope or visit our website at www.alternativesforgirls.org and click on DONATE NOW and select recurring donation.

"Years ago, I searched for a great charity to set up a recurring monthly donation with because it lets me keep contributing to a wonderful cause without having to think about it. I love receiving the newsletters to see the difference that AFG is making in people's lives. Your organization does amazing things for people, and I am happy to contribute!"

Nick , Dream Champion

"I've always been so moved by the support that AFG provides to girls and women. Years ago, when I received a promotion, I reflected on how blessed I was to have family, friends and a community supporting me in my journey. Everyone needs someone in their corner. It was important to me to pay it forward and become a monthly donor to help AFG be there for other women in the way that I had always had someone there for me. I'm grateful to have AFG working in our community and supporting young girls and women to be safe, grow strong and make positive choices."

Angella, Dream Champion

"Alternatives For Girls gives all that it can, to our clients, each and every month to ensure that they can grow and succeed. I choose to donate, each and every month, so that I, too, can grow, knowing that I am helping each and every client as well. I know I can't give them everything they need, but I can give of myself and my resources to let them know that I believe in them and the community/village that we are creating together. Every offering, no matter how big or small, makes a difference in supporting AFG and the role it plays in the future of our clients."

Sammye , Dream Champion

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO: AMANDA (AMY) L. GOOD:

I am proud of and grateful to AFG's staff members who persevere in fulfilling AFG's mission in creative ways, recognizing that, pandemic or not, the lifeline that AFG provides must endure. Our critical in-person services—shelter, community-based casework, crisis center, and more—are going strong, as our phone, text, and zoom outreach sustain and strengthen vital connections and support. Vaccinations provided to staff and participants are key elements of our safety measures to keep the virus out of our shelter and keep everyone safe. Intensive cleaning and PPE protocols will continue until the pandemic is behind us. With delight and anticipation, we are planning an in-person, outdoor, safety-conscious “Rise ‘N Shine” 2021 summer program!

BIG NEWS: An area we have long targeted for growth is our capacity to connect those we serve to solid paths toward apprenticeship, training, and employment opportunities that build skills and promise family-sustaining careers. We appreciate our “**Social Enterprise/Workforce Development**” task force members, who brought expertise and resources



to this challenge. In January, our board approved the task force's recommendation to invest in AFG's two social enterprises: Sew Great Detroit and Eats All Good. We will create an internal workforce development coordinating hub, to produce an array of partnerships with top-notch workforce development providers throughout Detroit, ranging from skilled trades to health care and food services. With essential support from the McGregor Fund and the Valade Family, we're launching this initiative this quarter. Stay tuned!

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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CEO:

Amanda (Amy) L. Good

DEPARTMENTS:

Shelter and Transition to Independent Living: AFG's Shelter Program provides a stable home, counseling, and life skills training to homeless girls and young women ages 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 and young women ages 7-19 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.



For all you do, thank you.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MS. ALETHEA

Since she's been of age, Ms. Alethea has worked within the realms of childcare – from daycare, Montessori schools, residential academic scholarship programs, youth shelters, and juvenile detention facilities. For the past three years, she's served as AFG's Youth Outreach Coordinator in our Outreach and Education Services program. In her role, she works closely with the Peer Educators (PEs). Peer Education is a youth leadership program that trains at-risk youth to reach out to other at-risk youth in the community. In this role, Ms. Alethea most enjoys every moment of being engaged with the PEs.

"I find it beneficial for youth to have an additional adult to have a broadened support system," she said. "I love the way I can quickly identify and relate to the youth I serve while having boundaries. It has tickled me at times when I've been referred to as "Auntie Letha" or "Ma."

Ms. Alethea works with the PEs to help teach them leadership skills, employability skills, how to be a positive peer amongst their peers, prevention of at-risk behaviors including pregnancy prevention, substance abuse, bullying, having healthy relationships, goal setting, education and career goals just to name a few. When they conduct their outreach, they're focusing on topics such as education, peer support, sex trafficking, domestic violence, bullying (cyber bullying), pregnancy prevention, safe-sex (abstinence), community awareness, volunteering and healthy relationships.

She says the PEs often express the friendships they build, getting exposed to a variety of people in various career fields, entertainment, giving back to their peers and overall, just making a difference is what they enjoy most about their roles.

As for Ms. Alethea, her role allows her to be supportive to the PEs and their families, while staying within the boundaries of her job description.

"I'm able to know them professionally and personally, which gives me the foundation of providing the tools and resources for them to grow," she said. "In addition, the PEs keep me 'young' and I learn all the new dance steps, new songs, fashion trends and definitely technology."

We are currently hiring Peer Educators, if you know a motivated and enthusiastic young person in the 8th through 12th grades between the ages of 13-19 who would like to learn how to be leaders in our community, please have them email Ashley at afairbanks@alternativesforgirls.org.



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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.