

# Powerful Alternatives

A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

## A LETTER FROM AFG'S CEO, AMANDA (AMY) L. GOOD

“I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to AFG's generous supporters who understand and are responding to the urgency of sustaining AFG's presence and services during this pandemic.”

Homeless and high-risk girls and young women are extremely vulnerable at this time. Those who lack a safe or stable home, who are subjected to exploitation as a means to meet their most basic needs, and those who are pregnant and/or parenting without family support or a stable income, are especially at risk of exposure and barriers to health care. Families of young girls engaged in our Prevention and Asset-Building programs are facing economic hardships; those who are working are typically in jobs that expose them to the virus; those who are not working are running low on funds. Family stress—especially in families that already struggle with difficulties including domestic violence, poverty, illness, disabilities, unemployment, substance use, etc.—is exacerbated by pressures from many directions during this time, and many of the families we serve include one or more members who are ill or who have passed away.

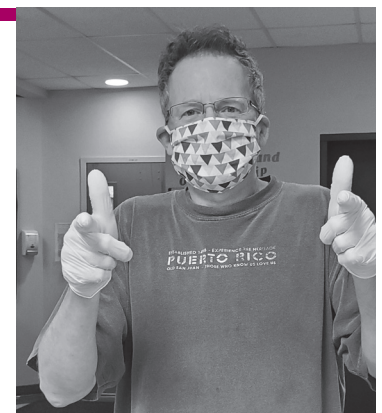


Brittany LeFlore,  
Crisis Resource Center Assistant

The good news is: AFG continues to be present for the homeless girls and young women who need us. Our shelter, our crisis center, and our provision of needed, concrete support such as food and supplies for girls, young women, and their families, are a lifeline to those we serve and must not be interrupted. I am in awe of our brave and dedicated “front line” staff members—who are demonstrating unwavering commitment to carrying out AFG's mission, and being present for our participants—despite the personal risks involved.

We are, of course, following the directives of the governor as well as City of Detroit guidelines and shelter licensing rules. We are conducting some of our services remotely, but, many of our critical services must be provided in person.

Letter from CEO, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Robert Blurton, Facility Coordinator

# A new start. Positive alternatives. Because of you.

## Letter from CEO, continued from page 1

AFG's shelter is going strong; with the capacity to care for up to 24 young women and their children, our shelter staff have been busy! In the past month, we have housed up to 18 girls and their 11 infants and toddlers each night. We are providing residents and their children with creative and constructive activities ranging from yoga to parenting skills, outdoor play for the young children, dance, and, of course, help with continuing academic work.

We have set up special rooms for those who are showing symptoms of the virus, and for those who are new to the shelter. Our crisis center teams are greeting girls and women who come to our door each day, and providing for their needs for shelter, referrals, food, information, crisis counseling, or simply a safe place to rest.

We are providing a wide range of primarily remote supports to the girls in our prevention program, helping them keep up with schoolwork, supporting their efforts to stay focused on their future plans while remaining flexible during these uncertain times, and taking them on virtual college tours!



Shelter Participants

Sadly, we are comforting a growing number of participants and family members who have lost loved ones to the virus. We are collaborating with many community partners of all kinds to maximize our use of critical resources, ensuring that food and supplies are delivered to our participants as needed. We are conducting increasing volumes and types of counseling—individual and group—via virtual meetings.

Further good news: we are getting extra support from individuals and foundations who are stepping up to recognize the extraordinary needs of girls and young women at risk during this time. We are grateful to the many sponsors and ticket-buyers who had made commitments in support of our cancelled Role Model Dinner, and who declined the refunds we offered, generously supporting our mission. Further, AFG's first-ever virtual fundraising auction, part of our alternative celebration of role models this year, was successful beyond our expectations, raising nearly \$40,000, thanks to the generosity of so many friends.

Future "good news" plans! We are planning our summer "Rise 'N Shine" camp for girls in our prevention program; this will likely require a creative approach to summer activities, that will at least start out with virtual programming. We are thrilled with recent support from the McGregor Fund to continue to shore up our intense employment and housing support and case management services for formerly homeless youth in our subsidized housing project, and also excited about a new grant from the Kellogg Foundation to jumpstart our efforts to open a day care center at AFG! Finally, our plans toward a longer-term supportive housing project for formerly homeless youth, with a new or rehabilitated apartment building with services on-site, is moving forward.



Stay tuned! All of this work is made possible by you, our many friends. On behalf of our participants who are largely thriving even in the face of these intensely challenging circumstances, thank you!

-Amanda (Amy) L. Good

### - SPECIAL THANKS - TO OUR 2020 ROLE MODEL DINNER SPONSORS

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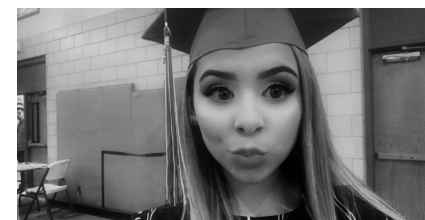
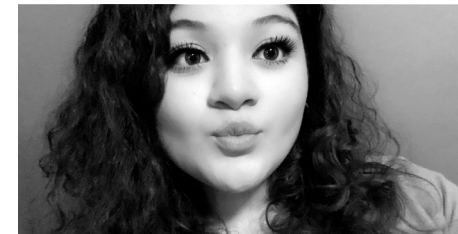
Union AdWorks

#### FLORAL SPONSORS:

Henry Ford Health System  
BJ's Wholesale Club

## CELEBRATING CLASS OF 2020

- Shining light on our seniors achieving one of life's greatest milestones... graduation!



\*Names have been withheld to protect confidentiality.

### 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 human trafficking, 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.

Powerful Alternatives is a publication of Alternatives For Girls

LaTasha C. Spivey Editor

903 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208

Phone: (313) 361-4000

Crisis Line: 888-AFG-3919

www.AlternativesForGirls.org

lspivey@alternativesforgirls.org

# 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:

Spring Wish List: At this time, to do our part in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, we are only accepting the following items:

- Cleaning/Disinfectant Products
- Hygiene Products
- Canned/Non-perishable Foods (soups, fruit cups, soft granola bars, prepackaged tuna or chicken pouches)
- Bottled Water (cases)
- Juice Boxes (cases)
- Women's sock and underwear (must be new and in original sealed packages)
- Non-contact thermometers
- 91% Alcohol
- Mask and Gloves
- Gift Cards (Kroger, Meijer, Target, Gas, VISA, etc.)

For more information please contact Taylor Gawlik at [tgawlik@alternativesforgirls.org](mailto:tgawlik@alternativesforgirls.org)

### GET INVOLVED!

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

#### DETROIT FREE PRESS/TCF BANK 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!

#### BECOME A DREAM CHAMPION: MAKE A MONTHLY GIFT

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.

#### MARCH 25TH 2020 CARES ACT:

The March 25, 2020 CARES Act established a new, temporary charitable deduction (limited to \$300) for taxpayers who claim the standard deduction. This is a new above-the-line deduction for charitable contributions for taxpayers who do not itemize. Taxpayers may deduct from their adjusted gross income (AGI) up to \$300 of qualified charitable contributions. This provision only applies to tax year 2020.

### CREATING A LEGACY....

Many AFG supporters like you tell us "I wish I could do more."  
**YOU CAN!**

Leaving a gift to Alternatives For Girls (AFG) in your will or by beneficiary designation is a great way to invest in the future of the girls and young women we serve and make a lasting gift for our women of tomorrow.

To notify us of a legacy gift you have planned, or to discuss the best gift option for you, please contact Dawn Barrack, Director of Fund Development at 313.361.4000 ext. 230 or [dbarrack@alternativesforgirls.org](mailto:dbarrack@alternativesforgirls.org).



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903 West Grand Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48208

Phone: 313-361-4000  
Fax: 313-361-8938  
Crisis Line: 888-AFG-3919

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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.