

# Powerful Alternatives

A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

## BECAUSE OF YOU-

This summer, 46 girls were able to learn creatively in AFG's first Virtual Rise N' Shine summer camp with donated art kits from Molly Martin, her friends, family and colleagues.

Molly is becoming an ambassador for Alternative For Girls. She learned about AFG after spending a day reflecting on injustice, racism, and discrimination. "I spent #blackouttuesday listening and reflecting on what I can do in my home to make a difference, to start the conversation, and then to take action in my community. And with the help of a few friends, I was introduced to Alternatives For Girls."

After learning of AFG, Molly immediately reached out and discovered that AFG was hosting its first virtual "Rise N' Shine" summer camp. And, Molly, along with a group of her friends, organized a fundraiser to collect 50 K-8th grade art boxes and ten 9-12th grade art boxes.



Molly Martin,  
Arts & Crafts Kits donation

But she didn't stop there, Molly furthered her fundraising efforts by adding AFG's nine graduating seniors to her list of fundraising needs. And after a few weeks, Molly raised \$8,200 and reached 182 donors to achieve art boxes for the Rise N' Shine virtual summer camp, headshots for nine graduating seniors, dorm room wishlists, wardrobe styling, and \$300 technology scholarships!

From a young age, Molly learned how important it is to surround yourself with strong women who celebrate your small and big wins in everyday life. In some of her hardest moments, Molly says, she had a network of women who she could reach out to for help. As a mother of three girls, she hopes her strength can make a small difference within an organization that gives so much to girls and young women in need.

Thank you for helping 46 girls enjoy a unforgettable summer! 



Molly, AFG graduating seniors and wardrobe styling at Ferne Boutique in Ferndale

# A new start. Positive alternatives.

## Letter from CEO



As we enter the sixth month of the coronavirus pandemic, you, our circle of supporters, will be happy to know that AFG's staff remain steadfast, welcoming girls and young women (some with infants and young children) who are experiencing homelessness into our shelter. We continue

to embrace (in spirit, and from six feet away) and serve those who come to us in crisis, and to deliver food, PPE and cleaning supplies, counseling and support to at-risk girls and young women and their families. We have been blessed with success in keeping the coronavirus at bay, out of our shelter, even as most of our shelter residents have returned to the workforce. Our staff, with help from the Detroit Health Department, are equipping them with PPE, solid information, and frequent reminders of all of the ways and reasons to stay safe!

AFG is carrying out our mission in full force; just a bit differently. Partnering with Forgotten Harvest, we are distributing food to approximately 250 individuals every other week. Our summer camp has gone virtual, with creative adaptations, as girls go on virtual field trips, and we sneak in academic activities, e.g. our traditional "turning books into plays". Middle and high school girls are engaged in virtual college tours, as well as virtual international "travel", such as to Barro Colorado Isle Panama, widening horizons and sparking imaginations.

AFG's participants face serious obstacles, in some ways, more difficult now than ever, but the work goes on, including a very special pause to celebrate! Last month's newsletter highlighted some of our TEN high school graduates, from all three of our programs—shelter, prevention, and outreach—most of whom are headed to college--destinations include WSU, U of M, and U of M-D. With the help of magnificent donors sharing our determination to celebrate our graduating seniors, we honored them with an outdoor, physically-distancing, PPE-compliant, but tremendously joyful car caravan throughout our neighborhood, escorted by Detroit Firefighters, their trucks flashing lights and blasting horns, and cars painted with our participants' expressions of triumph, my favorite of which was: "I did it!! With two kids and AFG!" Donated gifts included college-level technology, bedding, dishes, and other essential "launch" items. We will continue to support "AFG's Class of 2020", whose members have overcome



unique and, in some cases, very daunting challenges, through the next steps in their important educational journeys.

Thank you, all, for continuing to be the lifeline for AFG's mission, and for those we serve.

-Amanda (Amy) L. Good

## -DREAM CHAMPIONS-

Have you ever wondered how you can make an even bigger impact?

Are you ready to become something bigger than yourself?

Consider supporting our participants and residents with 12 gifts over 12 months!

AFG's Dream Champion program is our monthly giving program where in which your contribution allows our Prevention, Shelter and Outreach and Education Services programs to support homeless and at-risk girls and young women. When you join Alternatives For Girls' Dream Champions, you will join a special group of people reaching out each month to support our girls and young women all year long!

**Did you know that by becoming a Dream Champion and setting up a recurring monthly gift...**

- You help AFG without ever writing a check!
- Your monthly donation provides AFG with a steady and predictable stream of revenue.
- Your monthly donation will help AFG to plan ahead and make long-term programming plans for our participants and residents.

Your gift of \$10 per month (33 cents per day) can help provide support where it is needed most each month.

Your gift of \$25 per month (83 cents per day) can provide healthy meals for one Shelter resident for five days.

Your gift of \$50 per month (\$1.66 per day) can provide one (1) hour of counseling services to grief and trauma victims served by AFG.

For more information on how you can become a Dream Champion, please reach out to Dawn Barrack, Director of Fund Development at [dbarrack@alternativesforgirls.org](mailto:dbarrack@alternativesforgirls.org) or go directly to our AFG website, click on DONATE NOW, select your giving level and choose the Recurring Donation option.

# Because of you.

## DREAM CHAMPION... Meet Renee Peck

Renee Peck joined the Alternatives For Girls family after attending a few of AFG events. Still, the one event that stood out to her the most was the “Positive Choices, Powerful Lives” event where she fell in love with AFG’s mission. Renee became a Dream Champion, and a volunteer to give her time and talent to become a part of another woman’s positive choice.



Being raised in the city of Detroit, coming from a difficult childhood Renee knows how critical positive choices are. Her mom was bipolar, and her dad was an alcoholic, and they divorced when she was at a young age, which pushed her into being the caretaker of her mom, and helping raise her younger siblings. Renee took on a lot of responsibility in her family but, with positive influences in her life changed her outlook. Her positive impacts taught her that where you come from did not have to determine who you became in the future. Also, she could modify and pivot her life and put herself in a better situation because she had been presented the opportunity to do so!

“You do not have to be a product of your environment. I went to school around pimps and prostitutes. But I did not allow that to become who I was to become. I went to school and got a degree. AFG is such a positive resource for women like me to make positive choices.” Renee says she loves the impact that AFG has on its participants, and the joy the participants receive from the outpouring of encouragement. She became a monthly donor because she knew that her monthly donation would be a way of her giving back to the same society that helped her along the way.

“AFG provides amazing mentorship and peer to peer counseling, advising, and incredible resources for women. All of which need to be sustained. AFG can count on my monthly gift to sustain these resources. It’s like one of my monthly bills; that’s how I treat it. It is important for me to make that investment.”

In addition to Renee being a Dream Champion, she has done fundraising events that have raised nearly \$5k as a way to introduce the organization she cares so deeply for to the community.



### 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) 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.

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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:

Summer 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 yoga pants/leggings, t-shirts, sandals, socks and underwear (must be new and in original sealed packages)
- Non-contact thermometers
- 91% Alcohol
- Masks 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:

#### POSITIVE CHOICES, POWERFUL LIVES VIRTUAL EVENT

We invite you to join us at our Positive Choices, Powerful Lives Virtual event! During the event, you will learn about AFG's history and programs, hear from some of the young women AFG serves, and learn ways to get involved. Please save the date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 from 6:00pm-7:00pm!

#### 2020 COMMUNITY CHALLENGE WITH QUICKEN LOANS

We are participating in the 2020 Rock Family of Companies Community Challenge to continue our fight in supporting homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation. By donating you could help AFG win matching funds from the Rock Family of Companies.

Visit: [www.rockcommunitychallenge.com](http://www.rockcommunitychallenge.com) to learn more!

#### WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

We are now accepting nominations for the 2021 Role Model Awards.

Each year, two or more women are honored with awards at AFG's Role Model Dinner for their accomplishments and demonstrated commitment to the Metro Detroit community.

You are invited to recognize an extraordinary woman you think would make an excellent AFG Role Model.

To submit a nomination. visit [www.alternativesforgirls.org](http://www.alternativesforgirls.org).

### 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 options 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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[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.