



Amethyst Place

BLOOM

YEARBOOK

2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 - Our Noble Cause

3 - 25 Years of Healing

4 - Leadership Message

5 - Meet the Staff

8- Honorees

14 - Youth Recognition

15 - Life at AP

17 - Hope for the Future

18 - Thank Yous





OUR NOBLE CAUSE

At Amethyst Place, we inspire transformational healing and empower generations of women and children to achieve recovery, reunification, and resilience. As a long-term supportive housing program, we help women and children recover from generational substance use, trauma, and poverty.

Since 2000, we have served 400 families, including 776 children. Annually, we touch the lives of 300 women and children through three core programs:

Supportive Housing

Family Empowerment

Therapeutic Services

25 YEARS OF BRINGING FAMILIES HOME TO HEAL

Since May 2000, we've been bringing families home to heal—providing safe housing, support, and community for mothers and children overcoming generational poverty, trauma, and substance use.

What started with just a few families has grown into a powerful community where over 400 families have rebuilt their lives with hope and resilience.

Our 25th year marked a significant milestone: our Tracy Campus expansion. This 32-unit expansion allowed Amethyst Place to double the number of families we serve. Offering more moms and kids the stability, support, and community they deserve.





A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Starla Brennan
Executive Director

For 25 years, Amethyst Place has been a place where hope takes root, where families facing recovery challenges can grow, and where resilience blossoms. Every story we celebrate today began with a single step forward—and it's your support that makes lasting change possible.

When families arrive at Amethyst Place, moms are often in early recovery, working hard to rebuild their lives, while many children are living apart from their mothers in foster care. Yet, because of the courage of our families, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering generosity of this community, their stories are transformed. Together, we witness children returning home, recovery anniversaries, graduations, new careers, business ownership, home ownership, and so much more.

This year, we reached a proud milestone: the opening of our 32-unit Tracy Campus at 2750 Tracy, just two blocks from our longtime home. Nearly doubling our housing capacity, this new site offers more than shelter—it's a place where families can put down roots, find stability, and bloom into their full potential. We marked this achievement and 25 years of impact with a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony that celebrated how far we've come and the bright future ahead.

As we gather today, we honor every achievement, every story, and every moment of resilience made possible through you—our community of supporters. Thank you for helping us celebrate 25 years of impact and for ensuring generations to come will continue to bloom.

With gratitude,
Starla Brennan
Executive Director



THE STAFF

Helping families come home to heal.



Starla Wulf Brennan
Executive Director



Lauren Clifton-Thompson
Director of Development



Jamila Edwards
Director of Clinical Services



Sarah Knopf-Amelung
Director of Strategy & Growth



Steven Tucker
Director of Housing



Katie Van Hove
Chief Financial Officer



Gina Green
Supportive Housing Manager



Ebony Allmon
Housing Navigator



Jimmy Holmes
Data Analytics &
Grants Manager

THE STAFF

Helping families come home to heal.



Ashley Rudd
Philanthropy &
Communications Manager



Erin Hestand
Adult Empowerment
Manager



Jerry McNeal
Youth Empowerment
Manager



Ashley Brooks
Senior Youth
Empowerment Coach



Randi Cagle
Human Resources
Specialist



Olivia Deeken
Clinical Therapist



Lauren Euritt
Financial
Accountant



Mollie Flores
Wellness
Empowerment Coach



Christina Hubbard
Career
Empowerment Coach

THE STAFF

Helping families come home to heal.



Latrese Kabuya
Child & Family
Therapist



Linnie Wilson
Youth Empowerment
Coach



Tonille Williams
Adult Empowerment
Coach

OUR BOARD

Brooke Runnion, Board Chair, Lockton Companies
Jaimie Davis, Board Vice-Chair, Alumni
Vladimir Sainte', Board Secretary, University Health Behavioral Health
Sara Beth Burton, Treasurer, Chair of Finance Committee, Hallmark
Jasmin Avakyants, Creative Consultations
Liz Bean, REVILO: A Liz A. Bean Salon/Alumni
Randy Bennett, Rawhide Harley Davidson Olathe
Brian Block, Freedom 3 Capital
Yvonne Brewington, Research Medical Center
Kathryn Evans, Rooted Strategy
Dr. Angela Gist-Mackey, University of Kansas
Erica Handley, Operation Breakthrough/Program Council
Anthony Johnson, Industrial Accessories Company
Michele Kemp, Community Volunteer
Alexandria Murnan, Travois
Emily Parish, University Health Foundation
Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, Urban Produce Push (UPP)
Liz Tobin, BlueScope
Barbara Anne Washington, MO State Senator, District 9
Brittani Williams, Jackson County Family Treatment Court/Program Council

THE HONOREES

Megan Rae A.

Achievements

Reunified with child.

“Amethyst Place has allowed me to have a safe place to raise my daughter and has given me space for healing.”



Dalisha B.

Achievements

Obtained a driver’s license, bought a car, cleared legal issues/warrants, started a new job, maintained the same job for a year or more, and received a peer support license.

“My favorite memory at Amethyst Place was moving into my new Tracy apartment. I thought moving into Troost apartments was my favorite, and I didn’t know it could get better than that, but it did.”

Julie Anna B.

Achievements

Maintained the same job for a year or more, got a promotion, graduated from Rediscover’s AltCare, completed probation out of Johnson & Jackson County Family Treatment Court, and graduated from family treatment court.

“Amethyst Place has allowed me to have hope in being able to achieve goals I previously felt were impossible.”



Justena E.

Achievements

Graduated from Rediscover and Children’s Mercy TIES, and completed Great Jobs KC training.

“Within the next year, I look forward to maintaining a job, becoming a realtor & hopefully being in my own home.”



Whitney H.

Achievements

Started culinary school.

“Amethyst Place has allowed me to heal.”

Mary H.

Achievements

Maintained the same job for a year or more.

“Amethyst Place has allowed me to learn how to hold myself accountable and to show up for myself.”



Alexandria K.

Achievements

Bought a car.

“Amethyst Place has allowed me to truly take my time and heal before heading out into the world and figuring out my own path to recovery and life. It has provided a safe place to be with my kids and do all of that.”

Whitney L.

Achievements

Maintained the same job for a year or more.

“My favorite memory at Amethyst Place is moving into our newly built apartment and being able to let my girls decorate their own rooms.”



Rachel M.

Achievements

Bought a car, started a new job, cleared past debt, earned Certified Peer Specialist credential.

“My biggest motivation to reach my goals has been my children and myself! Giving us the happy, secure, stable life we deserve. Making my family proud, and above all, honoring and obeying God, who has been SO good and so faithful to me.”



Danielle M.

Achievements

Started a new job, completed freshman year in college with a 4.0.

“Within the next year, I look forward to getting a better-paying job and paying off debts. I’m going to be getting a car as well.”

Haley M.

Achievements

Got a car, got a driver's license, cleared legal issues/warrants; started a new job, and graduated from ReDiscover.

“My favorite memory at Amethyst Place is waking up this past winter to our Christmas tree in our living room.”



Cori M.

Achievements

Got a car, got a driver's license, cleared legal issues/warrants, started a new job, and graduated from a treatment program.

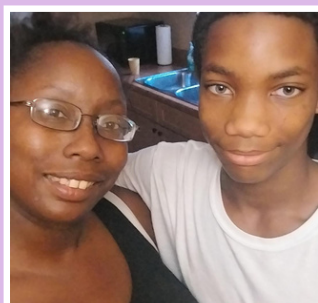
“Amethyst Place has allowed me to grow into the mother, friend, daughter, sister, and person that I want to be.”

Amanda M.

Achievements

Maintained the same job for a year or more and earned a Bachelor's in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice at UMKC.

“My motivation to reach my goals has been finding stability as well as wanting to grow. I can't grow if I stay comfortable.”



Heather M.

Achievements

Started a new job and reunited with child.

“My favorite memory at Amethyst Place is the first day I saw my place. The sense of relief that I was home and I could get my son back.”



Kimia N.

Achievements

Got a driver's license, cleared legal issues/warrants, completed treatment programs, maintained the same job for a year or more, and got a promotion.

"Within the next year, I look forward to purchasing a vehicle on my own."

Tia R.

Achievements

Got a car, cleared legal issues/warrants, and reunified with kids.

"Amethyst Place has allowed me to reunify with my children."



Brittany R.

Achievements

Got a car, earned Certified Peer Specialist credential, and maintained the same job for a year or more.

"Within the next year, I look forward to maintaining recovery and growing outside of Amethyst Place."

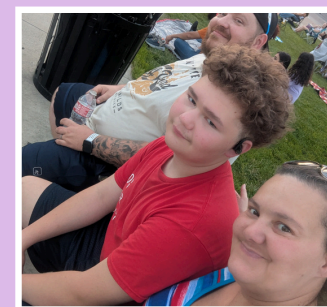


Amber R.

Achievements

Cleared past debt, became a homeowner.

"Amethyst Place has allowed me to build a foundation that has allowed me to create a new life."



Erica S.

Achievements

Cleared past debt.

"Within the next year, I look forward to launching my copywriting & website design business."



Aime T.

Achievements

Maintained the same job for a year or more and earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work.

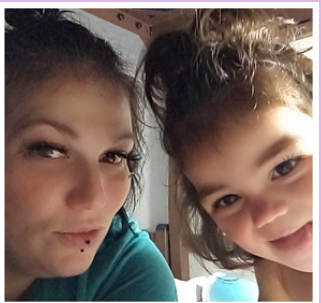
"Within the next year, I look forward to stepping into the role of a social worker at an agency and growing in my ability to empower others. Spending quality time with the people I love."

Esbeydi V.

Achievements

Got a car and started a new job.

"My motivation to reach my goals has been my kids and my recovery."



Jamie W.

Achievements

Maintained recovery for 1 year.

"Amethyst Place has allowed me to live in an environment free of drugs."

Brittani W.

Achievements

Got a car, got a driver's license, completed a treatment program, and maintained the same job for a year or more.

"Amethyst Place has allowed me to grow and be a present mom!"



Savanah W.

Achievements

Got a car, cleared legal issues/warrants, completed a treatment program, reunified with child, earned Certified Peer Specialist credential, and started a new job.

"Amethyst Place has allowed me to discover that I want to see the world and go on adventures with my kids!"



Angela W.

Achievements

Maintained the same job for a year or more.

"Amethyst Place has allowed me to feel safe and supported and seen."

Samantha W.

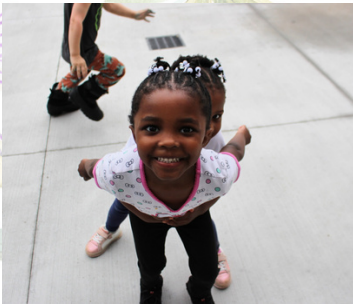
Achievements

Got a car.

"My motivation to reach my goals has been to be someone my family is proud of. Someone I am proud of."



**YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAM**



Youth Advisory Council

2025

Maribella
John
LaMya

Destiney
Johnae
Zoey

Kyla
Aubree
Autumn

Youth Achievements

High School Graduates

Andee
Micah
Renauld
Karlee
Sebastian

Youth Achievements

Youth Volunteer Corps

JJ
Bella
Malaya

Ryker
Taleb
Zoey

Azreal
Anthony
LaMya

WHERE FAMILIES
COME HOME
TO HEAL



WHERE FAMILIES
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WE ASKED AP MOMS:

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS FOR AMETHYST PLACE?

"For them to continue supporting women and children and changing lives, this is a beautiful program. I feel blessed that my HP put me where I could be loved and supported while I heal."

"I hope that Amethyst looks at their progress and continues to strive to make changes where needed and keep allowing the sisterhood to keep thriving."

"My hope is that Amethyst Place continues to keep doing what they're doing and only getting better and better at it. We are all human and these kids and moms deserve a place like this to go to and get life sorted out and back on their feet."

"I hope that Amethyst Place continues to thrive. Reuniting children with mothers and promoting a healing environment."

"Continued growth, success, and immense respect in the recovery community it so deserves. I hope that only multiplies, and I believe wholeheartedly it will."

"To continue thriving and saving lives."



Amethyst Place
where families come home to heal

"That we continue to grow and help so many more families come home to heal."

THAT EVERYONE WHO COMES INTO THIS PROGRAM REALIZES THEY HAVE A WHOLE ARMY ROOTING FOR THEM TO SUCCEED!



Thank YOU

A special thank you message from
AP Moms to family & friends.

"I'd like to thank staff, my sisters, my family, and my friends for being a massive support for me during school and during some of the trying times that I have faced this year. Without you guys, I don't know that I would be where I am right now. I love you and thank you from the bottom of my heart."

- Amanda M.

"I love you all very much."

- Dalisha B.

"A special thanks to Mollee and Amethyst Place for always advocating for me and being there to support me through all my hard times."

- Tia R.

"To my family and friends, thank you for supporting me through this recovery journey, showing me love, honesty, and kindness when I need it. My mom, I'm so proud of us both and glad we are on this journey together, and my kids, the biggest reason I do or want any of this. I love you."

- Alexandria K.

"Thank you to my beautiful family: Lillian, Monroe, Cade, my Mom, and Dad for loving me endlessly, and for being my drive, my reason, my heart."

- Rachel M.

"I just want to thank Erin, Olivia, Mollee, and all the other staff members for everything you do."

- Angela W.

"Thank you for always supporting me."

- Justena E.

"Thank you to everyone who has been walking my journey with me these past 4 years & helping me to grow."

- Brittani W.

"I appreciate the love and support I have been given by my sisters at AP, the guidance I have received from staff, and the trust my family has in me now. I would also like to thank Randy and Kadin Bennett for giving me a chance and reminding me that I am worth it."

- Cori M.

"I love you very much!"

- Aime T.

"Thank you for the support and love."

- Whitney H.

"Thank you for believing in me when I was unsure of myself."

- Danielle M.

"Thank you all for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself."

- Samantha W.

"Dear family, thank you for being my support and loving me through the hard stuff. I couldn't have done this without you. You have helped me be more confident to fight for what I need and to only expect the best out of myself and others. I love you so much!"

- Julie Anna B.

"Thank you for all the support and for believing in me."

- Esbeydi V.

"I would just like to say thank you to Amethyst Place because without them, there's no telling where I'd be."

- Megan Rae A.



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www.amethystplace.org