

*Growing
Generations*

OF
EMPOWERED
FAMILIES

2021



Amethyst Place

where families come home to heal





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Empowering Families
to Overcome Generational
Poverty, Substance Use,
and Trauma

198

WOMEN & CHILDREN SERVED

At Amethyst Place, we **inspire transformational healing** and empower generations of women and children to achieve **recovery, reunification, and resilience**. We help families transition from homelessness and separation to housing, reunification, and a thriving future. In 2020, 153 women and children lived at Amethyst Place and an additional 45 program graduates remained engaged in aftercare services. Our waitlist typically holds as many families as we can house, underscoring the urgent need for our services and expansion, which will soon be underway.

50

FAMILIES HOUSED

Entering the program, the typical mom is 32, has 3-4 children, is in early recovery, and experiencing homelessness. Most have lost custody of their children due to substance use and poverty, yet their families are typically reunified within days or weeks at Amethyst Place. Our two-generation approach touches the lives of many ages, with over a third of residents below the age of 5. While living at Amethyst Place, we help children develop positive childhood experiences to mitigate the impact of trauma and build family resilience to upend generational cycles.



Our Approach

Our three core programs are designed to help families overcome the interconnected cycles of trauma, substance use, and poverty. Our long-term approach allows families to stay as long as they need to heal and thrive -- a rare and invaluable opportunity -- to ensure sustainable transformation.



Supportive Housing

provides safe, affordable housing through 37 apartment units and access to basic needs

Family Empowerment



supports educational, career, financial, and health and wellness goals to help families overcome generational poverty and lead healthy lives



Therapeutic Services

help families heal from past trauma, stabilize mental health, improve parenting skills, and build resilience

Our Impact

Breaking generational cycles of trauma by reuniting, stabilizing, and healing families.

90% of moms maintained recovery

National average is 40-60%

Breaking generational cycles of substance use through coaching and community.

100% of children reunified with mom within 60 days

This produced a foster care cost savings of \$817,775 in 2020

80% of moms leveled up on the "Income" domain by 2-4 levels by program graduation

On a scale of 1-In Crisis to 5-Empowered

88% successfully graduated the program

This includes living here a year, maintaining recovery, scoring "safe" on all self-sufficiency benchmarks, and moving to independent housing

Breaking the Cycles

Breaking generational cycles of poverty by advancing education and creating career paths.

35 moms engaged in GED, college, or vocational training

Nationally, poverty rates for single moms reduce 33% for each additional level of education attained



A Message from the Executive Director, Starla Wulf Brennan

These have been incredibly challenging times for all of us. Thanks to your unwavering belief in family growth and transformation, **our AP community continues to not just survive, but thrive.** When the pandemic led to job loss and uncertainty, we stepped in to create policies to keep everyone stable and healthy. This support was a springboard for their success. 100% of children out of their mom's care were reunified within 60 days of her moving in. Moms maintained a 90% recovery rate - double the national average. Facing unemployment, 35 moms turned misfortune into opportunity by completing their GED, beginning college, and starting vocational training.

Our program's success is apparent to many families in the community who are waiting to call AP home. They have hope that through our program, they will have the safe home and support needed to bring their family back together.

Yet right now, our waitlist contains 44 families, including 76 children, who are unstably housed and separated, waiting an average of 1 year for a safe home to reunify. It is with that urgency that we knew we had to move forward with program growth, even in a pandemic.

We are elated to announce that expansion is now a reality! We just closed on 1.28 acres of vacant land at 28th and Tracy, right next to our current campus. Our plan is to build 34 more units, including 22 apartments and 12 townhomes.

With your help, we can **#GROWAP**. Your support will keep our current operations strong and grow our footprint – ultimately reducing our waitlist and doubling our capacity. Please help make this dream a reality for Kansas City families by making a gift today. Help us bring these children home to their moms so we can create brighter futures for generations to come.

Meet the Staff



JAMILA EDWARDS

Director of Clinical Operations

Jamila is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 22 years of experience. She joined the team in April 2021.

"Early in my career, I had the privilege of working with clients that were able to benefit from the supportive services at Amethyst Place. At that time, Amethyst Place was newly created. I have been amazed at the positive impact Amethyst continues to have for families and love that I now can be a part of this continued growth and service for this community."



SARAH KNOPF-AMELUNG

Director of Resource and Program Development

Sarah oversees fund development and program innovation and evaluation. She began at Amethyst Place in 2019 after 6 years at UMKC and prior collaborations with Amethyst Place.

"It's an absolute privilege to ensure that Amethyst Place has the necessary resources to sustain our important work and grow to serve more families. As a mom, our mission is very personal to me, and it is beautiful to see families reunify and succeed every day."



SHANDA MOON

Director of Administrative Operations

Shanda has served at Amethyst Place in various capacities since 2011. She currently oversees administrative operations, including managing finances and our 37-unit supportive housing campus.

"It is a joy to know these women. Being a part of the Amethyst community, getting to witness moms, kids, and families heal and grow, is an honor."





**Rashawn
Aiono**

Supportive Housing
Assistant



**Mandy
Caruso-Yahne**

Volunteer Manager



**Lauren
Clifton Thompson**

Development & Events
Manager



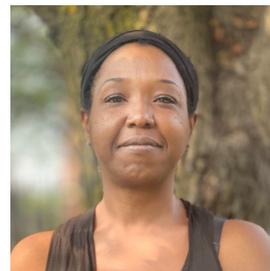
**Olivia
Deeken**

Clinical Therapist



**Laurie
Evans**

Donations Coordinator/
Supportive Housing
Assistant



**Tonya
Evans**

Supportive Housing
Assistant



**Mollee
Flores**

Wellness Empowerment
Coach



**Regina
Green**

Supportive Housing
Manager



**Delaney
Hall**

Child Therapist



**Renee
Harris**

Senior Empowerment
Manager



**Erin
Hestand**

Financial Empowerment
Coach



**Christina
Hubbard**

Career Empowerment
Coach

Carmen Johnson

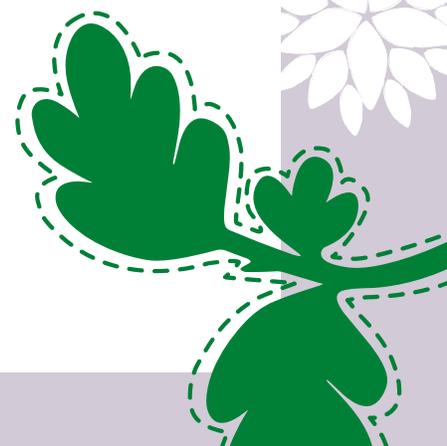
(not pictured)

Supportive Housing
Assistant

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Glynn, Board Chair
Jaimie Gray, Board Vice-Chair
Brooke Runnion, Treasurer
Liz Tobin, Board Secretary
Yvonne Brewington
Sara Beth Burton
Penny Clodfelter

Jeff Ganaden
Anthony Johnson
Michele Kemp
Angie Smith
Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn
Oneta Templeton
Sen. Barbara Anne Washington





Honor Roll

First they shatter stigmas. Then they shatter ceilings.

There is no limit to what women at Amethyst Place can accomplish - from graduating our program to graduating college and every success in between and beyond.

It is all worth celebrating! Check out the phenomenal women that make up this year's Honor Roll.



Aime T.

Amethyst Place Graduate & CHW Certification

This past April, Aime took courses at MCCCK to become a Certified Health Worker (CHW). Shortly after, she graduated Amethyst Place in June of 2021.

Aime says, "I couldn't have done any of this without Amethyst providing support and structure. Amethyst Place has allowed me to thrive. I look forward to continuing in my recovery and eventually changing careers."

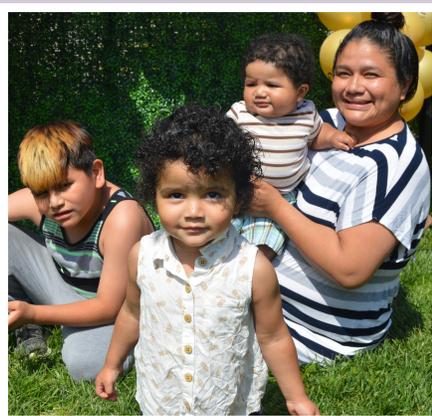


Amanda M.

Amethyst Place Graduate & Bloch Scholar

Amanda graduated the Amethyst Place program in November of 2019. Amanda is also pursuing an Associate's Degree with MCCCK. This past summer and on her own merit, Amanda was awarded a Bloch Scholarship, which will pay for the remainder of her program.

Amanda says, "My motivation has been proving people wrong who told me I couldn't do it. I also want to be able to provide for my kids despite being a single mother."



Amapola G.

Amethyst Place Graduate & College Student

"This journey that I am on is not just for me, but for my children and the rest of my family. I will keep my head up high and leave the past to the past, but I will never forget where I came from."

Amapola became an Amethyst Place graduate in April 2020. During the pandemic, she took her love of baking to the next level and earned a certificate in cake decorating. She is now enrolled in college at MCCCK taking general studies.



Amber O.

Amethyst Place Alumni & College Student

In December 2019, Amber graduated from our program. She has since moved into independent housing (Alumni status) and is pursuing a degree in Accounting.

"There are two favorite memories I have of Amethyst Place. The first is the moment I walked into my apartment and the second is the moment I walked out of my apartment for the last time and acknowledging all of the growth in between. Never be complacent. When one goal is reached, set another."



Angela W.

Amethyst Place Graduate

Angela graduated from drug treatment in December 2019 and shortly after graduated from the Amethyst Place program. She has been faithfully studying to pass her HiSet exam (to earn her GED) with the assistance of one of our dedicated volunteer tutors.

She says, "Amethyst Place has allowed me to have a healthy support system while I continue to learn how to live my new life. While here, I plan to get my GED, a job, a car, and a license."



Aneesa W.

Amethyst Place Graduate

"I'm grateful to have found this space, to heal and grow, and develop a good connection with my boys. Feeling this good is something I've always dreamed of and never thought possible."

Aneesa graduated from Sheffield Place's program in June 2020. Shortly after, she moved into Amethyst Place and then graduated our program in June 2021. Within the next year, Aneesa looks forward to completing an apprenticeship for building maintenance. She also hopes to earn her certificate in herbal medicine and obtain her driver's license.



Brandee W.

Amethyst Place Alumni & College Student

"My favorite memory at Amethyst Place was reunifying with my son. Amethyst Place has allowed me to gain independence, become a better mother, and go back to school. Within the next year I look forward to getting my CPC (certified program coder) certification from MCCCKC."

Brandee graduated from Amethyst Place in June 2020 and recently moved off campus and into her own home.



Cristin S.

Amethyst Place Graduate & Grooming Project Graduate

"I want to thank those that have believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. It has been a long road to get to this point, and I couldn't be happier. I couldn't have done any of it without the support of my family, friends, Amethyst Place, the Grooming Project, and Comprehensive Mental Health Services."

Cristin graduated from The Grooming Project in December 2020 and became an Amethyst Place graduate shortly after in February 2021. She has big plans for her future and says, "I look forward to growing in my recovery, spending time with my children, and gaining experience in my new career. Eventually, I would like to open up my own mobile grooming business."



Chantalle S.

Amethyst Place Alumni

Chantalle recently celebrated 3 years in recovery. She graduated from ReDiscover's treatment program in July 2019, became an Amethyst Place graduate in January 2020, and moved to independent housing in August 2021.

She says, "Amethyst Place has allowed me to finally live up to my potential, give my kids a safe and secure home, learn how to live life clean, and to finally do this thing called 'adulthood.' Shout out to all my Amethyst sisters and AP Staff! I have done and accomplished more in the last 3 years than I ever could have imagined and I owe such a huge part of that to all of them."



Corey N.

Amethyst Place Alumni

"I keep on keeping on because I want to show my kids that life comes with lots struggles and that's ok; it's all about how you handle them and move forward. I want them to be strong individuals, and in order to get them there, I have to be strong first."

Corey became an Amethyst Place graduate in January 2020. This past spring she moved off campus into a home of her own.

Corey says, "Amethyst Place allowed me to FLOURISH. I was going to try and find a new and better job, but I already did that! My next big goal is to get the rest of my debts paid off and start building my credit."



Danielle M.

Amethyst Place Graduate & Grooming Project Graduate

Danielle became an Amethyst Place graduate in October 2020. Shortly after, she enrolled in a six-month training program with the Grooming Project and graduated in April 2021. Within a week of graduation, she was offered employment.

"My motivation has been my son, my family, and my future."

Within the next year, Danielle hopes to move to independent housing.



Emily D.

Amethyst Place Alumni & College Student

"Amethyst Place allowed me to believe in myself."

Emily graduated with an Associate's Degree from MCCCK in May 2020. The following month, she graduated from our program and moved into independent housing.

Emily earned a full-ride scholarship to Avila University and started pursuing her BSW this fall semester.

Emily says, "Shout-out to my family for always reminding me that anything is possible."

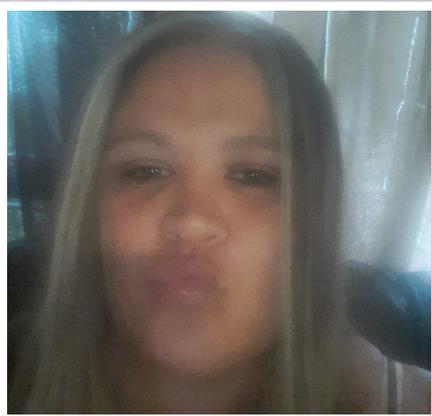


Teley B.

Amethyst Place Alumni & Cosmetology Student

Ieley graduated from Amethyst Place in June 2020 and moved to independent housing this past winter.

"My most favorite memories will always be my sisters and being a band of mothers - having our kids play outside as we discuss life, how to deal with it, and how to laugh about it. We have a bond that will last a lifetime. I'm striving for a home of my own, graduating Cosmetology School, maintaining a clean lifestyle, being physically fit, financially stable, and learning to be the mother my God wants me to be."



Jennifer H.

Amethyst Place Graduate & Certified Clinical Medical Assistant

In January 2019, Jennifer earned her GED. Then, in March 2019, she graduated from the Hope City Rehab Program and also became an Amethyst Place graduate. From there, she completed a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant program through the University of Central Missouri in July 2019.

Jennifer has been on the frontlines of the pandemic, educating her peers and providing resources to help create healthier communities.

She says, "Keep going, no matter the pace, keep pushing forward."

Within the next year, Jennifer looks forward to obtaining her LPN



Justina B.

Amethyst Place Alumni & Certified Peer Specialist

Justina became an Amethyst Place graduate in December 2020. In May 2021 she obtained her Peer Support Specialist certificate.

"Amethyst Place has allowed me to reach my goals and my kids have been my motivation."



Kayleigh M.

Amethyst Place Alumni & Cosmetology Student

"I'm so grateful I've had a new chance to be a mother, daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin, and friend. I won't let my loved ones down. I love my family and friends more than anything in this world. Through my journey, I have met so many amazing people, and I want to thank all my family and friends for being so loving."

Kayleigh graduated from her treatment program in June 2020 and then from Amethyst Place in September 2020. Within the next year she looks forward to graduating from cosmetology school and becoming a Licensed Cosmetologist and a Master Stylist.



Kelsey S.

Amethyst Place Alumni & College Student

"My motivation has been my children and my recovery. I am working very hard to provide my children with the best version of myself that I can in order to make our future's bright."

Within the next year I look forward to accomplishing my associate's degree and then transferring to UCM's Social Work Program.

I am so happy to have experienced all that Amethyst has to offer. I have moved out to my own home now but have stayed connected through Art Cub and volunteering during Craft Night."

Kelsey is a proud graduate of Amethyst Place, completing the program in June 2020.



Lawanna C.

Amethyst Place Graduate and Bloch Scholar

Lawanna is a first-generation college student pursuing her Associate's Degree with MCCCKC. She earned the Bloch Scholarship, which will pay for the remainder of her Associate's program and part of her Bachelor's degree, in which she'd like to study social work and eventually become a caseworker. She intends to complete her program by Spring 2022.

She says, "My kids have been my motivation to keep going. I also want to acknowledge my mentor for helping to keep me on the right track."



AP Kids

Safe, loved, and home...every kid deserves a happy childhood. At Amethyst Place, moms and staff work hard to make sure that happens so that AP kids can grow up healthy and dream big. Their bright smiles brighten our lives. Check them out on the next page!



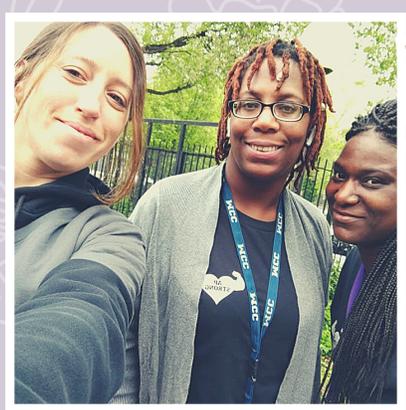


Our Year in Review



Ending the year with some holiday cheer!

A hard year deserved an amazing holiday. The Tyrann Mathieu Foundation graciously showered our 37 families with dinner, a movie, and season passes to the Kansas City Zoo and SeaLife, plus a number of gift cards for family fun. In addition, Ronita Cochran purchased toys for each child, and the Dehaemers Family Trust presented each family with gift cards to Walmart. Thank you to our amazing community partners for helping our families feel seen and valued!



Shatterproof 5K

Connection is the opposite of addiction. Maintaining those connections became increasingly challenging throughout the pandemic. As a result, our nation saw increased relapses and overdoses. Amethyst Place families and staff rose up together against addiction and participated in the Shatterproof 5K to let others know they are not alone.



We love you, Amber!
So proud of who you
are as a mom,
student, and interior
designer. We remain
your biggest fans!
Erika & Sara Beth



Graduation

Congrats and celebrations were certainly in order for all of the Amethyst Place moms (and staff) who reached milestones between Summer 2019 and Spring 2020. We recognized families that reunified, completed treatment programs, and those who graduated from our program, vocational school, or college. Having our beloved colleagues and retirees Irma Robinson and Janet Hargarten deliver remarks made the evening all the more special!



Let's Go Camping

This summer we went to Timber Ridge Adventure Center for a weekend in the wilderness. There was swimming, s'mores, and silliness all around - memories that will last our families a lifetime.





HOME

An Art Benefit for the Families of Amethyst Place

Through summer 2021, we partnered with Buttonwood Art Space. Buttonwood is a financial firm located in midtown Kansas City, MO that merges their love of art and philanthropy by hosting quarterly exhibitions. Proceeds from all sold works are split evenly between the artist and beneficiary. The theme of our show was "Home" and left up to artists' interpretation. Submissions came in from all over, including some from Amethyst Place moms and kids. After a year of planning and narrowing down more than 300 entries, we curated an exhibition that excited art enthusiasts and Amethyst Place supporters.

The Amethyst Place Art Club was the inspiration behind the "Home" Exhibit. This dedicated group of artists gets together monthly for creative expression. They collaborated to create "We Are" - a group piece in which each mom and child made their own slice of art that was then combined to represent the broader Amethyst Place community.

In July, we hosted a preview night for Amethyst Place supporters, a treasured opportunity to see each other in person, honor our 20th anniversary contributors, and enjoy an evening of art.

AP Empowerment Coaches Erin Hestand and Mollee Flores hosted the evening along with Janie Gaunce, CEO of Grapevine Designs and co-founder of our 100 Jobs for 100 Moms program.

We held a First Fridays edition in August, which was open to the public. Both events provided increased visibility for the recovery community and our noble cause - and thanks to the generosity of our supporters, raised more than \$25,000 to benefit Amethyst Place families.

"The families of Amethyst Place work so hard to create these bright and beautiful futures for themselves. It's inspiring to see a different side of them in which they can share their beauty and creativity with the community."

- Starla Brennan, Executive Director



Thank You to Our
Generous Supporters



Independence changes everything.

We salute the organizers, volunteers and supporters who contribute to the Amethyst Place's Growing Generations Garden Party.

Lockton prides itself on offering the best insurance, risk management and employee benefits in the industry, and our Associates are committed to being great partners — in business and in our community.

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SHOOK
HARDY & BACON

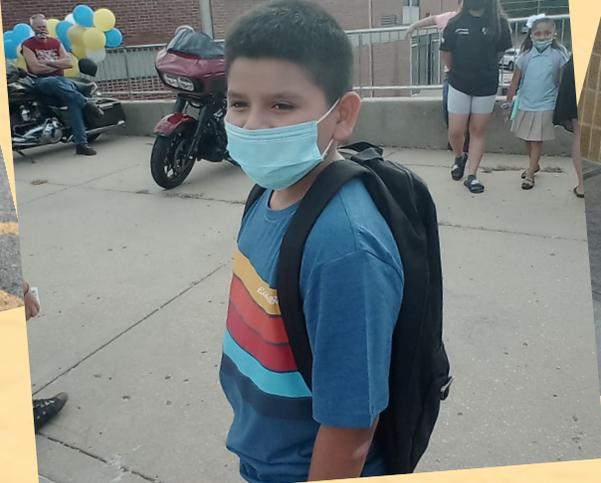


SUNFLOWER
Development Group



Alice Kitchen
Courtyard Properties
Gary and Amara O'Dell
Kathy "Tink" Nichols
Richard B. and Lynn M. Klein
Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church
Sara Beth & Jared Burton
The Daniel Chirpich Charitable Foundation
The Pfriem Family Fund

Thank you for supporting Amethyst Place families, especially when it mattered most.





Amethyst Place

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Kansas City, MO 64109
www.amethystplace.org