

# Growing Generations 2022



*Amethyst Place*

# Thank you to our generous sponsors of Growing Generations!



## *Independence changes everything.*

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

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**Rolling Hills**  
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# Thank you to our generous sponsors of Growing Generations!



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**# AmethystStrong**

# 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 **365 families**, including **707 children**. Annually, we touch the lives of 200 women and children through three core programs:

## Supportive Housing



Helps families stabilize and reunify through 37 private, fully furnished apartments and access to basic needs.

## Family Empowerment



Helps families overcome generational poverty and lead healthy lives through financial, education, career, and wellness support.

## Therapeutic Services



Helps women and children heal from past trauma, stabilize mental health, improve parenting skills, and build resilience.

# STARLA BRENNAN

**#GROWAP**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



To our beautiful supporters,

For 22 years, the generosity of our community has helped us inspire transformational healing and empower generations of women and children to achieve recovery, reunification, and resilience. This National Recovery Month, we are here to celebrate the fact that recovery is possible, especially with a community of supporters behind you.

Entering our program, families are without a safe home. Moms are in early recovery from substance use, working hard to manage their mental health and find healthier coping skills to navigate a multitude of challenges, including how to reunify with their children. Most children are separated in foster care, experiencing a lot on little shoulders as they live life without stability and mom by their side.

But thankfully, because of supporters like you, the perseverance of our families, and the dedication of our staff, the story doesn't end here. Through our program, we get to celebrate children coming home to their moms, recovery anniversaries, college graduations, business ownership, home ownership, and so much more. Our families shatter stigma and shatter ceilings.

We want to make these achievements possible for many more families, which is why we are expanding to double our housing capacity. Currently, 40 families with boundless potential remain on our waitlist for a year or more. Our expansion project at 2770 Tracy will change that, but we need your help!

In less than a year, we have already raised 63% of the total project cost of \$15,400,000! We are forever grateful to our generous supporters, including the Sunderland Foundation, Hall Family Foundation, City of KCMO, Sherman Family Foundation, State of Missouri, William T. Kemper Foundation, and the Ronald D. Deffenbaugh, Sr. Foundation.

I urge you to help us get to the finish line so we can break ground in spring 2023! A gift of any size can help bring more families home to heal. It's hard to think of a more worthy investment.

Let's get to work!

Starla Brennan



**JAMILA EDWARDS**  
**DIR. OF CLINICAL OPERATIONS**

"I have been amazed at the positive impact Amethyst Place continues to have for families and love that am part of this continued growth and service for this community."



**SARAH KNOPF-AMELUNG**  
**DIR. OF STRATEGY & GROWTH**

"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**  
**DIR. OF ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

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

**Meet the staff**



**Lauren Clifton-Thompson**  
Community  
Engagement Manager



**Olivia Deeken**  
Clinical Therapist



**Brittany Dwyer**  
Child & Family  
Therapist



**Laurie Evans**  
Donations Coordinator



**Tonya Evans**  
Supportive Housing  
Assistant



**Mollie Flores**  
Wellness  
Empowerment Coach



**Gina Green**  
Supportive Housing  
Manager



**Renee Harris**  
Senior Housing &  
Youth Empowerment  
Manager



**Erin Hestand**  
Adult Empowerment  
Coach



**Jimmy Holmes**  
Data Analytics &  
Grants Manager



**Christina Hubbard**  
Career Empowerment  
Coach



**Carmen Johnson**  
(not pictured)  
Supportive Housing  
Assistant

## Meet the Board of Directors

**Elizabeth Glynn, Board Chair** - Travois

**Jaimie Gray, Board Vice-Chair** -

Comprehensive Mental Health Services &  
Amethyst Place Alumna

**Liz Tobin, Board Secretary** - BlueScope

**Brooke Runnion, Treasurer** - Lockton

**Randy Bennett** - Harley-Davidson & YMCA

**Yvonne Brewington** - HCA Healthcare

**Sara Beth Burton** - Hallmark

**Penny Clodfelter** - Community Volunteer & Program Council

**Jeff Ganaden** - Kansas City Safety Mini Storage

**Angie Hull** - Amethyst Place Alumna

**Anthony Johnson** - Industrial Accessories Company

**Michele Kemp** - Community Volunteer

**Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn** - Country Club Christian Church

**Barbara Anne Washington** - MO Senator, District 9

**Brittani Williams** - Jackson County Family Drug Court



# Meet the Honor Roll

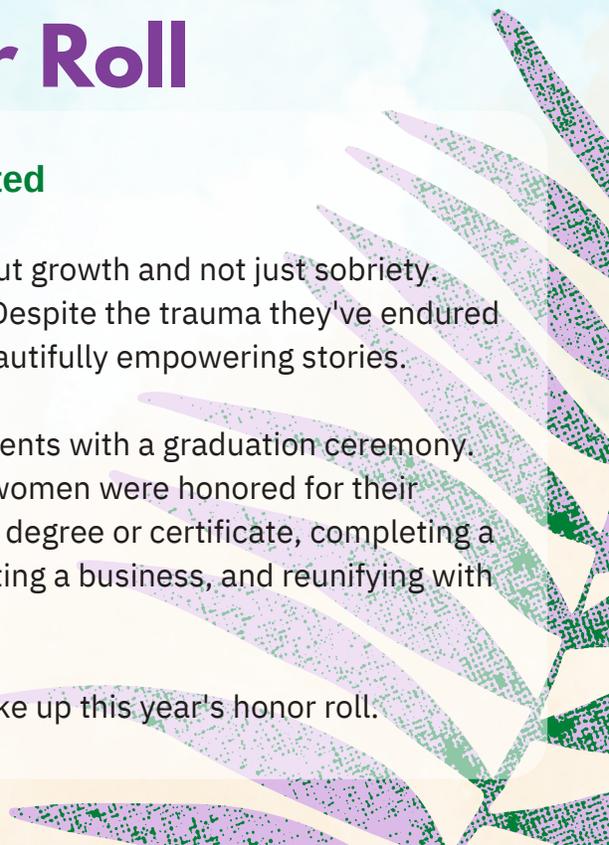
## Nevertheless, She Persisted

Recovery is a non-linear journey, not a destination. It's about growth and not just sobriety. Amethyst Place moms have grown by challenging themselves. Despite the trauma they've endured or the obstacles they face, they forge forward creating beautifully empowering stories.

Annually, we commemorate Amethyst Place moms' achievements with a graduation ceremony.

This year's theme was "Nevertheless, she persisted." 28 women were honored for their accomplishments. We recognized milestones such as earning a degree or certificate, completing a drug treatment program, graduating from Amethyst Place, starting a business, and reunifying with families.

Continue reading to meet the inspiring women who make up this year's honor roll.





**Jo Marie**

*Reunified with son, completed Jackson County Family Treatment Court and Comprehensive Mental Health Services treatment program*



**Liz**

*Opened her own business, REVILO, A Liz L. Bean Salon*



**Lawanna**

*Earned BLOCH scholarship  
Attending MCKC-Penn Valley*



**Galanda**

*Reunified with daughter, completed the Children's Mercy TIES program, completed the Comprehensive Mental Health Services treatment program, and graduated from Amethyst Place*



**Shawna**

*Completed the Heartland Center for Behavioral Change treatment program and graduated from Amethyst Place*



**Emily**

*Bachelor of Social Work  
Avila University - Magna Cum Laude*



**Amapola**

*Earned Community Health Worker Certificate  
MCKC - Penn Valley*



### **LeAundre**

*Completed Comprehensive Mental Health Services treatment program and reunified with children*



### **Jennifer**

*Certified Medical Assistant University of Central Missouri*



### **Angela**

*Earned Commercial Driver's License*



### **Frances**

*Graduated from Jackson County Family Treatment Court*



### **Jessica**

*Associate in Arts  
MCCCKC - Penn Valley*



### **Cheyenne**

*Earned OSHA General Industry Automotive Certificate and Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair Certificate*



### **Kayleigh**

*Licensed Cosmetologist  
House of Heavilin*



**Yvonne**

*Graduated from Jackson County Family Treatment Court*



**Amanda**

*Earned BLOCH scholarship and Project Success GRIT award  
Attending MCKC-Penn Valley*



**Jessica**

*Reunified with children, earned G.E.D.,  
and graduated from Amethyst Place*



**Tabatha**

*Graduated from Amethyst Place*



**Natasha**

*Reunified with children*



**Tia**

*Completed the Comprehensive Mental Health Services treatment program and graduated from Jackson County Family Treatment Court*



**Andrea**

*Completed ReDiscover's treatment program, graduated from the Jackson County Family Treatment Court, and reunified with children*

**Kelsey**

*Associate in Arts, Social Work focus  
MCKC - Penn Valley*



**Carrine**

*Bachelor of Psychology with a minor in Communications  
UMKC - Summa Cum Laude*



**Angela S.**

*Completed Heartland Center for Behavioral Change treatment program and graduated from Amethyst Place*



**Teresa**

*Opened her own business, Taylor'd Cleaning*



**Abigail**

*Completed Heartland Behavioral Health's treatment program*



**Esbeydi**

*Completed Heartland Center for Behavioral Change treatment program, graduated from Jackson County Family Treatment Court, and reunified with children*



**Angela W.**

*Earned G.E.D.*



**Samantha**

*Reunified with child*



**#APKids**

# YEP!



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

## OUR NOBLE CAUSE, FOR KIDS

To advance our two-generation approach, we created YEP! About 100 children reside here each year. Our goal is to provide children with the healthy and happy childhood that they deserve.

We help them develop positive childhood experiences to mitigate the impact of trauma and build family resilience.

Until this year, the majority of programming focused on empowering moms. YEP! allows us to focus that same attention on the children of Amethyst Place, leveraging this pivotal prevention opportunity to address childhood trauma and set children on the path to a healthier, happier future.



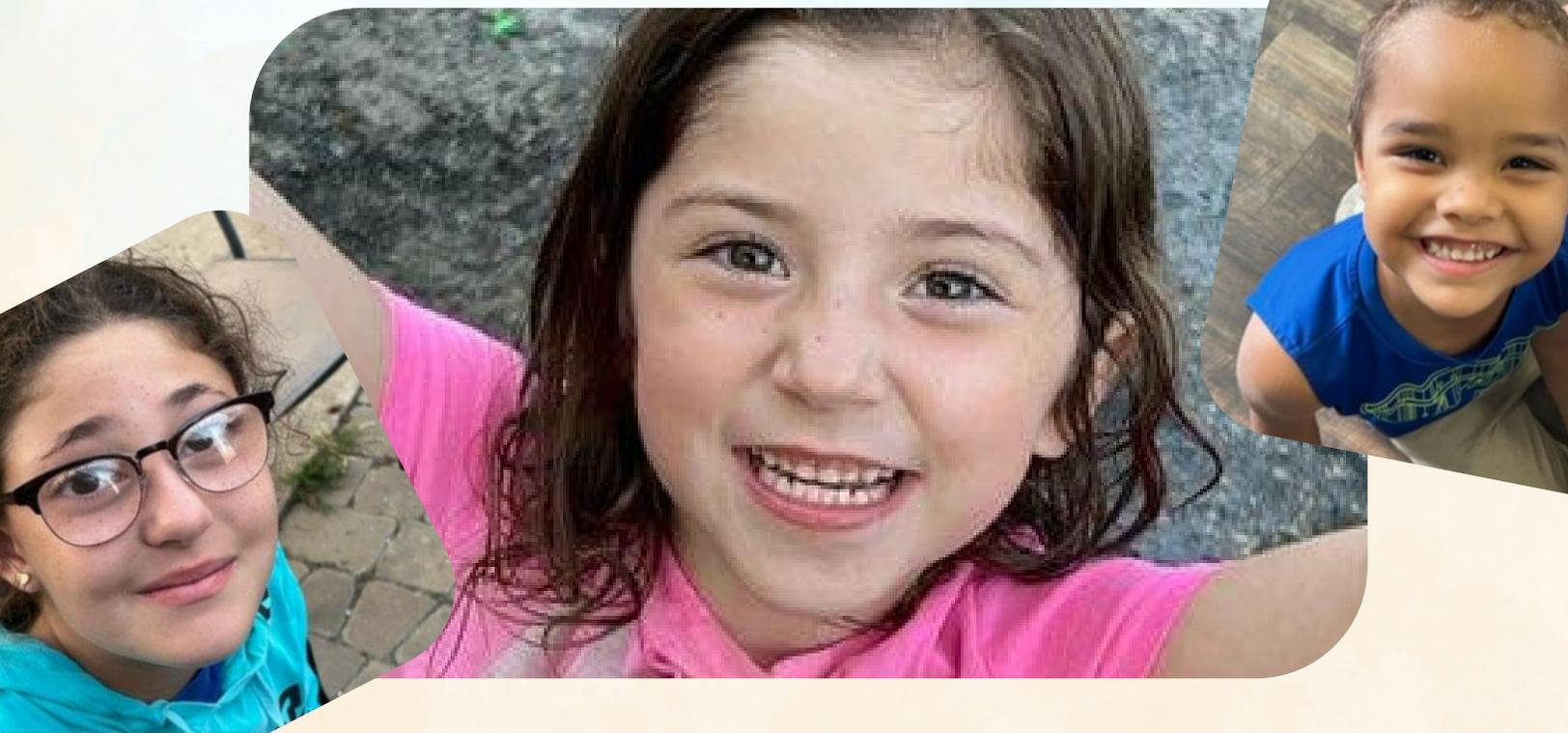
**5 out of 6 families have children in foster care placement when mom moves in**

**88%**

**of children in out-of-home placement were reunified in 2021**

**113**

**children lived at Amethyst Place in 2021**



# A Courtyard Reimagined



## READY, SET, PLAY!

To many of us, a playground is just a physical structure – something we have the privilege of accessing in parks scattered all around our neighborhoods. But to the children who call Amethyst Place home, it means so much more.

They've experienced a lot on little shoulders.

So, we will leverage the healing power of outdoor play to provide a safe space for children to learn, exercise, and explore – something we believe that all children deserve, regardless of their life circumstances.

Gratefully, we acquired the creative play and instructional materials from Planet Play, a nonprofit that dissolved due to the pandemic

Additionally, because of some generous supporters, AP kids received a new playground this summer!

**Thank you to our generous supporters for making this possible!**

- **Children's Mercy**
- **Courtyard Properties**
- **Mader Foundation**
- **Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church**
- **Royals Charities**



**PLANET  
PLAY**



**#WeAreAmethystPlace**





**This yearbook is dedicated  
in loving memory of  
Kaylee Endres & Carlos Gustavo Ambriz-Garcia**



## *Amethyst Place*

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Kansas City, MO 64109  
[www.amethystplace.org](http://www.amethystplace.org)