

## **Lafayette House**

Homeless and pregnant with twins, Mary and her two-year old son entered the Lafayette House in September 2007 to seek treatment for her methamphetamine abuse. Though this was her fourth time in seven years to seek treatment for drug abuse, the treatment program at Lafayette House also provided treatment for her depression and anxiety leading to a more successful drug abuse recovery. Her treatment also included therapy and education programs to improve both her parenting skills and economic success. Mary successfully stayed drug-free throughout her two-month residential treatment, and as a result, her twins were born drug-free. Thanks to the support and treatment provided by Lafayette House, Mary now provides housing for her and her children, remains drug-free and is held accountable to those commitments through outpatient treatment.

## **United Way Success By 6™**

The United Way Success By 6™ initiative seeks to provide the resources and training necessary to create and support quality early childhood programs. These quality childcare programs and community standards help ensure that every child enters school “healthy, well-adjusted and ready to learn.” Though Success By 6™ provides a variety of training opportunities, their Start Up and Expansion grants specifically supports the development and growth of childcare centers serving children ages 0-3. For *Little Ray of Sunshine Childcare*, this grant allowed them to reach their goals. Sherry Johnson and Teresa Neal said, “With all the positive guidance and the ‘You Can Do It’ that we have gotten from every person working at United Way Success By 6™, we have succeeded! We have accomplished what we set out to do. We owe that success to everyone that is a part of United Way Success By 6™.”

## **Children’s Mercy Hospital**

On March 19, 2004, eight-month old Ellie Lawson began the fight for her life. Recently diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia, Ellie’s family turned to Children’s Mercy Hospital (CMH) in Kansas City, Missouri, for treatment, support and education. During her 42-day stay in the oncology unit, the Lawson family grew to include a staff of doctors, nurses, therapists, chaplains, volunteers and more. These new “family members” taught and encouraged Ellie’s parents to become an integral part of her treatment. However, Ellie was not the Lawson’s only child to receive care from CMH. Their oldest daughter participated in child life activities during her sister’s hospital stay. After 5 rounds of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, Ellie left CMH after 5 months and has been in remission for 3 years. At CMH, the Lawson family found the treatment, support and strength to make it through their time of need.

### **Community Support Services—G.O.A.L.S. Program**

Elaina loves to participate in the activities provided through the Community Support Services G.O.A.L.S. program. The G.O.A.L.S. program seeks to provide an atmosphere that supports individual growth for people with developmental disabilities through leisure activities. However, Elaina relies on the program for more than just leisure activities. Over the years, her parents have adopted several children, whom they home-school. Since every child, including Elaina, is involved in a variety of community activities, the family finds it difficult to get everyone to their various activities. The G.O.A.L.S. program provides transportation assistance for Elaina, allowing her to stay involved in her community.

### **Cerebral Palsy of Tri-County**

Due to their premature birth and low-birth weight, twins Ashlin and Keaton were at high-risk for developmental disabilities. These two-and-a-half year old twins have received physical, occupational and developmental therapies from the Cerebral Palsy Center since they were six months old. In addition to therapy services, the twins also receive daily transportation to and from the Center. Ashlin and Keaton's parents have also received support and guidance from the Center staff to help them care for the unique needs of their little ones. The United Way has helped support the programs of the Cerebral Palsy Center's Developmental Pre-School, which provides assistance to children like Ashlin and Keaton.

### **Joplin Association for the Blind**

For Brandon and Taylor Dugan, the support services provided by the Joplin Association for the Blind (JAB) and the Regional Low Vision Center (RLVC) have resulted in both personal and academic success. This brother and sister duo, age 9 and 11 respectively, both have low vision due to congenital cataracts and secondary glaucoma. Their participation in recreational and social activities at JAB has increased their self-confidence as they interact with peers who also have visual impairments. Low vision aids and modifications provided by the RLVC have enabled them to excel academically and successfully participate in Neosho's gifted program. Brandon and Taylor's mother also participates in JAB's family support program to ensure that her children continue to live enriched lives as they overcome the obstacles of their visual impairments.

**The Joplin Family Y**

For John Wolford, raising three daughters on one income is a challenge. However, the Joplin Family Y's "School Plus" program and scholarship dollars provide after-school care and homework assistance to his two oldest daughters. Because his daughters are receiving quality after-school care, the "School Plus" program has enabled John to keep a full-time job. Wolford stated, "The staff are wonderful, and the girls love the structure and activities provided. I know my daughters are in a fun, safe environment with Y staff members that really care about them as individuals."

**American Red Cross**

In October 2007, a Granby, Missouri, family faced the unthinkable. A house fire destroyed both their home and killed their three-year old child. During their time of need, the American Red Cross provided the family with an evening meal, snacks and toys for the surviving children. In addition to meeting their immediate needs, the family also received financial assistance for food, clothing, shelter and funeral costs. Throughout their time of grief, the American Red Cross sought to relieve the family's suffering and to provide needed assistance to bring about healing.