



# The Advocate

In 2018...

## 103

Children were provided nurturing homes.

## 15

Sets of siblings were kept together while in care.

## 3

Youth graduated high school, maintaining our 100% high school graduation rate.

## 4

Youth were supported in pursuing higher education and vocational training.

## 28

Were matched with a mentor through Life Launch.

## 48

Youth were supported through our Life Launch program.

## 3

Foster youth who were aging out of the system were provided a transitional home.

**Our goal is to get all 13 homes adopted.**

To learn more about this exclusive opportunity, visit [angelsarms.org/fundafamily](http://angelsarms.org/fundafamily)

PROVIDING HOMES. EMBRACING CHILDREN. FOSTERING FAMILIES. SPRING 2019

## IT'S HAPPENING!

**THE CONCEPT OF INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN THE FOSTER SYSTEM WORKS, AND ALL OF US INVOLVED WITH ANGELS' ARMS WOULD LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**



Angels' Arms was honored with the distinguished Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute Angels in Adoption Award, which is designed to celebrate those from all over the nation who have made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of children in need of families.

Bess Wilfong, Executive Director and Founder, and Javon Coleman, a former foster Angels' Arms youth who is now 26 and employed at World Wide Technology, traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend various Congressional sessions, legislative seminars, a day on the Hill, and a spectacular gala. Together they shared the mission and message of Angels' Arms and the concept of involving the community in the foster care process.

## FUND A FAMILY – 2 DOWN, 11 TO GO!

Two of our 13 homes and families have been adopted! The Angels' Arms Fund-A Family Program involves selecting a home and supporting the needs of both the actual house and family. Additionally, the program provides opportunities for the employees of these businesses to become involved with the family in a variety of ways.



### HUCK'S

Huck's Convenience Stores adopted the Hopper family in Lake St. Louis. In addition to a generous monthly donation, Huck's also supplies gift cards for all the families.

### RONNOCO

Ronnoco Coffee has adopted the Hergemueler family in Ballwin. Team members have been quite involved in redoing rooms and providing special gifts for the family.

# 15 Years of Memories

For the past 15 years, the Kallaos and Kamburis families have given hundreds of foster and adopted children opportunities and experiences that will stay with them for a lifetime. They planned and executed fun and engaging activities that helped bring all of our families closer together.

The monthly activities included everything from dinner and a movie, bowling, bingo, trips to bounce houses, shows, pool parties, arcades and so much more. Every single month, this wonderful group of volunteers brought our foster families together in one place to enjoy each other's company and give

the parents a well-deserved break from cooking and entertaining their kids for a few hours.

While the actual activities brought much joy and fun to our family members, the bond that was formed among them all just from being together is something that could never be broken or duplicated.



## Ways To Get Involved

### Host a Fundraiser

Host a cereal drive, plan a "jeans day" at work, run a lemonade stand, all in support of our Angels' Arms foster families.

Email Volunteer Coordinator  
Maria Chandler at  
[maria@angelsarms.org](mailto:maria@angelsarms.org).



### VOLUNTEER AT A FOSTER HOME

If you are looking for a volunteer project for yourself or a group, we have many opportunities including painting, cleaning, doing yard work, planting flowers, decorating a child's room and more.



### DELIVER A MEAL TO A FAMILY

Simply visit [angelsarms.org](http://angelsarms.org), to choose a family, and decide if you want to cook and drop off a meal or call in carry-out or have it delivered.



### Meet Susan Benwell.

Susan first got involved with Angels' Arms about five years ago. Now that she is retired, she is dedicating countless hours to helping organize the donations we receive at the office, making it easier for our foster parents to pick up essential items when they need them.

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## CHARITY OF CHOICE



### ANDERS GIVES BACK

Angels' Arms was thrilled to be nominated as the Anders 2018 Charity of Choice.

This year-long partnership include numerous opportunities for employees of the firm to support Angels' Arms foster families though events and volunteer days. They hosted a budgeting workshop for youth in our Life Launch program and held numerous drives and activities throughout the year to collect items and raise funds for Angels' Arms children resulting in a \$30,000 donation.



### MONETA CARES

The Moneta Charitable Foundation "adopted" Angels' Arms in 2019 as one of their charities of the year.

The Foundation awarded Angels' Arms with a \$25,000 grant and Moneta team members will provide ongoing support through the year in various volunteer initiatives.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Steve Peate**

**Lisa Pepper**

**Tom Reed**

**Manuel Rivera**

**Jim Ruebsam**

**John Siefert**

**Tom Smallwood**

**Dr. John Stein**

**Lindsey Stokes**

**Romondous Stover**

**Amy Sullivan**

**Chris Swenson**

**Colleen Wasinger**

**Tim Yeaglin**

## GRANTS AND SPECIAL DONATIONS

**\$5,000**

Blues for Kids

**\$3,500**

Boeing Community Fund

**\$2,000**

Cardinals Care

**\$20,000**

Dana Brown

**\$2,500**

Old Newsboys

**\$10,000**

Saigh Foundation

**\$3,500**

Staples Foundation

**\$10,000**

Stupp Foundation

**\$10,000**

Trio Foundation

**\$20,000**

Dana Brown

**\$3,500**

Boeing Community Fund

## BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

**Stephen Hampe**

**Dr. Frank Wood**

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**Tracy Lyons**

**Amy Spellmeyer**

**Scott Thomas**

**Nick Reed**

**Michaela Karandzieff**

**Matthew Beermann**

**Jessi Grimes**

**Jessica Means**

**Javon Coleman**

**Heather Bockhoff**

**Meghan Dorsey**

**Lauren Potje**



Everyone at Angels' Arms was overwhelmed by the love and care you showed Hannah after her serious car accident and hospital stay. Hannah's gone through months of physical therapy and is enrolled at Meramec

to get caught up with the credits she missed out on last semester at SEMO. Thanks to your love and support, Hannah is doing great!

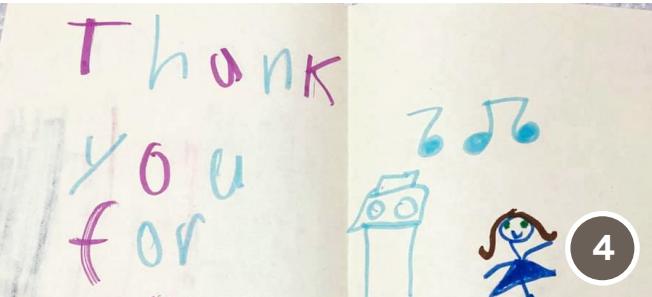


**JIM HEIDORN AND RAMYA MOGALLAPU** bring our events to life. They volunteer their time and create beautiful photographs and videos, capturing the fun and excitement at each fundraiser.

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Thank you to John Lynch and friends with **BREAK ROOM CONCERTS** and the artists they feature for supporting Angels' Arms since 2014, generating over \$40,000 toward our mission.

2

Thank you to our **WISH GRANTERS** for believing in our kids and giving them opportunities to just be kids, to pursue their hobbies and interests and find joy in the little things. With every donation, you are showing **OUR** children that they are loved, wanted and worthy of a happy childhood. To see future wishes, follow us on facebook!

@angelsarmsSTL

4

For the last several years, Angels' Arms has been so grateful to be 1 of 40 children's charities to receive a generous donation from the **ST. LOUIS ITALIAN OPEN INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**. Since 2007, close to \$45,000 has been donated in support of children and families at Angels' Arms.

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5

There is nothing like a brand new outfit to make you feel confident and ready for the first day of school. Thanks to our new friends at **CLOTHES4CONFIDENCE**, our Angels' Arms youth experienced just that. This wonderful organization serves to increase self-esteem and readiness for the classroom by providing new, individualized outfits to economically disadvantaged students in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

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Thank you to Kaitlyn and Kristen from **BARKS REALTY GROUP** at Worth Clark Realty for partnering with Good Meets World and supporting Angels' Arms year-round by making monthly contributions and re-decorating children's bedrooms in our foster homes.

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**TWO MEN AND A TRUCK** move our families into their new homes, transport donated furniture and load/move hundreds of auction items and supplies for our biggest fundraiser of the year.

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One of our families had a ball attending the **ANHEUSER-BUSCH BUSCH BREWERY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**, and we were thrilled to receive a \$5,000 donation in support of our foster families.

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Our parents and some of the staff received special training by Missouri **NETWORK FOR OPIATE REFORM AND RECOVERY** on how and when to administer Narcan, as well as an in-depth education on various drugs, side effects, costs, availability and more.

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**TROUT LODGE** once again treated some of our families to a fun filled weekend full of swimming, horseback riding, archery and more. For most of the kids, it was their first time experiencing anything like that.

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During the summer, **COMMUNITY ASSOCIATED INSTITUTE** held a collection to purchase new shoes for children returning to school. They also collected cereal and paper goods throughout the year, and hosted a happy hour to help support Hannah.

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**THE NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE** delivers dozens of meals to our foster families each month through the meal drop-off program. It provides Halloween costumes for our kids, giving them lots of fun options to choose from and volunteer at events.

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Our **FOSTER MOMS**: the miracle workers who take in foster youth of all ages and walks of life and give their all to ensure each child feels wanted and loved.

14

We are simply blown away by our friends at **OAKVILLE SPORTS PUB**. Their fifth Annual Sunday Funday event raised over \$12,000 in support of our foster children. The funds were used to send many of our foster families to Trout Lodge, a first time on vacation for many of the children in our homes.

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**THANK YOU DANIEL AND HENRY!** Hosting a Jeans Day is a great and easy way to support the families of Angels' Arms.

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# ALL OF THIS IS HAPPENING BECAUSE OF YOU.

Your support of this mission is everything.

Please visit [angelsarms.org/donate](http://angelsarms.org/donate) to make a tax deductible contribution today.

*Because it's never too late to have a happy childhood.*

[angelsarms.org](http://angelsarms.org)



**Currently there are 33 active Life Launch youth, including our two Launch Pad residents and one young man who is residing in his own apartment off-site, 15 active mentors and 30 trained mentors.**

There are five youth participating in a college program and four youth on track to graduate from high school in May.

The majority of the older youth placed in our homes will age out of the foster care system at 21. Statistics say these youth will face a number of challenges in the real world on their own due to lack of preparation while they were still in care. Life Launch is working to prepare our teens for a successful transition into adulthood. Through the use of mentors, life skills training, individualized support and community-building, Angels' Arms teens have the chance to break the mold and have a successful start into adulthood.

## National statistics showing the importance of the Life Launch program...

**23,000**

or more children will age out of the U.S. foster care system every year.

**20%**

of children after the age of 18 who were in foster care will become instantly homeless.

**70%**

girls who age out of the foster care system will become pregnant before the age of 21.

**3%**

who have aged out of foster care will earn a college degree at any point in their life.

Josh lives independently while working part time and going to school.



Monique became a Certified Nursing Assistant and we couldn't be more proud!



### Suzanne Bright, Youth Mentor

"We began our mentoring journey with the hopes and intentions of "giving back" and supporting our favorite organization, Angels' Arms, in a new and unique way. Our desire was to develop a caring and consistent relationship with a foster youth in order to offer that young person guidance, hope, and a pathway to success. What we didn't expect was the deep impact that our mentee would have on us! Our hearts have expanded as we now consider our mentee to be part of our own family. The opportunity to mentor has transformed our family and given us a greater sense of purpose and perspective."



### Mike Meyer, Youth Mentor

"When I think of mentoring I remember all the people who influenced and mentored me in my life. Mentoring gives me the opportunity to give back, to help someone like I was helped and supported in my life. To make a difference. To share my many blessings. The fruit of this time is to see and share the growth and development of someone who otherwise would not have had an opportunity or struggled unjustly to succeed. It is an opportunity to be God's hands and feet and voice on this Earth. I get much more out of it than I put in. It is truly a blessing. I highly recommend mentoring to anyone."

# Dean Team Comes Through



A huge shoutout to Pat Dean and Wes Gallegos for helping three of our youth purchase nice cars for a great price.

# Cheers to our Junior Board!



A special thank you to the 20+ dedicated young professionals who make up our exceptional Junior Board.

They plan and host two major events each year, Sip and Savor and the Soulard Bar Bounce, in addition to throwing multiple happy hours and a Summer Family BBQ and Skating with Santa for all the Angels' Arms foster children.

To learn more about our Junior Board, visit [angelsarms.org/join-the-junior-board](http://angelsarms.org/join-the-junior-board).

## MEMORIALS

### Jeanne Doll

Margaret Graham  
Terry Flieg  
Michael Doll

### Carolyn Eakin

Roger and Susan Jespersen

### Dan Mueller

Knights of Columbus

### Neil Gerstein

Vicki Robinson

### Grant Wallace Peimann

Gene Peimann

### Audrey Hartnagel

Allan & Joann Wachtel  
Tom & Dana Hartnagel

### Michelle & Mike Thompson

Mike & Mary Meyer

### Eric Tritsch

Claudia Pour

### Mick & Gloria Redohl

Scott Redohl

### Tom & Maggie Carrow

Sheri & Marty Carrow

### Sue Hodges Yates

Jan Naylor

### Jan Pearlmutter

Dean & Roxanne Picker  
Karin Erickson

Sarah Ma  
Edwina, Jim & Hadley

Graham  
Monica Drane

Sue Gouaux  
Diana & James Bright

Sanford Thal

### Aaron & Jessica Goltzman

Nancy & Ken Kranzberg  
Larry & Betty Kluesner  
Rose & Craig Kaintz  
Bonita Dillard

Lillyann & Jim Baldanza  
Alexander Graham Bell

Elementary School

### Robert & Virginia May

Joanna May

### Jean Weinstock

Glenda McClain  
Ruth Beardslee

### A.D. McClain

Glenda McClain

### Sue Schwetz

Mary Reilly

### Rita O. Buco

Linda Verhulst

### Michael Francis Shanahan Sr.

Russell & Gianina Roberts  
Dr. & Mrs. John Stein

### Andrew Barton

The Harris Family  
Suzanne & Shawn Bright  
Donna Mitchell  
Tom & Lynn Reina  
Dr. & Mrs. John Stein  
Robert Camp  
Danny & Beth Dotson  
Jay & Jane Lockhart  
Pam Toder  
Glenda McClain

### Dick Gmoser

Tom & Joann Thee  
Lyla, Judy, Sharron, &  
Mary Mullins  
Dave & Debbie Schiro  
Janis & Dan Hill  
Loretta Mullins

### Carol Hinrichs

Debra & Paul McGrath  
Nancy & Jim Minard  
Nancy Karandzieff

## HONORARIUMS

### Steve Peate

Susan Esker

### Mason Schultz

Alice Younger  
Jessica Potsou

### Key of Three

Shari Lumley

### Manny Rivera

Debra Carcamo

### John Lynch

Mark Gellman

### Eleanor Foppe

Eileen Sokolowski

### Vic Perini

Dawn Frank

### Jeff Hewitt

Andy Rubenstein

### Chris & Casey Trueman

Judy Odum

### Meghan Goodman's Daughter

Mary Beth Hillow

### Mike & Re-Re Noelke

Rick & Mary Runyan

**TO MAKE A DONATION**  
to Angels' Arms in honor  
or memory of a loved one,  
visit [angelsarms.org/donate](http://angelsarms.org/donate).



angelsarms.org

12128A TESSON FERRY ROAD  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63128

FOLLOW US



@angelsarmsstl

## Upcoming Events



**GO! St. Louis**  
Team Angels' Arms  
**GO! St. Louis**  
Family Fitness Weekend

Forest Park and Downtown St. Louis



**Give STL Day**  
Virtual day of giving  
via [angelsarms.org](http://angelsarms.org)



**Sip & Savor**  
Hilton St. Louis  
Frontenac



**TAPPED**  
Happy Hour  
All tips will benefit  
Angels' Arms



## Announcements

### Donate your birthday to Angels' Arms

Share your passion for helping children in foster care by asking your friends and family for donations instead of gifts on your birthday using facebook.

Visit [angelsarms.org/facebookbirthdays](http://angelsarms.org/facebookbirthdays) for more info.

## ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS



**Don't forget to use [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) when shopping online!**

Simply choose ANGELS' ARMS when prompted to select a charity to support and 0.5% of your total purchase will go back to Angels' Arms.



**Check out our  
NEW VIDEO!**

Visit [www.angelsarms.org](http://www.angelsarms.org)