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.

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.

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

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 Hergemueller 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.

Deliver A Meal To A Family
Simply visit 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.

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.

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.
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 through 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.

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!

UPDATE ON HANNAH

Everyone at Angels’ Arms was

SPRING 2019 | 3
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

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.

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.

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.

Special thank you to DENIM QUILTS for providing 24 quilts to new children in 2018. All of our children receive a personalized quilt made just for them, each designed with their favorite colors and interests in mind. These blankets provide warmth, comfort, and security when our children need it the most.

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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Thank you Daniel and Henry! Hosting a Jeans Day is a great and easy way to support the families of Angels’ Arms.

ALL OF THIS IS HAPPENING BECAUSE OF YOU.

Your support of this mission is everything.

Please visit angelsarms.org/donate to make a tax deductible contribution today.

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

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.

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

TO MAKE A DONATION to Angels’ Arms in honor or memory of a loved one, visit angelsarms.org/donate.
Upcoming Events

**April**
- **5 & 7**
  - **GO! St. Louis**
    - Team Angels’ Arms
  - **GO! St. Louis**
    - Family Fitness Weekend
  - Forest Park and Downtown St. Louis

**May**
- **1**
  - **Give STL Day**
    - Virtual day of giving via angelsarms.org

**May**
- **17**
  - **Sip & Savor**
    - Hilton St. Louis Frontenac

**June**
- **11 - 15**
  - **TAPPED**
    - Happy Hour
  - All tips will benefit Angels’ Arms

Announcements

**Attention Amazon Shoppers**

Don’t forget to use 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.

**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 for more info.

Check out our NEW VIDEO!

Visit www.angelsarms.org