



## Shepherd's Watch

JUNE 2020

*An executive summary of the Good Shepherd mission*



### Our Responsibility, and Yours

On the banks of the River Stour in England's Dorset County, there stands a picturesque mill that dates back to 1016. It was included on a survey commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1086 and is also mentioned in documents generated during the Elizabethan era.

The wheels within the Sturminster Newton Mill recently began churning again to produce flour for the people in the surrounding community during a shortage caused by the global pandemic, its ancient apparatus able to create sustenance and stability in a time of crisis.

The mill could not do centuries of work without the river to feed it. And the river would slide quietly by without the mill to give it purpose.

Good Shepherd and you, our donors, share a similarly everlasting bond. Together, we show the face of God by honoring the sanctity of each and every life, by connecting children and families, by caring for those in our community who face impossible situations.

Extraordinary moments in history tend to sift true believers from those who are merely sentimental. For the past 189 years, Good Shepherd has been fortunate to enjoy the support of generations of people like you who choose to live their principles and demonstrate a commitment to God's word to love one another.

Now is our time to take our place among those who have stood up during seasons of great challenge. We look forward walking alongside you as we find honor in the work of serving children and families throughout our region.



### OUR MISSION

**In response to the call of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, to help those in need, we connect children with families and keep families connected.**



## The Latest on Taxes and Charitable Giving

The last few years and months have seen a flurry of revisions in how charitable giving can benefit you during tax season. We've outlined a few of the most notable updates below and urge you to reach out to our development team for full details on how supporting Good Shepherd can be a good investment.

### CARES Act Includes Tax Incentive for Charitable Giving

The federal coronavirus relief bill – known as the CARES Act – creates a new above-the-line deduction, which is applicable for all taxpayers (even those that do not itemize) for charitable contributions of up to \$300. This incentive is effective for contributions made in 2020 which would be claimed on Form 1040 next year.

The CARES Act also suspends the existing limitation on a charitable contributions for individuals that itemize, thus raising it from 60% of adjusted gross income to 100% for the 2020 tax year. The limit for contributions from corporations is increased from 10% of taxable income to 25%. What this all means is that donors will have an increased benefit from their generosity this year.

### Missouri Tax Credits

Good Shepherd is fortunate to have a total of \$221,880 in charitable tax credits to offer our donors who contribute gifts of \$5,000+. We have three types of state tax credits: Maternity Home, Youth Opportunity Program (YOP), and Pregnancy Resource Center. All three provide an charitable tax credit of 50% of the value of the donation and, starting July 1, there will be no maximum donation limit for the Pregnancy Resource Center tax credit.

Tax credits are flexible, in that both individuals and businesses can take advantage of them – plus, receiving them is simple. Fill out a tax credit form and return it to Good Shepherd with your donation and supporting documentation. Missouri will issue the certification directly to you before tax time, and you'll get at least 50% of your gift back through tax relief.

"We consider tax credits a 'bonus' to donors for providing youth with opportunities for positive development and participation in community life," says Good Shepherd Development Director Mike Whelan.

You can reach Mike at 314.854.5705 or [mwhelan@ccstl.org](mailto:mwhelan@ccstl.org).

Connect with us at [www.goodshepherdstl.org](http://www.goodshepherdstl.org)



### Safe Keepers

Good Shepherd has created a new giving club designed to keep moms and babies safe tonight and every night.

Safe Keepers allows you to help pregnant or parenting moms ages 12-21 and their babies while they find refuge within the caring walls of our residence.

We house up to 14 moms and their babies at a cost of \$325.66 per day, with much of that expense going toward round-the-clock services like mental and physical healthcare, parenting supports, and educational training.

We invite you to join our Safe Keepers at one of four levels, starting at \$55 per month. Gifts can be made monthly, quarterly, bi-annually or annually.

Please contact Julie Rudden at 314.854.5700 or [jrudden@ccstl.org](mailto:jrudden@ccstl.org) for more details.



## By the Numbers: In 2019...

### 87 BABIES & MOMS

were served by our Maternity staff

### 17 YOUTH

were served by Treatment Foster Care staff in specialized foster homes

### 313 EXPECTANT MOTHERS

were served by our Pregnancy & Parenting Support staff

### 113 BABIES & ADOPTIVE PARENTS

were served by our Adoption team

### 561 FOSTER YOUTH & RESOURCE PARENTS

were served by our Foster Care staff