



Shepherd's Watch

September 2020

An executive summary of the Good Shepherd mission



Giving to Good Shepherd & Tax Credits: The Latest News

Donors like you are what make it possible for Good Shepherd to carry out our mission. What a blessing that your gifts can benefit our children and families while simultaneously providing a valuable bonus for you in the form of tax credits.

Two of our most popular options are Maternity Home (MH) and Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) tax credits. MH credits are currently available and can be claimed at 50% of the value of the donation. Our current allotment of PRC credits has been spoken for, but a new allotment will become available on July 1, 2021, and will be worth 70%. Both credits help us serve moms, babies, and expectant parents facing a crisis pregnancy.

Another tax credit Good Shepherd offers donors is for Missouri's Youth Opportunities Program (YOP), which supports educational programs for foster care and maternity shelter moms. In light of the pandemic, however, the Department of Economic Development has suspended awarding new credits for this program until further notice.

"We will keep a watchful eye on when the state resumes its review of YOP applications and update our donors on changes," says Good Shepherd Development Director Mike Whelan. "We understand that these credits can be very helpful for financial and gift planning, and we're proud to be a partner with so many of our donors. We welcome a conversation with you to discuss how to both maximize the impact and realize the most benefit from your gifts to Good Shepherd."

For more information, you can reach Mike at 314-854-5705 or mwhelan@ccstl.org.



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.



Good Shepherd Expands into St. Francois County

We are grateful to carry Good Shepherd's mission to connect families with children and keep families connected into St. Francois County. The move will expand our Foster Care program from 105 to 130 cases. We will also work to develop foster and kinship homes within the region.

This move to St. Francois County is a part of our strategic plan to go where we are most needed. Good Shepherd will establish office space in Farmington to support the work we will do there, complete with staffing to serve the increased caseload. In time, we will introduce and implement Good Shepherd's Pregnancy & Parenting Support and Adoption programs into the region as well.

We look forward to sharing more good news about our new office opening.

Maternity Home is Refreshed, Renewed, and Ready for Residents

Pregnant and parenting moms who have no place to turn face immense challenges even in the most usual of times. When shelter-in-place restrictions went into effect in March, their decisions became even more complicated, and several of the young moms staying at Good Shepherd opted to leave the Maternity Home rather than accept the new requirements.

Good Shepherd made the most of the naturally-occurring downtime to deep clean, reorganize, and refinish our residential spaces. Our objective was to enhance the safety and comfort of our moms and their children.

We also updated our policies so everyone will feel confident about returning safely. We are now requiring COVID testing, social distancing, and masks for all residents. Our team is also coordinating specific times for gathering in common areas.

We began welcoming new residents back to the Good Shepherd campus on September 2 and have a long waiting list of young women and children who are interested in our services. Refilling the Maternity Home will be a careful process as we take time to make sure each new resident is a happy, comfortable fit.

We look forward to continuing to welcome new mothers and babies and helping them establish a strong foundation within our walls.

Connect with us at www.goodshepherdstl.org



Bidding Adieu to Dr. Meehan

Dr. Michael Meehan, who served as Good Shepherd's executive director for nearly nine years, celebrated his last day as part of our team on September 4. He has accepted a new role with Great Circle, where he will continue working to improve the lives of St. Louis families and children.

During his tenure, Dr. Meehan worked with the board to implement a strategic plan that nearly doubled the agency's revenue. Dr. Meehan also raised the agency's awareness in the Catholic and Greater St. Louis communities as a leader in child welfare by expanding Good Shepherd's programs and advocacy work.

Working with Dr. Meehan has been a blessing, and we wish him the very best. Teresa Hayner, director of Community Services, will serve as interim executive director until the board names a successor.



For this child I have prayed, and the Lord has granted the desires of my heart.

1 Samuel 1:27