



ISSUE 4 FALL 2025



## Prayer Requests

### **We Praise God for...**

... housedad, Brad Stilfield, cancer treatments have been effective

... welcoming Rebecca and her four children to the Family Care Ministry

... houseparent candidates being processed

... construction of new school near completion

### **Please Pray for...**

... a Family Life Coach to join the Family Care Ministry team

... successful houseparent recruitment so we can help more kids

Join our Prayer Partner List to receive bi-monthly and urgent prayer requests. Call 660-347-5982 or sign up online at



[www.ShowMeHelpingKids.com](http://www.ShowMeHelpingKids.com)

## Unshakable Grace

### **Rescuing and Restoring what the world tried to break**

Grace Brodersen's parents were teenagers, caught in the cycle of broken homes. They never got the help or support they needed, and as addiction swallowed their lives, Grace and her two siblings were caught in the wake. The foster care system that stepped in to protect and keep them safe became a different kind of nightmare.

As a small child, Grace endured all kinds of abuse — physical, emotional, and sexual. Each new home brought more uncertainty. Every time she started to believe things might get better, another promise fell apart. “I learned early that words can’t be trusted,” Grace said. “The people who say they love you can still hurt you.”

Over time, she began to believe the lies whispered to her — that she was the problem, that she wasn’t worth loving, that she was doomed to repeat the same broken patterns as her parents.

“I felt unwanted, damaged, ugly, and unloved,” Grace said. “I couldn’t even picture a future because all I was trying to do was survive each day. I was so full of hate and hurt that I just shut down. I stopped feeling anything at all.”

### **The Family That Chose Me**

At ten years old, Grace arrived at Show-Me Christian Youth Home — alone, hurt, and certain this would be just another stop. She and her two siblings had been adopted together, a promise that was supposed to be their happily-ever-after. But it hadn’t lasted. Grace was the one sent away, and the rejection cut deep. She figured this place wouldn’t last long, either.

The Partons — her Show-Me family — didn’t preach about love; they proved it every day. When she slammed doors, rolled her eyes, or shut down in silence, they stayed. When she pulled away, they drew her in.

Family life with the Partons was made of simple, ordinary moments — family chores,

*Grace, age 8, and her two siblings in foster care.*



► *When Grace became part of the Parton family at Show-Me, she found a family that would not leave her; one that choose her; even on the hardest of days.*

Compelled by Christ to Rescue & Restore Young Lives





▲ *Grace began to believe in herself as she found confidence through art, teamwork, and learning that she could succeed.*

Friday pizza nights, road trips, concerts, holiday traditions, and evening devotions. Their family became her family. It was a family that wasn't perfect, but real — a family where everyone was a little broken, yet love still held them together.

At Show-Me, Grace found herself surrounded by people — kids and adults — who had known the same kind of pain. They didn't just understand or accept; they forgave and came together to support one another. When Grace stood up to testify against her abuser, they were there to give her courage. When she cried because her adoptive parents didn't want her back, they reminded her that she was wanted here.

**"I finally saw it — I was in my family. Not the family I was born into, not the family that adopted me, but the family that chose me, even on the hardest of days."**  
— Grace

"There was such a sense of community," Grace said. "Everyone made me feel safe. I finally saw it — I was in my family. Not the family I was born into, not the family that adopted me, but the family that chose me, even on the hardest of days."

As the walls around her heart lowered, Grace began to discover who she really was. She joined sports, found a gift for art, and began doing well in school. "I went from being the kid with no self-esteem, who couldn't do anything right, to one proudly holding an MVP trophy," said Grace.

### **Adulting Ain't Easy**

At eighteen, Grace graduated with her diploma in hand, ready to take on the world. But adulthood proved much harder than she imagined. Without the structure of Show-Me, and wanting to fit in

and be liked, she drifted toward the wrong friends and made poor choices. Those decisions led to trouble — even with the law.

"Instead of being ashamed, angry, or judgmental," Grace said, "my Show-Me family stepped in with advice, help, and love to help me get steady again."

Path to Purpose helped her regain her footing — cutting ties with unhealthy influences, finding work, and paying the down payment on a rental home for her and her Show-Me sister to share. Life seemed to be coming together again. And then... she fell in love with a boy.

### **Love, Distance, and Two Blue Lines**

Grace fell in love fast. Infatuated and hopeful, they rushed into things — moving to Texas to start fresh and reconnect with some of her biological family. For a while, it felt like the beginning of the life she had always wanted. But as months passed, she realized that even though she had grown and changed, the pain and insecurity underneath never truly healed. With her Show-Me family now several states away, she had no one nearby to ground her when life got hard. Over the next year and a half, the cracks widened. When COVID hit, the isolation deepened, the relationship unraveled, and life felt like too much to carry.

Grace knew she needed to leave — but then came the pregnancy test. Two faint blue lines changed everything. "The fear of the unknown, the fear of judgment, the fear of raising a baby alone — it all hit at once," she said. Unsure what to do, she called her Show-Me mom. On the other end came a calm, steady voice: "It's going to be fine. You're not alone." Once again, Show-Me came to the rescue — helping her move back to Missouri and connect with a Christian maternity home in Kansas City, giving her and her baby a safe place to start over.



## Building a Family, Losing Her Way

Back in Missouri, Grace gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. She and the child's father wanted to give their daughter what neither of them had growing up — a stable home and a family. Determined to break the cycle, they got married. He enlisted in the military, and Grace worked to build a steady foundation for their little family. Path to Purpose helped her find a job at a daycare where she could work and care for her daughter, and she earned her certificate in phlebotomy to begin a career in healthcare.

When he was stationed in California, Grace moved with him — half a country away from her Show-Me support system. With him gone for long stretches of training, the loneliness deepened. She did everything she could to make it work, especially after learning they had a son on the way. In August 2024, she gave birth to their handsome baby boy — a moment that should have brought them closer.

But almost immediately, her husband left for additional job training in Florida. The distance between them grew wider. Calls were short, sometimes cruel, and the warmth that once held them together had turned painfully cold. Grace said, "That's when I knew the marriage was over. He didn't want to try anymore."

Even though the realization broke her heart, she knew what she had to do. "Maybe I thought I deserved it," she said softly, "but my kids didn't. They deserved stability — and a love that wouldn't disappear."

At her lowest point, Grace called her Show-Me family. Once again, they showed up — driving to California, helping her load a U-Haul, and bringing her and her two young children safely home to Missouri.

"I was so scared of the judgment I'd face coming back," Grace said. "Everyone once had such high hopes for me when I graduated, and I felt like I'd let them all down. But to my surprise, when I got here, it was like nothing had changed. These people still loved me for me — not for the choices I did or didn't make."

*"I was so scared of the judgment I'd face coming back. Everyone once had such high hopes for me when I graduated, and I felt like I'd let them all down. But to my surprise, when I got here, it was like nothing had changed. These people still loved me for me — not for the choices I did or didn't make."*

-Grace Brodersen

## First Mom

Safe back in Missouri, Grace soon learned that the world isn't built for single parents. Even with determination, the daily weight of childcare, bills, and starting over still felt impossible. That's when Show-Me's Family Care Ministry stepped in — and Grace became its first mom.

Her experience helped shape what the program would become: a place where moms could find both shelter and steady, practical support. During her maternity leave, Show-Me gave her time to heal and breathe. They enrolled her daughter in preschool and arranged transportation so she could have the companionship and routine every child needs. They helped cover costs when money was tight, provided daycare so Grace could return to work, and connected her with a job that fit around her kids' schedules.

When her car's brakes went out, they fixed them. When she needed baby supplies or guidance, they quietly made sure she had what she needed. And when the emotional weight of everything threatened to overwhelm her, counseling and therapy helped her keep moving forward.

Family Care built on the lessons she'd first learned in Path to Purpose, meeting real-life challenges — the unexpected expenses, the long nights, the balance of work and parenting alone. "It gave me time to breathe," Grace said. "Time to heal, focus on my kids, and build something solid again."

(Continued on page 5)

*"(Family Care) gave me time to breathe. Time to heal, focus on my kids, and build something solid again."*

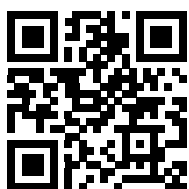
-Grace Brodersen





## Show-Me Needs List

Help stock our shelves and fill our homes. Below is a list of items needed.



### Need more ideas?

Take a peek at our  
"Show Me Christian  
Youth Home"

wish list at Amazon.com



### Main Campus La Monte

- Hot chocolate
- Lemonade drink mixes
- Beef Ramen noodles
- Softsoap bodywash
- Bathroom wipes
- Paper plates
- High-waist leggings (Girls size 14)
- Underwear (Girls size 14)
- Fuji Instax mini film
- Swiffer Wet Jet Cleaner
- Scented candles
- Patio lights (Set of 3)
- Girls mountain bike (Age 13)
- Bike Rack (For 3 bikes)

### Drysdale Campus

- Mashed potatoes
- Rice Krispies
- Protein snacks
- Chips (Variety pack)
- Spaghetti sauce
- Bread flour
- Lysol wipes
- Tide pods
- Nighttime Pull-ups (Size 4T)

- Overnight underwear (Size XL)
- Blue Dawn dish soap
- Ice maker
- Heavy-duty garden hose
- 3/4" Air Impact Wrench
- Fire pit
- Side by side UTV

### Family Care

- Lysol wipes
- Toilet paper
- Trash bags (13-gal)
- 2-3 Swiffer Wet Jets & pads
- 4-5 sets of small - medium wicker basket sets

### Medical

- Cough syrups (adult & child)
- Cough syrup
- Dayquil/ Nyquil caps
- Neosporin
- Cough drops
- Magnesium 300mg (w/Glycinate, Malate, Citrate)

### Show-Me School

- Highlighters
- Mechanical Pencils

### Leadership U

- Diamond high-energy dog food
- Small square Alfalfa bales
- Ivermectin horse dewormer
- Quest dewormer (15 tubes)
- New hoof rasps

### 4-H & Art

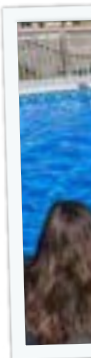
- Storage containers
- Display strips for artwork
- New classroom art-themed decorations
- Amaco self-hardening clay (25 lbs)
- Textured rubbing plates
- Black ink-filled Bingo Dauber

### Path to Purpose

- Reliable "starter vehicles" for our graduates

### P.E. & Sports

- Gymnastic mats
- Wobble boards
- 12 floor hockey sticks
- Ribbon dancer wands
- Tennis balls





*(Continued from page 3)*

Even with everything coming together, Grace felt something stirring inside. She had everything she thought she needed, but her heart still felt restless.

### **You - Not the Perfect You**

"I grew up in church," Grace said, "but I never wanted to sacrifice the world. I always told myself one day I'd give my life to Jesus — once I was better, once I was ready to be the good Christian I was supposed to be."

Then came the message that broke her. Someone reached out over social media to tell her that her husband had fathered another child in Florida. The news hit like a punch to the chest. The betrayal and rejection sent her spiraling.

Grace went back to counseling, where her counselor, Linda, shared how she had once tried to carry everything alone until she finally surrendered it to Christ. "You'll never be deserving," Linda told her. "That's the beauty of it. Jesus died for who you are today — not the perfect version you're trying to become."

That night, sitting on the front steps of her home, Grace wept and cried out to God. "I sat in my sadness and looked back at my life and realized this was the life I gave myself," she said. "I couldn't even imagine the life I could have lived if I had given it to God."

So she did. Grace asked her Show-Me sister, Jerrica — a friend she'd looked up to since she was a little girl — to baptize her. Surrounded by her friends and Show-Me family, Grace was baptized in the pool on campus.

That day, as she came up from the water, the old voices were silent. The girl who once believed she was unlovable finally knew she was chosen — by family, by grace, and by God."

### **A Prayer for Moms**

Today, Grace is a light to others — living proof of what restoration looks like when love and faith take root. She's raising her children in the love she once longed for — not a perfect life, but a redeemed one. The same hands that once reached out to rescue her are now teaching her how to reach others.

Her next dream is already rising in the oven. Grace is building a small baking business she calls Gracee's Goodies, selling her treats at local farmers markets and community events. Each brownie and cookie is more than a recipe — it's a reminder of how far she's come and the sweetness that can come from a once-broken life. One day, she hopes it will grow into a full bakery that can provide for her family and be a witness to what can happen when Christ is in control of your life.

"My prayer," Grace said, "is that moms who need a hand up off the ground can come and find safety in the Family Care program. They have a chance to become the best versions of themselves, break the cycle so many of us came from, and find their true identity in Christ."





# In loving Memory & In Honor

## IN MEMORY

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Mike & Faye Moser

LAYTON & DELTA ALLEE  
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AQUINO  
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Ilene Bingaman

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McManus  
RBC Dominion Securities  
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(Mem of Birthday)  
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Parkview Christian Church  
Centralia, Mo

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Cliff Combs

EARNEST & UDAH FAY  
COMBS  
Cliff Combs

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CORDRAY  
Barry & Janice Whiteside

ELIZABETH CORDRAY  
Lois Gerschevske  
Robert Weber

ELMER COTTLE  
Norma Cottle

MURRAY G DARNELL  
(Mem of Birthday)  
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TRACY DEAN  
LaVera Miller

DENNIS & ADAM DECKER  
Sharon S Decker

DAVID DIEHL  
Jim & Lucille Thompson

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Carol Ficken

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John Foley

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Darrel & Gail Pike

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Brenda Watson

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DWIGHT GOOD  
Alvin & Sharon Hrubes

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Betty Helton  
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Joseph & Ruby Jeffries  
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Mike, Jenny & Isaac Koper  
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Mike & Gloria McLorn  
Dana Morgenthaler  
Elaine Morris  
Dawn Patterson

BLAKE EVANN LITTON  
LaVera Miller

PAUL LITTON  
LaVera Miller

MILDRED MAYGINNES  
Virgil & Delores Stegner

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Jeanette McColm

ANDY MCNEELY  
Alan & Joanie McNeely

JAMES MCNEELY JR  
Alan & Joanie McNeely

JIM & VALERIA MEUSCHKE  
Tracy & LaDonna Meuschke

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Curtis R Farr

NICK MICHAEL  
Earnest & Darleen Webber

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Peggie & Family

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Dee Hughes  
Genia Miller

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Betty Hall  
Charles & Luanne Hall

MERLIN NELSON  
Shauna Burton

ARICA O'QUINN  
Jerry & Carla O'Quinn

## Gifts received between June 1 - September 30, 2025

*Memorials & Living Honor gifts are made to honor the memories of loved ones by giving hope and the best chance for success to children who desperately need it.*

*To honor your friend or loved one, contact us at:  
24302 MAHIN ROAD - P.O. BOX 6  
LA MONTE, MO 65337 • 660-347-5982  
[www.ShowMeHelpingKids.com](http://www.ShowMeHelpingKids.com)*

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Pete Owens Sublett

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Lana Swearngin  
Laura Taylor  
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**JAN VINYARD**  
Wayne Vinyard  
Anonymous  
Leo & Carol Beardslee  
Pat Brinken  
Cathy & Carolyn Bullard  
Timothy Carpenter  
Joe & Donna Embleton  
John & Nina Fricke  
Mary Gauldin  
John & Debbie Hazelrigg  
Don & Shirley Henderson  
Woodson & Judy Joiner  
Thela King  
KU Med Clinic Pharmacy  
Tim & Debra Leahey  
Roy & Barbara Major  
June Mullins  
James & Norma Nicks  
Jack & Vicki Nigh  
John & Judy Prada  
Neil & Robeta Preston  
Randy & Jane Pritchett  
Pat Rhoades  
James & Deborah Ritz  
Rex & Patricia Schaaaf  
Jim & Donna Sebree  
Carol Stevens  
Larry & Bernice Stouse  
Karen Williams & Kirby White  
Marvin Yake

**SARA WANDS**  
Dale Wands  
Pansy Sue Gelven  
Oliver Holtmeyer  
Sandra King  
Robert & Stella Ravenscraft



# In Memory & In Honor *Gifts received between June 1 - September 30, 2025*

JACK WATTERSON  
Jim & Kay Butler

EDGAR WEBBER  
Earnest & Darleen Webber

DONNA P WESTHOFF  
Curtis R Farr

MARY LOU WHALEY  
Danny & Ann Ludlam

TERESA WHITE  
Scott & Ursula Jubell

LEAH JEAN WILLSON  
Mike & Faye Moser

NORMAN WOOD  
Rozina Wood

MARY ELLEN YOUNG  
David & Rhoda Moore

## IN HONOR

JOHN & BARBARA  
ANGLUM  
(Wedding Anniversary)  
Jerry & Roberta Jenkins

MARK BECK  
Steve Bealler

CLARA BELL (97th Birthday)  
Karen Bowker

MARSHA BOESCHEN  
David & Rhoda Moore

CHRISTIAN CAMPUS  
HOUSE OF MISSOURI  
UNIVERSITY  
John Fussner

JUDI CRAWFORD  
(Faithfulness & Dedication)  
Marie Gorton

STEVE & JEANIE DEAN  
(37th Wedding Anniversary)  
Curtis R Farr

JACK & PAULA  
EASTERWOOD  
(Wedding Anniversary)  
Dorothy Peck

LOUIS EDDY  
Phil & Anne Watson

BARB OWEN FAY  
(72nd Birthday)  
Elton Fay

FRANCES FITZGEREL  
Rebecca Rich

BILL & LORIE FUSSNER  
John Fussner

BECKY GRISSOM  
Rhoda Whelan

DAN & CAROLYN HOWELL  
John Fussner

DAN LOWRY  
Gene Smith Family

JAMES LUMPKIN  
(Birthday)  
Gail Lumpkin

DAVID & MARY MACKEY  
James & Kristi Stock

MARY LOU MCCOY  
(94th Birthday)  
James & Martha Lumpkin

DEE MEYER (88th Birthday)  
Curtis R Farr

CHAD & JENNIFER  
PUCKETT  
John Fussner

JUANITA RIPLEY  
(101st Birthday)  
James & Janet Guthrie

MERVIN SHARKEY  
(83rd Birthday)  
Curtis R Farr

MINERVA TAYLOR  
David & Rhoda Moore

JANET THOMAS  
(80th Birthday)  
David & Rhoda Moore

DELORIS WURDEMAN  
(73rd Birthday)  
Elton Fay

# THANKYOU!

## Volunteers (June - September 2025)

Gary West • Judy Wolter • Donna Ward • Linda Van Natta • Sherry Swearngin • Rita Berry • Jim & Kay Butler • Lyn Carpenter • Dale Chaney • Cliff Combs • Rita Henson • Roy & Barbara Major • Krisie McAllister • Virginia McAllister • Jeany McGowen • Teresa Miller • Barbara Decker • Alice Compton • Nora Windmeyer • Larry & Cheryl Kintz • Robin Sadler • Northland Christian Church Ladies

*For the latest volunteer opportunities, contact us at 660-347-5982.*



## EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HOME AND A FAMILY

Show-Me Christian Youth Home is Compelled by Christ to Rescue and Restore Young Lives. We believe that every child deserves a home and a family, an opportunity for a better future and an excellent eternity.

## FAMILY. FAITH. FUTURE.

Out-of-home placement services are available to children of any age at no cost to the parent or guardian. We are funded solely by contributions from individuals, churches and groups that are willing to put their faith into action to help children.



## Administration

Chad Puckett, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Ken Parton, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Rachel Reynolds,  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTOR

## Childcare Staff

Jeff & Laura Eades  
Ken & Emilee Parton  
Ronnie & Krystal Snider  
Brad & Jessica Stilfield  
Rich & Erin Thomas  
Matt & Emily Tyler

## Family Care Ministry

Bobbie Novak, MANAGER



## Show-Me Christian Youth Home

24302 MAHIN ROAD

P.O. Box 6, LA MONTE, MO 65337

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