

MONTGOMERY'S *Kids*



Montgomery's Kids Newsletter Fall 2017

Please Note: As of January 2018 our new name will be 4 Montgomery's Kids. We've added a 4 to our name to tell the kids that we are there "4" them.

We are nothing without you!

Montgomery's Kids is about to celebrate three years of service to our county's foster care community. To date we have been able to fill 240 requests for children in foster care as well as youth aging out of care. With your help we have sent over 50 children to summer camp and paid for boxing lessons, dancing lessons, new boots, computers, and driving lessons - just to name a few.

That is the very good news. The not so good news is that the number of children going into the child welfare system is increasing and the youth aging out of care are finding it increasingly difficult to find affordable housing, transportation and other supports in Montgomery County.

The needs of these older youth are often more costly - security deposits, car repairs and furniture - not to mention the psychological toll of losing their support system. But so far WE (that's all of us) have been able to fill many of the requests we get.

So THANK YOU for making all this possible but we need your continued support.

Spotlight on Youth



M is a twenty-year old student at the University of Maryland who has been in and out of foster homes all her life. Still she is pursuing a degree in criminology with the goal of becoming a parole officer. She also works full time while going to school and just found an internship in the criminal justice field that will help her gain experience to meet her goal.

Montgomery's Kids helped her pay for books and paid for parking at school so she could more easily get to her classes and her job. Helping a young person as tenacious as M allows her to focus on the bigger picture, getting good grades and succeeding in school.



R entered foster care at a young age. She loves to dance wants to meet friends and be part of the school community by taking dance lessons. R needed dance apparel to participate and we were able to help her feel like all her fellow dancers.

One of the more unusual requests we received has been to help a young man fulfill his dream of entering a cyber security program in the military. To be accepted he cannot have tattoos. We are helping him pay to have a rose tattoo removed from his hand.



Donors Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Young Person

Starting out in the world as a young adult is a daunting task, and those “graduating” from foster care have very limited financial and social support to assist the transition into independent living. Jane Steinberg and Alan Kraut, two psychologists, met a young woman through Montgomery’s Kids, and were very impressed by all that she had accomplished during her transition. She was working two jobs while



starting college as a psychology major. And then, her car went caput, and she badly needed funds for a an apartment security deposit. To help her get through this very tough time, Jane and Alan provided funds via Montgomery’s Kids to repair the car (which was needed to get to college and work) and then to cover the first and last month’s rent. The couple also arranged for a summer internship in a psychology organization. This young woman earned a glowing recommendation from the organization’s Executive Director, an important credential for future employment. Thanks to this young woman’s tenacity and intelligence, as well as financial and networking help from Jane and Alan, she is well along her way to meeting her goals.

Thanks to the Bethesda and Montgomery Village Rotary Clubs, Women Who Care, and Comfort Cases, for their generous support.

How You Can Help

Since 2015 Montgomery's Kids has helped many children in foster care but we still have many requests to fill. One way to help us help children is by hosting house parties with family members, friends, and other people willing to help. If you are interested in helping us by hosting a house party please contact LKShedlin@montgomeryskids.org.

You can designate Montgomery's Kids as the charitable organization of your choice when you make purchases on AmazonSmile. Amazon will donate 5% of the sale to Montgomery's Kids.

Here's how your donations make a difference:

\$50 pays for sporting goods and uniforms
\$100 helps provide transportation to after school activities
\$200 helps start off the school year with new clothes and books
\$500 provides security deposits or first month's rent

And from those we have helped:

"I got the equipment and gift card. I wish you had been there to see the look on the mom's face. She was so happy!"

"Thank you so much for the scholarship that was awarded to me. This will be very helpful to start my dream of becoming a licensed cosmetologist. I will use the scholarship to help pay my tuition. Again thank you so much, I am very grateful and appreciative"

Voices for Children Montgomery thanked Montgomery's Kids for their recent donations of a car seat stroller and a vacuum cleaner for two of their CASA youths." Montgomery County is so lucky to have such a fantastic organization in our community which really helps to make sure the needs of our foster children and youth are taken care of. Thank you so much, Montgomery's Kids!!"

As a reminder, starting in 2018, Montgomery's Kids will have a new name, 4Montgomery's Kids. With your help we will continue to be there "4" them.

TO DONATE, CLICK www.montgomeryskids.org

**Thank you,
Montgomery's Kids Board of Directors
Ronna Cook, Susan Gardner, Agnes Leshner, Leslie Shedlin, and Skip Talcott**