



2nd Annual Wine Tasting

You're invited to attend our 2nd Annual Wine Tasting benefiting alley's house on Saturday, August 12, 7:00pm to 10:00pm
The Moroccan Room
1505 Elm, Dallas, Texas

Hors'deuvres, wine (of course) and Complimentary Valet Parking is available. Silent Auction items and raffle tickets for a Hot Air Balloon Ride are also available.

The Scoop: Each team of 1-3 people brings 3 bottles of the same wine. When you register, we will put 2 bottles in brown paper bags marked with your team number. Those will be available for wine tasting. The third bottle is set aside for winnings! At the end of the evening, all the wines are scored and the top 2 winners get to split all of the third bottles of wine. This is potentially several cases of wine!

Wine Selection -- any kind of White Wine.

Tickets -- \$10.00 - support alley's house programs

We hope you can come! If you have any questions, please call 214.954.6400.

♥ Meet Ashley ♥

Three-month old Daylin coos in the background as his proud mother tickles his feet. 19-year-old Ashley came to alley's house when she was seven months pregnant and was referred to the agency by a teacher at Spruce High School.



Since coming to alley's house, Ashley has reaped many benefits including tutoring for the TAKS test. "I got my own personal tutor," she said. "With the help of my tutor I gained the confidence I needed to take the TAKS and I really do appreciate that." Although her scores will not arrive until August, Ashley has a strong feeling that she passed the test!

Ashley has also enjoyed the career training at alley's house and is currently exploring college options. The high school senior does not yet know what college she will attend, but does know she wants to be in a helping profession. She is also very anxious to start her relationship with Jennifer, her new mentor.

Even before baby Daylin arrived, Ashley was a busy teen. Active in her high school, she was drum major, played the alto saxophone and tennis. She also has been very active in the community by volunteering at Clean Up South Dallas, The Mayor's Back to School Fair, and as a tour guide at The Science Place.

Right now Ashley's main goal is to be able to provide for her son, go to college and just to be happy with what she is doing with her life. She hopes that her son can be successful and a productive member of society while making good decisions for himself. According to Ashley, the best part of motherhood is "just looking at my child and playing with him." As far as the negative aspects of parenting she definitely answers, "having to wake up in the middle of the night."

Ashley believes that through prayer and with positive influences in their lives, she and her son will both be happy and successful.

The young mother knows there are challenges ahead raising Daylin on her own, but urges others in her situation to press on. "You can do it," she says. "You cannot give up on yourself and just know that God will not give you anything you can't handle." ♥



Ashley & Daylin with mentor, Jennifer.

ALLEY'S HOUSE: BEHIND THE SCENES WITH WEB DESIGNER

Name: Chris Ponder
City: McKinney
Occupation: Freelance Graphic Designer
Time with alley's house: Since October 2004



ah: What do you do for alley's house?

CP: I redesigned the alley's house Web site and now maintain and update it regularly. This was a fun project for me and I really enjoy giving back. I started a company called Very Good Design (www.verygooddesign.com) so I could work from home. This works out really well for me because I don't miss a minute of my son's life. My son allows me to do some fun projects too. I am currently working on a Web site for him and planning his 1st birthday.

ah: Why do you enjoy working with alley's house?

CP: My mom was a teen mother and I know how much she struggled and had to sacrifice for the sake of her kids. That's why I had to volunteer, I really feel this is such an important organization and it makes such a difference in the lives of teen mothers and their babies too.

ah: What challenges you in your work?

CP: I am always trying to stay with the current technology and trends. Sometimes I have a client that has a certain vision and I have to take what's in their head and create it for them. That can be very challenging, especially if the client doesn't really know what they want.

ah: What makes Chris interesting?

CP: I love to sing Karaoke! Friends always tell me I should have tried out for American Idol, I missed the age cut off though. My mom and I are extremely close and I talk to her probably every day, she is one of my best friends. I am going to paint a mural in my garage of the sea...I love painting and drawing.

alley's house case managers

In their own words...

meet the ladies who make a difference in the lives of alley's house clients!

Nikki

Name: Nikki Stillo, 20
Hometown: Akron, Ohio

Educational Background:
Psychology & Gender Studies
Senior, University of Texas at Dallas

What do you like about working at alley's house:

There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a teen mother persevere to overcome obstacles and achieve her goals. Having the opportunity to share in their accomplishments makes the workday so worthwhile.

What has surprised you about working with teen moms?

Taking care of their children, handling community resources, working and studying for school is a lot to handle! I'm continuously amazed with the determination of several moms that I've been lucky enough to get to know.

What does alley's house need to continue to be successful?

We simply could not survive without the support of donors and volunteers! alley's house is a volunteer-based organization with 83 active volunteers participating in various aspects of the program. We are always in need of caring and supportive volunteers!

How has working at alley's house changed you?

I think that sometimes we get so caught up in our own lives, that we forget we need to take time to see life from someone else's perspective. Working at alley's house has truly lead me to appreciate the diversity in our culture. I know now that there is a great need for programs like alley's house in the Dallas community.



Elizabeth

Name: Elizabeth Barton-Stafford, 26
Hometown: Winfield, Kansas

Educational Background:
BA Psychology, University of Texas at Dallas, Social Work Graduate Student, Fall 2006, University of Texas at Arlington

What do you like about working at alley's house?

I love that we are working towards real, attainable goals with our clients. It is so awesome to watch a teen mom reach her goal by receiving a GED or high school diploma and then move on to college. It can be challenging because there are only three employees and at least three times the work, but we manage well.

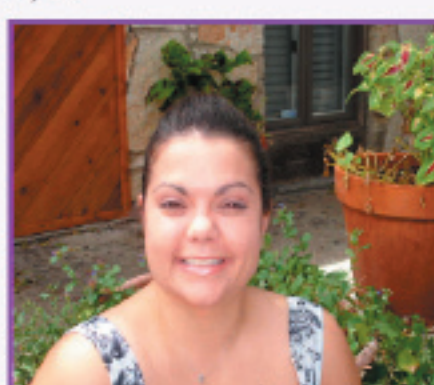
What has surprised you about working with teen moms?

The teen moms are smarter, brighter, and far more ambitious than society gives them credit for. These young ladies work far harder, by choice, than many adults do.

What inspired you to work in this field?

Growing up, I lived in the county with the highest teen pregnancy rate. By the time I graduated, it seemed like the majority of people I knew were teen parents. I was born to a teen parent, as was my mother. Sometimes, I wonder how I avoided becoming a teen mother because all of my friends were teen moms.

I went through a troublesome time as I entered my 20's when I realized that unless I wanted to follow in my parent's poverty-stricken footsteps, I would need to make serious changes in the way thought about things. Now that I have made serious life changes and learned how to think in a positive, healthy way, I want to share this with others. As a teen, it seemed like my hometown's authority figures did not really do anything to teach the mothers to live differently. The services provided were merely that, they gave the teen moms lectures and information, but they didn't do anything to intrinsically motivate them. That is what I love about alley's house, we are here to empower the teen moms, not do it for them or give them handouts. We are helping them help themselves, and that is key!



alley's house

WHAT WE ARE DOING WITH YOUR DONOR DOLLAR\$...

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who've made a contribution to alley's house during 2006. We are working on an annual report, financial audit and our first 990 tax return for 2005! We'd like to share with you what we are doing with your donor dollars.



ADMINISTRATION	7.7%
CASE MANAGEMENT	84.4%
FUNDRAISING	1.3%
MILEAGE	1.7%
RENT & UTILITIES	4.9%

As you can see, case management is our most valuable resource and is the strength of our organization. Many of our services are one-to-one and provide the necessary support and guidance for our most valuable asset -- our teen moms and their children.



Our goal this year is to raise \$113,900. To date, we've raised \$84,476. We still need \$29,424 to meet our current needs. With your continued support, we can meet our goals and help teen mothers become independent!!

