



Elizabeth Ann Seton Program

December 4, 2018

Dear Elizabeth Ann Seton Program Supporter,

On behalf of the organization, Dawn, Executive Director, our Board of Directors, and all the mothers and children you have continued to support over the years, we wish you and your families health and happiness during the upcoming busy holiday season and new year ahead. We are grateful and would like to thank you for your support in 2018 and look forward to another successful and very exciting year in 2019, but we *need your help*. We hope that as you begin to set your goals for the upcoming year, you'll consider being a loyal supporter of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Program.

For many of us, the holiday season is a time to count our blessings, a time for celebrations, and a time for making memories with family and friends. Just for a minute, I'd like you to think about the more than 1600 encounters we had with mothers in your community in 2018. We'll call them Jessie. For Jessie, this time of year brings more darkness and hardship than most of us can imagine. She grew up without a decent education, is from a broken home, is in a hostile environment, and is usually the victim of third or fourth generation poverty. Jessie may not have a home, she most likely doesn't have a positive role model (or even a parent she still knows), and her nightmares may prevent her from ever having a good sleep. Jessie doesn't have the skills demanded by a complexed society and she doesn't know how to acquire those skills. She experiences a tremendous amount of despair which drains ambitions and energy (energy that is instead probably spent on getting food for her family's next meal).

As a community, we are Jessie's support system. Rather than blaming Jessie for being poor, for growing up poor, and possibly for ending up poor as though it's somehow her fault, let's be the support system Jessie needs to succeed. Consider the following:

- This Jessie needs help to start over after domestic violence – EAS gives her guidance: Each week it costs EAS \$2,818 to assist our moms and their children – 1,676 encounters with mothers in 2018.
- Another Jessie is homeless without a place for baby to sleep – EAS provides a baby a bed and teaches her about safe sleep: A baby box costs \$175 and we delivered at least 60 of them in 2018.
- This Jessie can't afford to finish high school – EAS is there to help: A GED test costs \$125 and the pre-test costs \$6.00. Our clients took 30 tests in 2018.

Let's think about the issues of generational poverty that have infected so many families in our community – and let's commit our hearts, heads, and hands to solving it as a team. We are asking you to personally invest in one of our clients. Our Board of Directors is busy setting measurable goals for the coming year and we think that you'll be happy with some of the growth you'll see and feel in 2019. In 2019, we are prepared to adjust and add to our methods of fundraising, assist more mothers than ever before, and make a record-breaking impact on our communities. We know our goals are lofty but with your support, we are confident they can be reached.

Please visit our website at <http://www.elizabethannsetonprogram.org> to donate or mail checks to Elizabeth Ann Seton Program at 700 N. 7th Street Suite C Springfield, IL 62702. Look for upcoming events on both our website and our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you soon at one of our upcoming events!

Gratefully,

Dawn Morris, Executive Director and the Board of Directors of your local Elizabeth Ann Seton Program

P.S. SAVE THE DATE! Our 2019 EAS Rocks Gala is Saturday, March 30th.