



Alexandra's House

Est. 1997

For Terminally Ill Unborn, Newborn, and Abandoned Babies

www.alexandrashouse.com

WELL DONE, FAITHFUL SERVANTS!

A Tribute to Dr. E.W.J. Pearce and Dr. Lunetta Memming Pearce

With deeply saddened but appreciative hearts we report of two enormous losses in the recent deaths of our beloved Dr. Eugene Walker James Pearce and his wife, our dear friend and advocate, Dr. Lunetta Anna Memming Pearce.



Dr. Eugene Pearce died February 19 at his home in Merriam, Kansas. He was 82. Dr. Pearce is survived by his wife, Lunetta Pearce, M.D. and his sons, James and Paul. He was a prominent physician in Johnson County for over three decades.

Dr. Pearce was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri; the second of four boys. He graduated from High School at the age of 16 and entered Washington University. He was inducted into the armed services in 1943, at age 18. After basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, he entered the Army Specialized Training Program. While in ASTP, he attended college courses in North and South Dakota and Medical School at the University of Nebraska. After he was discharged from the Army at the end of World War II, he finished medical school, graduating from Washington University in June 1949. Two days later, he married Dr. Lunetta Memming of Franklin, Nebraska. Together they served their internships in Washington, D.C.; his at Walter Reed Army Hospital, hers at Central Dispensary and Emergency Hospital.

His residency was completed in obstetrics and gynecology at the Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas, 1955. He then became an Instructor for two years, and then went into private practice in Johnson County, Kansas in 1957.

Dr. Pearce remained in private practice until 1990. His service to professional associations in the area included terms as president of the Johnson County Medical Society and the Kansas City Gynecological Society. Dr. Pearce served as President of the medical staff and helped guide the development of Shawnee Mission Hospital into a major provider of health care services in Johnson County. He was a champion



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of continuing education for nurses and physicians, and he supported the medical library and CME programs. Today more babies are

born at Shawnee Mission Medical Center than any other hospital in metropolitan Kansas City. After retiring from private practice, Dr. Pearce joined the faculty of Truman Medical Center/ University of Missouri Kansas City Medical School as Associate Professor and Chief, Section of Gynecology. In that capacity, he conducted research on physicians who made important contributions to the practice of medicine in the Midwest and trained obstetrical residents. He expanded the curriculum to topics beyond those conventionally covered in medical education, such as the history of Kansas City, and plays by Shakespeare. He founded the "Bow Tie Club" as a support group for young men, who today are a shrinking minority of obstetrical residents.

Photography and Family History were two of Dr. Pearce's hobbies. Dr. Pearce had a unique style and vocabulary, and more patience than anyone else we know. He always found time to help anyone interested to understand and appreciate details that were important to grasping his point. Everyone noticed his distinctive wardrobe, and his closets still have his hats and bow ties. He had local craftsmen make his suits, shirts, and shoes to order. That his tailor and his shoemaker both continued to serve him long after they stopped taking orders from the general public testifies to his gracious treatment of those who helped and supported him. Dr. Pearce's unique approach to life and work enriched the lives of Kansas City area residents throughout his career.

Dr. Pearce was active in the pro-life community. Drawing on his medical experience and his religious convictions, he read extensively and spoke frequently on beginning-of-life issues. He believed that his support of Alexandra's House was his most significant endeavor. (Source- *The KC STAR*)

Memorial services honoring the life of Dr. Gene Pearce included one held April 4 at the UMKC School of Medicine. It was remarkable to be among the guests in Theatre B as many of his colleagues approached the podium to pay him homage and to share special memories. The recently retired Department Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology spoke emotionally of Dr. Pearce's influence upon him personally and upon the entire department, saying, "He transformed us. We will never be the same." There were many stories filled with humor but the overriding sentiment was that Dr. Pearce's life was an extraordinary one and that he was a man and physician of heroic virtue.

Ryan Clement, father to twins Lexi and Zoe, spoke on behalf of Alexandra's House. He said that because Dr. Pearce did not hide his light under a basket, Alexandra's House was in operation when he and his wife, Tricia, desperately needed help. They learned in November of 2007 that their first pregnancy resulted in conjoined twin girls who would both die. Lexi and Zoe were born March 24 and lived an amazing 50 minutes. He ended by asking all the physicians there to carry Dr. Pearce's legacy forward and to get involved with Alexandra's House by referring their patients and offering their voices to help it expand. He then told each of them to "let your light shine"! Ryan's impassioned speech was overwhelmingly well received and he was later greeted by several of the attendees, thanking him for his tribute.

I had the great fortune of having a private visit with Dr. Gene Pearce a few days before he died and was able to thank him for all he gave to Alexandra's House. I assured him that he would live on through our work, as he taught such

priceless lessons. Each time I am asked to speak on behalf of our apostolate, many of his words come out in my voice. He was a great influence to so many.

Midday, on Tuesday, February 19, I phoned the Pearce home. I reported that in their honor and though trembling and afraid, I was on my way to Topeka to testify about our services before a House Committee for a proposed amendment to an abortion bill. If passed, the option of perinatal hospice would be added to "Informed Consent" before an abortion was performed, for women whose sonograms showed fetal anomalies. The original bill was written with the help of Dr. Pearce years before. That night, he died. I had the sense his work was complete and Our Lord said: "It is finished. Well done, faithful servant."

During the last few weeks of his life, Dr. Gene told us that his beloved wife was ill as well and commented, "we might just go together". The night of his visitation she was in very severe pain. After his memorial services were complete, I concentrated my attention on Dr. Lunetta. Not many days after his burial she was hospitalized. Multiple medical setbacks ensued and she was never able to return home. She died just three months after his death.

As the weeks turned to months after Dr. Gene's death, I was able to spend some very meaningful time alongside Dr. Lunetta during her illnesses. Sadly, she had little time or energy to grieve her dear husband, for her infirmities consumed her strength. I was constantly amazed by Dr. Lunetta's quiet presence and her sheer sweetness continued even as she suffered those last months. She never sought attention, always introduced herself by her first name, and never asked to be addressed as "Doctor". Several years ago I asked

her what propelled her to go to medical school. She simply stated that her fifth grade teacher encouraged her to read. For such an accomplished woman, there was an innocence and guilelessness about her. Even though she was a prominent physician, she was a wife and mother first. Her sons speak of how she made them breakfast every morning and dinner every night. She didn't want a lot of attention in her life or about her death, and that is evident even in the content of their obituaries. Of course, she contributed greatly to his!

Many times I have read that one of the most important marks of a saint is humility. That, I would say, was one of her greatest virtues.

The honor is ours that both of these beloved physicians' attention fell upon us and that they gave so much of their last 10 years to Alexandra's House. We treasured them. While we miss both of them so much, we know we will see them again some day. I can't help but wonder how many baby fingers locked in theirs as they gleefully greeted them and walked them across the threshold of Heaven!



(From the Star)

Lunetta Anna (Memming) Pearce, M.D., age 82, died Sunday, May 25, 2008. Dr. Pearce was born near Bloomington, Neb., where her parents Herman and Lena (Stuhmer) Memming farmed. She was the oldest of five children. She attended one-room schools until she entered high school at age 12. She graduated from Franklin High School in 1942, Hastings College in 1946 and University of Nebraska Medical School in 1949 (at age 23, one of three women in class). Lunetta met Eugene Pearce in medical school, married after graduation in June 1949. They served their internships in Washington, D.C. They moved to Merriam in 1955. She was plant physician at

Hercules Plant in Sunflower, Kansas and also practiced in Johnson County until 2005. She was among the first women to practice in the Kansas City area and was president of the Johnson County Medical Society in 1986. Dr. Pearce was active in family and community life. Her sons were active in athletics through high school and college. She kept her own scorebook at their baseball and basketball games. Also active in PTA, she was later active in her church (Trinity Lutheran), and she supported her husband's pro-life activities in the medical community.

New Medical Director Named

In January, Jeffrey Wall, MD accepted the role of Medical Director for Alexandra's House. A former colleague and close friend of the late Dr. Eugene Pearce, Dr. Wall was personally chosen by Dr. Pearce to succeed him in this position for the organization and mission he so dearly loved.

Dr. Wall graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1989 and completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Illinois in 1993.

After spending time in the US Navy, he returned to Kansas City where he was in private practice as the Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology for Kaiser Permanente in Kansas City. In 2000, he joined the faculty of UMKC and is currently the Director of Ambulatory Care for the Women's Health and Wellness Center at Truman Medical Center, Hospital Hill.

In 1993 Dr. Wall and his wife lost their second child Connor, at birth, to a malignant teratoma. At the time there were very few resources for families facing the loss of a child in pregnancy or at birth. This life-changing event, while tragic,

strengthened their marriage and their commitment to life and its challenges. They sleep soundly at night, knowing that they gave Connor every opportunity for life. Even though his life was brief, his impact was profound.

Dr. Wall's wife is Karen and their children are: Emily 16, Christopher 13, and Cameron 10. Connor would be 15. They have two dogs Olivia, a Border collie, and Midge, a Cairn terrorist (terrier!). They live in Overland Park, Kansas and are members of Ascension Parish.

Dr. Wall has done some graphic arts in the past. Check out <http://www.animavitae.com> to view his work.

Alexandra's House is thrilled and honored that Dr. Wall and his family have joined us!

Reaching Through the Internet

Three years ago we began corresponding by E-Mail with a young woman, pregnant with her first baby who had lethal anomalies. While longing to see her face to face and give her a hug, because she lived in North Carolina, we had to be satisfied with knowing Jennifer solely through her writing and an occasional phone call.

After the birth and death of her baby boy Daniel, Jennifer returned to school. She has been so good at keeping in touch with us and recently sent us the following story. After reading it, we asked her if we could share it with you.

"I have some good news - I have a new nephew!!!! Would you believe that he was born three weeks early, but he was born three weeks to the day before Daniel would have been 3 years

old!

My testimony to the youth at my church went great. I had a small display of Daniel's things so that they could see that he was a real baby, and most of them lined up to take a look afterwards. I was amazed at their interest.

I have to tell you this that I think is hilarious, but I haven't told but one person because they might think I'm crazy. When I first found out that I was pregnant, my mom bought Willie Nelson's greatest hits and she played it repeatedly. I would hear it and think "not again" until it would get to the song, "You Were Always on my Mind". That song kinda became Daniel's and my song. One time I was lying on the couch and she played that song and God whispered (to me) "You were always on My mind". After Daniel was born and I had lived through HELLP syndrome, my brother and I were sitting in my ICU room alone. He's very macho, so he said something to try and cheer me up. And guess what he said? "You know, he (Daniel) shares a birthday with Willie Nelson." There is no way my brother could have known what he was saying, but I kinda get the feeling that God likes Willie Nelson!"

It is remarkable and wonderful that occasionally God lets Heaven and Earth intersect.

Increasing numbers of families who are in need of support during their challenging pregnancies are finding us through our website. We are able to provide them with assistance and correspond with them through email and phone calls. We help them with birth plans and connect them with other couples that have also lost babies. In a single day recently pregnant women in San Diego and Chicago consulted us.

Our website services will soon expand to include

a blog where physicians and other consultants will post correspondence and also a forum where parents can post messages to one another. These tools will enhance our services to parents within and beyond our region but we look forward to a time in the future when we will actually have other houses in cities across the country.

Holding On To Hope ~Tatum's Story By Her Mommy, Brenda Spurlock

Being 42 and the mother of six did not alter my longing for another baby. My husband agreed and soon enough we found we were expecting.

Mid-term testing revealed that our baby was a girl and we were thrilled...we had all been praying for a little girl. But then silence fell on the room as the sonographer began to find one anomaly after another. The perinatologist came in and completed the ultrasound and confirmed that the baby had Trisomy 18. He asked us if we wanted an amniocentesis but I refused, not wanting to do anything to risk the pregnancy or harm the baby.

Our 18-week-old "fetus", our dreams, our children's baby sister, and our infant daughter...her prognosis was 100% fatal. I sobbed, my husband went into denial, and life became a roller coaster. When we went back to my OB, he counseled us as to our options. Sadly, one of the first he offered us was abortion. That was not an option for us. We chose to continue with the pregnancy, knowing that God had a perfect plan...and yet, not understanding any of it in the beginning.

Shortly after our diagnosis, we had dinner with friends from church and they had read about perinatal hospice in the newspaper some months prior. That night my friend emailed me

information about them, and I contacted Alexandra's House the very next day. Kathy Tarbe told me they were having a retreat that very weekend in Kansas City and invited us to attend. That retreat was life--altering for my husband and myself. We had never participated in any event, including the loss of both of my parents; that was so raw and full of grief. And yet, there was also joy. There were several sets of parents sharing the losses of their infants; some who even had multiple losses. We knew loss. We had suffered miscarriages, but we could not equate that loss with the loss of a (full-term) baby. We sobbed that weekend until our faces and our heads just throbbed. Each story hit us at an emotional level that we had never experienced before. Yet what we also saw was that people go on. Life doesn't stop. There were pregnant ladies in the room...still grieving deeply for the loss of their babies, yet experiencing the miracle of a new life. It was profound.

Life continued for us as well. A monthly ultrasound showed us that Tatum's anomalies were getting worse. I felt so alone in my choice to continue my pregnancy and to give my baby whatever time she had. My husband heard things differently than I did, and there were times I felt we were at odds too. I couldn't shake the extreme grief that hung over me any more than I could escape the pieces of joy that came in seeing my baby grow month after month, in those very same ultrasounds that foretold of a grave outcome.

At the same time, we received a 3D Ultrasound from Jeanette Burlbaw of Prenatal Imaging. She noted that some of the anomalies did not appear as severe. Jeanette was great about giving us a part of Tatum that we thought we would never know. We saw our baby in motion and shared that as a family.

In my 34th week, I had the amnio done, waiting until Tatum had every chance to grow and mature, and I wanted answers. Also, I felt Tatum was much stronger than her anomalies showed...she was so active in utero, and she responded to music and the sound of her daddy's voice. I kept thinking that maybe the doctors were wrong. I had to do all I could for Tatum while she was inside of me: I knew there was little I could do once she was born.

A week later, we received the results of the amnio. It was not Trisomy 18 but it was connected to her 18th Chromosome. Now doctors would do whatever they could to *sustain her life once she was born.*

This story cannot be fully expressed in a few words on paper. This was a time fraught with emotional turmoil, grief, anger, frustration, exhaustion, fear of loss...and the gift of friendship, prayer, emotional support, wisdom, and hope. The impending birth of our daughter became the focal point of not only our lives, but of our entire church family. People reached out to us in ways we could never have imagined prior to all of this.

My water broke at 2 a.m. We called the doctor, the photographer, our pastor, and Patti from Alexandra's House. My husband, 5 of our 6 children, and number 7 still safe in my womb, headed for the hospital. The room was full of doctors, nurses, and other hospital personnel. Jack sat at the head of my bed and held my hand, one of the nurses kneeled by my side, and we prayed. Some of our children waited with the photographer...wanting to capture on film and in their hearts the precious moment that Tatum came into the world. And enter the world she did...with a beautiful cry, followed by many more. We wept and praised God.

Tatum is now over five months old. She has undergone surgery, has heart, kidney, and brain "issues", and does have partial Trisomy 18...but she is here! Our pastor came to pray. We talked about whether Tatum was a miracle healing or if the tests could just have been wrong. We decided we would not have the true answers until we met Jesus. That is my purpose in writing. Medical science is not perfect. Our (prenatal) tests told of a different outcome for Tatum than we are now living. We have no hard feelings. How could we? We have Tatum. The thing I pray for is that the medical staff will now offer patients a choice better than termination. I provided them with pamphlets for Alexandra's House and stories of families who used those services. I pray that the time comes when doctors and hospitals will pass out pamphlets of hope and support before they pass out the counsel of abortion.

The Generosity of Love

Jeanette Burlbaw, owner of Prenatal Imaging Centers in Kansas City, knows no limit to her kindness. Last summer, after learning about Joy and Joya, the conjoined twin girls who shared one heart, she offered to scan their mother, Jackie, with 3D/4D images of the twin's precious little pre-born bodies. These pictures were a great comfort to the family in those difficult weeks of pregnancy before the twins' birth in September of 2007. Jeanette extended her offer of free 3D and 4D imaging for all unborn babies to Alexandra's House families. The pictures help to unite parents and child in a closer bond, which remains after the birth and death of their baby.

Jeanette, a sonographer, had many years of experience before opening her own business in 2003. She is a former board member of the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical

Sonography and Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. As a very busy professional and business owner, Jeanette often works late to offer services to our families, while still responding to the needs of her other clients. The parents always leave her office with their moods elevated as Jeanette, rather than focusing on what is wrong, takes pictures of babies sucking their thumbs, making faces, and of precious hands and feet. Thank you, Jeanette and staff!



It's so fun just being a Girl!

These lovely young beauties attended a Tea Party with their moms at the home of Brigitte Hahn recently enjoying treats and games. In addition to celebrating being "A Girl" the mothers chose to make donations to Alexandra's House as a way to give back to the community. Our hearts were so touched to have our babies remembered in such a creative and fun activity honoring mothers and daughters.

An Artist's Heart

Local Kansas City artist Maureen Noonan has quietly served our families at Alexandra's House

for about six years. Maureen was prompted to begin this ministry by a phone call from her sister living in New Jersey. She explained to Maureen that a niece lost her baby at birth. The family really wanted a picture of their child to be displayed in their home. Maureen, an artist, agreed to give it a try; drawing a portrait of the baby for the grieving family. She had only a poor quality photograph to use for a likeness. Although Maureen cried her way through this first portrait, the recipient family was thrilled with her work. They were able to see that their baby had features resembling various family members, a likeness not evident in the brief time they had with their little child after birth.

Maureen then felt a calling to draw portraits of babies lost after birth for families in her own community. She called several hospitals, but found no one interested. Although discouraged, Maureen never lost this desire to help other parents in their heartbreaking loss. Eventually, her husband, George, met Patti Lewis through his work at the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. He was able to connect Maureen with Patti, who was very enthusiastic and grateful from the start.

During the school year, Maureen is a busy, Kindergarten teacher at Visitation School in Kansas City, as well as her year-round roles: wife, mother and artist. Maureen never meets our families face to face, but she touches their hearts with beautiful portraits of babies now in heaven.

Gospel of Life Convention

The combined efforts of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph produced an all-day event held on Saturday April 12, 2008 at St.

Thomas Aquinas High School in Overland Park, Kansas. Alexandra's House was honored to be among other organizations with exhibits reflecting the sanctity of life.

Archbishop Joseph Naumann gave the keynote address, reflecting on his experience and conviction defending life in his ministry in St. Louis. Bishop Robert Finn celebrated Mass for the conference participants at the end of the day.

Distinguished speakers included: David Prentice Ph.D. (Stem Cell Research), Diedre McQuade (Imitating Jesus in Pro-life conversations), Rev. Edward Richard Ph.D. (End of Life Issues), Brian Gosser M.D. (NaProTechnology), Sean O'Brian J.D. (Death Penalty), and Michael Podrebarac (Theology of the Body).

One of the many fruits of this event was the opportunity to visit with Fr. Richard, one of our country's preeminent moral theologians, who has agreed to serve in this capacity as an advisor to Alexandra's House. What a gift!

**Diocesan Newspapers Feature
Alexandra's House**

Although the **Kansas City Star** and local TV stations featured Alexandra's House in 2007, it had been a few years since the local diocesan weeklies highlighted our work and our families.

The Leaven, January 2008

In "Love Me True" Kara Hansen of *the Leaven* staff, wrote about the Schmidt family of Olathe and their baby girl, Gianna Marie. Parents-to-be John and Jennifer knew midway in their pregnancy that this precious baby would live just a short time. With much love and support, they carried her to term. Patti was blessed to be

present at the delivery to help comfort the family and to say hello to Gianna.

Ms. Hansen effectively quotes Patti, revealing the true meaning of the sanctity and brevity of life. In doing so, she answers the question that many people ask: "Why not abort a baby who will die anyway?"

The Catholic Key, January 2008

"Alexandra's House founder offers hope, love." Kevin Kelly, the *Key's* Associate Editor, uses the words of Patti Lewis to answer an often - asked question of parents carrying a baby who will die anyway: "Why not abort?"

This story covered Patti's presentation to a group meeting at St. Thomas More Parish, on the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade.

The answers are simple yet profound. Patti effectively communicates these messages to parents who seek her support.

1. God has a purpose for every life, no matter how brief.
2. The parent's love will last forever even as the earthly time together is so limited.
3. By loving their baby, they are able to grieve their baby and heal more readily.
4. Miracles of the heart really happen.
5. The baby is a great evangelizer, bringing others, sometimes even their parents, to God.

**Alexandra's House Featured in
International Publication**

Phone and E-mail messages from across the country filled our message boxes, encouraging us to keep up the good work and telling how

wonderful it was to be reading about the admirable services of Alexandra's House. Before we really knew what to think or why the attention, a stranger alerted us that Alexandra's House was featured in May's issue of the highly popular *Focus on the Family Magazine*. Lynette Kittle wrote an article "60 Precious Minutes, Perinatal hospice provides comfort to families". It tells the story of labor and delivery nurse, Laura Huene, who was told that her child's brain had not developed and asked when she wanted to end her pregnancy. She responds, "this baby is a gift, and we are going to carry her". The article continues with the exploration of an alternative, perinatal hospice. Alexandra's House is featured in the story and includes the experiences of five of our expectant mothers who, in 2007, met each week for support, attended each others babies' deliveries, and their funerals. It emphasized the importance of family-family support, which is one of the many powerful tools Alexandra's House uses to prepare families for this bittersweet event.

**Alexandra's House Adds New Program:
Champ's Wee Care Packages**

"This gift is presented to you from other parents who also have experienced the pain of losing a little baby far too soon. Be comforted in knowing that absolute strangers care very much about you, about what you are going through, and are praying for you." This is a portion of a letter that is tucked into gift packages that contain lip balm, cozy socks, lotion, disposable camera, journal, puzzle book, a stuffed animal, mold kits to make impressions of baby's hand or foot and a small soft blanket to swaddle their baby in and then hold close to their heart when their arms feel empty. The boxes are delivered to area hospitals and given to any parent who loses a baby so they won't go home empty-handed.

LOVE Friendship Study Circle from Colonial Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO and the students of Ascension School, Overland Park, KS were the initial groups responsible for collecting the necessary items and assembling them for distribution. A women's guild with Avondale United Methodist Church in Kansas City North made the first deliveries of Champ's Wee Care Packages. Already they are a huge hit with the nurses on the Mother-Baby Units.

Just over a week ago, three hospitals called, not only needing more boxes, but asking if we could deliver as many as 80 per year! Our internal response was a quiet "OK Lord, You must want this program to continue".

Then we received this email from a mother who was a recipient of one of our gift boxes, after her little girl was stillborn. Here is part of what she wrote.

"That package was one of the kindest things I have ever received and how perfect that it's so personal. It really was a God-send...I just wanted to tell my story and thank you so very much for the gift, it warms my heart to know that someone out there cares so deeply for a complete stranger and what I went through. I have given your site to everyone who asks where I got the package from and I will continue to spread the word about what I believe is one of the best causes in the world."

Through tear filled eyes we looked up and gave our fiat.

Big Gifts: Young Philanthropists

We are overwhelmed by the generous hearts of some very special youngsters and wish to highlight a few of their creative fundraising projects during the recent past. Of these very unique children, some are from the Kansas City area and others come from cities across the

United States. Having embraced our mission, they wanted to help our babies and families. Thank you all for remembering us.

- The 5th Grade Students of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Overland Park, KS held a Coin Drive.
- Students from John Paul II School, Overland Park, collected money for us in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. St. Pius Church in Mission matched their gift.
- Under the guidance of Ms. Mariangela Sullivan, the 8th grade religion class. Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School in AL collected funds to purchase a headstone.
- Lesley and Carolyn Sullivan, St. Joseph High School, South Bend, IN, organized male and female quartets to deliver singing valentines throughout their school and donated the funds collected.
- Cassidy Rushing, Vancouver, WA asked guests coming to her 13th birthday party to bring donations in memory of Dr. EWJ Pearce.
- Mary Khadivi, Lenexa, KS donated her monetary gifts from her recent Confirmation.

- Children's Mercy Contact Center, Kansas City, MO
- Progressive Care Unit, Centerpoint Medical Center, Independence, MO
- Cerner Corporation
- Missouri Society of CPA's
- Cole Pest Control

Broadway for Life

Johnson County Lutherans for Life, led by Dennis Hixson and Jeanne Mackay and in honor of the late Dr. Gene and Dr. Lunetta Pearce, hosted a benefit for Alexandra's House at Hope Lutheran Church in Lenexa on Saturday, June 28. The event featured a delicious gourmet meal prepared by Chef Randy Webb and marvelous musical performances by five members of Broadway for Life.

Broadway for Life is a strictly volunteer based fundraising organization committed to helping crisis pregnancy centers, life education organizations, and family care services raise money and community awareness through benefit concerts. Actors, actresses, and musicians from all across the Midwest volunteer their time and talents to help produce and put on these benefit shows. Vocalists from Kansas City were Gary Gosa, Paul Hart, Sara Werner, and Stephen Rew, with St. Louis native Julie O'Neill joining the cast. Popular songs from *Cabaret*, *South Pacific*, *Guys and Dolls* and many other hit Broadway shows were performed. The rendition of each song was stupendous and had

Corporate Friends

We'd like to publicly thank the following groups for their donations of time, talents, and treasures:

you closed your eyes but for a moment, you would have believed you were in another place and time.

It was truly a fantastic event, attended by nearly 100 people, with the time passing much too quickly. Broadway for Life performers ask for money for transportation only and as Lutherans For Life covered the other expenses, 100% of the money raised was given to Alexandra's House. Our deepest gratitude we send to each of you. For more information go to:

<http://www.schuermann.us/bfl/Site/Broadway%20For%20Life.html>

<http://www.lutheransforlife.org>

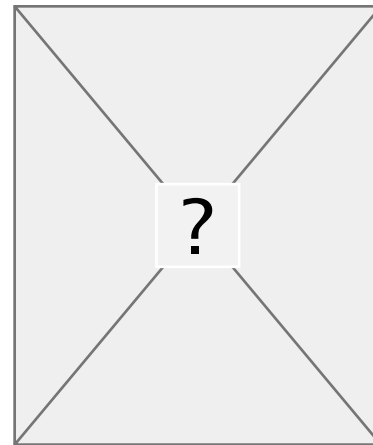
Author, Artist Writes Children's Book

Kathe Higgins, gifted artist and writer, presented Alexandra's House with an original, unique, and beautiful book, "Alexandra's House, a Place to Share". Kathe, a Chicago native, learned of Alexandra's House last year when she visited her daughter and family in Leawood, Kansas. Because of Kathe's compassion, this ministry touched her heart. She generously lent her talents in art and poetry to help our families in their grief through this book.

"Alexandra's House, a Place to Share" will be distributed to the siblings of our babies. Kathe's beautiful drawings of angels, hearts, flowers and lambs are exquisite. The poetry is beautiful and filled with love for the children.

Until recently, Kathe was a High School English and drama teacher. She starts a new career this fall semester as a guidance counselor at a Chicago Catholic High School. She is the mother of four children and the grandmother of

five. "Alexandra's House, a Place to Share" is just one example of her kindness.



A Little Wish List

If groups are looking for small things to collect, we could use:

- Forever stamps
- Gas cards
- Very small plush lambs and teddy bears
- Disposable cameras
- Hand print imprint kits
- Hard DVD storage covers
- CD/DVD mailing boxes
