

MOTHER-TO-MOTHER NEWSLETTER



Welcome new M2Mers

- MaKayla Watkins is from Puxico and will have her baby in June.
- Harley Peloquin of Dexter expects her baby to arrive in July.
- Brooke Barnfield of Puxico looks forward to the arrival of her child in June.
- Brittany Graves of Dexter expects her child in October.
- Julie Maslinski lives in Dexter and will have her baby in August.
- Jordan Adams is a Dexter resident, and her baby will be born in June.

New Kids on the M2M Block

- A daughter, Jaelin Dawn, was born to Chelsea Snider on Feb. 13.
- A daughter, Melody RyAnne, was born to Heather Voss on Feb. 18.

Say a little prayer for

- **June Chen**, an M2M mentor and good friend, who continues her battle with cancer.
- **Rick Grossman**, who is battling cancer. **Rick** is the husband of our good friend and mentor, **Darla Grossman**.

Congrats! Bravo! Atta Girl! You're Awesome! Way to Go! You Go, Girl! Hurrah!

Ashley Grubbs and **Jennifer Middleton** earned their GEDs. The General Education Development Certificate is much more than a piece of paper that can be put in a frame and hung on the wall; it is a tool that can reshape and improve lives. We salute these young women who have earned the right to compete for good jobs and advance their educations to an even higher level. Their lives will be enriched in economic as well as personal rewards, but it is **Jennifer's** son, **Gage**, and the child that **Ashley** still carries within her who will continue to reap the long-range benefits of their mothers' achievements. In addition to their personal accomplishments, **Ashley** and **Jennifer** can also take pride in having been the first young mothers in our organization to have earned their certificates through the Mother-to-Mother GED Program. Our program is not only for M2M participants but is also open to any Stoddard County parent under the age of thirty who qualifies. The program, under the direction of **Pam Lewis**, enrolled its first student last fall and has already produced five GED certificates, two of which belong to **Ashley Grubbs** and **Jennifer Middleton**.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to

- the Agape Circle at the Methodist Church in Dexter. M2M has enjoyed an abiding relationship with these fine ladies for several years, and we are most appreciative of their continued generosity. This past Christmas when their representative inquired about the needs of our young families, we discussed the need for cleaning supplies such as laundry and dish detergent, cleaners, fabric softener, etc. To some, these items may have seemed unlikely to appear on a Christmas list, but considering how expensive they have become at the store, Tide and Dawn and Windex and Downy were very good presents indeed! Thank you, ladies of the Agape Circle, for giving us the essentials: cleaning supplies and your love.

March STARZ

- **Elizabeth Bryant**. **Elizabeth** reported that her daughter, **Heather**, has already uttered her first word. Now when **Heather** reaches for her bottle, she says *ba-bu*. At only six months of age, **Heather** is beginning to realize the power that only language can give us. Miraculously, little **Heather** will continue to learn new words and gain new skills every day of her life. We at M2M feel privileged to witness this miracle as we watch children learn and grow.
- **Harley Peloquin**. This mom-to-be expects her baby to arrive in mid-July. The baby is a boy and has already begun making himself known to his mother by kicking and moving about. **Harley**, who was accompanied by her sister, enjoyed her first Fun, Food, and Fellowship meeting with us and was well on the way to creating her first scrapbook pages with lots of ultra-sound images.

- **Heather Maclin.** This busy young mother really got into the cutting and pasting that went on during our scrapbooking event. Her daughters, **Hannah** and **Alyssa**, were left in the care of others while **Heather** enjoyed her morning with us, but the two little girls are never far from their mother's mind as evidenced in her STARZ report. We learned that **Hannah** is close to mastering the recitation of the whole alphabet and more importantly, is COMPLETELY potty-trained. However, you might want to think twice about asking **Hannah** if she is potty-trained because she has been known to show you her "big girl" panties just to prove her new status. **Alyssa** is sporting her first two teeth and loves to show them off in her big smile. Right now some of her favorite activities are pulling hair—she prefers her sister's—and rolling around the floor and all over HER SISTER.
- **Tosha Montezuma.** **Tosha's** STARZ report described how her daughter, **Kylie**, has already rolled over for the first time and will soon be sitting up all by herself. At five months of age, **Kylie** laughs out loud and "talks" all the time. In our opinion, **Kylie** has inherited her mother's bubbly personality and good looks. **Tosha** always manages to make us smile, EVEN AT WAL-MART, where she works hard to make everyone a "satisfied customer."
- **Samantha Spencer.** By the time you read this or shortly thereafter, this VERY EXPECTANT mother EXPECTS to have her baby girl. Although **Samantha's** due date is March 28, she has already been experiencing labor pains that have sent her to the doctor twice. Considering all this excitement, **Samantha** remained remarkably calm during our meeting and seemed totally focused on the presentation. However, Beth, Linda, and Yvonne breathed a sigh of relief that **Samantha** did not go into labor that morning. Had little **Ivie Rose Spencer** chosen to arrive during our scrapbooking activity, that would have truly been one for all our scrapbooks!
- **Whitney Hickman.** Her son, **Wyatt**, grows more independent by the minute as he wants to try everything for himself. For instance, this young man has no need for a "sippy" cup as he now drinks from a real glass with only an occasional spill. In exerting his independence, **Wyatt** makes use of four to five word sentences to get his point across. **Whitney** continues to do well in her college classes and has already "aced" three tests this semester.
- **Amber Lomax.** Daughter, **Destiny**, who celebrated her second birthday on February 22, is drinking from an open cup and trying to do lots of other things on her own. **Amber**, who will graduate from Bloomfield High School in a few months, also told us that **Destiny** is signed up to attend the Headstart program when she turns three. That means that as one of the Lomax girls exits the schoolhouse doors, another one will enter. To be continued. . . .
- **Hailey Payne.** This mother and her son, **Samuel**, traveled to our scrapbooking session from Puxico. **Sam** did not do much cutting and pasting; however, he did enjoy pushing/pulling our book cart from room to room. **Samuel** now talks in short sentences and **Hailey** is teaching him to use good manners when speaking to others. She must be a good teacher because young **Sam** said *thank you* when we gave him a cup of marshmallows and *please* when he wanted a refill. **Sam** now feeds himself without help and likes to play ball and sing. Here lately, his favorite song has been "Hillbilly Bone." As for **Hailey**, she is looking forward to singing a "good-bye" song to Puxico High School when she graduates in May.
- **Melissa Manis.** Little **Jacob** has discovered his feet and likes to keep them near his face. Adults should not discount **Jacob's** "feet feat" until they try to emulate it. Those who try and fail might want to eat more carrots because that's what **Jacob** has been doing! **Melissa**, like all mothers, is her son's FIRST and BEST teacher. She encourages his "talking" by repeating the sounds of the alphabet, and reports that **Jacob** likes the soothing sounds of the *J* and the *Z*.
- **Brittany Graves.** **Brittany** had not yet become an official member of M2M when she attended the meeting on February 20. She had stopped by the office during the previous week to inquire about our program and set up a date to complete the application process, so we invited her to attend F, F, and F and look us over. Apparently, **Brittany** liked what she saw and did at the meeting because she completed the paperwork and is now a full-fledged member of our organization. Her baby is due in October and she said, "We want a boy, but a girl will be just as special." We at M2M welcome **Brittany** and all of our new participants because ALL of YOU are special to us.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

- **Continue to save pull tabs** from all beverage cans and bring them to the M2M Office. The M2Mer who brought in the largest number of tabs was **Christy Moore**. We have a prize for you, **Christy!**
- **Pick up your M2M notebook** at the next playgroup. **Earn baby bucks** by keeping informational handouts in the notebook and bringing it to each playgroup.
- **BIRTH CONTROL** pills, PAP smears, and a variety of health services are available at an AFFORDABLE COST through TWO SOURCES: the Stoddard County Health Center in Bloomfield at 568- 4593 and DAEOC's Women's Healthcare Services in Dexter at 624-8773. Both require a PAP smear before dispensing birth control pills. Payment for the PAP smear is \$20 at the health center. Payment at DAEOC's Women's Health Services is based on a sliding scale according to income. Call for an appointment.

REMEMBER that taking antibiotics may diminish the pill's effectiveness and that an alternative method of birth control should be used. If you miss taking a birth control pill for two days in a row you should talk with your doctor or health unit immediately for further instructions. The strength of each birth control pill is formulated to prevent conception for only 24 hours, so it is **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT YOU TAKE YOUR PILL AT THE SAME TIME EACH DAY.**

Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, March 2:** Don't miss out on the fun at story hour at Keller Public Library at 10:15. Retired teachers, Marty Thompson and Andrea Duckworth, will read *Wide Mouth Frog* and *Jump Frog, Jump* and then help kids as they make their very own frogs to carry home with them.
- **Tuesday, March 2:** Be at M2M Playgroup@Cox Corner at 6 p.m. for a program called "How Do I Sound?" Bring along your favorite children's book because we are going to TRY to record your voice as you read a story to your child. Our plan—if we can figure out how to do it—is to transfer these recordings to CDs that will provide you and your child with enjoyment for years to come. Melanie Stoelting of Dexter PAT will be in charge of M2M's first-ever recording session, and that SOUNDS like fun to us!
- **Tuesday, March 9:** At 10:15, story hour at Keller Public Library will feature Loretta Reid reading *Sooty*, a book about a very special wood-burning cookstove. Bring your child to this event and expect to learn lots of interesting things about life in the "good old days."
- **Thursday, March 11:** Scrapbooking/Mom's Night Out@Cox Corner at 6 p.m. Zenita Smith will be there to help you to arrange those precious memories on the pages of a scrapbook.
- **Tuesday, March 16:** Keller Public Library invites you to wear your green and join in the whimsical fun at 10:15 a.m. as Judith Perkins reads all about St. Patrick's Day. You might even find a pot o' gold!
- **Thursday, March 18:** Melanie Stoelting of Dexter PAT will present a program about infant vision at the SCHC Baby Shower at the health center. Sign in at 2:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 20:** Mentors meet at 9:30 at Cox Corner.
- **Saturday, March 20:** F+F+F invites YOU to a GIGANTIC BIRTHDAY PARTY. "Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss" will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Cox Corner. Our plan is to sing, dance, play and eat and then PLAY some more! Come help us honor this man whose books have *pages* that appeal to all *ages*.
- **Tuesday, March 23:** Mark Reed, Missouri Conservation Agent, will bring his knowledge of animals to Keller Public Library at 10:15 a.m. Experience fur and hides "hands-on."
- **Tuesday, March 23:** Puxico PAT will meet at 6 p.m. at Little Indians Preschool for a program called "A Trip to the Zoo." Courtney and Co. will be your "tour guides," so you are sure to have lots of fun.
- **Saturday, March 27:** You are invited to "Easter EGGS-travaganza," sponsored by Dexter PAT. The activities will begin at 10 a.m. inside and outside the gym at Southwest Elementary School.
- **Tuesday, March 30:** Melanie Stoelting of Dexter PAT will read about *The Hungry Caterpillar* during another fun-filled story hour at Keller Public Library. Be there at 10:15 a.m. and expect to smile!

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