



PRESS RELEASE
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HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS SUPPORT HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS AFFECTED BY HIV

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – This week, DOORWAYS made available for purchase greeting cards designed by seven year old La’Mya that celebrate having a home for the holidays at <http://www.doorwayshousing.org/2014/doorways-holiday-cards/>. All proceeds from the sale of the card will benefit DOORWAYS Interfaith Housing’s work to end homelessness for more than 2,000 men, women, and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Its focus is driven by the research that shows that housing is healthcare in both assisting those already infected with HIV and in prevention of the transmission of this life-threatening virus. Packages of 10 are just \$15.

La’Mya’s winning design was chosen by Facebook fans from among seven designs from children in DOORWAYS’ Residential program for families affected by HIV/AIDS. This program provides 103 apartment units at seven sites located throughout the City of St. Louis, which are home to more than 200 people, of which more than a third are children. The Residential program serves people affected by HIV/AIDS who are capable of independent living, but whose financial and health issues limit their ability to pay fair market rent. Many of the individuals and families in the DOORWAYS Residential Program have faced a history of poverty and trauma from violence or abuse. Many came from neighborhoods plagued by drugs and other illegal activity. Living in Residential Facilities provides our clients the ability to live in an affordable safe place where they can be healthy and safe.

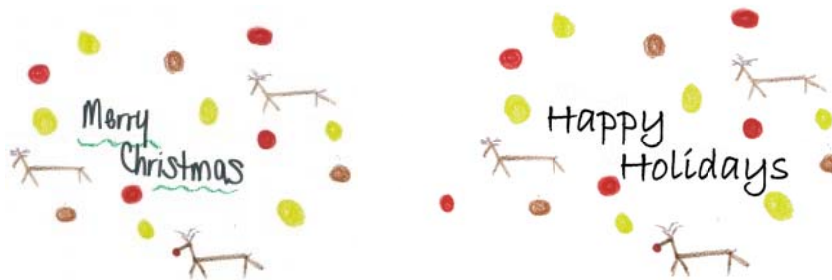
While the majority of Residential clients are single-person households, a significant portion are families with children. DOORWAYS’ response to the needs of families is represented by Mama Nyumba (Swahili for “my mother’s house”) and Kaya Malaika (Swahili for “village of little angels”), two residential complexes that together comprise DOORWAYS’ Family Residential Program. Built between 2000 and 2003, the Mama/Kaya complex is one of the few AIDS-housing developments in the nation specifically designed to meet the needs of single parents. Two buildings adjacent to one another provide 29 units of varying sizes to families and their children. An enclosed courtyard provides a place for children’s recreation, and there are community rooms available for counseling and workshops and a Learning Center with computers, a television and educational books, tapes and toys. The complex was designed with the capacity to provide supportive educational services and a base from which families could be referred to medical care and social services. –more–

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“This type of housing is important because nearly all the women with children at Mama/Kaya are struggling to maintain a healthy lifestyle in the face of little to no income while living with a debilitating disease,” Opal M. Jones, DOORWAYS President and CEO said. “A lack of stable housing for those living with HIV is linked to poor health indicators, more hospitalizations, greater emergency room visits, and even early death, *immediate housing placement overwhelmingly increases health and reduces AIDS mortality*. It is not too bold a statement to say the purchase of these cards saves lives.”

DOORWAYS is an interfaith non-profit organization that provides housing and related supportive services to improve quality of life and health outcomes for people affected by HIV/AIDS. Through direct service delivery and the efforts of identified program partners, DOORWAYS’ programs and services annually benefit 1,000 households living with HIV/AIDS in the 15-county St. Louis metropolitan area, 62 under-served counties in outstate Missouri, and another 55 under-served counties in outstate Illinois. In Saint Louis, to volunteer or to donate, please visit www.doorwayshousing.org, www.facebook.com/DoorwaysAIDS Housing or www.twitter.com/DOORWAYS.

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or

Both say inside

**Warm holiday greetings from
our home to yours!**

The back says



DOORWAYS would like to thank Li' Mya and the children of Mama Nyumba and Kaya Malaka for their creative drawings for our 2014 Holiday Card.

Over the past year DOORWAYS has served more than 2,500 men, women and children.