

Winter 2014

# Lima's Samaritan House News



## 21st Annual Holiday Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

It's that time! As unprepared as I was to see Christmas displays lining the stores before Halloween, I still couldn't help but feel a tingle of excitement for the spirit of the season. It is with hopeful anticipation that I invite you to be part of the Samaritan House's 21st Annual Holiday Gift Wrapping Fundraiser. This event not only helps to raise much needed operating funding but also raises awareness of homelessness within our community.

The booth will be located at DeHaven Home and Garden Showplace in Lima from December 15<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a free service although donations are gladly accepted. Funds raised by this event help provide continued service to the many women and children who call Samaritan House home throughout the year.

Interested in volunteering? We would be delighted to have you and/or members of your group, organization, or club join us! Most shifts are three hours and require four to six volunteers.

If you, or someone you know, would like to help but are unable to volunteer your time, there are other ways to show your support. You might consider donating supplies, such as wrapping paper, gift boxes, ribbons, bows, tape, etc. Supplies can be dropped off at the shelter or directly to the booth once it is open. You can also support us by bringing gifts to be wrapped and letting others know about this helpful service.

If you would like to schedule a time to volunteer or have any questions, you can reach me by phone at 419.222.4663 or by email at [blschroeder@embarqmail.com](mailto:blschroeder@embarqmail.com). You can also check available volunteer shifts and sign up through VolunteerSpot by clicking the button on our homepage at [samaritanhouselima.com](http://samaritanhouselima.com).

Thanks again to all of you for your continued support. We couldn't do it without you!

In **Joy** and **Peace**,

Brandi

## 21st Annual Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Whether it's just a few gifts or a trunk full - we would be happy to help you "wrap it up"!

**DeHaven Home and Garden Showplace in Lima**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> - December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday through Saturday 10-7**

**Sunday 12-5 and Christmas Eve 9-1**

### Samaritan House Mission Statement

Restoring personal dignity and independence to homeless women and their children by providing shelter, hope and guidance.

### Samaritan House Vision Statement

Lima's Samaritan House, Inc. will be recognized as the community leader in providing quality service to homeless women and their children with integrity through empowerment, education, financial stability and networking.

### Samaritan House Staff

Marilyn Cipollone,  
Executive Director

Brandi Schroeder,  
Assistant Director

Janel Engberg,  
Case Manager

House Managers:  
Alice Donahue  
Linda Donahue  
Evelyn Johnson  
Debra Lockett  
Sharon Pitson  
Nicki Tata  
Julie Wilson

328 W McKibben Street  
Lima, Ohio 45801  
(419) 222-HOME (4663)  
[samaritanhouselima.com](http://samaritanhouselima.com)

## Protective Arms



We were happy in the 1922 Victorian home we rented in Youngstown, Ohio. It was a big house and provided plenty

of wide spaces and nooks and crannies for my 4 and 7 year old grandsons to play and hide. I have had custody of the boys since before the youngest learned to walk. Their aunt, my 20 year old daughter, and I make up the rest of our little family.

I have serious neurological issues which will ultimately result in a procedure to fuse vertebrae in my lower back. Because of this condition, I take some rather strong pain killers. An addict wanted these badly enough to point a 40 caliber Glock at my head and demand I hand them over. Already vulnerable, having this gunman in my kitchen terrified me and rendered me temporarily helpless. My daughter also saw the end of the barrel until she dropped her cell phone. I began praying to God to soften the intruder's heart and to not allow us to be harmed. The thief stole my money and prescriptions, but we were alive and that of course is what mattered most.

The police arrived and took the report. I believe the young man who had

taken care of my lawn for over a year, was responsible; he knew the exact day, each month, I picked up my medication. When the intruder was outside my door, he tried to disguise his voice to sound like he was from the Middle East; Chris, who mowed the yard, was Pakistani.

**“With my family and garbage bags of clothes, we pulled up in front of the Samaritan House. I felt safe even without knowing what it would be like.”**

I knew I would never again feel safe in that house. I started bagging our clothes and everything else I could pack and we drove to Findlay, Ohio where my 32 year old son lives. We had no plans for where we were going to live and very little money. We placed our faith in God to guide us on our journey. We made many phone calls and finally we were lead to the Samaritan House in Lima. We had no idea what it would be like but I told my family we no longer have anything or anyone to fear. Let the Lord lead our path.

With my family and garbage bags of clothes, we pulled up in front of the Samaritan House. I felt safe even without knowing what it would be like. We were met by a caring smiling face as we entered the house. The rules we were

shown for living at the shelter were clear and reasonable. Our family has always had certain rules to follow. The only thing different was sharing life with other families with children. I enjoy it immensely. The women are a joy to work with and cook with; we all pitch in and do clean-up after meals. Daily chores are appropriated fairly and the Samaritan House is beautiful to live in!

My boys have built friendships with the other children like one big happy family. I so much enjoy talking with the other mothers and have built close relationships - something I was not really used to before. I stayed mostly home-bound. Now I have women who share similar stories about the circumstances that led to the Samaritan House.

I know that once we find a new home and start over, I will dearly miss the staff and families we have all bonded with. I also know that it would be an honor for me to return and volunteer in any way I could to help staff and new mothers with children. I have to say I thank the Lord for choosing this path for us and look forward to continuing on the path wherever He leads us. Thank you all at the Samaritan House for making us feel like a family and keeping us safe!

~ Deb & Family

TOGETHER WE CAN AND DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! WILL YOU HELP?

Please find my tax-deductible contribution enclosed for the following donation:

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting a separate receipt for my gift. \_\_\_\_

Please note any person being recognized for a birthday, memorial, etc., along with their address. A separate acknowledgement will be sent to the recipient excluding the dollar amount.

**With your support, over the past year alone, 22,219 meals have been served and 7,526 shelter units (one person, one night) have been provided to 333 women and children.**

**THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF LIMA'S SAMARITAN HOUSE THANK YOU!**



## Past Resident Gives Thanks

I just want to take the time to thank you for all that you do in supporting the Samaritan House. I, Kristina Hazeltine, was a resident August 2, 2012 through November 2, 2012. While I was there, it seemed to be an incredibly dark moment in my life and I often questioned God why he would allow me to experience such hard times, all while trusting in the fact that he is sovereign, and in control of all things.

As I reflect back to the time I was there, I wouldn't change it for the world. I was able to learn some basic life skills as well as gain a perspective on what it's like to live without. As Paul says in Philippians 4:12: "I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want." Being homeless, taught me to be content in what I have to thank God for — all that he truly has blessed me with. Lastly, while I was there I was able to witness two girls come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through my inviting them to church. Although Samaritan House is not a faith-based facility, my time there has strengthened my relationship with Jesus Christ more than any other single event in my life, besides salvation.

I hope in writing this I can encourage the ladies of the house as well as the donors to trust in God even when things seem hopeless.

In Christ,

*Kristina Hazeltine*

(Luke 16:10)

Thinking about how you can get involved? Please contact Brandi Schroeder or Marilyn Cipollone at 419.222.4663 or by email at [samhouselima@embarqmail.com](mailto:samhouselima@embarqmail.com).

Find out more by visiting us on the web at [www.samaritanhouselima.com](http://www.samaritanhouselima.com)

## From the Director . . .

### Gathering Moss



As early as late October, we began receiving calls asking us how many children would be staying at the shelter on Christmas. At the time, there were twenty, however, on December 25 there could be more — or less. There could be as many as thirty five or, as happened one Christmas, there may be none. A few years ago there were no kids living at Samaritan House on Christmas day. I remember thinking, at the time, that was a good thing; very unusual, but good nonetheless.

Lately, I have been reflecting on my own childhood and how I grew up in the same house with my two parents and my sister; went to the same school and celebrated Christmas at home with family every single year. How fortunate I had been! My wanderings and memories, I realize, are becoming more and more sentimental. However, this comes with age, or so I am told. Thinking back, I am so very grateful that I never had to worry about food or shelter or having someone be there for me when I came home for school. I believe having these securities are basic things no child should have to worry about. Granted, there are those who have shared with me that their "unsettled" childhood helped them develop character; made them who they are today. I applaud these folks but, for me, there were plenty of opportunities to "develop character" once I left home as a young adult.

So it was while in this mindset of childhood and of "hearth and home," that I asked a group of students how they would interpret the old proverb, *a rolling stone gathers no moss*. I must admit I was not prepared for the unequivocal and overall response. Every one of them said something similar, and to the effect that it meant that if you stay in the same place, you will become stale, stagnant and boring; that you need to keep moving if you want to remain fresh. I later asked one of my adult children, two co-workers and a volunteer and got the same response, albeit they were all under forty.

I concede; the proverb has taken on a whole new meaning. Still, I find it nearly inconceivable that not one single person waived on their belief that "*gathering moss*" would be undesirable. The original intent of the parable, with the meaning I have always associated with this *moss analogy*, is that if one is always on the move, no roots will grow, responsibilities are avoided. According to Wikipedia it relates to other Latin proverbs that refer to "a frequently replanted plant or tree (respectively) that yields little fruit." It appears that the original intent saw the growth of moss as desirable, and that it was meant to condemn mobility as unprofitable. I guess I shouldn't be all that surprised; it's a new generation, I learn from the young all the time. We'll go with the flow.

And so it remains, my hope for all children this Holiday Season is that they will be with someone they love and who loves them in return. Of course, I pray they all eventually have stable homes where they feel safe and where good memories can begin to mount up. Whether they become rolling stones or "moss gatherers" like me, I wish them peace and hope — always hope, for a brighter tomorrow.

On behalf of the entire Staff at Samaritan House, we wish you a blessed Holiday Season and thank you for your continued efforts in helping us serve the homeless.

~Marilyn



**Samaritan House**  
**328 W. McKibben St.**  
**Lima, OH 45801**  
**samaritanhouselima.com**

**Address Service Requested**

**NON-PROFIT**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
**LIMA, OHIO**  
**PERMIT # 236**

**Samaritan House  
 Board of Directors**

- Beverly Miller, President
- David Stein, Vice President
- John Willamowski, Secretary
- Greg Schade, Treasurer
- Judie Bourk
- Adam Brayton
- Kevin Cheney
- Carole Dugan
- Jason Flower
- Claire Mackey
- Lou Markiewicz
- Karen Martindell
- Norene Parish
- Alexandra Petrey
- Marketa Robinson
- Barb Schade
- Debbie Urban

**Samaritan House Wish List**

**Most Needed: Rubbing Alcohol, Copy Paper, Pocket Folders,  
 Disposable Gloves, Tall Can Trash Bags, Canned Beef/  
 Chicken, Frozen Meat, Totes, Sidewalk Salt, Toilet Bowl &  
 Bathroom Cleaners, Antibiotic Ointment**



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| <p><b>Grocery Items:</b><br/>         Cooking oil Cheese<br/>         Eggs Salt &amp; pepper<br/>         Butter Coffee<br/>         Creamer Sugar<br/>         Canned pasta &amp; fruit<br/>         Canned veggies &amp; soups<br/>         Drink mixes<br/>         Sandwich meats<br/>         Boxed meals &amp; mixes<br/>         Salad dressing Rice<br/>         Dried beans Ketchup<br/>         Mayonnaise<br/>         Kids' snacks</p> <p><b>Office Supplies:</b><br/>         Basic office supplies<br/>         Postage stamps<br/>         Notebooks<br/>         Legal pads</p> | <p><b>Household Items:</b><br/>         Ziploc bags Foil<br/>         Large trash bags<br/>         Silverware Dish soap<br/>         Grocery bags Bleach<br/>         Spray disinfectant<br/>         Bed bug spray<br/>         Laminate floor cleaner<br/>         Linoleum floor cleaner<br/>         Mops Brooms<br/>         Air/fabric freshener<br/>         Fabric softener<br/>         Laundry detergent<br/>         Hand sanitizer<br/>         Curtains/rods<br/>         Drain opener<br/>         Toilet paper<br/>         New vacuum cleaners<br/>         Furniture polish<br/>         Storage containers</p> | <p><b>Children/Infant:</b><br/>         Cold/sinus medicine<br/>         Girls underwear<br/>         Diaper rash cream</p> <p><b>Other Items:</b><br/>         Tylenol/Ibuprofen<br/>         Cold/sinus medication<br/>         Women's underwear -<br/>         sizes 6-8<br/>         Good condition steel-<br/>         toed shoes/boots<br/>         (needed for many of the<br/>         available jobs)<br/>         Wal-Mart/Meijer/Chiefs<br/>         gift cards<br/>         Gift wrapping supplies</p> <p>Questions? Call<br/>         (419) 222-4663</p> |
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