

Samaritan House News

Homeless Shelter For Women and Their Children



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You know those moments when you laugh and cry simultaneously? For instance when the ceiling is leaking and you know it's the bathroom upstairs but you imagine that it is the building crying because it is so tired? And you understand because you feel the same way. Keeping Samaritan House afloat is not without its challenges. It is a grand, exquisite, old building. She is steadfast; solid and patient. After nearly two years of working to secure funding to replace 28 of our aging windows - they are nearly ready to be installed. Caring for the facility and the needs of our residents requires a lot of perseverance and an incredible amount of support. It can be both heartbreaking and beautiful. We have learned to take it one year at a time.

What we know for the coming year is that we will receive 55% of our funding through a federal grant. We weren't certain these funds would be available so receiving this news was of course encouraging, but was quickly overshadowed by the gut wrenching challenge of raising the additional dollars needed to continue serving. But honestly, the bottom line is that we are still in the same boat as we have been for many years. I have been with Samaritan House for nearly eighteen years and most years there was no assurance there would be a next. But here we are. Perspective is a funny thing. Fear would tell us to jump from a sinking ship. Faith reminds us we still have a boat.

You may never know how much your words of encouragement, prayers, donations and involvement mean but if you spend a day here, you would see how much it matters. Many of us would cringe at the thought of having to live in a shelter and share our space with strangers yet, I had a mother of four tell me just last week that she doesn't mind living here. She feels cared for, protected, encouraged and loved. She *feels* home. She is working and saving to be able to move to a place of her own but right now, this is home and that is possible because of you. May you have a blessed year and always find joy in the moment. ~Brandi

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

You are officially invited to be part of Samaritan House's 22nd Annual Holiday Gift Wrapping Fundraiser. This event not only helps to raise much needed operating funds but also raises awareness of homelessness within our community. The booth will be located at DeHaven Home and Garden Showplace in Lima from December 15th through the 24th, Monday thru Saturday 10-7, Sunday 12-5 and Christmas Eve 9-1. This is a free service although donations are gladly accepted.

Most shifts are set at three hours and we are in need of four to six volunteers per shift. To sign up, visit the *How to Help* page on our website at samaritanhousetilima.org. If you 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. You can also support us by bringing gifts to be wrapped and letting others know about this helpful service.

We appreciate your support - on either side of the table!

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*"Even those who
have very little
are lifted when
they give from
the heart."*

**A Place to
Lay My Head:**
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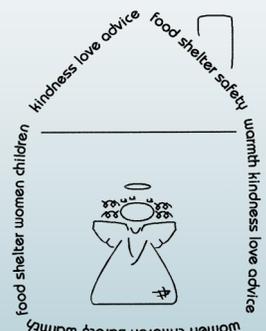
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samaritanhousetilima.org



Adopt-A-Room - *Work in Progress*

By Chris Kirkendall

This past summer, we announced our intention to revive the Adopt-A-Room project which pairs interested individuals or groups with one of our 17 bedrooms; assigning them with freshening, redecorating, and sometimes with repairs and restoration. The response has been wonderful! So far, nine rooms have been adopted and two completed. The rooms that have been redone have a refreshed and peaceful feel to them that goes way beyond just being redecorated. These rooms have been lovingly worked on and cared for



als, groups, and organizations to partner with us in freshening and redecorating our residents' rooms.

Most of our rooms are in need of a fresh coat of paint and much of the woodwork could benefit from restoration. And, whenever possible, we also like to add new artwork and decorative items that provide a very important personal touch. As can be expected, some of our rooms need more attention than others. For example, some doors, plaster and dressers may need repaired or replaced while others require less work,



warmth and be more inviting. We would like our shelter to always feel safe and be a comfort during the sometimes difficult transition from homelessness to independence. Over the years, it has also become evident that the nicer our facility is, the more pride our women and children take in their surroundings and care for their personal space.

We hope that you will consider partnering with us as we work to make a difference in the lives of these families. We are continuing to look for individu-



with the residents in mind. Through the generosity of Service Master by Case, the carpets in all bedrooms and living spaces have also been cleaned.

It is only through the involvement and generosity of the community that we are able to continue to restore dignity and hope to those who call Samaritan House home. Over 300 women and children are served annually and while some residents may need to stay only a night or two, many will spend several weeks or even a couple of months with us. While our facility certainly meets the needs of our women and children, many of the rooms are still in need of a make-over that would provide added



time and money. We have rooms to fit all budgets, work schedules and capabilities. If you are skilled in some aspects but need assistance in others, for example replacing a door, we can work to partner with you in order to complete the project. If you would prefer not to take on an entire room, but are willing and able to repair plaster or are a skilled painter, we can certainly use your help as well.

For further information about the Adopt-A-Room project or other ways you can contribute and get involved, visit us at samaritanhouselima.org.

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, 20,232 meals have been served and 6,775 shelter units (one person, one night) have been provided over 300 women and children.

The women and children of Lima's Samaritan House thank you!

This past summer I was faced with foreclosure. I had lived in my home for thirty years. To say the least I was devastated. Where could I go?

Many of my friends told of different places to apply; none of which had immediate openings. The church I attended helped me put a garage sale together. Some of my items I just gave away. I lost so much- even some of my pictures had to go. A close friend and his wife helped in many ways, for which I'm thankful for. They introduced me to a woman who opened her apartment to me. However, when we found out she could lose her apartment (she was living in subsidized housing) if I stayed too long, my friends suggested Lima's Samaritan House.

When I contacted the shelter, I was overwhelmed and anxious. I was afraid I wouldn't qualify to become a resident and I had nowhere else to go. No family member could take me in. I came to Samaritan House near the end of September and it has been a blessing! I have met many different women; some with similar circumstances, some different, and all without a place to live. The women and children help to lift my spirit when I am down. Many of them call me grandma or mom. The staff has been very helpful. They encourage me and help me to set goals toward getting out on my own again. I am very grateful for the Samaritan House. I have a place to bathe, food to eat and, at night, a place to lay my head.

I am still a little afraid about where I will go from here but my SSI finally came through so I am hopeful. I feel Samaritan House is an amazing place that helps people find housing, get back on their feet, and gives hope to those who need it. I have plans to give back to the shelter by volunteering my time once I move into my own place. I want to help empower other women and children as I have been empowered. ~ Anonymous

This resident speaks of the women and children she has met at the shelter who have lifted her spirits. I might add that she has been a blessing to others as well. Earlier this week, I spent an hour with the residents just having an informal gathering and playing a game of Pictionary. They all seem to enjoy guessing and, although most claim they cannot draw, they do a good job of getting the idea across. Even those who may be feeling a little disheartened are laughing by the time the game is over. Everyone wins a prize but the top three winners are given the opportunity to choose first. Winner number two chose a prize and gave it to someone who wasn't able to play. In turn, the resident who wrote this chose a prize for the one who gave hers away. This seemingly small gesture of kindness may seem insignificant to some but for me, it was a reminder that even those who have very little are lifted when they give from the heart. It lifted mine for the whole day! Marilyn Cipollone, Asst. Director

Wish List

Grocery Items: Sugar, Butter, Coffee Creamer, Frozen & Lunch Meat, Regular Coffee, Kids Snacks, Cheese, Cooking Oil, Eggs, Boxed Meals & Mixes

Office Supplies: Postage Stamps, Pocket Folders, Copy Paper, Wide-ruled Single Notebooks

Household Items: Disinfecting Wipes, Gallon-size Storage Bags, Floor Cleaner for Laminate/ Linoleum, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, Bathroom Cleaner, Furniture Polish, Air/Fabric Freshener, New Vacuum Cleaners, Clear Packing Tape, Bleach, Laundry Baskets

Misc: 10 Pack Bus Passes , Arthritis Cream, Ladies Belts, Good Condition Steeled Toed Shoes/ Boots sizes 5-9, Bed Bug Covers, Hair Spray, Hairbrushes, Wal-Mart/Meijer/Chiefs Gift Cards, Gift Wrap Supplies, Tennis Shoes Sizes 5-9, Small Prizes For Ladies & Children, Sidewalk Salt

Bold: Items Most Needed

Family Fun Night

We all know how important quality time with family and friends is to us. Imagine if you didn't have an opportunity to spend a relaxing day or an evening visiting with each other, enjoying good food and having fun. We would like our residents to be able to enjoy some light-hearted fun and connection as well. We are looking for groups that would be willing to provide a meal and entertainment, or games/crafts for our residents to enjoy. This could be a one-time event or as often as once a month.

Some ideas include a Mexican fiesta night, pizza and crafts, a cookout with yard games or maybe an outdoor movie night with hotdogs and popcorn. Perhaps you

have a special talent you could share - singing, playing guitar, or amateur magician, etc. We welcome your ideas and hope you will partner with us. If you are unable to come to the shelter but would still like to help, we are looking for fun craft kits for the ladies, children, or for a family project. If you would like to participate or to find out more, contact us at (419) 222-4663 or samaritanhouselima.org.





Samaritan House

Samaritan House
328 W. McKibben St.
Lima, OH 45801

samaritanhouselima.org
Address Service Requested

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Mission Statement

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

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.



22nd 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 15th - December 24th
Monday - Saturday 10-7, Sunday 12-5
Christmas Eve 9-1