

# Samaritan House News

Homeless Shelter For Women and Their Children



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## A Lofty Lesson

By: Marilyn Cipollone

The old oak tree in my back yard is now playing host to small flocks of sparrows. I'm glad not all birds migrate south as I do enjoy watching them and they never cease to amaze me. Instinct drives them to build nests for their eggs and to place those nests in high branches where their young are least vulnerable. There are no pretenses; they don't feel the need to build fancy or elaborate accommodations in order to gain status in the *neighborhood*. No, they inherently do what it takes to make sure their species live on.



A remarkable example of this can be seen in a documentary chronicling the 1930's *Dust Bowl*. For nearly a decade, farm families living on the American Plains, faced famine and deadly illnesses from a drought that seemed to last forever! Those who lived through it will forever be admired for their tenacity and perseverance against nearly insurmountable odds. But while filming the documentary, the photographer/film maker

caught something else on camera that made such an indelible impression that I feel I must share it. I will never forget it. It is a nest (quite a large one) built by a crow. It is built completely of barbed wire! It was the only thing left anywhere on that devastated, barren prairie land. It was all that could be found so the crow did the best it could.

Couldn't we all learn a lesson from these diminutive, feathered creatures on how and where we build our equivocal nests? I believe most of us, if given ample opportunity, behave in like manner. We want our young to be safe and to flourish for generations to come. Of course there are some who, for any number of reasons, never had ample opportunity and still others who, even with opportunity, were unwilling and/or incapable of seizing it. Often, they end up homeless and sometimes they come to us. We are glad when they do! It is never too late to start over; use whatever resources you can find and build a nest in the safest place you can. Another opportunity is waiting. Never, ever give up!

## National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week

By: Chris Kirkendall

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching and it is a good time to reflect on all we have to be thankful for. We usually celebrate by enjoying the company of family and friends, and a bountiful home cooked holiday meal. We have enjoyed the comforts of a warm, safe home and plenty of food. Unfortunately, this is not

## In This Issue:

A Lofty Lesson: pg 1

Awareness Week: pg 1

Adopt-A-Room. : pg 2

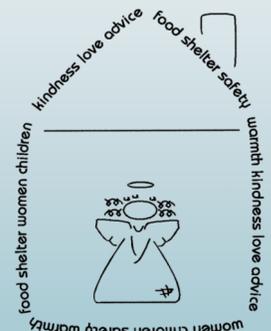
Open Doors: pg 3

Wish List: pg 3

Volunteers: pg 4

*"The Samaritan House has been a true blessing for my family and I."*

Open Doors:  
Page 3



328 W McKibben Street  
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(419) 222-HOME (4663)

samaritanhouselima.org

# Adopt-A-Room - Phase 2

By Chris Kirkendall

Last Spring we wrapped up phase-one of the Adopt-A-Room program. Many volunteers contributed countless hours to rejuvenate the residents' rooms and they look fabulous! If you were a part of phase-one and would like to help us as we move to phase-two, we would love to work with you again. We also welcome and are looking for new families



and groups to partner with us for this phase of the Adopt-A-Room project.

In this new phase we will be tackling the indoor and outdoor common areas. This Fall, a Hosta garden was added to a



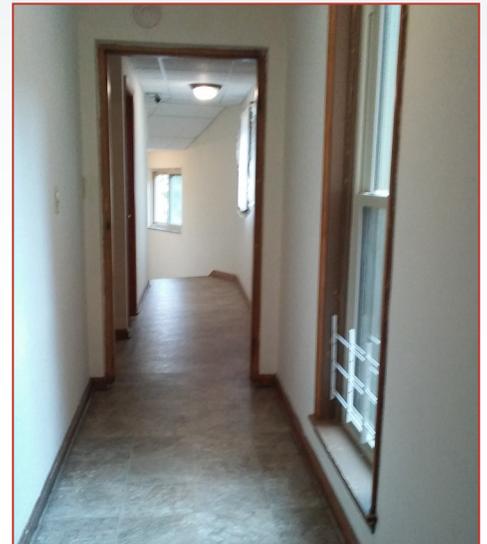
store bicycles and outdoor toys.

On the inside, we are working on a bathroom remodeling project which includes plaster repair, replacement of baseboards and the installation of a new vanity and mirror. We are looking for a group to take on decorating the bathroom once it is completed. Next on our list are the second and third floor hallways. While plaster repair has already begun, the walls still need to be sanded and painted.

If you would like to be a part of any of our projects, please give us a call at (419) 222-4663 and we can arrange a time for you to tour our facilities and pick a project.



shady corner of the backyard. We would like to replace the torn outdoor carpet on the back porch and add seating. Our garden shed needs to be moved to another area of the yard and organized to



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 acknowledgment will be sent to the recipient excluding the dollar amount.

With your support, over the past year alone, 19,077 meals have been served and 6,359 shelter units (one person, one night) have been provided to over 245 women and children.

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

# Open Doors

## A Clients Perspective



I came to the shelter in August 2016 because I had lost my home due to financial reasons. I have no family willing to help me with a place to stay so my only option was the Samaritan House. They opened the doors right up for me and gave me a room all to myself. This room was so nice it gave me a warm welcoming feeling.

I have five kids and, although none of them were there with me, the staff was more than willing to allow me to have them over for daily visits. I was working two jobs so the staff arranged a schedule so I could get enough sleep. They saved my money for me. The Samaritan House has been a true blessing. The case worker, Janel, wow, I can't even put into words the gratitude I have for that woman. She helped me in more ways than she will ever know.

I could write for days telling you all the amazing things this house has done for me, but I won't. I just want to thank each and every person there for everything because without this shelter, I don't know where I would have ended up.

I truly love each and everyone of you and you will forever be in my heart. Thank you so much for everything. ~ Anonymous

## Wish List

**Grocery Items:** Boxed Meals & Mixes, Breakfast Bars, **Butter**, Cereal, **Cheese**, **Coffee Creamer**, **Cooking Oil**, **Eggs**, **Frozen Meat**, **Hamburger/Ground Sausage**, Fruit Cups, Kids Snacks, **Lunch Meat**, Powdered Milk, **Regular Coffee**, **Sugar**

**Office Supplies:** **Copy Paper**, **Postage Stamps**, Post-It Notes, Small Legal Pads, Wide-ruled single notebooks

**Household Items:** Air/Fabric Freshener, **All Purpose Cleaner (409, Kaboom, Etc.)**, Birthday Wrapping Paper, **Bleach**, New Clothes Irons, Coffee Maker, Diapers – Sizes Newborn, 4 & 5, Disinfecting Wipes, **Floor Cleaner for Laminate/Linoleum**, **Furniture Polish**, Gallon-Sizes Storage Bags, **Large/XL & Kitchen Trash Bags**, **High Efficiency Laundry Detergent**, Microwave, Paper Towels, Plasticware, Silverware, Sink & Tub/Bathroom Cleaner, **Spray Disinfectant**, Toilet Bowl Cleaner

**Misc:** **10 Pack Bus Passes**, Adult Cough & Cold Medicine, Adult Ibuprofen & Acetaminophen, Children's Cold Medicine, Conditioner, **Deodorant**, **Good Condition Steeled Toed Shoes/Boots sizes 5-12**, Hair Brushes, Hair Spray-Not Heavy, **Insulated Lunch Totes**, Girls Underwear - Size 6, Ladies Underwear (Sizes 5, 10, 11 & 12), **Tennis Shoes (Sizes 5, 6, 7, 9, & 11)**, Toothpaste, Umbrellas, Wal-Mart/Meijer/Chiefs/Save A Lot/Ruler Foods/Aldi's Gift Cards

**Bold: Items Most Needed**

# Awareness Week

## Continued from Page 1

the case for everyone. Many in our own community suffer from hunger and homelessness. Each year, the week before Thanksgiving, we celebrate *National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week*. As a staff member of Lima's Samaritan House, I would like to give a quick update on homelessness locally and ways in which you can help bring awareness.

The number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness has improved to a certain extent in many Ohio communities. Each year, a Point-In-Time count (PIT) is taken in an attempt to determine the number of homeless people on a given night. A PIT count is a statistical reliable, unduplicated count of homeless persons in a community, in sheltered and unsheltered locations, during *one 24-hour period*. For the state of Ohio, the total number in 2015 was 5.5% lower than it was in 2014. That is great news! We are making headway.

At Samaritan House, the number of clients we served decreased over the past year as well. For our residents' safety and privacy, single women no longer share a room but have their own private space. Due to this change, we are unable to shelter as many clients as we had in the past. This is not necessarily a negative thing since it allows more time for intensive case management to deal with the more challenging cases; identify root causes and find solutions. With fewer residents, we are better able to meet the needs of our clients and lower the recidivism rate. Also, understanding the role mental health plays in chronic homelessness opens up opportunities that were not available before. Of course, much more needs to be done to address mental illness but change is happening, and for that we are grateful!

You can help those who suffer from hunger and homelessness by partnering with area organizations. Many food banks, soup kitchens and shelters count on volunteers and donations to provide their services. You can help Samaritan House by sponsoring a donation drive with a local group or organization you belong to. By being very frugal and making the most of every dollar, we manage to stay within a very tight budget and support up to 17 households at a time. The shelter is staffed 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. This operating budget includes support staff, case management, building maintenance and repair, and utilities. However, most food, household items, and office supplies are donated through in-kind donations. We have a *Wish List* on our website that includes many items we receive only through donations. We appreciate whatever you may be able to do regardless of how large or how small. Your continued support keeps us going!





Samaritan House

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

[samaritanhouselima.org](http://samaritanhouselima.org)

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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.

## Holiday Volunteers



For nearly twenty-five years, the Staff and Board of Samaritan House have enjoyed working with you, our friends, at our Annual Gift Wrapping Booth Fundraiser. We have been privileged to meet so many wonderful people and we made a lot of friends on both sides of the booth. We will be forever grateful to the DeHavens, Lima Auto Mall, and the American Mall for allowing us use of their space and their hospitality that always made us feel so welcomed. With their support, we were able to share our mission, raise funds and awareness, and form lasting relationships with volunteers and community members. We loved making new connections and never tired of seeing familiar faces.

December has always been such a busy time for us. Along with meeting the needs of our residents and helping to make them feel at home for the holidays, we also receive nearly 40% of our total in-kind donations for the year in a single month. For the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to balance the demands of the Booth along with the needs of the shelter. Although it was not easy, this year we made the decision to discontinue the service and fundraiser. However, we would love to foster the connections we have made at the booth and we still need you, but in a different way.

There are several volunteer opportunities available. If you have a creative flair you may want to help us decorate the shelter for Christmas on November 30th. Or, if you have organizational skills, sorting and putting donations away may be more your thing. Perhaps you would enjoy arranging and leading a craft or game or decorating cookies with the residents. Sometimes it is as simple as having an extra pair of hands on deck. And, after the first of the year, we will be jumping back into the Adopt-A-Room program and will be looking for volunteers for that project as well. If you have never visited our actual shelter, we would welcome you to contact us and set up a time to tour. Please check out our website at [SamaritanHouseLima.org](http://SamaritanHouseLima.org) for all the current volunteer opportunities.

We couldn't do it without you!