

# Samaritan House News

Homeless Shelter For Women and Their Children

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Assistant Director

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Case Manager

Chris Kirkendall,  
Administrative Assistant

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## All the king's horses . . . .

By: Marilyn Cipollone

Remember the nursery rhyme you heard as a kid about poor Humpty Dumpty? He had a great fall and being an egg, he couldn't be put back together again. Even all the king's horses and all the king's men, as mighty as they may be, couldn't get the job done. They looked on helplessly as Humpty Dumpty's insides spilled out leaving only a cracked shell.

I believe this is how some of the women, and even some of the children, feel when they first come to the shelter. They feel completely broken; their lives shattered. Depression, addiction, incest, and domestic violence are problems at every socioeconomic level but those whom we see are those who are also impoverished and often disenfranchised. They can't afford to see a psychiatrist, go into expensive rehab for drug/alcohol addiction or attend family counseling. Instead, they suffer for as long as they can and often they just give up.

We, at Samaritan House, believe giving up is not an option. While we do wonder at times how anyone's life could get so out of control, we do not judge for we have not walked in their shoes. So, we begin by showing empathy. Empathy is the ability to experience the feelings of another person. It goes beyond sympathy which is feeling compassion, sorrow or pity. When asked if we ever become jaded or cynical from hearing much of the same thing over and over, we answer by saying, "if we do, we are in the wrong profession." Most everyone, other than those who suffer from antisocial behavior or narcissism, is capable of showing empathy. It starts with listening without interrupting, by being present and tuning in to non-verbal communication, by smiling and using the name of the person you are talking to and encouraging them, especially those whose lifestyle you do not share. And finally, giving genuine recognition and challenging yourself to have a deeper conversation than you otherwise may be willing to enter into.

If this sounds like we are trying to be the epitome of nice people in the world, subject to being considered for sainthood, I must confess we are all a bit selfish. The reward we receive in return is the real reason we come to work every day. It can be summed up in 1 Corinthians 13:13. There are many translations but the *King James Version* says it so beautifully . . . . *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.* This charity refers to *agape love*; the perfect unselfish love and compassion, not love based on emotion or fondness. We are made strong by these words; stronger than all the king's horses and all the king's men for we know lives **can be** put back together again.

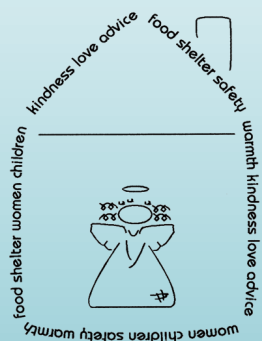


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*"Thank you for not giving up on me and helping me find my true self. God works!"*

Finding Myself  
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(419) 222-HOME (4663)  
samaritanhouselima.org

## I'm Hungry



How many times have we heard our children, grandchildren or nieces and nephews say, "I'm hungry?" Such announcements often come about 45 minutes after having scarfed down a good-sized bowl of chili, a grilled cheese sandwich and perhaps an apple and a glass of milk; maybe not exactly that meal, but something equivalent and you get the idea. What they usually mean is, "I'm bored."

When I was a kid, admittedly quite a few years ago, when my sister and I didn't want to eat our oatmeal or something else we found distasteful at the time, our parents would chide us by telling us there were children in third world countries who were starving and would love to have what was left on our plates. Of course having no clue as to the enormity of it all, we would laughingly offer to send it to them. That didn't go over very well and we soon learned that being sassy would get us nowhere we wanted to go.

In reality, throughout the world, hunger claims the lives of children every day. Even here, in the greatest nation in the world, 1 in 5 children live in households that are unable to always provide adequate food. These statistics shock us, make us angry, and may even cause us to refute the numbers and/or to blame corruption or misuse of taxpayers' money for the injustice. Regardless, the fact remains. We know that hunger does exist and we, as a community, must continue to heighten awareness.

November 10 through November 18 is *National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week*. At this time more than ever, homeless shelters and other social service agencies reach out to those on our streets, in tent cities, sleeping under bridges, in abandoned buildings, old cars or anywhere else, that is unfit for human habitation. Sadly, children are among them. Maybe we can think of them the next time a child we love says, "I'm hungry."

By Marilyn Cipollone

## We Couldn't Do it Without You!

It is through countless donations and volunteer hours from individuals, groups and businesses provided to Samaritan House that enable us to continue serving the homeless women and children who come to us. Your giving makes a difference in many lives and we can not thank you enough for your generosity. With your help, these are just a few things that have been accomplished:

- ◆ Sorting donations and organizing storage units
- ◆ Bathroom renovations & decor
- ◆ Adding a washer and dryer unit
- ◆ New carpet on stairway
- ◆ Rain barrel & raised flower garden
- ◆ Security cameras
- ◆ Landscape and playground maintenance and repair
- ◆ Rebuilding of 2 boilers
- ◆ Seasonal cleaning projects
- ◆ New phone system
- ◆ Food, disposable items and office furniture donations
- ◆ And many more!



Thank you for helping to create a safe environment, a place of healing and renewal, a place for rest; a home.

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, 17,274 meals have been served and 5,758 shelter units (one person, one night) have been provided to 258 women and children.

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

Mail to: 328 West McKibben St. Lima Ohio 45801

## Finding Myself



I was born in Lima, Ohio. I was raised in a dysfunctional home that eventually became the norm for me. I spent my teenage years in and out of foster care and JDC, trying desperately to get attention. I found life in the bottle, drinking started at 12 and that is where I found my love. This cycle of insanity continued in my adult life, where bad choices and drugs became my way of life. I eventually got my act together and found that alcohol and drugs was just another method to my madness and caused more problems than I want to admit. After a marriage, divorce, three kids and finally nowhere to go, I reached out to the Samaritan House where I found hope again. 37 years old, homeless, and hopeless, they embraced me with open arms. It was difficult and overwhelming at times, but they wouldn't see me give up and now I get to tell my story of fierce setbacks and abundant blessings. Thank you for not giving up on me and helping me find my true self. God works!

During her time here, Lisa (not her real name) thought she had housing two different times but both times fell through because someone came up with the money faster than she could get back to them. She was disappointed to say the least. She shared that she had already imagined where each piece of the furniture would go as she was able to obtain them. We talked about patience and perseverance and trusting that something better would come along even if she didn't understand how right then. Lisa prayed and prayed through each set back. Even

before the housing issues, her car broke down twice right after getting back to full time hours as a home health care aide. The company she works for appreciated her so much they changed her assignment to one they could transport her to and even gave her gas cards to get her started. Her son had been staying with a relative during some of Lisa's rough patch. Upon learning she was stable and putting her life together, her son reached out and wanted to be reunited sooner than she expected. She was ecstatic because she had missed him so much but it also added unexpected stresses such as uniforms, football practices, and childcare. Still, she persevered, finding strength she didn't know she had. During the housing crisis, a board member called about a furniture donation; furniture she wouldn't have had if the first place worked out. He was even kind enough to deliver it to the shelter when Lisa couldn't 100% lock down someone to help her with a truck in the time frame needed. She was also able to secure PRC funding that would help with rent and deposit since she wasn't able to find something she could afford that would accept the help through WOCAP. PRC assistance is only for those with a minor child in the household. Had her son not returned early, she would not have been eligible. Given that she had to spend \$500 of her savings to fix her vehicle; she really needed this help to ensure she would have enough for utility deposits and moving expenses. Sometimes it is hard for us to see the value of our challenges but I have no doubt they were used to refine Lisa; to help her find her better self:

## Wish List

**Grocery Items:** Breakfast Bars, Butter, **Cheese**, **Coffee Creamer**, Cooking Oil, Eggs, **Frozen Meat**, **Hamburger/ Ground Sausage**, Kid sized/snack sized fruit cups, Kids Snacks, **Lunch Meat**, Powdered Milk, **Regular Coffee**, Sugar

**Office Supplies:** Copy Paper, Binders –1,2,3 inch, Dry Erase Markers & Erasers, Envelopes—#6 3/4, **Manilla File Folders**, Paper Clips-Large, Postage Stamps, Pocket Folders, Uni Ball Gel Pens—blue or black, Thank-You Cards

**Household Items:** All Purpose Cleaner, Bathroom Cleaner, Extendable Swiffer Duster Wand and Refills, Floor Cleaner, Furniture Polish, Gallon-Size and up Storage Bags, Food Storage Containers, Large/XL & Kitchen Trash Bags, Laundry Baskets, High Efficiency Laundry Detergent, , Oxi Powder, Paper Towels, Spray Disinfectant, Spray and Wash, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Toilet Paper, Box Fans, Disposable Gloves

**Miscellaneous:** 10 Pack Bus Passes (for client transportation), Body Wash, Bras 36DD & 38D, Shampoo, Conditioner, Cold & Allergy Adult Medicine, Denture Cream, Deodorant, Lotion, Rubbing Alcohol, Drawstring Bags, Make-up/Toiletries bags, Insulated Lunch Totes, , Liquid Hand Soap, **Tooth Paste & Brushes**, Mouthwash, Disposable Razors, Sidewalk Salt, Underwear-Ladies size 5/6 & 8 bikini, Wal-Mart/Meijer/Chiefs/Save Lot/ Ruler Foods/Aldi's Gift Cards

Bold Items=Most Needed

Please see our website at [SamaritanHouseLima.org](http://SamaritanHouseLima.org)

For the most up to date list and links for some specific items that we have found to work best at the shelter.

Thinking about how you can get involved?

Interested in finding out more about the services provided at Samaritan House?

Please contact Brandi Schroeder or Chris Kirkendall

at 419.222.4663 or by email at [samhousethima@embarqmail.com](mailto:samhousethima@embarqmail.com)



Samaritan House  
 328 W. McKibben St.  
 Lima, OH 45801  
 samaritanhouselima.org  
 Address Service Requested

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



**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.

*Market Street Presbyterian Church  
 Gift Wrapping Fundraiser  
 To Benefit Lima's Samaritan House*



Open to the Public  
 December 14th & 15th  
 10am to 4pm  
 Use the Cole Street Entrance

The gift wrapping is free although donations are gladly accepted to help serve homeless and/or abused women and children.