

# Samaritan House News

Homeless Shelter For Women and Their Children

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Executive Director

Marilyn Cipollone  
Assistant Director

Nicki Tata,  
Case Manager

Chris Kirkendall,  
Administrative Assistant

House Managers:  
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## My Heart Took a Picture

By: Brandi Schroeder

Has there ever been a time when you felt as if your senses were heightened or maybe even blending so that you could hear with your eyes or see with your heart; the moments when physical and spiritual touch? There is a sense of fullness, of truth, of pureness. Dropping in at the shelter last Sunday afternoon, I was greeted with soft laughter from the kitchen that touched my heart in that way. The residents were busy baking homemade apple pies, and even without seeing them with my eyes, I could feel the contentment. Although living in a shelter, they were *choosing* joy. At that moment, my heart took a picture. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words but when your heart takes a picture, it captures so much more – the smells, the sounds, and the feelings of the moment.

With 126 years of experience collectively among staff, there are so many beautiful accounts of these 'snapshot' moments. They have offered hope when there was none, a sense of being held where there was an aloneness, clarity and peace where there was confusion, chaos and fear. Moments such as when a child has experienced, for the first time, what home was meant to be – cared for, protected, encouraged, and loved. Moments when a woman shares that she slept peacefully for the first night in years. Moments when exactly what we needed was exactly what we received at exactly the right time.

Maybe it comes with age but this has become such a reflective time of year. For me, it is a time to honor those moments, good and bad, that have formed us in faith, grown us in love, and filled us with hope. In looking back, we find strength to keep moving forward. My heart is so full with appreciation for all of those who make this work possible. It is difficult to find words worthy of fully expressing what you mean to us. We truly couldn't do this without you. If only I could show you with the pictures of my heart.

Thank you for making memories with us, for your encouragement, understanding, support, and dedication. Thank you for praying, painting and cleaning, laying flooring, and for collecting and delivering much-needed items. Thank you for the stepping-stone walkway to the front door, the room décor, and the much needed phone/doorbell system and so much more. Thank you for your part in the repairs of the heart and of the home.

As the year draws to a close, may you not get too caught up in the chaos of the season to forget to *be* present or you just might miss your own photo ops - of the heart! Truly, this is a time when lasting memories are made.



We wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year!



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samaritanhouselima.org

# Where I Am Meant To Be

By Marilyn Cipollone

At the urging of my father-in-law, my 'then' husband and I left our hometown of Lima, Ohio and moved across the country to the San Francisco Bay Area; settling first in Palo Alto then later in Sunnyvale where we bought our first home. I was very young and although often homesick, I fell in love with California and believed it was years ahead of the Midwest portion of the U.S. To me, San Francisco is the Golden Gate Bridge, China Town, Lombardo Street, cable cars, Golden Gate Park, Fisherman's Wharf, and so much more. It was the sixties and the hippie movement was in full swing. The Haight-Ashbury area was the dwelling place for flower children carrying Peace Signs and preaching 'Love for all.' Janis Joplin lived there, as did *The Grateful Dead*. My first child (a son) was born and shortly thereafter, I got a job as the secretary to the Marketing Analyst at Fairchild Semiconductor. There were so many opportunities and I believed my future course was already charted. Life, however, had other plans for me and I left California for the last time, arriving home during the blizzard of '78.

I share these memories because what I see now on social media; the homeless living on what were once beautiful streets, breaks my heart; not the run-down sidewalks so much as the disparaging lives of the people caught up in their own nightmares!

There is no way I could have known where my journey through life would lead me. Looking back, I wonder sometimes how I survived the dark places or, more importantly, how and why I got there. One thing is certain, I knew I needed to help those who could not help themselves, the down trodden, the addict, the alcoholic, the homeless, those suffering from emotional/mental illness, the abused and the lost. However, happily, my journey has also taken me to fantastic heights. I have been blessed with so much, not the least of which is being able to be a part of Samaritan House for over twenty-five years. I can honestly say I have walked in so many of the women's shoes who seek a better life at our shelter. I have learned to never, ever judge another. I love these lines

by the Roman philosopher, Seneca, so much. They have stayed with me since the first time I read them; I have committed them to memory. Here are his words. . . *We do not even know ourselves; therefore, how can we judge a neighbor? No one knows what makes a man, and only God knows his thoughts, his joys, his bitterness, his agony, the injustices committed against him and the injustices he commits. All lives, whether good or in error, painful or happy, are only a prologue to love beyond the grave, where all is understood and almost all forgiven.* Shouldn't we all strive to love and forgive one another, especially those who cannot love or forgive themselves?

So far, our streets have not yet reached the point where people are using the sidewalks as a public toilet, shooting up drugs in plain sight and actually dying and overdosing on a daily basis. I pray it will never come to that. I hope that we never catch up with the 'street' problems of the West Coast. I don't call it a homeless problem because it is more of a drug problem. If everyone living in their tents in their misery and filth were given free housing, free medical care, and free everything, most would be right back where they were found. It's drugs; it's mental illness, it's addiction and unless they get some kind of treatment, they will die there. Believe me, the free 'everything' has been tried; it didn't work. That doesn't mean we should just give up. No, I still believe in the goodness of humanity and that love can replace fear. I believe there are people right here in the Lima area who care but may not know how to help. My advice would be to begin with prayer. We have had some fantastic people call the shelter and share that they had prayed about what God would want them to do for those less fortunate and were 'directed' to us. I am sure other agencies doing good work have had the same experience. If you are looking for a cause, try it sometime. Then treasure the warm feeling in your heart.

*I am much older now and a long way from California. My life is far different than I imagined it would be. But, I know I am here right where I belong; where I am meant to be.*

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## Wish List

**Grocery Items:** Butter, Cheese, **Coffee Creamer**, Coffee Filters, Cooking Oil, **Eggs, Frozen Meat, Hamburger/Ground Sausage, Lunch Meat, Regular Coffee**

**Office Supplies:** Copy Paper, **Gel Pens (Black or Blue), Legal Note Pads, Postage Stamps**

**Household Item:** **Floor Cleaners** (Fabuloso, Pine-Sol, Mr. Clean), Furniture Polish, Laundry Stain Removers, Lysol Disinfecting Spray, **Multi-Purpose Disinfecting Spray Cleaners** (409 Multi-Surface Cleaner), **Paper Towels, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Toilet Paper, Trash Bags** (30 Gallon & Tall Kitchen), **Ziploc Bags – 2+ Gallon Size**

**Misc:** 10 Pack Bus Passes, Athletic Shoes (Women's Sizes 6-11), Black Non-Skid Work Shoes (Sizes 6-11), **Bras 34DD, Ladies Underwear – Size 5 Bikini, Sidewalk Salt**, Small Trash Cans (2.5 Gallon), **Steel Toed Shoes (Sizes 6-11)**  
**Wal-Mart/Meijer/Save-A-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 wish list.

# Renewal & Restoration

By Chris Kirkendall

Samaritan House is blessed to be located in the former resident hall used by the Nuns teaching at Saint Rose School. It is an old building, built with both functionality and grandeur, with sections dating back to the 1880's. Fine craftsmanship is displayed throughout the original structure with wide casings, trim and a grand front staircase. Throughout the years, we have tried to maintain the integrity and style with which it was built while updating it to meet the needs of those who stay with us. Our hope is to provide a place for the women to reflect and gain the strength they need to be restored. So, as the building is renewed and restored, our hope is that the women and children are also. Samaritan House has been in our care for the past 32 years and we hope for many more to come.

We have had to take on extensive repair and maintenance projects during the time the building has been in our care. Roof



*Dining Room: Before Updates*



*Dining Room: Updates In Progress*

repairs, window replacements, rewiring, replumbing and boiler replacement, bathroom updates and most recently our Adopt-A-Room projects and new flooring. This has been made possible by countless grants from both private and public sources, but most importantly through the prayers and support of our community and the partnerships that have been formed.

With the help of several grants we are moving forward with the flooring project that was started last December. Once we have added new vinyl plank floors in two bathrooms, the third floor will be complete. The dining room and kitchen makeover has begun. New restaurant quality tables and chairs have replaced the used booths that have served us well for so many years along with new stainless steel prep tables. The kitchen has been rearranged for better workflow and organization. New paint and flooring are planned for this fall/winter. Final touches including uplifting décor will be added to help make these spaces the heart of the home as with so many of our own homes.

The restoration of both the building and, more importantly, the lives of the women and children who stay at Samaritan House could not happen without your help. For that, we are truly grateful.

## Electronic Newsletters



If you would like to receive your newsletters electronically to help us reduce this cost so funds could instead be used directly for the program, please call the shelter at 419.222.4663 or send an email to:

[ckirkendall@samaritanhousethima.org](mailto:ckirkendall@samaritanhousethima.org)

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for Samaritan House!

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, 17,301 meals have been served and 5,767 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



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

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Samaritan House



**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 13th & 14th

10am to 4pm

Use the East Side Elevator Entrance

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