

# Samaritan House News

Homeless Shelter For Women and Their Children

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## Challenging Times

By: Marilyn Cipollone

I don't believe any of us could have anticipated the reach of COVID19. In the beginning, time seemed to slow, and new adjustments came daily. Spring would soon become summer and we waited for the pools to open, but many didn't. We waited for barber shops, nail and hair salons to open their doors, but they didn't; at least not before my acrylic all chipped off and I was embarrassed to show my hands. I was so excited to finally get an appointment to get my nails done. Oh, the things I took for granted and how shallow they all began to seem. For many, the fear and isolation became crippling. Others battled their own health issues, some lost a loved one, friend, neighbor, or service provider. I pray they will be comforted. There just are no words.

This has certainly been a challenging time for our organization and our community as a whole. The tasks of creating and implementing new sanitation and safety protocols for residents and employees, moving beyond the empty shelves to find new resources for much needed supplies, and seemingly endless hours of research identifying new sources of funding and the impact of the CARES Act became our new reality. Planning for our annual Celebration had just begun but quickly came to a halt. Needless to say, we were overwhelmed. Our program and priorities had to shift and become more flexible. Due to the implications of COVID19, our 33rd Anniversary will not be celebrated as it has been in the past. For many years, the Raisin' Bread Celebration has been our sole fundraiser and a time when we got together with friends, family and donors for an evening of fun.

During the work of undoing this event, it hit home just how many ways COVID19 is impacting lives. A call to our talented and beloved musician to cancel the Dueling Pianos was met with understanding. As is the situation of so many other families, he found it necessary to work two part time jobs and his wife went to work for the first time. They have young children and became like ships passing in the night in order to pay the bills with no daycare available. Likewise our venue, the Civic Center, reserved since last year, had to be notified and our name taken off the calendar along with who knows how many others. Panera Bread, where the whole idea of our Anniversary Celebration was morphed into a partnership that has become so successful, took a huge hit because of the virus as well.

We pray for all who have been affected and give thanks for what we do have. Samaritan House remains open and has been able to continue in our mission of providing shelter, hope and guidance. We remain encouraged that we will be able to continue in this work. We look forward to next year in hopes we can, once again, celebrate together.

If you were fortunate during this very difficult time and feel that you and/or your business, group, church, club or committee would like to make a contribution, we would be grateful for your support. For this year, the Raisin' Bread Celebration has become the Raisin' Bread Giving Campaign. Information can be found on page 3.

Together, through faith, hope and love, we will prevail. Thank you for your continued prayers, support and encouragement especially during these challenging times.

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"she rediscovered her faith and experienced a peace that only God could provide"

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samaritanhouselima.org

## Grateful - A Client's Story

By: Brandi Schroeder



Sarah first came to Samaritan House as an 18 year old in 1996. She said it was only a two day admission because, as a young adult, she was “not having” the rules or responsibilities required and found a family member to take her in. For the better part of the next fifteen years, according to Sarah, she was in and out of unhealthy relationships, each time moving in with a relative, then moving in with a new partner. She has endured many struggles including the death of both parents, and sister. In losing her sister, she rediscovered her faith and experienced a peace that only God could provide (her words). There was a lot of healing and emotions to work through – some she still battles, but for the better part of the past decade, she was able to maintain housing with assistance through MET Housing and provide stability for herself and two children. Her kids are now young adults themselves, and Sarah is now in her 40's. A few months ago, a poor judgement call ended in eviction. Sarah's cousin had been a resident here a few years prior and encouraged her to call and try again.

Although hesitant at first, Sarah quickly became grateful to be here. She felt safe, and at peace – something she hopes to bring to her new home. She expressed that, for the first time in many years, she feels as if she is capable of succeeding *for* herself, is excited to pay her own rent even though she is grateful for the help through MET while raising her children, and feels empowered to focus on her own needs instead of someone else's. She works full-time at a local restaurant, and began saving immediately toward her future housing. In just over a month, Sarah was able to move into her own place. Shortly before she exited, she was getting somewhat antsy living under rules although she always followed them. Living in a shelter is not without its challenges. It is a lot like moving home as an adult after living on your own. I checked in with her after she returned from an overnight, expecting to hear that it really made her miss life prior to shelter living. Surprisingly—maybe to both of us, what she said was that she was ready to come back after one night away and missed the way she feels here. I truly see so much potential for the next stages of Sarah's life and really enjoyed getting to know her. She has gained true wisdom through her experiences. These past few months have been challenging due to COVID-19 for many reasons but on a personal level with a low shelter population – we missed helping people. I feel grateful to be part of Sarah's journey and am glad that Samaritan House is still here to help those in need. I can't quite express to you how good it feels to once again be serving in the capacity and for the purpose I truly believe in.

## Shelter Update

By: Brandi Schroeder

As COVID19 began to drastically change the landscape of our community and our program as we know it, we were faced with a multitude of concerns. Of course there would be financial ramifications; both immediate and future, but more so was the concern for the safety of the clients we serve and for those we have never met. We were thinking of those now living in isolation from loved ones, gripped by fear of the unknown and flooded by seemingly contradictive news, those now cut off from teachers and coworkers that could see the signs of depression, abuse, neglect, and those whose health was directly impacted by the virus itself. We are ever conscious that so many of our donors would be struggling financially as well. I realized, early on, that I needed to balance community meetings and planning, researching information and guidance to put safeguards and protocols in place to follow the orders and reduce risks, and changes to programming, to take the time to decompress and seek the wisdom of God in all of this; to keep on keeping on, spreading light, helping others. Having been employed by Samaritan House since 1998, I have faced many struggles throughout the years – none quite like this. Thankfully, we run a tight ship, and as a small non-profit, we have always had close margins but also been cautious and patient in spending in order to build a safety net for times like these. As we move forward in the battle, we have not been alone but rather experienced a solidarity among helping organizations and professions. It never ceases to amaze me how blessed we are in our area to have so many that truly care for people. We were able to apply for, and received, a PPP loan that should qualify for forgiveness to help offset some loss of revenue. We are partially HUD funded, however, each year we must raise the remaining 50% of our operational expenses. We are minimally staffed, so there is no room to cut staffing with-

out shutting down the shelter even in times of lower population. HUD's immediate response and guidance for shelters was to assist in deconcentrating congregate facilities. Help came through both local community efforts as well as other COVID specific funding sources that could be used to help purchase supplies and other staffing costs and needs for items that were above and beyond our normal operations to support the deconcentration initiative. We are blessed by design that families each have a separate room which definitely helps in keeping the distancing requirements, but common areas are still shared. Fortunately, many funding sources eventually made their way into the community to assist with homeless prevention, while increased unemployment payments and stimulus payments came to the aid of many more. A multitude of food assistance through local agencies and schools have also helped those in need. As we move forward, our program continues to require flexibility and likely will for some time. We still have concerns for those isolated at home or experiencing neglect and/or violence. Research from homeless advocate groups also point to a much higher homeless projection once the extra benefits cease, as many may not have jobs to go back to or will receive reduced hours or lack daycare. Others may not realize that unemployment benefits are taxable and not be prepared for the impact come spring. There are just so many unknowns. Yet, taking all these things into consideration, our hope has not changed and our faith has not wavered. We may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds us. We will continue to be diligent in our efforts to help wherever and whom-ever we can and seek funding, where able, to ensure the future of our mission. Thank you for being part of this journey with us and for your continued encouragement, prayers, sweet thoughts, and support.



# Raisin' Bread

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Giving Campaign

Due to the limitations of COVID19, the 33rd Anniversary Raisin' Bread Celebration will not be held this year and has become the Raisin' Bread Giving Campaign. Although we won't be gathering in person, the Giving Campaign offers multiple ways you can support our goal of raising funds to secure the future of our mission. No goods or services are provided, therefore any donations received will be 100% tax deductible. Thank you for your continued support!

Company/Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gold Sponsor- \$500

Cost of an Auction Item - \$50

Silver Sponsor- \$250

Cost of a Ticket - \$25

Friend Sponsor- \$100

Other Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please checkmark your preference below:

\_\_\_ I would like my name/business published on Samaritan House website and/or social media showing my support for the Raisin' Bread 33rd Anniversary Giving Campaign. Email company logo to [clkirkendall@samaritanhousetima.org](mailto:clkirkendall@samaritanhousetima.org) if you would like it included with your sponsorship.

\_\_\_ Please accept my support, but exclude my name/business from social media and website.

Donations and logo submission due by September 15th to be included as part of our Giving Campaign .

## Wish List

### Grocery Items

Butter, Canned Taco Meat (GFS), Cheese, Eggs, Frozen Chicken Breast, Frozen Dinners, Frozen Entrees (Family Size), Frozen Hamburger, Individual Coffee Creamers, Individual Snack Items (Chips, Crackers, Granola Bars), Milk, Sliced Lunch Meat

### Office Supplies

Gel Pens, Postage Stamps, Thank You Cards

### Household Items

Alarm Clocks, Disinfectant Wipes, Can Openers, Floor Cleaners, Furniture Polish, Hand Sanitizer, Laundry Stain Removers, Lysol Disinfecting Spray, Multi-Purpose Disinfecting Spray Cleaners, Paper Towels, Rubbing Alcohol, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Trash Bags (30 Gallon and Tall Kitchen), Zip Top Storage Bags

### Misc.

10 Pack Bus Passes, Athletic Shoes (women's sizes 6-11), Black Non-skid Work Shoes (sizes 6-11), Duct Tape, Diapers (sizes 5&6), Pain Relievers, Steel Toed Shoes (sizes 6-11), Storage Totes (6-12 quart), Wal-Mart/Meijer/Aldi's/GFS Gift Cards

Please see our website, [samaritanhousetima.org](http://samaritanhousetima.org), for the most up to date list and links to specific items.



Samaritan House

Samaritan House  
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Lima, OH 45801  
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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.

### 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, 14,562 meals have been served and 4,854 shelter units (one person, one night) have been provided to 208 women and children.

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

Mail to: 328 West McKibben St. Lima Ohio 45801