

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

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Georgia Barrows
Alice Donahue
Linda Donahue
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We Don't Know What We Don't Know

By: Chris Kirkendall

Growing up in a middle class family in a small town, I did not have much exposure to the struggles and challenges of the poor and disadvantaged. Of course we had our own challenges. Alcohol abuse was prevalent in my community, but viewed as normal behavior. I watched my parents lose my childhood home, due to a business loss, as I was entering adulthood and beginning a life on my own. But, growing up I always knew that there would be a roof over my head and food on the table. Naively I assumed all families were similar to mine. Despite the trials we faced, we had our faith and each other; I always felt secure and loved.

In 2012 I began volunteering at Samaritan House and I felt an immediate connection. The program is based on Christian principles, to love thy neighbor, to help those less fortunate, to treat others the way you would want to be treated, and my favorite – give someone a fish and you feed them for a day, teach them to fish and you feed them for a lifetime. Growing up I never realized how disadvantaged some really were. I never understood why they behaved the way they did or the choices they made. They may not have had parents who loved them, protected them from harm, and taught them how to live a happy, secure and peaceful life. For some, the complete opposite is their reality and self-preservation drives their behavior. I am learning to not be judgmental, for I have not walked in their shoes.

In 2015 my role shifted from volunteer to employee. While I felt a passion for the work that is done here; there was also a conflict. Samaritan House was founded by a pastor and based on Christian principles, but, the need for greater funding than the community could support, made it necessary to seek and receive partial government funding to keep the doors open. While it may be less than ideal to need this support, I have been reminded time and time again that God provides in many ways. This year, for the first time since being affiliated with Samaritan House, I have come to accept this. I see His hand in this provision. At the beginning of the pandemic, monetary and in-kind support through private donors, churches, and grants diminished greatly but we had our 50% base funding from HUD. They also provided funding for COVID related expenses that were above and beyond normal operations. The PPP loan filled in the gap to cover staffing. Without this broad availability of support, we may not have been able to continue serving. We don't know how long this extra provision will be available, but it has been valuable in helping make up the difference while private donations have diminished and COVID expenses have increased. We realize that during this time, most, from all economic backgrounds, are facing trials and there is a level of uncertainty throughout the nation as a whole. I am now thankful for what I used to despise and know that God can use all circumstances for His glory.



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"I am now thankful for what I used to despise and know that God can use all circumstances for His glory."

We Don't Know: Pg 1



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samaritanhouselima.org

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We Don't Know

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We are in unprecedented times; a global pandemic, and political unrest with many opposing viewpoints. There are numerous ideas on how to solve societies' problems. We are seeing many families and businesses struggle. Deconcentration has happened in mass shelters to slow the spread of COVID by pouring relief monies into the community to keep people in their homes. No one knows what the future holds. But, it is hard to imagine that funding to keep people in their homes *and* to sustain shelters will continue to be viable. My hope and prayer is that no matter what the future holds, that there will always be an element of teaching and personal connection as part of the solution. For as in my youth, we don't know what we don't know unless someone is willing to teach and we are willing and open to learn.

Moving Forward

This spring, several projects had to be put on hold as we navigated this new normal. We have missed having volunteers in our building, shining their light, loving on the space and connecting with staff and residents. We have always valued the connections we have with you, our supporters, but this unusual time has shown us, even more, just how much you mean to us.

Many have stayed connected by dropping off in-kind donations from our wish list, having items shipped to us, or taking up a special collection to benefit the shelter. Despite not being able to hold our annual Anniversary Celebration as in the past, our fundraising campaign was a success.

Recently, volunteers have started a much needed bathroom remodel, including a complete tear out down to the studs and floor joist. Our front office Dutch door has been replaced with a custom solid oak door for added security and functionality. Fall landscape clean up with an addition of a few shrubs helped to beautify our exterior. Funding from new or expanded sources has helped cover COVID related costs to address

A Client's Grateful Farewell

Being homeless is a day-to-day struggle. You never know if you will have a warm bed to sleep in. My family and I lost our home July of 2019. My father had become too sick to work and could no longer provide for us. I came to stay at the Samaritan House January of 2020. That's 7 months I spent from place to place.

I only wish I would have come to the Samaritan House sooner. They helped me in so many ways. When I first arrived, I had nothing but the clothes on my back. They gave me a beautiful room to sleep in and everything I could possibly need. They pushed me to aspire for bigger and better things. The beautiful women that run the household really care about you and your well-being. I now have my own place to call home and without them, I don't know where I would be today.

supplies and ventilation.

Over the years, we have been blessed in many, many ways. God's provision and resourcefulness never ceases to amaze us - He can use anyone, any situation, any source. This is what we try to do for our clients; combining resources from many avenues to meet their needs to help them be able to stand on their own. To provide them with broad, wrap around support; it works on so many levels. As the old adage says, don't put all your eggs in one basket. It is good advice for us and our clients. Wrap around support is like a big hug, it makes us all feel loved and cared for. You, our supporters in the community, are a big part of this. We could not help the women and children who stay with us without your steadfast commitment, prayers and donations. Thank you for believing in our mission and your continued partnership.



Wish List

Grocery Items: Butter, Cheese, Eggs, **Frozen Dinners**, Hamburger, **Individual Coffee Creamers**, Individually Packages Snack Items, Macaroni & Cheese with Sauce Packet, Milk, **Sliced Lunch Meat**, Spaghetti

Office Supplies: Gel Pens (Black or Blue), **Postage Stamps, Thank You Cards**

Household Items: **Alarm Clocks**, Can Openers, **Disinfectant Wipes, Disinfecting Spray Cleaners**, Floor Cleaners (Fabuloso, Pine-Sol, Mr. Clean), Gel Hand Sanitizer, Furniture Polish, **Paper Towels**, Rubbing Alcohol, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Trash Bags (30 Gallon and Tall Kitchen), Zip Top Storage Bags-Sandwich, 1 Gallon & 2.5 Gallon

Misc: 10 Pack Bus Passes, Athletic Shoes (Women's Sizes 6-11), Black Non-Skid Work Shoes (Sizes 6-11), Children's Cold Medicine, Steel Toed Shoes (Sizes 6-11), Thermometers

Wal-Mart/Meijer/Save-A-Lot/ Ruler Foods/Aldi's Gift Cards

Bold Items=Most Needed

Please see our website at samaritanhouselima.org for the most up to date wish list.

If I Were a Sunbeam

By: Marilyn Cipollone

Over the years, I have written stories regarding how I feel about the women and children who come to Samaritan House seeking a better life. I have reprinted poems which I felt 'spoke to me' in a special way and were applicable to our clients. I would like to share another; one that has stayed with me since childhood.

If I Were a Sunbeam

*... If I were a sunbeam, I know what I'd do,
I would seek white lilies, rainy woodlands through.
I would steal among them, softest light I'd shed,
Until every lily raised its drooping head.*

*If I were a sunbeam, I know where I'd go,
Into lowliest hovels, dark with want and woe:
Till sad hearts looked upward, I would shine and shine,
Then they'd think of heaven, their sweet home and mine.*

*Art thou not a sunbeam, child, whose life is glad
With an inner radiance sunshine never had?
O, as God hath blessed thee, scatter rays divine!
For there is no sunbeam but must die or shine.
By Lucy Larcom '1882'*

When I was a very little girl, I thought the second line in the second verse said, 'Into lonely hollows where there's want and woe.' I pictured a poor, isolated Appalachian area where oppressed families lived in various stages of poverty. I realized much later that I was wrong about the wording but not entirely wrong about the concept. I imagined myself a little sunbeam going from dark place to dark place and spreading light (sort of like *Tinker Bell*). And, it easily relates this 'spreading the light' to what we all try to do for those living at the shelter.

This poem has even more meaning for me, as it was one of my dad's favorites. He passed away two months before my first child was born. He never got to see any of my children here on earth. This child, whom I named Michael, not yet born before his grandfather's death, suffered a fatal heart attack forty-one years later and was sadly taken; way before his time. White lilies, like in verse one, just happened to be his favorite flower and he planted them wherever he lived. Lilies with raised heads are engraved on his tombstone.



I like to believe they will meet someday, my dad and Michael, and perhaps wait together among white lilies for those of us who remain to scatter rays divine!

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, 8,367 meals have been served and 2,789 shelter units (one person, one night) have been provided to 123 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

Samaritan House

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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.

Always In My Heart

By Marilyn Cipollone

At the end of this year, I will officially retire from Lima's Samaritan House after twenty-six years of working with homeless and/or abused women and children. Of course, due to the nature of our work, I have seen my share of sorrow and strife. But, also much joy and great success! Miracles happened right before my very eyes and my heart took a picture of every one of them. While I prefer to focus on the latter, I haven't forgotten those who still struggle. My prayer for them is that someday, somehow they will find their way.

Samaritan House will always be in my heart and I am pleased to announce that I have been asked to become a Board member. The shelter is in good hands. I have had the privilege of working with some of the finest women there are along with both men and women who volunteer, donate, support us in prayer and serve on our Board of Directors. We certainly could not have done this alone. Thank you for being there for us!

God bless you all,
~ Marilyn

