

Samaritan House News

Homeless Shelter For Women and Their Children

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34 Years in the Making

By: Brandi Schroeder

I know it's not for everyone, but I have always loved that Ohio offers a beautiful view of all four seasons – sometimes more. There is something powerful, renewing, an opportunity for healing and growth that comes with each change. I could have used a few extra seasons this past year. Although I know each day is new, I don't recall a time when I felt so stagnant and yet pulled mentally and physically in so many directions. I am incredibly grateful to have been surrounded by family, friends, and coworkers that help to keep me rooted and recognized when a battle was waging. Many of the clients we serve do not have this type of support. Some never have. For many that is hard to fathom. If you knew their stories, you might wonder how they are still living. I think when you work in the same job for a long time, it is normal to have times that you question if it is still where you should be. Here, that is usually a pretty good indication that you need a break before you experience burnout. It was during one of these times that I came across the meaning or symbolism of Birch. It's a simple tree. Yet, it can withstand unfavorable conditions, regenerate and occupy damaged landscapes and it can do so healthily. It represents new beginnings and growth. And although its survival isn't greatly dependent on the type of soil, it still needs sun to survive. This not only reminded me of the renewal and rest that we need to live healthy lives but also the resiliency of our clients and all that we have learned from them over the years.

During the season of Covid19, many were held by fear or simply the unknown. But amidst the chaos and disruption of busy lives, an opportunity also came. Many were able to see their life with fresh eyes - to see things for what they were. Some chose to let go of what wasn't working. To reorder their priorities. To find time for things that had slipped away. To find joy, even in the pain. To live and not just feel like they were existing. To honor those lost. To stop waiting for tomorrow.

For me, this time just impressed upon me what I already knew - we need each other. We go through seasons. There are times we give and times we need to allow ourselves to receive. Time marches on, and it waits for no one. I found light in the simple things. Flowers and vegetables planted by staff and volunteers. A frog saved from our basement that was drawn to a failing sump pump. Friendly smiles and waves from people I didn't even know. The joy of hearing a young resident say "I don't want to cry, but I feel like I am going to. I am happy about my apartment but I am also sad to leave here. This feels like my home!"

As we fight the battles of today, remember you are not alone. Find what is real. What is good. We have today. Do what you can *today*. Keep fighting the good fight.

Until the day we depart this earth, we are all still "in the making". What a beautiful opportunity. Thank you for being part of this journey with us for 34 years. And although we won't have a celebration in person this year (pg 3), we look forward to gathering together August 10, 2022 to celebrate 35 years of providing shelter, hope, and guidance to those in need!



In This Issue:

34 Years...: pg 1

Greater Things: pg 2

Moving On: pg 2

Shelter Updates: pg 2

Giving Campaign: pg 3

Wish List: pg 3

Make a Difference: pg 3

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"I am going to
make it."

Greater Things:
page 2

34th Anniversary
Giving
CAMPAIGN



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Greater Things

I first came to the Samaritan House over 20 years ago in 2000 for a few days. I never gave the shelter a chance back then. I was in active addiction, where I stayed for the next 20 years. I was in and out of trouble, jails and other people's homes. I never had a home of my own. I gave up on myself and let the drugs take over. I lost my mother in February 2017 and I really went off the deep end. I finally got sick and tired of that lifestyle and made my way back to the Samaritan House. I swallowed my pride and made my first step.

I am now currently at the shelter where I have been for going on 7 weeks. The best choice I have made in a very long time. I am clean and off of drugs, working a full-time job and currently waiting to sign my lease to my own place that I can call home. I'm so grateful that the Samaritan House took me in and helped me to get myself back on the right track. They believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. I've realized that there are greater things in life than being a drug addict. I deserve better and the staff here at this shelter helped me to believe in myself. This is truly a wonderful place to be. I finally am able to feel comfortable with myself and with my faith in the Lord. I am going to make it. - *Alicia*

Shelter notes: Alicia (name changed for privacy) first came back to the shelter in August of last year. She lasted just a few weeks and almost ended her chance of coming back without conditions. The case manager stated that with Covid19 going on, she did not want to make it harder for Alicia to get back in. The case manager felt she may need us again soon and might just be ready to invest in herself. She did and she was! This is a good example of how we have been able to be more flexible and accommodating because we are dealing with so few clients at a time. That has been a bright spot for us. Since writing her story, Alicia has since moved into housing and is incredibly grateful for her time at the shelter and all the encouragement and assistance with needed items. It was heavy on her heart that she wanted to make a donation and ended up doing so after she officially exited the program. In turn, one of the first pieces of mail in her new home was a thank you note from Samaritan House .

Moving On

A Place to Call Home

We never wish for someone to experience homelessness but are grateful to be able to help those who are. It is nice to have more activity in the shelter and being able to talk and visit with the residents. With the easing of the COVID restrictions, there is a lighter feeling and lessened stress. Although the mask mandate is still in place in shelters in order to be in compliance with the HUD guidelines, the warmer weather allows us to utilize our outside space without them. We look forward to these restrictions being lifted.

We are starting to see an increase in those seeking shelter and anticipate that this trend will continue. There are many sources of funding in the community to help with housing needs, but unfortunately our area lacks the necessary housing inventory to meet the demand of those in the low income bracket. At this time, landlords have their pick of tenants and those with blemished rental histories are being passed over. Vouchers and other assistance to help pay rent and deposit are available through several government funds, but with the rental market being so hot, many apartments are off the market before they can be utilized. This is requiring our residents to have a greater amount saved to go toward rent and deposit along with funds for utilities before they can seek housing. It isn't uncommon for our residents to have a tarnished rental history for a variety of reasons, which adds to their difficulty to find suitable housing.

Of course, that is not all bad. Because it doesn't cost anything to live in the shelter, the clients have an opportunity to save quickly, and gain the pride that comes with doing so. Daycare and transportation are still a challenge, but jobs are plentiful. We work on budgets as needed, connect them with community partners, and take a strength based approach to financial strategies. Although government assistance is available, it may not always be the best solution. Most clients now face more barriers than ever in securing safe and affordable housing. Assisting them on this journey can be frustrating at times but such a blessing to be a part of when they find the security in having a place to call their own.

Shelter Updates

Hidden Blessings

We have taken advantage of the time of lower population in the shelter to continue to make improvements to our facility. In the 34 years we have been in operation, there has rarely been a time that we could work on this size or location of projects without displacing those in need. Our flooring project has continued this past spring with carpet being removed in four bedrooms and two offices and replaced with vinyl plank flooring. While these rooms were shutdown they were deep cleaned and repainted. The décor and linens were refreshed where needed. We are thankful for the volunteers who came and helped. These project were able to be completed with grant monies received from local, private sources.

Due to the demands placed on our facility by the increase in telecommunications we were experiencing electrical brown-outs that were affecting our computer and electronic equipment. Also, our current network was not adequate to meet the increased use. Additional dedicated electrical circuits and networking have been installed to meet this increased demand.

We had been working to find a solution to better cool our three-story facility for a couple of years. Full house air conditioning was not feasible, but we were able to have a whole house fan installed to help pull in fresh, cooler air. This spring during a hard Eastern storm we noticed several of our windows "crying". We have had issues with moisture damaging the plaster, but thought it was due to penetration through the brick. Seventeen new windows are now on order and we hope to have them installed in November.

Since ventilation and telecommunications were priorities set out in the CARES Act, we were fortunate to be able to utilize Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) monies from HUD to fund these projects. Although COVID has been both directly and indirectly devastating in many ways, we have been able to find hidden blessings including the resources made available to fund many needed improvements. At this time, they would have been a great hardship or otherwise impossible to accomplish. For this we are grateful.

34th Anniversary Giving CAMPAIGN

It takes many months of planning and an immense amount of business support to pull off our in-person Anniversary Celebration. Due to several uncertainties and the timing of COVID restrictions being lifted, our 34th Anniversary will be celebrated virtually again this year. The pandemic has had a great effect on many of the businesses that do so much to make our live event successful and we understand that they are still recovering. For many years, our Anniversary Celebration has been our sole fundraiser and a time to get together with friends, family and donors for an evening of fun. If you were fortunate during this 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 2021 an Anniversary Giving Campaign will take the place of our Anniversary Celebration. We are looking forward to August 10, 2022 when we will be able to come together again and celebrate our 35th Anniversary.

We thank you for your continued prayers, support and encouragement.

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.

Company/Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor- \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of an Auction Item - \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor- \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of a Ticket - \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend Sponsor- \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 34th Anniversary Giving Campaign . Email company logo to clkirkendall@samaritanhousethima.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 1st to be included as part of our Giving Campaign

Wish List

Grocery Items: Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Frozen Dinners (individual), Individual Coffee Creamers, Individual Snack Items (Chips, Crackers, Granola Bars, Fruit & Pudding Cups), Milk, Sliced Lunch Meat

Office Supplies: Postage Stamps, Thank You Cards

Household Items: Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Trash Bags (30 Gallon and Tall Kitchen)

Misc.: 10 Pack Bus Passes, Black Non-skid Work Shoes (sizes 6-11), Steel Toed Shoes (sizes 6-11), Over The Counter Medications (Pain Reliever/Fever Reducer/Allergy Medications/Cough & Cold/Antibiotic-First Aid Ointments) Wal-Mart/Meijer/Aldi's/GFS Gift Cards

Please see our website, samaritanhousethima.org, for the most up to date list and links to specific items.



Samaritan House
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 Lima, OH 45801
 samaritanhouselima.org
 Address Service Requested

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

34th Anniversary
Giving
 CAMPAIGN



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, 3,672 meals have been served and 1,224 shelter units (one person, one night) have been provided to 73 women and children.

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

Mail to: 328 West McKibben St. Lima Ohio 45801