

Samaritan House News

Homeless Shelter For Women and Their Children

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The Story Continues

By: Jessica Peterson

Many chapters have been opened and closed at 328 W. McKibben. For the past 36 years, women have arrived at our door bringing nothing but themselves, ready to move forward from their past life and start anew. In a similar regard, the building itself, originally built as the nun convent for St Rose, has also grown and changed to meet the needs of those inside of it.

Three years ago on March 13th, 2020, the President declared Covid-19 a national emergency. The very next day, I arrived at the steps of Lima's Samaritan House for my interview. We, along with the entire nation, watched as an unknown chapter began to unfold. People were scared. Changes occurred rapidly through local, state, and federal government briefings. Schools and businesses were being ordered to shut down. Samaritan House's planned sole fundraiser that was already in the works came to a screeching halt. Days were spent scrambling to keep the shelter open; policies were changing constantly, and stacks of government paperwork arrived daily. It was not pretty nor was it easy, but we continued to serve. I could certainly empathize with our clients as I myself felt the heaviness of the uncertainty around me, a career change, and a lack of childcare. But I also felt this was the exact place I needed to be. Looking back over the last three years, I wouldn't change a thing. With darkness there is often light. For example, the mother who used her first stimulus check to boldly make a move. She fled with nothing but herself and her children from an abusive home. She drove hundreds of miles before arriving at our door. Today, she and her children are safe and living in their own home; the same one they moved to after their shelter stay. Reflecting, Covid-19 was her saving grace.

The shelter itself was also able to undergo major changes. A bathroom expanded, windows replaced, gutters and roofing replaced or repaired, and tuck-pointing and sealing of the brick structure. Additionally, the boilers will be replaced this summer. I find comfort in knowing these major financial projects are completed for future generations that will call Samaritan House home. The last project we were able to complete was our front entrance way. Brown water spots canvassed the ceiling while drywall cracks descended in every direction. It was not perfect but showed its wear and dedication for the mission. For decades, it was responsible for welcoming the women and children who found us, but even I could agree it was time for an update. Another new chapter would be opened. Over the spring, the drywall was fixed, walls painted, floor replaced; and to our surprise, under the dwindling drywall was resilient, original, brick. We knew we had to keep it, integrating the past back into the future. That same month the brick was discovered, the national emergency that had been in place for the last three years was declared over, adding another chapter that was closing.

I think it is important to remember these chapters. We don't always know why we are selected for certain trials and tribulations, but they continue pushing us forward taking us where we need to be. I believe this is true for everyone.



In This Issue:

The Story Continues: pg 1

Client Story: pg 2

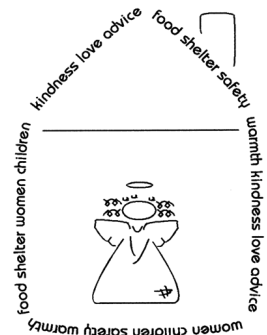
Project Update: pg 2

Raisin' Bread: pg 3

Wish List: pg 4

"Reflecting,
Covid-19 was her
saving grace."

The Story...: page 1



328 W McKibben Street
Lima, Ohio 45801
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samaritanhousetima.org

Client Story

By Nicki Tata

Recently, a former resident stopped by and asked to see me. She had completed our program a few weeks earlier and moved into her own home. She was radiant, visibly glowing and happy. She handed me an envelope, and said she just wanted to thank us again for being here for her, believing in her, and supporting her during such a trying time in her life. She said she is so proud of her new home, and showed me her bank statement- she wanted me to see that she was still saving and budgeting her money.

Susan is in her early 50's and had been living in Texas until she lost her job. She was forced to return to Lima where she had been couch surfing at the homes of her adult children and a few friends for several months. She was having difficulty saving money because she felt obligated to help the people who were allowing her to stay with them as much as she was able. She realized that she would never find her footing this way, and she felt like a burden to her loved ones. She heard about Samaritan House, and decided to make the call. This is the letter she delivered. We are so proud of Susan, and feel honored to have had the opportunity to help her get her well-deserved fresh start!

I wanted to thank Samaritan House for helping me get into my house. Not only that, but for teaching me how to really budget and save my money. I appreciate all of the support. I admit it is not easy having someone else tell you what you can and cannot do, or should or shouldn't do, but it worked out and it was the best thing for me. You took me in with one phone call and I am so grateful for all you have done for me. I will recommend Samaritan House to anyone who really wants to change their life and achieve their goals, and thank you for the nice gifts you provided me when I moved out.

Thank you and God bless,

Susan

Susan is one of three recent residents who were able to successfully transition from the shelter to their own home. This is quite remarkable considering the current housing market and rising rents in Allen, and our surrounding counties. Unfortunately, as a low barrier shelter the housing market is not the only difficulty that we face. Our residents have to be willing and able to work on becoming self-sufficient in order to obtain permanent housing. We have seen a dramatic rise in women struggling with addiction and untreated mental health disorders. Some of these situations are not only dangerous to the individual but to other residents, staff and volunteers as well. Extreme cases often involve police intervention. In addition to these struggles, many of our residents are transient, chronically homeless and traveling state to state without ever addressing the root cause of their homelessness. Our focus in these cases is connecting them with proper treatment and services to address the barriers that have prevented them from becoming permanently and safely housed. Sometimes private transitional housing is an option. Even if they do not return to Samaritan House and complete their journey with us, we know that we have done our best to start them on a healing path.

Project Update - Front Entry

By Brandi Schroeder

The front entry project has been on our list for a while, but since it was more of an eyesore than a necessity, it was pushed off in order to complete more pertinent repairs and projects. Of course in the excitement of finally being at a place that we could start the demo, I failed to take a proper before picture so you will have to take my word on it. There was peeling paint, dark stains on the ceiling, a lack of lighting, and the area had become quite crowded with postings, a bookcase to cover an unused door, and more than a few pieces of conduit that were placed without much thought as to the aesthetics. To say this



project was a labor of love would be an understatement. There were inevitably frustrations, needed changes and additions, a chipped tooth, and some very tired arms (thank you Jed, Gus, and Chris). The history and beauty of our building has always felt very special and as with any project, we make every attempt to maintain its integrity. However, when the demo began, we saw an opportunity to do more. The exposed brick gave us inspiration to highlight the history of the convent and the many years that this building has provided hope. In considering how to keep the narrow hallway more passible, the thought of using a pew came to mind. After much searching, one was located of a similar age to the building (1882). The wood work was refreshed, floating stairs strengthened, brick sealed, walls repaired and painted, postings and conduit relocated, ceiling raised, unused dark doorway removed, new flooring placed, lighting added, and some final touches to make the functional pieces blend in. The entry is now ready to welcome its inhabitants and guests for many years to come!

Raisin' Bread

A Benefit for Samaritan House

An evening featuring Dueling Pianos,
Appetizers and Silent Auction to Celebrate
the 36th Anniversary of Samaritan House.



Wednesday, August 9th, 2023

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm | Civic Center Exhibit Hall

Platinum Sponsor - \$1000 and Above
Up to 8 tickets. Company name on the event program. Reserved Table. # tickets _____

Gold Sponsor - \$500
Up to 8 tickets. Company name on the event program. # tickets _____

Silver Sponsor - \$250
Up to 4 tickets. Company name on the event program. # tickets _____

Friend Sponsor - \$100
Up to 2 tickets. Recognition at Event. # tickets _____

Donate a Silent Auction Item
Recognition on a donated item. Items must be received by August 1st, 2023
Item Value: _____ Item Description: _____

Donation
I am unable to attend the celebration but would like to make a tax-deductible donation of:
___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ Other

Tickets: \$25 each
of tickets: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Sponsorships Due by August 1st, 2023. Tickets available while supplies last.

Company Name: _____

Contact/Individual Name: _____

Address, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please Return to:
Samaritan House
Attn: Brandi Schroeder
328 W McKibben Street, Lima, Ohio 45801

For More Information
SamaritanHouseLima.org
419.222.4663
samhouse@samaritanhousethima.org



Samaritan House

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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.

Wish List

Grocery Items: Cheese, Coffee (regular), Coffee Creamer (pourable powder), Frozen Dinners, Fruit/Snack Cups, Hamburger, Individually Packaged Snack Items, Milk, Sliced Lunch Meat, Sugar

Office Supplies: Copy Paper, Pocket Folders, Postage Stamps, Thank You Cards

Household Items: Bathroom & Multipurpose Cleaners, Bleach, Disinfectant Cleaners, Furniture Polish, Mops, Paper Towels, Trash Bags (30 gallon and tall kitchen), Ziploc Bags (sandwich, quart and gallon)

Misc: Adult & Child Bus Passes, Athletic Shoes, Black Non-Skid Work Shoes, Children’s Cold Medicine, Hair Conditioner, Steel Toed Shoes

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

Please see our website at samaritanhouselima.org

for the most up to date wish list.

