

### Hardship to Hope

As we prepare this newsletter, the future of homelessness and affordable housing funding faces increasing uncertainty due to potential budget cuts and funding freezes at both the federal and state levels. Yet, the need still exists. While this source represents just a third of our funding, it is significant and has afforded other opportunities for things such as building improvements and repairs over the years. We continue to be good stewards with what we have been given and softly consider possibilities, but choose to remain focused on the heart of the work before us today.

We have so much gratitude for the support from countless contributors and volunteers that have made this mission possible for the past 38 years. Showing up, lending a hand, a smile, a kind word, praying, bringing ice cream on a hot day, and so much more. Below is a story by Jessica Peterson, our Operations Assistant, that shares a beautiful and encouraging example of what this looks like.

When Kylie first called the shelter, I happened to be covering the phones. She was a young girl who had moved in with a new boyfriend against her mother's recommendation. This is a common occurrence; often girls pivot from their own path and become distracted by a boy who never had their best interest in mind. They then return home, usually to a lecture, or maybe they can easily transition to their own housing with the support of family.

It was a year into the relationship before the red flags were so violently waving that Kylie couldn't deny them. She described a situation she simply summed up as being "unsafe". She called home. In return, she was met with a form of "tough love" I didn't understand. A co-worker had allowed Kylie to move in with her family for a short amount of time. It was understood she would not be able to stay long. The reason Kylie's time would be limited was the same reason the red flags became so abundantly clear to Kylie and maybe the same reason her mom would not welcome her back. It was no longer just her; Kylie was now nine months pregnant.

When she arrived to us, she was hours from home and only days away from delivery. She had exactly one pack of diapers and a gift card she had saved to purchase a car seat before the baby arrived. She was very much alone, the closest family member being a grandma who had passed. After our first meeting, I expressed my empathy for her. I also apologized that this had been her experience. Kylie shared that she had spent so much time being scared, anxious, mad, and sad that she truly just did not believe any was left in her to feel.

The week leading up to the hospital, Kylie did not let a second go to waste. Every resource we discussed, she called. She even spoke with a

childcare provider who said she could possibly start watching the baby at four weeks instead of the typical six or twelve weeks. She was not the only one busy. While I did indeed feel great empathy towards Kylie, I also knew that babies are cause for celebration.

With much anticipation from everyone waiting at the house, Kylie returned three short days later with my youngest client to date - a little girl. While Kylie was in the hospital, I reached out to a wonderful group of ladies from Shawnee United Methodist Church. Their Samaritan House Team has worked with the shelter for years, consistently sharing their kindness with our women and children. A week later during their monthly visit, I got to see them arrive at the house, pink cupcakes in tow, with appetizers, a meal, balloons, and pink wrapping paper. We were having a baby shower! The house gathered around for a meal of salad, alfredo, and lasagna. I don't think I have ever seen our dining room so full and loud with conversation and laughter. Little pink dresses were held up and doted over, with memories and stories of motherhood's sunshine and struggles shared. Women from all walks of life joined to celebrate life.

I spoke with Kylie a couple of days later; she was incredibly grateful and warned me that just talking about it made her want to cry. While Kylie knows these next months are going to be challenging, she just keeps going back to how so much has gone right for them already, more than she would have imagined, that she isn't going to spend time thinking about what could go wrong.

Kylie hopes to start working as soon as possible within the healthcare system. Her goal is to get her STNA to better support herself and daughter. Someday, she hopes

*Celebrating*  
**38**  
*Years of Service*  
1987-2025

Join us on August 13th for our anniversary celebration and fundraiser at the Lima Civic Center. Please see page 3 for ticket information and sponsorship opportunities.

#### In This Issue:

Hardship to Hope: pg 1

Their Own Words: pg 2

Raisin' Bread: pg 3

Wish List: pg 4



#### Vision Statement

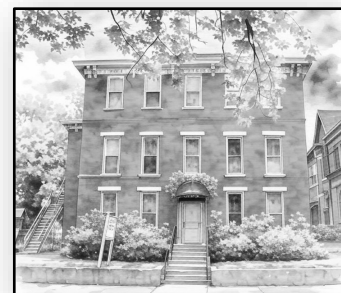
Lima's Samaritan House, Inc. will be recognized as the community leader in providing quality service to homeless women and their children with integrity through empowerment, education, financial stability and networking.

to become a Registered Nurse. I hope Kylie accomplishes these dreams and more. I also hope this little one knows that she is loved, prayed for, and cherished.

With support from our community, volunteers, and donors, we can provide a brighter start for them together.

Let us continue together in bringing hope and light to each day – sharing our ‘wealth’, be it joy bringer, financial contributor, prayer warrior, or other talents and gifts. Rather than be held or intimidated by fear of the unknown, believe for a future full of possibilities that are exceedingly abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine. Each day of life truly is cause for celebration!

Brandi Schroeder, Executive Director



## In Their Own Words

On Monday, April 28th, I was blessed with 90 days clean from all illegal narcotics and mind-altering substances. I owe this gift to three main sources:

1. My Higher Power (whom I chose to call “God”)
2. My own diligent self-will and determination
3. A remarkable life changing institution called Samaritan House

I definitely would not be sober today without this structured program! Sam House offers an excellent savings plan, daily itineraries for residents, and most importantly, zero-tolerance safety guidelines upheld by an ambitious and caring staff. The women here are dedicated to guiding and supporting us. Some of us are women who have been abused—physically and mentally—cast aside by society, and/or struggling with mental health and addiction issues.

Sam House carries a “crazy, calm, cozy” energy. The surreal and serene atmosphere is beyond words. When I arrived and walked into my room, I exhaled—a priceless moment of relief. Safety had eluded me for years, and Samaritan House gave me that gift again.

I have lived in over a dozen inpatient programs, recovery houses, and shelters, but none have provided the comfort, structure, and genuine support that Sam House does. After battling addiction and homelessness for more than 30 years across Ohio, I can confidently say this is the most impactful place I have ever lived.

Starting a new chapter of my life from 328 W McKibben Street was an honor. Thanks to their 80% savings plan, I was able to save enough to start fresh and secure housing. I am forever grateful to the staff and administration at Samaritan House. May they be truly blessed.

Thank you, Sam House, for saving my life!

*Teresa Lynn*



I am a single mother who had become accustomed to putting my own needs on the back burner. I suffer from depression and bipolar disorder and have found myself in and out of Coleman’s Behavioral Health Services. When I take my medication daily, my life is manageable. However, during stressful times, I have made poor decisions—choosing to stop taking my prescribed medication and instead self-medicating with alcohol.

When COVID-19 hit in 2020, the world panicked. Doctor’s offices shut down, and my options for managing my medical conditions became severely limited. With nowhere else to turn, I made the mistake of picking up the bottle again. The longer I went without my prescribed medication, the more my addiction worsened.

That same year, while under the influence and driving, I failed to yield to a police signal and received a third-degree felony. My sentence landed me in Marysville Prison for over two years. While incarcerated, I participated in numerous recovery programs and maintained an open mind, determined to change my life upon release. I was released on March 1, facing numerous barriers—I now had a felony, I was homeless, and I had lost most of my worldly possessions.

I am incredibly grateful to Samaritan House, its donors, and all those working behind the scenes. After a brief screening, Samaritan House welcomed me in, offering a safe, clean, and sober environment to help me rebuild my life. Case Management provided the goal-oriented guidance I desperately needed. Over time, I gained employment and committed to saving 80% of my paycheck each pay period.

Thanks to the rules, regulations, and support of Samaritan House, I am now writing this testimony as a success story. Their guidance has given me a new mindset—one rooted in discipline and structure.

I hadn’t held the keys to my own apartment in over five years. But today, I’ve handed a landlord my deposit and first month’s rent, a moment that has given me an incredible sense of accomplishment. By providing me with basic necessities—food, toiletries, coffee, and a warm, safe roof over my head—Samaritan House empowered me to save enough money to start fresh.

Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Director, Case Management, Staff, and each and every donor who made it possible for me to help myself.

Forever Grateful,

N.E.



*Samaritan House*  
**Raisin' Bread**  
*38th Anniversary Celebration*  
*and Fundraiser*



**An evening featuring Dueling Pianos,  
Appetizers provided by Panera Bread, and Silent Auction.**

**Wednesday, August 13th, 2025**

**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, 2025*  
*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, 2025. Tickets available while supplies last.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact/Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return to:  
Samaritan House  
Attn: Chris Kirkendall  
328 W McKibben Street, Lima, Ohio 45801

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



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328 W. McKibben St.  
Lima, OH 45801  
samaritanhousethima.org  
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## *Wish List*

**Grocery Items:** Canned Beef, Canned Pasta, Canned Tomatoes, Coffee, Coffee Stirrers, Coffee Creamer (individual or pourable powder), Eggs, Individual Snack Packs, Milk, Sliced Lunch Meat, Sugar, Vegetable Oil

**Office Supplies:** Copy Paper, Small & #10 Business Envelopes, Postage Stamps, Binders 1 ½ inch

**Clothing:** Black Non-skid Work Shoes, Steel Toed Shoes-Women's Sizes 8 & 9, School Uniforms (khakis & polos, or gift cards)

**Household Items:** All-purpose Cleaners, Bleach, Furniture Polish/Pledge, Toilet Paper, Twist-Ring Mops, Paper Towels, Trash Bags, Sandwich & Gallon Freezer Ziploc Bags, Window Cleaner

**Toiletries:** Body Wash, Conditioner, Deodorant, Shampoo, Toothpaste

**Misc:** 10 Pack Bus Passes, Birthday Wrapping Paper, Disposable/Nitrile Gloves - Size Medium & Large

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

Please see our website at [samaritanhousethima.org](http://samaritanhousethima.org)  
for the most up to date wish list.

