

Samaritan House News

Homeless Shelter For Women and Their Children

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Dance My Friend

By: Brandi Schroeder

Fortunately, I have no floods, sinkholes, or peeling roofs on which to report this period. While those situations have certainly provided fodder and an easy basis for newsletter stories, I don't think the trade-off is quite worth it. There have certainly been unexpected situations and circumstances to handle, but overall, the shelter has been fairly business as usual.

As it turns out, business as usual can be quite exhausting. What we do sounds pretty simple. We maintain a big house, welcome guests, offer temporary shelter, meals, laundry, case management, and connect people with community resources. But then there is everything running in the background: acquiring funding and supplies, maintaining grant compliance, and navigating the challenges that naturally come with operating a 24/7 shelter and supporting people in crisis.

The to-do list never ends. We are human, as are those we serve. Emotions can run high. It is amazing what a five-minute break can do, if only we can remind ourselves to pause. The other day, while trying to make a dent in the day's work, a resident in the bedroom above my office began to sing. Her music was a little loud and admittedly distracting, but it broke through the busyness and brought a toothy smile to my face.

She wasn't waiting for things to be perfect. She wasn't waiting for housing stability or for a long-awaited tax refund to finally arrive. She was living in a homeless shelter and still living. Her singing reminded me of our upcoming 39th Annual Raisin' Bread Celebration and Fundraiser. That made me think of dancing, and dancing made me think of our longtime director and friend, Marilyn Cipollone, who passed away just a few months ago. Even in the hardest of times, Marilyn would add the dance/tango emoji to her messages among the hearts and praying hands. It became a symbol of rising above our circumstances. Dancing despite despair. Believing for more. Trusting the unseen.

Some days, we simply need a win, no matter how small, and this reminder felt like one. Wiggle the parts you can. Listen with your heart. Sometimes we have to stop waiting for life to settle down and simply join the music. Over the 30 years we spent together, I came to learn that this wasn't merely something Marilyn had learned from working alongside our residents. This was her experience, her heartache, her struggle, and her own story of survival. And she kept trying.

"Count it all as joy" can be a hard pill to swallow, but again and again we have seen trials

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Celebrating
39
Years of Service
1987-2026

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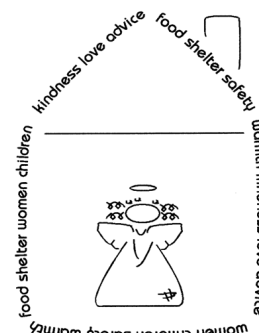
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"Debra didn't leave without fear—but she left with a plan, support, and the courage to try."

One Step Closer
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Dance My Friend - Continued

transformed into blessings. So let us not forget that a cheerful heart is good medicine and that there is transformative power in letting go long enough to find joy and peace in life.

While we would be happy to have you join us on August 12th, please don't wait to celebrate. There is no need for the steps to be perfected.

Raise those hands and dance, my friend.

In loving memory of Marilyn Cipollone.



In Their Own Words

"Over 30 years ago, I needed help and stayed with you—twice, between 1989 and 1992. I'm not sure exactly when I was there.

While there, I felt wanted—something I hadn't often felt in my 20+ years. During my first stay, I had just my daughter with me. She is now 38 and doing well, and she still remembers staying there.

The second time, I had my infant son as well. He had many medical issues, and the doctors didn't expect him to live long. Today, he is 34 and able to work part-time.

I just wanted you all to know your help made a huge difference. We now live in Texas and are able to give back. My time there was the beginning of my healing.

Thank you for all you do!

—RF"

Although the services provided to RF were before any of our time here, it is incredibly encouraging to hear her story. To know that, all these years later, she still carries Samaritan House with her—and chose to reach out and share the impact it had on her life—is truly meaningful.

Her story is a powerful reminder that the work done here doesn't just meet immediate needs—it creates lasting change that can span generations.

One Step Closer

By: Nicki Tata

The definition of "housed" can differ from person to person. While our goal is for residents to become housed and self-sufficient, that journey can look very different in each case.

Debra came to us in January. For several years she had been couch-surfing and staying in shelters, treatment centers, or hotels across Ohio. Debra had already overcome substance abuse and was actively taking care of her mental health, but the idea of living alone felt overwhelming. She worried about the stress of affording and maintaining housing by herself. Moving from shelter to shelter—or even staying in a hotel—felt easier than facing the day-to-day responsibilities of paying bills or making sure she had food.

We searched far and wide for a long-term transitional setting where Debra could ease into independence by maintaining employment and paying rent, but nothing was available. Then Debra heard from an old friend who offered her a room to rent.

We discussed the opportunity at length during every appointment. She talked it through with her online therapist. Debra was absolutely terrified to leave us and take that leap—but eventually she decided she

would try.

Together we made a list and started ordering the items she would need to furnish her room. We talked about budgeting her money, saving, maintaining a schedule, and finding purpose in her day. By the time her move-out day arrived, all her ducks were in a row. She was still frightened, but she did it.

Times have changed when it comes to housing. It is no longer uncommon for adults to live with roommates or for multi-generational families to share resources and space. That doesn't mean they are not successful.

Some people, like Debra, need to crawl before they walk—experiencing independence slowly and securely before eventually living on their own. Others may live with family or roommates long-term, and in today's world that's okay.

Debra didn't leave without fear—but she left with a plan, support, and the courage to try. Sometimes success isn't a set of keys to your own apartment. Sometimes it's simply opening the door to the next step. If we can help someone take that next step—no matter how small—it means the work we do matters.

Samaritan House

Raisin' Bread

39th Anniversary Celebration

and Fundraiser

**An evening featuring Dueling Pianos, Silent Auction,
Appetizers provided by Panera Bread, and 50/50 Drawing.**

Wednesday, August 12th, 2026

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, 2026
Item Value: _____ Item Description: _____
- ☐ **Tickets: \$25 each**
of tickets: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Sponsorships Due by August 1st, 2026. 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

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For More Information:

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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.

Wish List

Grocery Items: Baby Formula, Baby Food, Canned Pasta (Spaghetti O's/Ravioli), Canned Tomatoes (Sauce & Diced), Cheese Slices, Chicken Breasts (Frozen), Coffee (Regular), Coffee Creamer (Individual Or Pourable Powder), Coffee Stirrers, Eggs, Frozen Dinners, Individual Snack Packs (Chips, Cookies, Trail Mix, Etc.), Milk, Sliced Lunch Meat, Sugar, Vegetable Oil

Office Supplies: Copy Paper, Envelopes (#10 Business), Pocket Folders, Postage Stamps

Clothing: Non-Skid Work & Steel Toed Shoes, Sandals & Tennis Shoes, Underwear (Sizes 5 & 10), PJ's (Lightweight), T-Shirts, Sweat Pants & Sweat Shirts (All Solid Colors, Adult & Kid Sizes)

Household Items: All-Purpose Cleaners (Mr. Clean, Pine Sol, Fabuloso), Bleach Tablets, Birthday Wrapping Paper, Disposable/Nitrile Gloves (Size Medium & Large), Food Storage Containers (Large), Furniture Polish/Pledge, Hand Soap, Paper Towels, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Toilet Paper, Trash Bags (13 Gallon Tall Kitchen & 30 Gallon), Ziploc Bags (Sandwich, Quart, 2 Gallon), Window Cleaner (In Spray Bottles)

Toiletries: Deodorant, Mouth Wash (Small), Toothpaste

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

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

