CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT…

We have raised 90% of the $410,000 goal!!

I continue to be amazed and thankful for the generosity of our community. As we come closer to reaching our Capital Campaign goal, the timing could not be better. SAM’s House Emergency Shelter opened November 1st for the 5th winter season and by November 3rd there was already a waiting list. Once renovated, SAM25’s new home will provide space for a larger, more functional emergency shelter for adults and families with children. It will be home to a Resource Center for expanded year-round daytime resource access and educational programs to help break the cycle of homelessness. Also included will be a clothing Thrift Store, providing job access and training, professional clothing for job interviews, and funding for SAM25 programs. A volunteer-staffed Community Clinic providing basic health care to uninsured patients and referrals for health insurance access will round out SAM25’s new permanent home. All made possible by our generous community and a stellar contingent of staff and volunteers. Thank you so much!

Work has begun on our new home! A new roof is being installed, State approval of architectural plans is in the works, demolition has started and it is exciting to see the potential take shape! We appreciate all the volunteers who took down old ceiling tile, pulled up carpet, tore out old paneling, and currently are putting in temporary lighting. We will need all kinds of help to complete the renovations to open the 2020 shelter season in our new home. Check our website at sam25.org and our social media for future work days. You make a difference and we appreciate every unique thing each of you does for our guests and families.

So good things are happening. But we need your continued support and prayers. You now have two ways to help us financially this Christmas season. You can make a gift for our continued operations plus you can make a one-time gift to the Capital Campaign to push us to 100% of our goal. To those of you who have already given to the SAM25 Capital Campaign, and to those who contribute to our daily operations, THANK YOU! As the Holiday Season approaches, please help SAM25 continue its Mission: “to help those affected by poverty improve their circumstances to become self-sufficient”. See our website at sam25.org or call the shelter at 715-851-7252 for more information. Christmas Blessings to you all! With gratitude,

Muffy Culhane, SAM25 Board President

Some pictures of our progress…
Our Mission: We help those affected by poverty improve their circumstances to become self-sufficient.

Our EMPTY BOWLS-CARING HEARTS event in October was a huge success thanks to the community’s support. The event ran from 11:00 to 2:00, and in those 3 short hours we had close to a hundred volunteers serving soup, breadsticks & cookies, displaying & selling baskets for raffles, tending to beautiful items for the silent auction bidding, selling gift card surprises & 50/50 raffle tickets, all while enjoying a plethora of music that delighted our ears. Everyone felt like dancing, & I believe a few did just that!

Almost 400 people came to eat & enjoy the activities, but many found more than that. Everywhere you looked there was a sense of community and good heartedness. So many came together for a common cause; to help those in need through their support of SAM’s House Emergency Shelter. It was a joyous event and a lightening of our spirits. Thanks to this wonderful community for their many donations, countless volunteer hours and their continued commitment to help one another.

Terry Wiley
Hello SAM25 Friends! Happy Thanksgiving! It always seems so far away all year and then suddenly the Holidays are upon us. We all hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season!

SAM’s House 5th Shelter Season is upon us and it has been our busiest start yet. We were full within three days of opening the shelter and have been at capacity with a waitlist since. Needless to say, we are excited for more space next year when we move into our new location. Having many people in a small space with limited bathroom and no laundry facilities makes it difficult for all involved. We are incredibly grateful for the space we do have, though. Without it, none of these folks would have a place to go. Mother Nature has brought winter especially early this year so it is incredibly important that our shelter is available. Thanks to the Shawano Community for continuing to support our mission. None of this would be possible without you. We have donors of all ages. Check out the picture to the right of the Hendricks Kids, who generously donated their chore money from an entire summer of work to SAM25! Just incredible. Thanks, Bailey, Beckett and Eve! I was so touched by this gesture that I had to mention them here.

Many people ask us about the holidays and if we have a celebration for our guests. The short answer is “We Do!” Thanks to generous donors, we always have holiday meals, gifts for everyone in shelter and a beautiful tree that is decorated for Christmas. Our staff works really hard to keep things festive and make it special for everyone involved. If you are interested in helping with the holidays, please let us know as soon as possible. We have many people involved in this process so the more time we have ahead of Christmas, the better. We also ask that all donations for the holidays be received no later than December 20th this year, so we have plenty of time to get everything together. If you are interested in helping with holidays, please give us a call.

Speaking of holidays, I would like to personally express my appreciation for all of the wonderful volunteers who help to keep SAM’s House open during holidays. While SAM’s House is an overnight shelter, we often have enough volunteers who work shifts during the daytime on holidays. This allows us to keep our shelter open during the day so our guests do not have to leave. While holidays are often our favorite days, they can be really difficult for those in shelter. Most public buildings are closed, along with many businesses, leaving people with no place to go. For the past four years, we have had many volunteers step up to work shifts throughout the day to ensure our doors remain open. Guests and volunteers play games and enjoy a relaxing day, just as everyone should be able to on a holiday. This is truly the spirit of giving of oneself. Thank you to all who make this possible. You are making a huge difference for those who are here. If you want to be involved or help out in any way with SAM25, we always need more volunteers. Give us a call! Thanks to everyone who helps in any way. Happy Holidays to you all! - Jen
Happy Autumn to Winter! Thanks to all of you for all you do to help make our SAM25 programs so successful! They continue to expand and serve so many in our community; not only the receiver but the giver as well.

On September 24th, six dedicated investigators graduated from the Getting Ahead program (Pictured right). Wowza! These women and men committed to and pounded out sixteen sessions through a family death, hospital visits and an impending birth, by doubling-up sessions and meeting on Saturdays. Yes, a healthy baby boy arrived the week we finished! This amazing group opened-up, helped and worked with one another to make real their future stories.

Bridges out of Poverty has been launched with presentations in September for SAM25 staff and Getting Ahead graduates and in October for our General Meeting and volunteer orientation. Bridges is designed to bring individuals, community, institutions and policy makers together to look through this triple lens at what currently exists and what can be developed and improved for the good of all the community. In it’s infancy here at SAM25, I am still learning, researching and developing this valuable program for our community. This program has been successful in improving the lives of many all around the world through the triple lens and those already established programs are willing to help and develop us newcomers. Currently, I plan to present once per quarter, but hope to offer more.

Finally, Lynn Blakesley and I have continued to offer our Steps To Success (STS) program presentations through the summer at community dinners. We presented on Housing, Time Management, and Healthy Relationships. Seventeen folks participated and found the presentations helpful. We garnered some new volunteers and interested investigators for our next Getting Ahead program. SAM25 will continue presenting at the dinners throughout the year as well as in-shelter programs now that the shelter is open. This year, we have provided 20 presentations serving 117 individuals.

Steps to Success is also busy at SAM’s House as we partner shelter guests with an STS mentor upon arrival. These mentor/mentee relationships prove so helpful in assisting individuals in stressful situations to navigate their circumstances, needs and the resources available to them.

If you are interested in participating in any of our programs or in presentations, please give me a call 715-851-7252. I welcome your thoughts on existing or new programs. Again, thank you all for making these wonderful programs happen. -Chris

To Donate to SAM25:
- Online: via PayPal on our website at sam25.org. Please note “General Fund” or “Capital Campaign” in memo line.
- By Mail: Make checks payable to SAM25 and note “General Fund” or “Capital Campaign” in memo line.

Shawano Area Matthew 25, Inc.
P.O. Box 147, Shawano, WI 54166
Phone: 715-851-7252
Website: [www.sam25.org](http://www.sam25.org)