



# Hope Restored

Summer, 2020

Donor Highlights

## What's Happening

- SAM25 Resource Days** Every Tuesday  
(Year round)  
SAM's House, 213 E Green Bay St.....12:00pm-2:00pm
- Thursdayz at Franklin** \*July – August  
Franklin Park, Shawano \*June Dates Cancelled
- BBQ & Barn Dance** Sept 25  
Koeller Century Farm, W7950 Oak Ave, Shawano.... 6:00pm
- Empty Bowls - Caring Hearts** October 17  
SCHS, County Road B, Shawano
- SAM's House Opens for the Season** Nov 1  
SAM's House, 213 E Green Bay St ..... 5:00pm

### SAM25 Shelter Statistics: 2019-2020 Season

#### SAM's House Shelter:

Nights of Stay: 1757  
Guests Served: 67  
Adults: 45 / Children: 22  
Meals Provided: 4815  
**COVID 19 Stats:**  
Hotel Voucher Guests:25  
Number of Nights  
provided: 183

#### Resource Day Statistics:

Resource Sessions  
Provided: 318

*"I was living on a park bench and a crisis worker got me back with SAM25. They got my vehicle back — they're the reason I'm even still here and kicking. They are trained to deal with situations like this — one of the biggest things that kept me going." – Brian, SAM25 Guest*

**SAM25 cannot do its work without its wonderful donors. Most of our usual fundraisers are cancelled due to COVID 19. These fundraisers help us to pay for our shelter and programs. We need your help!  
Please consider giving to SAM25 today!**

### Donor Highlights

SAM25 would like to thank all who donate in the form of funds, item donations, time and talents. We couldn't do what we do without your generous support. Below is a highlight of some of our recent donors:

- Bob and Dolly Burdick
- Alan and Carolyn Lamia
- Peggy Garefino
- Anonymous
- Immanuel Lutheran Church of Cicero
- Cornerstone Chiropractic
- Robert and Tammy Cherney
- In Memory of Al Heins
- United Way of Shawano County
- Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and United Way Fox Cities
- Tom Egan
- Lois and Ron Brewster
- Mary Podzilni
- Shawano Lake Lioness Club
- CoVantage Credit Union
- Lisa Gast
- Wisconsin Public Service Foundation
- Little Rapids Corporation – Egan Family Foundation
- St. Joseph Holy Family Parish
- AbbyBank
- Anonymous

### Sign up for SAM25 Snippets Volunteer Newsletter!

In lieu of the monthly General Meeting, SAM25 has been sending out monthly updates via email in our SAM25 "Snippets" – a monthly E-newsletter to send out to anyone who wishes to stay in the loop. We share statistics, shelter needs, fundraiser updates and volunteer opportunities with this publication. If you did not receive last month's SAM25 Snippets, please email [executivedirector@sam25.org](mailto:executivedirector@sam25.org) so we can add you to the list!

## Board President Note

Hello SAM25 supporters! Welcome to summer and thank you for your continued support and prayers. Along with all of you, SAM25 continues to navigate the ever-fluid coronavirus situation. It is challenging, isn't it? A lesson in humility, compassion, creativity, and flexibility. Despite the shelter closing early in preparation for COVID-19, SAM25 has received funding through grants and private donations to be able to continue to provide temporary housing and help connecting to resources for those in need. We are grateful. Through a PPP loan SAM25 has been able to keep staff employed for an additional eight weeks to help with the ever-increasing need in our community for resource connection, supplies, housing and job searches. With ongoing economic difficulties those needs will continue and will likely multiply. SAM25 is thankful for the opportunity to continue its mission to help those affected by poverty improve their circumstances to become self-sufficient. Thank you for joining in to support the people of our community served by SAM25 programs.

As with many non-profit groups, because of the coronavirus, SAM25 has seen many fundraisers cancelled that we have counted on in the past to fund our programs. We need to keep our volunteers and staff safe and healthy. With the future unknown, we are starting to think of and learn about other forms of fundraising, especially virtual fundraising. For example, our fun and successful annual Empty Bowls, Caring Hearts fundraiser may look different this October, but we will continue to do it in a fun and safe way. Then when it is safe to do so, it will return in its usual great, successful format. Stay tuned! Our annual Flower Sale fundraiser was very successful (and beautiful!) and we were fortunate to be able to do that safely. Some new ideas include compiling and selling a SAM25 cookbook with recipes submitted by all of you wonderful volunteers who bring dinner into the shelter every evening. We are thinking of a "Decorate a Ceiling Tile" fundraiser where the decorated tiles will then hang from the drop ceiling throughout our new SAM25 home. If you have other fundraising ideas, please let us know! We are also increasing our grant applications. We have learned to look upward and trust that, with hard work

and collaboration, and with your help, SAM25 will be able to continue to offer help and support to our community in times of struggle. You are an important part in making that happen so please know we appreciate each one of you and your support. This is a community organization and you are all helping to make our part of the world a little better for everyone. Thank you!

I would also like to say thank you to all our great volunteers, executive director and staff. Thank you also to our outgoing SAM25 volunteer board members Randy Mallmann and Jeri Wilber. Thank you to the current SAM25 Board of Directors including Harlan Pygman, Joe Guenther, Danica Zawieja, Heather Pahl, Jeanne Cronce, Cherie Zelinger and our treasurer, Linda Beversdorf.

Take care, stay healthy, and have a good summer. With thanks, Muffy Culhane; SAM25 Board President

P.S. SAM25's new home is being transformed before our eyes and it is so exciting to see! Please keep reading to see update and photos on Page 4! Again, you have made this possible, and we are SO thankful.

**Thank you to Cerny's Greenhouse in Tomahawk and everyone who helped with the SAM25 plant sale again this year! It was a huge success with 538 plants sold.**



### **EMPTY BOWLS CARING HEARTS**

Bowl Painting is on hold, due to COVID 19. Stay tuned for more information. We are working through ideas for Empty Bowls this year!



### Executive Director Note

Hello SAM25 Friends! It has been a whirlwind of a Spring so far. Life has changed in so many unexpected ways for everyone. I pray that you are all safe and healthy.

We have all had the rug pulled from under us with COVID 19. Not only here at SAM25, but in all of our personal and professional lives. Human contact is limited, replaced quickly by alternative means through technology, forcing all of us into a virtual world of uncertainty. So many new processes, requiring patience and lots of learning!

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, life abruptly changed for our shelter and guests when SAM25 made the difficult decision to relocate guests out of shelter to keep them safe. As many of you know, we have a very communal environment in our current building, making it easy for sickness to spread. Luckily, many people stepped forward, including the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and United Way Fox Cities to provide funding for hotel vouchers. Donations from many private donors, including food, supplies and funds were also provided to help SAM25 continue its services at a distance. It was incredible! Several guests were able to make alternative arrangements and those that weren't, were put into hotels through vouchers provided. We successfully provided 25 people with temporary housing in hotels and even assisted some of them in finding permanent housing, helping them get out of homelessness altogether!

It has been an unprecedented time, forcing all of us to change the way we help people. All in all, we have learned that we can do so much to continue to serve those in need, even from afar.

Shelter staff have been amazing: keeping things afloat, flexing their schedules around, being on call around the clock, to ensure that everyone in need is connected to services, all whilst taking care of families of their own. I want to thank all of our amazing staff at SAM25 who continue to work hard day in and day out. Your dedication does not go unnoticed.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention how much we miss our volunteers. Since March, we have limited volunteering in shelter to ensure everyone is safe. We rely so heavily on our volunteers and not having you there has been tough. Please know how valued you are and how important your work is. We can't wait until you all can come back and we can start working together, side by side, again.

Personally, these past few months have been some of the hardest during my time with SAM25. Many tears have been shed, sleepless nights worrying about our guests, our future and the health of those we love. However, through the generosity of so many people, near and far, we have been able to continue to help those in need. It has been humbling and I thank all of those who have reached out in any way, providing donations, support and kindness. We've seen some silver linings in all of this; proving that nothing can stop us, not even a pandemic. We will get through this...one day at a time. Stay healthy and take care of those you love. Everything will be okay.  
– Jen Bisterfeldt, Executive Director

### **SAM25 Volunteer Opportunities!**

**Current Needs:** Volunteer administrative support and shelter cleaning.

We will also have many new opportunities for assistance in the Fall when we move into our new building.

#### **Thrift Store:**

Sorting and pricing donations; Front Counter Clerk.

#### **Resource Center:**

Front office receptionist for Resource Days (answering phones and door, light administrative work).

#### **Shelter:**

Intake, Overnight and Morning Shelter Shifts.

## SAM25 Mission

We help those affected by poverty improve their circumstances to become self-sufficient.

### New Building Update!

Construction is well underway at the future home of SAM25! Lots of people have been in and out of the building, working hard to complete this huge project. We are on track to be moving in this Fall. Thank you to Dimension IV Architects, Larry Laude Builders, Moede & Sons Plumbing, Knope Heating and Cooling, Radtke-Reuter Electric and Carlton Construction for all your amazing work! Lots of demolition was done early on in the project, new walls have been built and new windows have been put in throughout the building. The construction also includes 3 new furnaces (donated by Knope Heating & Cooling!), all new ductwork, three new handicap accessible bathrooms and complete re-wiring of the electrical. We are grateful to have so many local experts working on this project who have been incredibly kind and generous. Thanks to you all! SAM25 is in good hands! It has been fun to see the project move along and plan for the next phase of our organization.



**Many of the SAM25 Fundraisers have been cancelled due to COVID 19, but we still need your help! Please consider donating to SAM25 today!**  
**Options for donating to SAM25:**

- Online: via PayPal on our website at [sam25.org](http://sam25.org).
- By Mail: Make checks payable to SAM25.  
Shawano Area Matthew 25, Inc.  
P.O. Box 147, Shawano, WI 54166  
Phone: 715-851-7252  
Website: [www.sam25.org](http://www.sam25.org)