

SAM25 Mission

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

Board President Note

Greetings on behalf of the SAM25 Board of Directors! As always, I begin with a huge **THANK YOU** for your continued support for SAM25 and its programs – all is made possible by you!

The first ever SAM25 Valentine Virtual Silent Auction and Fundraiser was great fun and a big success. Thanks to all who helped and participated. We plan to make this an annual event!

The Annual SAM25 Flower Sale (thanks once again to Cerny's Greenhouse in Tomahawk) is set to begin (see enclosed order form or visit sam25.org). Please order these beautiful flowers to benefit SAM25. This is a favorite fundraiser and a sign that spring is on the way!

SAM25 has been blessed to have a wonderful VISTA member, Lauren Conway, join us mid-January for a year of work with SAM25 (see her introduction in this newsletter). She is assisting SAM25 mainly with implementation of the SAM25 Community Health Clinic and will jump in to help with the SAM25 Thrift Store as well. Renovations have begun on the clinic space (another huge thank you to Larry Laude Builders, Knope Heating and Cooling, Moede Plumbing, Concrete Cutters, Raddant Electric, among many). We will be amazed at its transformation, just as we were with the Shelter, Resource Center, and Thrift Store spaces. Lauren and the Clinic Committee, an amazing group of talented, caring people, are hard at work putting together all it takes to open and run a clinic that will initially provide health care and health education to the uninsured as well as assistance in obtaining health insurance. This clinic will fulfill the final of the original goals of SAM25 and we are grateful. So SAM25 is thriving and busy! You will hear of the other SAM25 programs throughout this newsletter.

We are thankful for good health this winter at SAM's House Emergency Shelter (thanks to the amazing staff, volunteers, dinner makers, contributors). The SAM25 Resource Center is busy every day helping people with their struggles. The SAM25 Thrift Store recently had its soft opening (thank you Generations

Store, Leadership Shawano County group and SAM25 staff and volunteers). We are blessed.

Thank you for helping SAM25 realize its Mission: We help those affected by poverty improve their circumstances to become self-sufficient. Take care and stay well. **MANY THANKS** for the ways each of you support SAM25. Peace, Muffy



(Pictured above: Volunteers and Customers at the Thrift Store Opening on Saturday, February 27th)



SAM25 Food Tent Fundraiser at Thursdays @ Franklin!

SAM25 will be selling Luigi's pizza at Franklin Park this year! All proceeds support SAM25!

We are also in need of volunteers for these events. If you or your group is interested in signing up to help, give us a call!

SAM25 Cookbooks for SALE - \$10!



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Executive Director Letter

Hello SAM25 Friends! Spring has sprung a little early in Wisconsin and we are loving this beautiful weather! We feel fortunate to have had such warm temperatures here at SAM25. It always makes things so much easier for everyone when the snow melts.

With spring has come the start of phase two of our renovation projects: the SAM25 Community Health Clinic. We are thrilled to see the implementation of this final program. Thanks to the awesome contractors for their work. We are grateful for all they have done! If you've driven past our building, you may have noticed that our new siding is up. The blue house with the yellow door – it matches our logo and will be an easy place for everyone to find! We are so excited to see these final renovations take place. We also recently received our washer and dryer sets from Heins Appliance, donated by Twig's Beverage and the Shawano Masonic Lodge. The conference room is fully furnished now too! The 100 Plus Women Who Care of Shawano County funds were used to purchase tables and chairs for our STS Room, allowing us to offer classes and have a place to hold meetings!

We have also been working on getting the thrift store up and running. Leadership Shawano County has been helping us with this project. A few weeks back, we held a soft opening on a Saturday and it turned out really well. We are looking forward to additional soft opening dates on March 20 and 27 (See page 4 for flyer) before officially implementing a weekly schedule this Spring. Stay tuned for more details and watch our website/social media for announcements. If you drive by and see a sign outside that the thrift store is open, stop in!

Hard to believe it, but we are already nearing the end of our first shelter season in our new building. I feel like a broken record, but I can't say it enough: this new space has made it possible to keep our guests, staff and volunteers safe through a really tough year. It hasn't been easy, but we are taking it one day at a time. Without this space, it would have been much more difficult. The men, women and children we serve are thankful for a safe place to go and we are thankful for all of you who make it possible!

While the shelter season may be soon coming to a close, SAM25 is still available all year to those in need. We have hired an official Resource Manager in our Resource Center; an already familiar face, Chris Ciucci, will be staying on throughout the off-season to continue her work with those in need. Chris is here during the day to help with the needs of those we serve. If you know of someone who needs assistance, please send them over to SAM25 to get some help. Our Resource Center is now open Mondays through Thursdays 9am – 2pm. Stop in at the yellow door out front during these hours if you need anything!

As always, none of this would be possible without the support of our beloved Shawano and Menominee Communities (and beyond!). There are so many people and organizations who reach out to help. It is amazing! Thanks to each and every one of you.
-Jen



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SAM25 Welcomes its new AmeriCorps VISTA, Lauren Conway



Hi SAM25 friends and supporters!

My name is Lauren Conway, and I am SAM25's first AmeriCorps VISTA. While VISTAs work across a variety of programs and initiatives to fight poverty in the United States, joining the efforts of

the Wisconsin's Association for Free Charitable Clinics (WAFCC) made perfect sense given my background and goal to one day bring holistic care to rural parts of Africa and underserved regions of the US.

Since starting my service year in January, so much has already happened! I relocated to Wisconsin from my home state of New Jersey, participated in SAM25 board/clinic meetings, networked with other WAFCC VISTAs, and conducted ongoing research and analysis for the clinic's development. In addition to working on the health clinic, I will support capacity-building efforts for the thrift store throughout my service year, which I look forward to stepping into soon.

With a servant heart, eager to utilize my training and experiences in Psychology, Education, Behavior Analysis, and Public Health, I am equally hopeful for all the new experiences and wonderful people I will meet along the way!

In my free time, I enjoy being outdoors with loved ones (and my sweet 4-legged furry companion!), traveling/exploring new places, and being a part of my church community.

Steps to Success Update

By: Chris Ciucci

Hello! Steps to Success, (STS) programs have been working nicely with varied presentations being well received by guests. We've offered 14 presentations with 40 people in attendance to date. Some of the recent ones included topics such as Communication, Ways to Make Money, Wellness, Housing and Time Management. Additional courses relative to COVID Now, Mental Illness, Budgeting and Resumes are still upcoming.

Having guests partnered with staff for a mentor has proved valuable as there is continual communication for help and follow up. So far this season, we've had 42% of our guests move on to more permanent housing circumstances. If you'd like more information on STS programs or want to share a presentation, please contact us at 715-851-7252. - Chris



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.
- 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