

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

SAM25 IS EXPANDING!!

A letter from Board President, Muffy Culhane...

Hello SAM25 Friends/Supporters!

Happy Spring/Summer! Our fourth shelter season has finished and SAM's House was again blessed with a safe, successful season. In all, 67 adults and 28 children were provided kindness, caring, nourishment, and a warm, safe place to sleep this past winter. Thank you to each of you for the unique gifts you bring to help make the SAM25 programs and services possible and our community stronger. **Thank you!**

SAM25 is moving forward and **expanding** in exciting ways and we continue to need each of you to do so. On April 24th, SAM25 bought a building for our permanent, larger home. While our current location has been ideal, we have known it is a temporary home, and we have slowly outgrown the space. Our new home became available and we took the leap. We are looking forward to renovating it into a great resource for our community. This new home for SAM25 is located at 105 E. Richmond St. in Shawano and will include the following: 1) a shelter space with more room and improved bathroom, shower and laundry facilities; 2) a Resource Center providing daytime, year-round proactive assistance to anyone in our community with job and housing searches and education, in partnership with area agencies; 3) a clothing resale store creating income to support SAM25 programs as well as employment and learning opportunities for shelter guests; and 4) a Community Clinic delivering basic health care for uninsured members of our community as well as referrals for health insurance assistance. These are exciting plans, opportunities, and realized goals for SAM25 and our community!

We need your help! In order to accomplish the above, we must raise money to renovate this building to suit the needs of our programs. We want to share our plans and vision with you all so will be holding a Capital Campaign Kickoff Event on Saturday, June 22nd from 3-7pm at our new

building! Please join us at this fun event which will include food, music, raffles and building tours! See the flyer below for more information. We hope to see you all there! **If you wish to donate, please see the capital campaign donation envelope enclosed with this newsletter for details.**

There are also MANY fundraising events planned for this summer, as you can imagine! Please check our website at www.sam25.org to volunteer and help continue SAM25's vision that our community works together to support the needs of those living in poverty and offers individualized opportunities to gain self-sufficiency to have hope for a better future. Many thanks to each of you for making that happen. You are amazing and caring supporters. Have a wonderful summer! With gratitude, Muffy

A flyer graphic for SAM25's future home. It features a central logo with a house icon, a sun, and the text 'SAM25 EXPANDING Hope • Health • Housing'. The logo is framed by a yellow border and a blue border. Above the logo is a string of colorful triangular bunting. Below the logo, the text 'COME SEE OUR FUTURE HOME' is written in large, bold, blue letters. To the left of the date and location, there is a list of activities: Building Tours, Food, Fun for the Family, Entertainment, and Raffle Prizes. To the right, the date 'June 22, 2019' is written in large, bold, blue letters, followed by the time '3:00 pm - 7:00 pm' and the address '105 E. Richmond St. Shawano, WI (across from Charlie's)'. At the bottom, it says 'visit us online at sam25.org'.

SAM25 Mission

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Executive Director Note

By: Jennifer Laude Bisterfeldt

Hello SAM25 Family and Friends,

As weather warms, the trees begin to blossom, days get longer and we approach Summer, we are thankful to have made it through yet another cold winter. This winter was especially bitter with record subzero temperatures. I'd like to give a special thank you to our community for allowing SAM's House to continue to provide a safe, warm place to sleep...especially on the coldest of days. With this warmer weather comes the end of the shelter season and it is always bittersweet. The last day of the season is a sad one for all involved. People often ask us where people go at the end of the season? The reality is that homelessness doesn't magically end on May 1st. Sometimes people are still homeless. We do our best to help them find housing or make arrangements to find a place to stay until they can locate more permanent options. What many people do not realize is that we keep in touch with many of our guests. We help by offering support, assistance with continued stability and a family to rally around them. None of our guests are alone after they come here, even after they leave.

This past season, we provided 1,851 nights of stay to 95 people, including 28 children. We served more people than ever before and also had to turn away many people when we were at capacity...more than 50 people were put on a waiting list to enter shelter. We did our very best to accommodate as many people as possible, but at times could not keep up with the demand of those in need. It has become ever more apparent that it is time to find a permanent, larger location. We are excited to say that we have purchased the New Era House and are kicking off our Capital Campaign to raise funds to convert it for SAM25 programs. This will help us to increase our shelter space, but also provide more functional space for our daytime programs. These programs are vital as they help us to direct people to resources that keep them from becoming homeless in the first place. They also help our current guests get back on their feet. Almost half of our shelter guests this season exited to permanent, positive destinations. That is a true

testament to the effectiveness of the resource programs offered!

Please join us for **our Capital Campaign Kickoff on June 22nd at the future home of SAM25!** We are excited to share with you all our plans and vision for SAM25! You won't want to miss it!

With that, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the SAM25 Board, Staff and Volunteers. You are all true heroes – none of this would be possible without all of your hard work and dedication. To celebrate those who provide so much each day, below are some pictures of our awesome SAM25 Family! Much love to you all. – Jen



One of our littlest volunteers, Story, recently stopped in and delivered flowers to SAM25 staff! Thanks to Story and her Grandma, Lora, for always helping out at SAM's House!

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Getting Ahead Update

By: Chris Ciucci, Getting Ahead Facilitator

May 1st, close of SAM's House season has come and gone and whoa! What a great season of good works is behind us with much good work yet to get at. Congratulations everyone!

On March 28th the Getting Ahead Program graduated 3 investigators. We started with five but lost two when they moved to Appleton. This program is so valuable & exciting in making a difference in peoples' lives in our community, not only those at risk or homeless, but for our whole community. These hard-working investigators committed to eighteen, 2-1/2 hour sessions examining where they've been, their present circumstances and creating a picture of what their Future Story looks like. They do this through curriculum provided in the workbooks, self and community assessments and honestly sharing their stories and aspirations. As they identify causes of poverty, and the rules of class & power, they also identify and seek out resources for changing their circumstances. Our three empowered graduates took action and responsibility for their futures, all leaving employed and in their own places.

The STS Program & Getting Ahead complement one another for more resource and self-help education. This past season, STS was able to offer 13 presentations with 73 people in attendance. We provided direction and resources in finding housing, working with landlords, finding and keeping employment, resume work and interviewing, parenting and budgeting presentations. We even completed a few sessions on banking and identity theft. Participants are grateful and feel more confident, armed with information and knowledge in how to go about tackling what's before them. The program is a success and the plan is to continue offering programs year round, not only to SAM25 guests but to all in our community. As always, we welcome your ideas for future presentations and invite you to present on a topic in which you can share your experience. Give us a call at SAM25 if you wish to get involved!

I completed the Bridges Out of Poverty training and plan to begin introducing this program in the Shawano community this summer. The program's focus is on community institutions, services, and programs working together to help individuals in need, poverty and at-risk to improve circumstances. It's about looking at what we're doing with new eyes and being open to developing and trying new things. We know it works, look at SAM25! Thanks to everyone for helping make these programs so invaluable. I look forward to sharing more. - Chris



**Thank you to
Cerny's Greenhouse
in Tomahawk for providing the
beautiful flowers for the SAM25
Annual Plant Sale! We sold 389
plants and raised a total of \$3,600
for SAM's House. Thanks to all who
supported this great fundraiser!
Special thanks to Amie Beyersdorf
for coordinating the sale.**

How You Can Help...

- Make a monetary donation via mail or via PayPal on our website (sam25.org)
- Volunteer at shelter or a fundraiser
- Attend our Fundraisers
- Sign up to be part of our bake sales
- Donate items from wish list on our website
- Advocate for SAM25 and those in need

Contact Us!



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