



SHAWANO AREA MATTHEW 25, INC.

NEWSLETTER

SAM25 Resource Center: Open Year-Round;
Open to the public; Mon-Fri. (9am-2pm);
105 E. Richmond St., Shawano

SAM's House Emergency Shelter:
November 1st through April 30th;
Daily Check-In (5pm-7pm)

SAM's Closet Thrift Store: Open to the public
Thurs, Fri, & Sat. (9am-2pm)

SAM25 Free Health Clinic: Thurs, (4pm-8pm)

Free Optometry Clinic: 3rd Monday each month 6-8pm.

Mental Health/AOD Counselor: 1st Thursday each month 4pm-8pm.

105 E. Richmond Street
Shawano, WI 54166
Phone: 715-851-7252
Website: www.sam25.org
Like us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/SAM25.org

**Please be advised that effective 4/2026, SAM25 will no longer be using our P.O. Box for correspondence. Kindly update your records to reflect our physical mailing address.

Raising Awareness: Guest Testimonial

When people think of homelessness, they often picture big cities with sprawling tent encampments and crowded shelters. But homelessness exists here, in our own community—though it may look different. One of our guests, Matthew Klein, is working to bring awareness to this issue and share ideas on how we can combat homelessness locally. Matthew, a National Guard veteran, found himself homeless after his release from prison in November 2024. With nowhere to go, he was referred to SAM25 Emergency Shelter by the local police department—a resource he hadn't known existed. Matthew stayed at SAM25 during the 2024-2025 shelter season and continues to face the ongoing challenges of homelessness. That's why he chose to speak out, attending a city council meeting to share his story and encourage community involvement.

Check out page two to see what Matthew had to say about SAM25:

Raising Awareness: Cont'd.

"I went to the homeless shelter "SAM 25" today to thank both Chris (on the right) and Kendra (on the left) for all the wonderful things they do for the homeless. I've not only experienced first hand of the good things they've done for me but also all the good they do for others! With the limited funding they receive, they help out anyone and everyone who is either homeless or in need of assistance. Although closed for the next six months to the homeless, SAM's Resource Center still remains open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday where you can ask for assistance with housing applications, applying for foodshare, VA benefits, social security benefits, drug and alcohol counseling and just so many other things. If ever in need, just know they've got your back and are very consistent with helping you achieve your goals to better your life! Thank you soo much for what you wonderful ladies do and keep up the good work! Much love from me and many others! Sam 25 is located at 105 East Richmond Street, Shawano, WI 54166. Call SAM25 at 1(715)-851-7252." -Matthew



Each guest who walks through the doors of SAM25 carries a unique story and set of struggles. At SAM25, we remain deeply committed to our mission: supporting individuals on their path to self-sufficiency. We do this by meeting each guest where they are —offering compassion, respect, and a safe, welcoming space to begin their journey forward. We are honored to be a part of their story.

Message from the Board President

Hello SAM25 friends. Happy Spring! The 10th shelter season at SAM's House Emergency Shelter ended May 1st. It was, as usual, a successful and challenging shelter season. There continue to be difficulties with addiction and mental health as well as struggles finding affordable housing. We are thankful folks in our area have meals and a safe, warm place to sleep during the winter months at SAM25 and we thank the staff, volunteers and meal providers who make that happen. We will again be evaluating, adjusting, and improving the shelter procedures and Steps to Success program during the off-season to best serve our guests, in preparation for fall. SAM's Closet Thrift Store continues to be a wonderful resource for those who need clothing as well as a great place to shop for our community. The SAM25 Free Health Clinic and Optometry Clinic strive to improve the health of all without health insurance in our community. There are many volunteer opportunities 😊 and we would love to have you as part of the SAM25 team. Check online at sam25.org under the Volunteer tab or call or stop at the SAM25 yellow door for more information! The Resource Center needs more volunteer help and there are a multitude of summer fundraisers needing help. Our annual Empty Bowls, Caring Hearts Fundraiser Event will be on September 6th at SCHS—please plan to help and attend. Watch for information in June. We all need help at various times and in diverse ways in our lives; we are called to help each other during those times. The four programs at SAM25 provide that help, which is possible because of your support. Together we can provide Hope, Health, and Housing to those in our community who are struggling. Peace and many thanks to you all, Muffy.



What's Happening at SAM25

Emergency Shelter



SAM25 Emergency Shelter has just completed its 10th shelter season—and what a milestone it is! We are incredibly grateful for the dedicated volunteers and staff who made this possible. While each season brings its own set of challenges, our team—including staff, board members, and myself—remains committed to meeting them head-on to ensure we're providing the best care and support for our guests. The individuals we serve are among the most vulnerable in our community, and we never know who—or what needs—will walk through our doors. Thank you for supporting SAM25.

With Gratitude,
Kendra Brusewitz
Executive Director

Resource Center

Hello Friends of SAM25,

With overnight shelter stays ended, we continue to help provide resources daily to folks that were in shelter and are now living outdoors, in their cars, staying with family, friends or have moved into a place of their own. Our goal is to continue to work with our shelter guests as well as community members to connect with the agencies and programs available to them to improve their circumstances. Often, before we can build a trusting relationship that enables us to help guests to tackle the issues before them, we provide for basic needs; showers, a meal, clothing....

With the scarcity of affordable housing being one of the obstacles people struggle with, they often end up waiting for long periods of time before something comes along. SAM25 continues to support folks during these waiting times and even when they get into a place. Community needs continue to grow and SAM25 continues to seek out, provide and work with other agencies to address and fulfil those needs. Our Thrift store/community closet, clothes those in need every week. We are helping those in need of recovery, housing, work and Veteran's services.

We invite you to stop in, take a tour, learn what we're about, what the needs in our community are and how you can help. We are grateful for all that is shared with us in many ways. Call Chris @ 715-851-7252 to get to know SAM25, volunteer, set up a tour or just have a conversation.



What's Happening at SAM25

SAM25 FREE HEALTH CLINIC

To increase awareness of our presence in the community, we have made visits to area farms and businesses telling them about our services. In the last few weeks, we have seen an increase in numbers of patients coming to the clinic for both medical and vision services. They come for a variety of reasons, but like other clinics in the community we saw a large number of patients with respiratory illnesses this winter and spring.

Some recent comments from our patients :

"I would personally recommend anyone that has an opportunity to visit Sam25. Excellent care!"

"Very friendly, professional, knowledgeable"

"Very caring, concerned for my health. Got me going in the right direction with my health".

Our volunteer staff consist of physicians, optometrist, pharmacist, and pharmacy tech, medical technologist (lab), and Nurses (RNs and LPNs), Recently two new volunteer nurses have joined our team. We are thankful for our volunteer staff and the kindness they show to everyone that comes through our door.

Sue and Carol
Clinic Managers



SAM25 Thrift Store

SAM's Closet, located at 105 E. Richmond Street, is a thrift store open to the public, Thursday-Saturday 9am-2pm. Come check out our Spring/Summer clothing reasonably priced. We are here to clothe those in need at no cost. All sales from thrift store go back into helping the homeless. We have a drawing on the last day of every month. The winner receives \$20.00 worth of free merchandise. The store mainly runs on generous donations from the public. We are very blessed. Donations are welcomed Mon-Sat 9am-1:30pm through the yellow door. Hope to see you soon.

The thrift store is looking for donations of men's socks and underwear, boy's socks and underwear, girl's socks and underwear, and women's underwear. For hygiene and safety, SAM25 can only accept brand-new undergarment items.

Fundraising Events and Opportunities

Check out our upcoming events and fundraisers! All money raised will go directly back into supporting SAM25's four programs. SAM25 is seeking passionate volunteers to help with event planning, promotion, and assistance during the fundraisers. Visit sam25.org/volunteer to sign up!

Thursdayz at Franklin Park Bake Sale....June 5 June 19, July 3, July 31, and August 14

Shawano Farmer's Market Non-Profit Booth....June 21, July 12, and October 4



Join SAM25 as we Swing
THROUGH THE DECADES

SAM25
Inaugural Golf Outing
June 20th 2025
Pine Hills Golf Course
N9499 Pine Hills Dr, Gresham, WI

Registration 8:30am
Shotgun Start 10am

-Scramble-
18 Holes w/ Cart,
Lunch, & Family Style
Dinner!
Golfers: \$100/player
Teams: \$400/4 players
Prizes for 1st place and
2 randomly placed
teams

Dress up and Decorate your cart
from your favorite decade!

- Prizes for Best Dressed Team
- Best Decorated Golf Cart
- Basket Raffles
- 50/50 Raffles

To register your team, call SAM25 at 715-916-3045,
email executivedirector@sam25.org, or in person at
SAM25 (located at 105 E Richmond Street)

Make Checks Payable to SAM25

Empty Bowls, Caring Heart Bowl Painting:

June 3, June 4, June 5, June 10,
June 11, June 12, June 17
5:30-8:30pm at Shawano High
School



Empty Bowls, Caring Heart Event:

September 6th
11a-2pm at Shawano High
School

By The Numbers

Shelter Guests

11/1/24 - 4/30/25

TOTAL # OF GUESTS: 90

Nights of Stay: 2,203

Age:

Adults (18+): 75

Children (0-17): 15

Gender:

Female: 36

Male: 54

Non-Binary: 0

Race/Ethnicity:

Caucasian/White: 25

Native American/American Indian,

Alaska Native or Indigenous: 49

Black, African American,

or African: 1

Hispanic/Latina/e/o: -

Multi-Race: 15

Total Exits: 89

Exits to Permanent, Positive

Destinations: 4

Resource Center

7/1/24 - 4/30/2025

Individuals Served: 709

Resource Sessions Provided:

1,887

Help us save on printing and postage costs:

Sign up for online Newsletter. Sign up at

www.sam25.org/newsletter or email

staff@sam25.org

Free Health Clinic

7/1/2024 - 4/30/2025

Unique Medical Patients Served: 46

Total Medical Visits: 80

Optometry Patients Served: 17

Clinic Volunteer Hours: 442

Thrift Store & Clothes Closet

7/1/24 - 4/30/2025

Persons Clothed At

No Charge: 578

Pre-tax \$ provided to

SAM25 Programs:

\$ 15,318

Meals & In-Kind Donations

7/1/24 - 4/30/2025

Total Meals Served: 6,607

Food, Shelter/Guest Supplies,

Gas/Restaurant vouchers

donated: \$13,518