

Board President Note

Hello SAM25 friends, I hope and pray you are all doing well, have had a nice summer, and are staying healthy. As with everyone, we continue to learn, adapt, and grow at SAM25. It has been a busy summer with ongoing renovation of our new home, preparations to move this fall, and most importantly continuing to help the people in our area during Resource Days, and really any time someone comes to the door looking for help and guidance in their time of need. Always, but especially when so many are struggling in the current economy, SAM25 is grateful to be able to assist, and that is only possible with the support of you, our generous and caring community. Thank you so much.

Fundraising in the age of the coronavirus has proved challenging, but we have several fundraisers coming up that will be a lot of fun (and safe) for all!

SAM25 Virtual Grand Opening – Hope Restored.

Join us for a week-long online silent auction featuring wonderful items and baskets! **It will take place from 8 a.m. on Saturday October 10 through 8 a.m. on Saturday October 17, 2020.** Then at 10 a.m. on October 17th the silent auction and basket winners will be announced, immediately followed by a Virtual Tour showcasing our newly renovated home at 105 E. Richmond Street, Shawano! Watch for emails, our website (sam25.org) and FaceBook for more information.

We hope that our annual “Empty Bowls, Caring Hearts” fundraiser will be able to safely return next fall.

First ever SAM25 Cookbook Fundraiser “Favorite Recipes from our SAM25 Family”.

We are asking you to submit your favorite recipe or two that will be compiled and published into a SAM25 cookbook to rival Julia Child, Wolfgang Puck, and Rachael Ray 😊 while providing needed funds for SAM’s House and its programs offering help with basic needs, guidance, and skills to get back to independence for people in our area who are struggling. For more information please see SAM25 website (sam25.org), FaceBook, or send email inquiry to sam25cookbook@sam25.org.

SAM25 is so grateful to everyone who has helped in any way (general and Capital Campaign donations – monetary and in-kind, volunteering, prayers, etc.) to make possible the realization of a new, permanent home for SAM25 and its programs to support the people in our area. To think about a group of people watching a DVD about the growing poverty in America and in our communities in 2013 (7 short years ago), to opening the only Emergency Shelter in Shawano County in 2015, to the addition of programs and services each year, to statistics showing the number of people helped since the start of SAM25...this caring and generous community has made it all possible. Working together such great things can happen to make our community stronger. From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of the Board, Staff and Volunteers at SAM25, thank you so very much. Thank you for caring for each other. Peace, Muffy



Virtual Grand Opening – Hope Restored Event

Featuring:

Virtual Silent Auction:

Begins: Oct 10 - 8am

Ends: Oct 17 – 8am

Announcement of winners:

Live October 17th – 10am

Matching Donor Opportunity!

SAM25 has received a pledge of a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$10,000 for all donations received during the silent auction dates above!

**Donate via mail or online between
October 10 - 17 and have your donation
matched 100%!**

Stay tuned via our website and social media for details, pictures and descriptions of all silent auction items available!

Executive Director Note

Hello SAM25 Friends! Well here we are...Fall already. Summer flew by so quickly this year. Where does the time go?

As always, there has been plenty of activity lately to keep everyone busy at SAM25. We have spent the Summer packing up our Green Bay St location, planning, renovating, painting, and getting the new shelter building ready. Now, we are getting set to move everything into the new place, just in time for another shelter season in November. When I think of it all, it seems overwhelming. But then I remind myself of when a group of people put together and opened a shelter in a matter of a few weeks back in 2015...the start of SAM25. We have an amazing staff ready to go, procedures that are well broken in, and an awesome volunteer base who returns year after year. I think we can handle this!

While there is still much to do to prepare, the new space is looking great! Phase One of the renovation is almost complete. We hope to start Phase Two this winter (pending State approval). There have been some challenges that have arisen because of COVID 19 (i.e. material shortages due to shutdowns, etc.), however, we are working through it all. We have made modifications accordingly and we are on track with our original plan to move in the next month.

In addition to the building renovation and preparation, we have been busy with our daily operations for those we serve. Our staff has been working hard the entire off-season trying to connect people to resources for housing, jobs, the Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program and ensuring our homeless clients are connected to Coordinated Entry for various programs. It has been very busy, with 145 resource contacts since July 1st. The use of our services has doubled since last year. There are so many people in need during this challenging time. With the help of some grant funds and donations, we have been able to keep staff available on a limited basis to ensure that people are able to get help. We are doing the best we can, and I think it has made a difference.

The SAM25 Staff has also been working on procedure modifications for our new building, with COVID 19 in mind. This season, things will look a bit different in shelter, with many more health and safety precautions being taken. This includes the procedures for the meal volunteers and timing of intake, meals, etc. We will have to forgo many of our communal activities during the shelter season, use of PPE is required and in-person contact will be limited. However, this is all necessary to keep our staff, volunteers, and guests safe. We ask that everyone be patient with changes and modifications. We anticipate there will be many additional changes throughout the season from day-to-day. We have learned from many other shelters that procedures will need to be modified frequently to accommodate the guest population, the COVID situation in our community and within our shelter. We are also working on having a plan in place, in the event of an outbreak in shelter. It is certainly a scary time, but we will do everything we can to keep our SAM25 Family safe. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to our shelter season.

Lastly, I want to make mention of our Virtual Grand Opening-Hope Restored event scheduled for October 17th. We are excited to feature our new building virtually, while also holding a modified version of our annual fundraiser. We have had lots of volunteers working on putting together silent auction items (there are some pretty great items that you won't want to miss!) and an opportunity for your donations to be matched during the fundraiser. Please plan to join us for this great event and an opportunity to see our new building via video! We hope things will be back to normal for next year's Empty Bowls Caring Hearts event!

For now, stay safe, enjoy your families and loved ones. We are excited to all start working together again soon! – Jen Bisterfeldt, Executive Director

SAM25 Volunteer Opportunities!

Thrift Store: Donation Sorters; Front Counter Clerks.

Shelter: Intake, Overnight and Morning Shelter Shifts.

SAM25 Mission

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

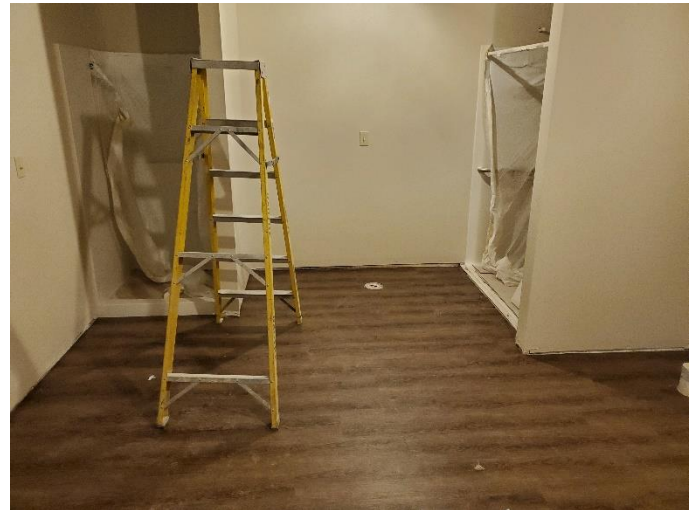
New Building Update!



Construction is moving along at the future home of SAM25! Thank you to Dimension IV Architects, Larry Laude Builders, Moede & Sons Plumbing, Knope Heating and Cooling, and Radtke-Reuter

Electric for all your amazing work! Plumbing, HVAC and Electrical are wrapping up, walls have been closed and drywalled and ceiling grids are all set. Flooring is being installed as we speak (see right for pictures of a few of the rooms with flooring)! Fixtures are next...then the outside work begins! Despite some delays in material supplies due to COVID, we are working through it. Everything is all happening so quickly!

This past month, we had several volunteers help paint the interior of the building. They painted the entire place in less than a week. It was incredible! Thanks to all who have helped in any way. We are so grateful. Soon, we will be moving! If anyone wishes to help with this, please give us a call. We will need all hands-on deck for this endeavor! We are grateful to have so many amazingly talented people working on this project. Our contractors have been so kind and generous to us. Thanks to you all! Next step...moving in to set up for the shelter season!



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