



# Hope Restored

Summer, 2021

## What's Happening

SAM25 Resource Center (Year round)..Mon - Thurs  
SAM's House, 105 E Richmond St.....9:00am-2:00pm

Thursdayz at Franklin Park.....June - August  
Franklin Park, 235 S Washington St, Shawano.....5:30 – 8:30pm

SAM25 Bake Sale at Shawano Farmers  
Market..... August 7<sup>th</sup>  
Franklin Park, S Washington St, Shawano.....8am – Noon

BBQ & Bluegrass Barndance.....Sept 24<sup>th</sup>  
Koeller Farm, W7950 Oak Ave, Shawano.....6pm – 9:30pm

Virtual Empty Bowls Caring Hearts...October 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

## 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 (\$500+):

Augie and Lil Spitzberger Fund, a fund within the Shawano Area Community Foundation; Glenn Tarkowski; Capital Credit Union; TC Energy Foundation; Alan and Carolyn Lamia; Primal Eats, LLC; Michael and Jodi Williams; Carlton Construction; Enterprise Holdings Foundation; Johnson & Johnson; Ross Fugill; Helen Kaurala; Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin; Mark and Marcia Sabin; United Way of Shawano County; Peace – Elias Church; Brian and Anne Aune; Kevin Barry and Kathleen Coughlin; Barbara Wetzell; Connie Woodke; ThedaCare; Pam Gardner and Angelica United Methodist Church.


## SAM25 Shelter Statistics: 2020-2021 Season

**SAM's House Shelter:**  
(11/1/20 – 04/30/21)  
Nights of Stay: 1557  
Guests Served: 82  
Adults: 56 / Children: 26  
Meals Provided: 4671

**Resource Day Statistics:**  
Sessions Provided:  
7/1/20-6/30/21: 961  
July, 2021: 181

**Help us save on printing costs: Sign up for our online Newsletter!**

**Signup at**  
**[www.sam25.org/newsletter](http://www.sam25.org/newsletter)**



**ONLINE SILENT AUCTION**

STARTING OCTOBER 9, 2021 AT 8:00 AM

ENDING OCTOBER 16, 2021 AT 8:00 AM

Silent Auction winners announced followed by  
Virtual Tour of SAM25 Expansions!  
*October 16, 2021 - 10am*

**MATCHING DONOR OPPORTUNITY!**  
DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING SILENT AUCTION  
DATES WILL BE MATCHED BY THE HAROLD PEVONKA  
TRUST TO PROMOTE HEALTHY HEARTS!

Find all event links at [www.sam25.org](http://www.sam25.org) or  
join our event on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/sam25.org>

## SAM25 Mission

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

### Board President Note

Hello SAM25 friends, I hope you are all doing well and are enjoying this beautiful summer.

As always, SAM25 is a busy place. The Resource Center continues to be utilized more than ever, helping folks with job and housing searches, connecting them with services, providing hygiene supplies and shower facilities, and most importantly someone to care. Thanks to Chris and all the great volunteers that help provide this needed service.

SAM's Closet Thrift Store is open to the public Fridays and Saturdays and to anyone in need during resource time. Thanks to Joanne, Debbie, Deb and all the great volunteers that make this happen.

Renovation and planning for the free Clinic that will provide basic medical care to the uninsured living near the poverty level is coming along, thanks to Laude Builders and a great group of volunteers. Opening is planned for September. Then we will blink and it will be time to open the shelter again for the 7<sup>th</sup> winter season. Yes, SAM25 is a busy place and we are thankful to all of you who help to make it possible to assist folks in our community in their time of need.

One thing that is constant is change. It is bittersweet to tell you that Jen Bisterfeldt, our fabulous Executive Director for the past 5 years, is leaving SAM25 to take another job. I/we are SO thankful for all Jen has done to move SAM25 forward and we thank her for all her hard work. One need only look around our new SAM25 home and to all the expanded programs to see the great impact Jen has had. She has made a positive difference in countless lives. I/we all thank her with all our hearts and we wish her well in her new endeavors. We trust that just the right person will be the new SAM25 Executive

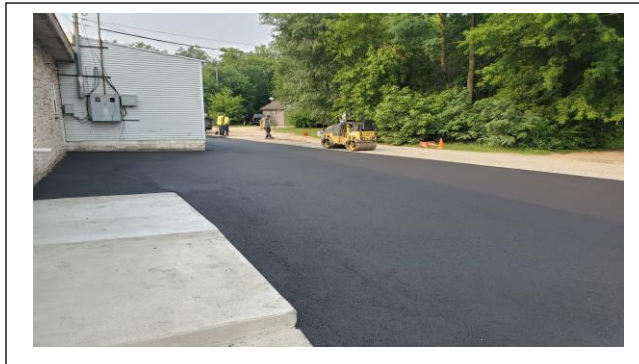
Director and continue to lead SAM25 to help those affected by poverty improve their circumstances to become self-sufficient. Take care, blessings, and thank you for your continued support and prayers for SAM25. You help make SAM25 possible. Peace and many thanks, Muffy Culhane



Pictured above: Thrift Store Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thrift Store is open Fridays and Saturdays 9am – 2pm.



Pictured left: Volunteers painting the soon-to-be completed SAM25 Community Health Clinic and below SAM25's new asphalted parking lot by Wolf River Asphalt (made possible by a grant through the WHEDA Foundation!)



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## Executive Director Letter

Hello SAM25 Supporters, Colleagues and Friends,

My heart is full as I reflect upon the past five years and the incredible journey that has been SAM25. It has been quite the adventure! From the beginning, it has always been a special place, built upon a foundation of love and hope.

I have met and had the pleasure of working with some of the most genuine, caring volunteers and staff. People who put others before themselves to ensure that nobody feels as though they are alone. These folks continually provide hope for people who have none. It has been the greatest gift to see so many people who have hit rock bottom begin their ascent to achieve stability. The success stories are now too many to count, and for that I am forever grateful.

While my heart is full upon reflection of the wonderful journey I have had with SAM25, sometimes it is also good to pass the reins to a new person. I have made the difficult decision to move on from SAM25 to a different organization. New leadership with fresh ideas, perspective and passion will help make SAM25 even stronger. I have truly loved my time here and have learned so much about non-profits, fundraising, capital campaigns, building renovations and how to do whatever it takes to help someone in need. More than anything, I have learned from all of the amazing people who are a part of this organization what it is to be a good human being.

While it is hard to say goodbye, I am excited for new adventures. I will still be in the area and will be working in the non-profit sector as I take on a new challenge in the mission to end domestic violence through Safe Haven of Shawano. At SAM25, we work very closely with other organizations, especially Safe Haven, so I am thrilled to still be involved with many of the same colleagues and friends I have met along the way.

To everyone at SAM25, thank you for allowing me to be a part of such a special organization. It has been one of the greatest experiences of my life and SAM25 will always have a big piece of my heart. I feel like the luckiest person in the world to be able to

do this kind of work. Thank you for the opportunity and for believing in me. I will miss working with you all! Keep doing the good work that you do. Thanks for a wonderful five years. -Jen



Pictured above: SAM25 Staff on the last day of shelter season 2021.



### Primal Eats Ice Cream Stand in Gillett.

Stop in to eat and serve yourself some delicious ice cream! Donations are collected for the ice cream and donated to SAM25! Thanks to Primal Eats for their generosity!



Capital Credit Union – Shawano Branch recently helped build awareness of homelessness by supporting SAM25. Thanks to all of the Capital CU Staff for your support!

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## Steps to Success Update

By: Chris Ciucci

Hello friends! Resource day has become resources daily! Initially, we offered open resources on Tuesdays from 12-2pm serving an average 3-6 folks/families. We now have office hours Monday thru Thursdays from 9-2pm and it is unusual for a day to go by without friends and guests of SAM25 reaching out for resources, with walk-ins and phone calls reaching 12+ in a day. Often the front and back doorbells are ringing simultaneously.

SAM25 has become a first stop for seeking resources in the Shawano community. We have grown our relationships with other agencies in the area, working together and referring folks to one another to best help with needs. We provide everything from clothing, hygiene, food, showers, laundry, computer and phone use to helping with job and apartment research, working with landlords and realtors and connecting those in need to the agencies that can best serve them. We continue to provide outreach services to those who have been our guests, both those that remain homeless (we have provided 25 tents since May 1st) and those that have moved onto more stable circumstances.

Community, our own and those distant, have been so generous in providing donations that help those in need. We often get calls asking what we need and those complete provisions arrive at the yellow door. It's heartwarming to have former guests bringing in donations.

Thanks to everyone from SAM25! With ever growing needs for resources we are blessed to have a great new building, strengthening relationships in our community, supportive donors and ever more services to provide. This is a very exciting family to be part of and place to work! -Chris



Douglas Cox, Menominee Indian Tribe Vice Chairman, presents a check for \$1,300 to Jen and Muffy of SAM25 from the 2020 Chairman's Cup Charity Golf Outing proceeds. Thank you to the Menominee Indian Tribe for your continued support of SAM25.



Mark your calendars for Bar-B-Que & Bluegrass again this year on September 24, 2021! Thanks to the Koeller Farm for hosting! To sign up to volunteer for SAM25, see our signup genius calendar at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e48aca628a1fb6-bbqand>.

**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)