



## 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:**  
October 15-May 15;  
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.

Help us save on printing and postage costs:  
Sign up for online Newsletter. Sign up at  
[www.sam25.org/newsletter](http://www.sam25.org/newsletter) or email  
[executivedirector@sam25.org](mailto:executivedirector@sam25.org)!

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

## Hope Starts Here

As we move forward into the Holiday Season, I am reminded every day of the generosity and compassion within our community. Here at SAM25, we see lives touched and transformed because of individuals like you—our volunteers, donors, partners, and supporters who stand beside our mission. SAM25 has seen remarkable moments of progress: individuals taking steps toward permanent housing, rebuilding connections with family, and finding hope through our services. We look forward to sharing some of their stories within this newsletter. Thank you for believing in our mission and for helping us create a place where hope begins.

Kendra Brusewitz  
Executive Director

## Guest Spotlight: Brandon

Brandon is a guest of SAM25 who never stops trying and always brings a great smile with him. When he came to SAM25 seeking assistance, he sparked something even greater.

Brandon needed car repairs to ensure he could travel to and from work safely. In response, SAM25 reached out to a local agency and collaborated to revive and adapt a program that had not been used before.



Together, we made it happen. Brandon received the repairs he needed, helping him remain safely on the road and continue working at a job with an affordable, sustainable wage. This is just one example of how SAM25 partners with community



agencies and continually improves the way we provide services to our guests. We are proud of Brandon's determination and grateful for the partners who help us support individuals on their path forward.

## Donor Spotlight: Morgan



Morgan, a student from Oconto Falls, recently showed incredible generosity by donating food for guest lunches along with essential paper products for the shelter. Thank you for making a positive difference in our community with your kindness and support!

## Volunteer Spotlight: Randy

Randy generously volunteers his time to assist with maintenance at SAM25, responding to every need, big or small, without hesitation. He ensures the shelter remains safe, functional, and welcoming for all who come through our doors. We are so incredibly thankful for Randy and all that he does!



# What's Happening at SAM25

## Emergency Shelter & Resource Center

Wow, Resource center and Shelter, SAM25 are happening places! So much good to report and so much need. Thank you all for all you continue to do to help facilitate the promotion of those in need & working toward improving their circumstances. SAM25 Shelter opened October 15th, two weeks earlier than in previous years, and to date we have served 22 individuals.

The resource center is open year-round to help anyone in need of resources and connect folks with other agencies, individualized services. The resource manager, me, also serves in the case management of shelter guests so-together we are mapping out success plans, assisting and following up on breaking down barriers and moving progressively on what can be done.

SAM25 is an emergency overnight shelter and not temporary housing fix, so we work diligently, daily toward solutions. We serve as a "hand-up". When a stay at the shelter is complete, we continue to serve through the resource center. Our resource numbers continue to escalate for past needs and those navigating new circumstances. We are meeting with 50-60 folks a week, many referred by other agencies, and working with those agencies. I am happy and grateful to say we are able to meet individuals, where they are, with continuing outreach and persistent/unrelenting attention, as best we can do, to everyone who walks through the door.

In recent months, we have successfully helped 4 folks with more difficult circumstances, (through conversations, advocating, working diligently with other agencies), gain stable housing and even more, secure jobs.

We provide bikes as we have available, and seek to find, for those in need of transportation, having secured jobs or looking. (Keep your garage, dusty bikes coming!).

Thank you for your generosity and support in every way that you share. You truly are helping to make lives better! Like what your hearing, or not, come on in, see and experience what SAM25 is doing, share your thoughts, volunteer your gifts.

Working with you, Chris

## A Note from the Board of Directors

Hello SAM25 friends, I hope this finds you doing well. Happy Fall...the beginning of the 11th season for SAM's House Emergency Shelter...and the time to count our blessings and say THANK YOU. It is humbling to see folks stopping in to donate...items from our Needs List, clothing for our Thrift Store, gift cards for groceries, monetary gifts that help pay for electricity and heat, dinners each evening for our shelter guests.

SAM25 has been busy since the last newsletter. The Board recently participated in a Strategic Plan meeting and is excited to be focusing on improvements to each of the 4 programs SAM25 offers to help folks in our area who are struggling with poverty and homelessness. Please consider volunteering at SAM25-there are so many different ways to help-call or stop in for more information. On behalf of the SAM25 Board of Directors, THANK YOU for your continued caring and support, especially this time of year. May your Holiday Season be blessed, as you continue to bless the people served at SAM25.

Peace and many thanks, Muffy



# What's Happening at SAM25

## SAM25 Thrift Store



SAM's Closet, located at 105 E. Richmond Street, is a thrift store open to the public Thursday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We offer a variety of reasonably priced winter clothing and are committed to clothing those in need at no cost. All sales from the thrift store go directly toward helping the homeless in our community. We also host a drawing on the last day of every month, and the winner receives \$20.00 worth of free merchandise. We hope to see you soon!

## SAM25 FREE HEALTH CLINIC

SAM25 Free Health Clinic continues to provide basic health care to the underprivileged in our community. Many of our patients are Spanish speaking with minimal English. We would love to have adult English/Spanish speaking volunteers to assist with translating conversations. If this is something that interests you go to the SAM25 website and click on the volunteer tab. Please fill out the application form to volunteer at the clinic and we will contact you. The clinic is open Thursday night from 4pm – 8pm and the eye clinic is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 6pm – 8pm. Volunteer hours are flexible and at your convenience.

ThedaCare has generously provided access to their EPIC system (electronic medical records). This has greatly helped us to have a full understanding of the patient's medical history, medications and prior treatment. We are thankful for their collaboration to help us provide the best possible care for our patients.

The clinic has also recently received a grant from the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation. We have limited lab capabilities here at the clinic and this grant makes it possible for our patients to obtain selective lab tests at ThedaCare Shawano. We are grateful to the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation for the grant that enables us to better serve our patients.

In this season of the year, we are especially grateful for the many blessing we have received through our volunteers, our patients and the community.

Sue and Carol  
Clinic Managers



# Volunteer or Donate This Season of Giving

## Monetary Donations

Now more than ever, SAM25 relies on community donors to meet rising needs. Please consider making a monetary donation today.

### Ways to Give

#### MAIL A CHECK:

105 E Richmond Street Shawano, WI

#### GIVE ONLINE:

[www.sam25.org/donate](http://www.sam25.org/donate)

PLANNED GIVING: Wills, trusts, beneficiary, and more.



## Volunteer Opportunities

SAM25 is seeking volunteers! Check out some of the ways you can volunteer below. Have a talent or gift but don't see it listed? Contact [executivedirector@sam25.org](mailto:executivedirector@sam25.org) or visit [sam25.org/volunteer](http://sam25.org/volunteer) for a full list of opportunities.

### Shelter

Intake Check-In  
Serve Meals  
Cleaning

### Resource Center

Office/Data Entry  
Assist Guests  
Assist with Donations

### Clinic

Providers  
(MD, DO, APNP, PA)  
Intake Nurse  
(RN/LPN/MA/CNA)

### Thrift Store

Sort Donations  
Restock Rack/Shelves  
Operate Register

SAM25 is looking for organizations and groups to

## HOST AN IN-KIND DONATION DRIVE

HYGIENE SUPPLIES

PAPER PRODUCTS

UNDER-GARMENTS

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR LUNCHES

WINTER ITEMS

**HOW TO GET STARTED:  
CONTACT SAM25 TO CHOOSE A CATEGORY OR MIX OF ITEMS TO COLLECT!**

**SET A DATE THAT WORKS FOR YOU!**

# By The Numbers

## Shelter Guests

10/15/25-10/31/25

TOTAL # OF GUESTS: 19

Nights of Stay: 169

### Age:

Adults (18+): 14

Children (0-17): 5

### Gender:

Female: 10

Male: 9

Non-Binary: 0

### Race/Ethnicity:

Caucasian/White: 7

Native American/American Indian,

Alaska Native or Indigenous: 4

Black, African American,

or African: 6

Hispanic/Latina/e/o: 1

Multi-Race: 1

Total Exits: 1

Exits to Permanent, Positive

Destinations: 1

## Resource Center

7/1/25-10/31/2025

Individuals Served: 418

Resource Sessions Provided:  
836

## Free Health Clinic

7/1/25-10/31/25

Unique Medical Patients

Served: 36

Total Medical Visits: 43

Optometry Patients Served: 18

Clinic Volunteer Hours: 160

## Thrift Store & Clothes Closet

7/1/25 -10/31/25

Persons Clothed At

No Charge: 233

Pre-tax \$ provided to

SAM25 Programs:

\$ 5,608.26

## Meals & In-Kind Donations

7/1/25 - 10/31/25

Total Meals Served: 503

Food, Shelter/Guest Supplies,

Gas/Restaurant vouchers

donated: \$4,736.09