

Through years of ministry Tammy has learned the we are all in need of
GOD'S GRACE IN OUR LIVES.

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Tammy has been a part of the ministry of Amanda's House since it was just a dream and a prayer on the heart of area leaders and pastors. She started out as a volunteer with Celebrate Recovery and served in the jail, but it wasn't always easy. "God just kept putting this pull on my heart to join this ministry, but I felt inadequate and out of place to serve the people." After spending some time praying and pushing herself outside her comfort zone, Tammy became a regular volunteer. "I was just there to be used in whatever way God wanted to use me."

Once the house was purchased, Tammy was able to help out with some of the projects to get it ready for residents. "I also grew personally during that time, as I walked through the 12 steps of recovery through Celebrate Recovery." Tammy says this was the biggest change in her life since giving her life to Christ. She also attended an intensive 16-hour training to prepare her to serve as a House Angel. Tammy was ready to serve at Amanda's House when it welcomed its first residents in February of 2018. But, she says that most of her learning has been with boots on the ground. "I learned along with the gals every day because every situation is unique."





Although Tammy's heartbeat is for discipling and mentoring, she has taken on other responsibilities at Amanda's House including grocery shopping, collecting rent, and helping the residents with medications. She recently began doing programming meetings with some of the women. "It's just being there and doing life with them."

Tammy has learned so much from these women during her time at Amanda's House. "Every one of them is just a regular person like me. I've learned to look beyond the actions that have led them here to see where the pain is coming from and try to speak God's grace and some truth that they may not be able to see themselves. Trying to understand where they're coming from, that's huge. These women aren't just addicts. They are people, incredible women, and I love them so much."

If you feel a tug from God on your heart like Tammy did her advice is to "come check us out!" Tammy would love to show you around, and show you why she is excited about being at Amanda's House. If you would like to volunteer please contact Jill Gunn or visit our website hopeunitedsjc.com

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A NEW MINISTRY: RESET

The Hope United Mentor Program has been consistently involved in the lives of our neighbors since our inception in 2018. In that time, we have come to see the overwhelming obstacles that each person/family face that are keeping them from self-sufficiency and basic needs being met! A place and an opportunity to work further with the hurting people of our county was needed.

Enter a unique conversation. All housing programs for St. Joseph County are run through Keystone Place in Centreville. It is the gateway for those experiencing homelessness. Case managers work with each client/family to connect them with social services, housing, employment but first proof of ID, social security cards and other documentation most commonly must be obtained. In conversation with Sandy Cook, the Shelter Manager, we agreed this was an area where Hope United would be able to come alongside Keystone to support the homeless in our county.

The birth of RESET was formed. For one day a week, volunteers, (fully trained by Sandy), from our partner churches will serve at the Day Center and assist in many of these necessary tasks. Spearheading the effort will be Gracepoint Sturgis. We will make plans to grow and expand as we learn of the need and learn of other churches/groups who may want to also be involved. We look forward to offering our help to Keystone and to loving our Keystone neighbors through this ministry. If you would like to become involved, please contact Jill Gunn at jillgunn@hopeunitedsjc.com.



Members of Gracepoint Church in Sturgis meet with Keystone residents every Tuesday throughout the summer.



Sometimes residents just need a listening ear or help obtaining critical documents like birth certificates or state ids.



And sometimes residents just need some companionship over something as simple as a puzzle.



Hello friends,

Hope United is pleased to inform you of some great news! Amanda's House, our woman's recovery home located in Three Rivers, has now been officially certified as a MARR and NARR recovery home! NARR stands for National Alliance of Recovery Residencies. NARR has established a national certification process of standards set forth for recovery residences that define the spectrum of services its certified recovery residences provide. It also distinguishes the levels of support these residences offer. MARR stands for Michigan Association of Recovery Residencies and it certifies its providers in the state of Michigan in the standards and the code of ethics of NARR. We are proud to be recognized as a certified recovery home in the state of Michigan providing quality care for those we serve!

Beyond being recognized for the standard of care that we offer our ladies at Amanda's House, the greatest provision we could ever offer our ladies is the love of Jesus! All the programming, standards, and certifications in the world could not equal the value of the love of Jesus! This love is demonstrated day in and day out not only at Amanda's House but through every ministry of Hope United. Jesus' love was meant to be demonstrated in action not just expressed in words. Jesus' demonstration of love looked like feeding the hungry, healing the sick and possessed, and raising the dead to life both physically and spiritually.

We must also demonstrate this type of sacrificial love as we bring comfort and healing to those hurting all around us. We must be willing to be inconvenienced and possibly, be made uncomfortable in order to meet the needs of those suffering in our community.

I am so thankful for the many Hope United volunteers who are willing to make these kinds of sacrifices to serve through the many ministries of Hope United. These efforts are changing lives! Although Hope United strives for excellence in all the services we provide by putting standards in place like the NARR/MARR certifications, the demonstration of the love of Christ is what compels us to do all that we do.

Won't you and your church help support Hope United by meeting the financial needs of our ministries and by giving of your own time and effort to volunteer? Please contact us today and join us in loving our neighbors in St. Joseph County well!



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