

***SOJOURNER TRUTH'S 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF EVENT...only \$15***

***“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?”***

***FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>***

***Hosted by Northway Community Church***

***1680 Four Mile Drive, Williamsport***

***Doors open at 5:30 ~ DINNER at 6:00 p.m.***

***Enter back door - by the playground***

***REGISTER NOW: 570-419-7139 OR email [assistant4stm@gmail.com](mailto:assistant4stm@gmail.com)***

*If you'd like to bring an anniversary gift, something to keep a sojourner warm would be greatly appreciated: anything from hand warmers to warm coats with hoods, from lined hats with ear flaps to warm boots.*



**SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES, INC.**

501 High Street, Williamsport, Pennsylvania

(570) 323-1797

**FALL NEWSLETTER 2024**

**SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES**

***“We’re so much more than a soup kitchen”.*** First of all, we’re a Christian organization and our small staff and Board members are passionate about what we do. We care for each person who comes through our doors. We do our best to meet their needs, often by providing referrals to other agencies who can provide medical care, shelter, social services of all kinds.

In many cases what we can offer is little more than a band-aid on gaping wounds and scars of trauma, and we do our best to look into the eyes of each sojourner as Jesus does, offering our time, prayers, and services as we are able. Sometimes, people turn a new leaf and even dedicate their lives to serving Jesus. We love this community and are thankful to be an important part of it.

*1 John 4:7 Love one another, for love comes from God.* We are privileged to live this challenge out daily. join us! There are many volunteer opportunities!

***DID YOU KNOW...?***

Besides providing (mostly) men, women, and children hot meals and all that is mentioned above demonstrating to each sojourner that they are valued. And yes, we remain a vital soup kitchen in our community. Because of welcoming, reliable, caring volunteers we are able to provide nutritious hot and hearty meals for six days/ week, including holidays. Sometimes the noon meal we serve is the only food some of our sojourners get. So, we offer 45-50 take home lunch bags daily. Several sojourners take these bags to neighbors who are unable to get out.

***Meal Totals in 2024:***

January	1994	April	2957	July	3846
February	2357	May	3385	August	3124
March	2730	June	3068	September	3177

*We have shared 26,638 meals (hot lunches and sack lunches) in the first ¾ of the year! This could not happen without our many volunteers and donors!*

**We can always use lunch bags, snack bags, napkins, and individual sides of snacks, chips, breakfast bars, etc. to go along with the sandwiches.**

Some of our current and upcoming needs are listed below:

Salt & pepper shaker sets for our dining tables

Toilet paper

Bags of salt for sidewalks, steps during stormy winter weather.

Deodorant

Tissue packages (small pkgs to hand out)

Please call us at 570-323-1797 if you would like to provide something on a larger scale.

## ***A.S.K. (After School Kids) Program***

### ***“A Little Boy”***

A little boy we first met about 5 years ago at ASK, who could and can intellectually surpass most of us.

A little boy who has experienced things in his life that many of us cannot imagine.

A little boy who has a loving Christian grandmother who has worked to obtain all of the professional help available locally as well as around the state for her grandson.

A little boy who began “crashing and burning” over and over in spite of all the assistance, love, and prayers.

A little boy who questioned if there really is a God who loves him.

A little boy known well by our local ER, the law enforcement officers and members of the court system in our community. A little boy who lived in an out of town residential treatment facility 24/7 for most of his 12th year.

A little boy who was lifted up in prayer over and over by our ASK volunteers over the years, the churches of many of our volunteers, and Sojourner Truth Ministries staff and helpers.

A little boy who has been lovingly “adopted” by the church of 3 of our volunteers.

A little boy who just turned 13 years old and is now taller than many adults.

A little boy who is learning how much he is loved by God and others, who is home with his grandmother, thriving in a cyberschool program and is now volunteering some of his time to help ASK out on “Taco Wednesdays each week. Praise God! ~ Pat Burkett a/k/a Ms. Pat.

*(Our adult literacy rate is about 40% at STM. The main goal of A.S.K. is to move that percentage up considerably, one child at a time. ASK is twice per week and helps grade school children with a meal, a Bible lesson, homework help, games, and tutoring.)*

### ***WE THANK AND HONOR Bill & Rita Pysher***

24+ years ago our building was known as High Street Methodist Church. Bill and Rita were members of the church, even marrying here. When the church closed, The church and parsonage were sold to Sojourner Truth Ministries for the grand sum of \$1.00, for the purpose of making it a much needed local ministry, serving meals to many many people over the years! Bill and Rita continued as caretakers from then until recently, and retired this spring. To honor them we had a paver etched with their names and Scripture. Check it out. It’s near the picnic table by the red door. Blessings Bill and Rita Pysher! We love and miss you!

***WE THANK YOU for your continued support to the work and ministry of Sojourner Truth Ministries serving Williamsport, Pennsylvania for almost 25 years.***



## ***WELCOME NEW TEAM MEMBERS!***

Welcome to new part-time staff members – Wilma is our office hero, Mariah is our new custodian, and with the help of a grant, Chase is assisting with social services. This means more opportunities to help people and allow Pastor Angelique a bit more pastoral time. Hallelujah!

As we are preparing to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2025, each new staff person is especially appreciated.

## ***VOLUNTEERS – GOD BLESS YOU – EVERY ONE!***

Sometimes a job may seem too small to make a difference. Over the last several months, in addition to specific larger jobs, every group and every person went above and beyond to take care of many miscellaneous jobs. Because of their combined work, our site is now in much better shape. So, with great thanks, here we go:

On the Day of Action folks from and with United Way came to help with various big and small jobs. Horizon Federal Credit Union replaced a few doors and did several odd jobs. Lycoming Centre Youth Group took the lead with Dinner Church and did grunt work for us. Transform Williamsport (First Church, Wmspt.) helped build a room, painted, and repaired. Morgan Stanley volunteers assisted after work, Fairlawn Community Church came for a week to minister, to stain and paint, and more. After working all morning, they spent a couple of hours daily leading faith building activities with sojourners. The City Alliance Church rebuilt a small handicap ramp and added a support bar. All these gifts of time and service have made a huge difference for us. Thank you! Additional work teams are planned, and we are so grateful to visually improve our property & make it more welcoming and safer.

## ***HOUSE of HOPE***

Pastor Dawn and her team celebrate the personal growth of the women who have moved on – including our first graduate, who is now in ministry school! AND for those who are in a season of transitioning out of homelessness. This includes life-skills development, mandatory budget coaching, grief share, AA/NA support, weekly mentoring, and much more. The residents in House of Hope have been blessed they are very appreciative of all who have poured in time, financial support and prayers into them both individually and as a group working to become successful in transitioning back into their communities. Thank you!



## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMING IN 2025!

**This is a big deal, so we plan to celebrate all year, and you're invited to join us as often as possible.** There will be fun, food, & door prizes planned for each event, so stay tuned! Website: [stmwilliamsport.org](http://stmwilliamsport.org) , FB: **Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.** Pre-registration is preferred, with pay online option.

Our first anniversary event will be the kickoff for our 2025 celebration. Check out our website for our very first **LUNCH & LEARN**, which will remain a mystery until that day. The theme is ***"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?"*** (Date, Time, Place are still a mystery at this writing.)

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED... \$15.** If you'd like to bring an anniversary gift for this ministry, items to help our sojourners get warm: hand warmers, long johns, insulated coats with hoods, warm boots in good shape, tissues, hygiene supplies and deodorant.

At this planned, early December event, we'll reveal our fabulous first quarter plans. ***It's going to be an adventure! Join us!***

**NEWSLETTER UPDATES:** If you would like to have a newsletter sent to your email, please send us an email to [sojournertruthministries@gmail.com](mailto:sojournertruthministries@gmail.com) and we will add your name to our mailing roster.



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