



Autumn 2021

The Quarterly NEWSLETTER

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES, INC. 501 High Street Williamsport, PA 570-323-1797
HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday – Closed

Rev. C. Angelique Labadie-Cihanowyz, Director

Website: stmwilliamsport.org **Vision Statement** Sojourner Truth Ministries shall be a loving, spiritual, and inclusive Christian **Want me to come and share about Sojourners to your church or group?** mission. Invite me! I'd love to!

Mission Statement Sojourner Truth Ministries loves all people, creates community, builds character, and equips us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are supported by these foundations:



SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES
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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!!

During the summer, we sent invitations to our entire mailing list for our 20 Year Celebration- what was, what is, and what we believe is to come. The event, held in the building, was a joyous occasion attended by well over 10 people who have been involved at some level over the years. Hillside Catering provided our appetizers (delicious!) and we were also sponsored by Susquehanna Community Bank, CompuGen, Thrivent, and Susquehanna Paper. Tours were given for the Healing Garden (made possible in part by a partnership with UPMC Susquehanna Health, and special gifts from Muncy first United Methodist Church and Pine St United Methodist, along with many individuals-) at the House of Hope (housing and Christ-based programming for women leaving homelessness behind). Despite the rain, it was a beautiful event highlighting the community and the work of Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc. Thank you again to all who came out!



Now that the reveal has happened, we can share a little bit more about the “what is on the horizon” for the ministry. But not without a God story! For over two years, there has been a vacant duplex house next door to our House of Hope. For two years, I have been circling the block, praying for this house to add to our ministry. Ten days prior to the sheriff sale, we received an unexpected financial surprise – and the house sold for what happened to be the voted-on amount to spend at the sheriff sale for the property! God is so good! You never know- a gift you send may be exactly what has been prayed for!

A family living in community programming is already eagerly awaiting moving into one half, which still needs some renovation to be usable. The other half had suffered water damage, and we anticipate being able to offer low-cost housing as a step-down opportunity for residents graduating from the House of Hope, which will also help the program to be more financially sustainable. Once again, the Lord provides! We eagerly await next steps. **Are you handy? Please assist! Are you financially blessed? Please assist! Are you a good painter? Help! This is your written invitation.** This is another community project, and you may get the opportunity to work alongside future residents- a huge blessing to see where your support goes.

HOUSE OF HOPE

The House continues to seek more residents, more women to serve. The house is beautiful and full of love, and has room for more women in need of housing and healing. We continue to build on our practices and procedures, to assure the house is running smoothly.

The garden remains beautiful and welcoming, even as we proceed into fall.

The House has been well-established, and now it is our job to maintain what we have been given. We continue to seek volunteers for overnight or early mornings (6-9am). We also can use grocery store gift cards. These allow us to buy what we need for the house, whether food, paper products or other. Finally, please continue to support this ministry in your prayers and with your generous donations.

Garden Quote

In the garden, I find peace and renewal as I am surrounded by God's creation.

- Pam Temons



AFTER SCHOOL KIDS (ASK)

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, 4-5:30, a group of children from the neighborhood gather to be loved on, valued, mentored and fed. The group of volunteers led by Pat Burket has been pouring into the group of elementary schoolers- playing games, doing crafts, gardening, a Bible lesson with prayer, and having a good time.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us- more help is needed. (Clearances required.) 570-323-1797

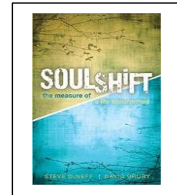
GROUPWORK DAYS! During the spring, summer and autumn, we have hosted Transform Williamsport to replace the ceiling on the House of Hope porch, Lycoming County United Way came to do painting odd jobs to improve our curb appeal, Lycoming College students came to help empty the contents and carpet of the new properties and cut small trees for a 911 memorial event, and Penn Tech Men's Lacrosse team to continue necessary work on the new property. There continues to be a list of needs in this old building and properties, and we welcome both groups as well as individuals. Give us a call to join in! 570-323-1797

HEALTH AND RESOURCE FAIR!

Fri, Oct 22 10-12:30 in and outside join us as we host multiple vendors with loads of great opportunities to connect and learn of community services. Rain or shine! Covid vaccines will also be available through United Way.

BIBLE STUDY! ♥ Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the "sanctuary".

- ♥ Discussion-type study with Power Point led by Rev. Jerry Cline.
- ♥ No preparation necessary, but a book is available from the internet.



GRANTS update!

Given the age and need for restoration of the building, the increase of staff and services provided, we have been very busy with fundraising and grant writing (YES- help needed!) More celebration and praises! Thank you FCFP for your support! Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc. has been awarded a grant from the Williamsport Lycoming Community Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania to be used to upgrade our computer systems! This will benefit staff in maintaining and improving daily operations, residents for our House of Hope in skill building and job searches, and students in our After School Kids program with homework help.

We are praising God for a grant from Lycoming County United Way to continue our partnership for the feeding program, from Central PA Foodbank for kitchen equipment repair and replacement, from DisAbilities of the UMC to widen the base and add a safety curb and safety gate to our front door handicap ramp, St Luke Fund for the Budget Coach program at House of Hope, and from Plankenhorn Foundation to help replace and repair the bottom halves of the windows in the sanctuary. Yes, it is a lot! But, we have been behind on repairs and replacements by anywhere from months to literally decades, and there is still much to be done.

That is much to celebrate! We have been able to make quite a dent in work that needs to be done in making STM more safe and accessible to all and to more fully utilize the space for our community.

**Just one more big thank you to our sponsors for the 20 year Anniversary celebration:
Hillside Catering, Susquehanna Community Bank, Compu-Gen, Thrivent Financial, and Susquehanna Paper!**

LEGACY GIVING-

We have a goal that for 20 years in ministry, we would begin a legacy fund, with high hopes of raising \$20,000 for this fund! Thus far, we have raised \$500! Please consider investing into the future of this vital ministry!

All contributions are Tax deductible. For -information call 570-3223-1797



FUNDRAISERS!!

November SOUP SALE! Who doesn't love Church lady soup!?? Calling all soup makers and soup lovers- November we will be selling soup by the quart. Preorders welcome! This is the perfect for your (even smallest) congregation to be involved and help us to help others by providing homemade soup and quart plastic containers. Proceeds to benefit the House of Hope.

Cost: \$10/ quart **Contact:** Pam Temons 570-651-9912 pamelart4stm@gmail.com

Options: Cuban Chicken Soup, Stuffed Cabbage, and more! Heat and eat!

Dates for pick up: Thurs, Nov 18, 4-7pm, Fri Nov 19, 4-7 pm, Sat Nov 20, 10-2 pm

Pick up location: St Boniface back portico entrance. * Volunteers welcome and needed for distribution assistance.

CALENDAR Fundraiser- on sale now for a donation of \$25 each, with daily prizes in November. Proceeds to benefit the House of Hope. Contact Pamela Temons, House supervisor at 570-651-9912

November is Homelessness Awareness Month. Watch for details on Face Book (Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.) to see how you can support awareness, along with tips and useful truths. We plan to collaborate again this year with other providing agencies for a unified effort.

TESTIMONY- ... and GOD ANSWERED!!

Just as our staff completed a list of needed items for our ministries over the next months, a phone call came in. The voice on the other end said, "A business is closing and I thought of Sojourner Truth Ministries. They have a lot of random items to give and I'm willing go and get for you anything I think you might need. Okay?"

Before long a truck full of items carried EVERYTHING on our "ask" list (and more) BEFORE we even printed the list!

God is so amazing, and it's so much fun to work for Him!

By the way, Thanks to the "voice" – Pastor Steve Smith of Pleasant View Wesleyan Church in Muncy