



## February 2023 NEWSLETTER

Pastor Angelique Labadie-Cihanowyz, Exec. Director  
STM Phone: 570.323.1797      HOH: 570-651-9912  
Email: [sojournertruthministries@gmail.com](mailto:sojournertruthministries@gmail.com)  
Website: [stmwilliamsport.org](http://stmwilliamsport.org)  
Facebook: Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc

### **GOD USED YOU IN '22**

Due to Covid and economic conditions, our homeless and living on the edge population increased considerably, and some of our formerly relied on giving organizations had to cut back due to their own financial restraints. **And yet, God brought Sojourner Truth Ministries to your minds, hearts, and financial decisions to help us to help our community. Thank you for individual donations, churches, community organizations, grants, businesses, partners, and support for our fundraiser events!**

### **BECAUSE OF YOU...IN '22**

- **We finished the year solidly in the black! Woohoo!!!**
- 19,278 nutritious meals were served
- Food pantry items were available 3 days every week
- After School Kids (ASK) program grew beyond our dreams
- Weekly Bible study with community
- Weekly One Word study and activities for Sojourners
- Holiday celebrations with Sojourners
- Personal hygiene items, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. for folks in need
- Dinner Church – Worship, fellowship, hot meal every Saturday
- Individual soul counseling and prayer
- Resource information given for social services, jobs, health concerns, etc.
- Renewal of wedding vows celebration; hospital visits, funeral service, Blue Christmas service
- And so much more!!!

## AND...BECAUSE OF YOU...IN '22

- **FCFP (First Community Partnership Foundation)** grant, other supply donations and volunteer time all helped complete half of the duplex purchased at a sheriff's sale for a family to move in. Workers included teams from Zion Lutheran Church, Transform Williamsport (First UMC, Wmsprt), Faith Wesleyan Church, United Way, and the quiet group we call Secret Service, who just show up to work when they're available.
- **UNITED WAY** is a major partner in our Feeding Program, enabling food purchases and so much more.
- **UPMC** is a great sponsor whose support makes a difference in meeting operational costs and furthering our mission.
- **PLANKENHORN FOUNDATION** grant provided beautiful and energy efficient windows in the sanctuary and adjoining rooms
- **PINE STREET UMC** and **ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH** were a huge help in getting a donated boiler up and running
- **NORTH CENTRAL PA FOOD BANK** helped to replace a freezer and purchased a handicap accessible picnic table
- **PRESBYTERIAN SENIOR LIVING OF WILLIAMSPORT** shared a freezer with STM
- **St Luke Fund** restricted, towards boiler replacement \$4,000
- **Food Bank Bold Goal Grant** ( towards freezer replacement) \$1,200
- **Bold Goal Covid Grant** (towards outside handicap accessible picnic table) \$1,000
- **Kiwanis Club of Williamsport** (After School Kids equipment) \$ 1,000
- **Plankenhorn Foundation**(restricted for Sanctuary update) \$26,768.38
- **Plankenhorn Foundation** (restricted for kitchen update) \$2,000
- **Lycoming County United Way** feeding Program \$20,000
- **Pine St Foundation** (restricted- towards furnace installation) \$5,000
- **ACT 137 Funds** for roof replacement 663/665 Center \$21,330
- **FCFP** (Wish List grant) for 663-665 Center - \$41,665.48

**OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO GAVE.** There are too many to list, but **THANK YOU** for helping to keep this amazing ministry going!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing Board President, Maigrette Polanco, who dedicated many hours to overseeing our mission, including policy development for the House of Hope program. Godspeed Maigrette! Welcome Pastor Brian Moyer, our interim President. Thank you for stepping up in this very exciting time at Sojourner Truth Ministries.

## A PEEK AT WHAT WE'LL SEE...IN '23

- Continuation of ALL our ministries in 2022
- **PLANKENHORN FOUNDATION GRANT** will update the sanctuary/community room with fresh paint, lighting, ceiling fans
- Opening fully staffed House of Hope
- Completion of the second half of the duplex
- ASK Program will have enough volunteers to once again provide 1 adult for every 1 or 2 children.

## HOPE FOR HOUSE OF HOPE

We're actively seeking and interviewing persons to fill all positions to open this safe residential, educational, Christ-based house to provide loving hope and guidance to women coming out of dire circumstances of homelessness. **Please help us fill these positions. If you are personally interested, or if you know of a woman who might be qualified and interested, call Pastor Angelique 610.428;5721 (c).**

Thank you for your prayerful attention to opening this life saving, life changing ministry!

Our "trial run" of opening these doors last year brought this recent comment to Pastor Angelique from a former resident who completed a partial residency at House of Hope. (Graduation requirement is at least six months.)

*"You (House of Hope) changed my life! I am here, living, because of you.... I've been clean for 15 months now! I learned how to have boundaries, and how to be a real person. I work now. I don't need to be in a relationship to know that I have worth. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"*

**This is but one testimony of how we were "Jesus with skin on" for a person in real need. EVERY facet of our ministries is saturated with sharing the heart of Jesus and offering to all the incredible gift of salvation. Please make Sojourner Truth Ministries and House of Hope a priority in your daily prayer life. God bless you!**

## GOD'S ALWAYS GOT IT TESTIMONY

Our staff had barely finished composing a list of needed items when the phone rang. The voice said "A business is closing and I thought of Sojourner Truth Ministries. They have a lot of random items to give away. I'm willing to go and get anything I think you might need. Okay?" Before long a truck full of items brought EVERY ITEM on our list, and more...and we hadn't even shared or printed the list yet! Thanks to the "voice"... Pastor Steve Smith of Pleasant View Wesleyan Church in Muncy. God is truly amazing, and it's so much fun to work for Him!

## **SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES LEGACY FUND**

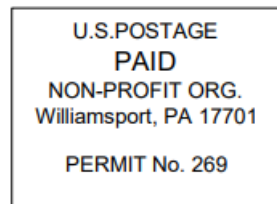
As we begin this new year overflowing with God's dreams we don't even know about yet, we humbly ask that you prayerfully consider including a donation to our Legacy Fund in your planned charitable giving in 2023. This fund will help insure the future of these vital ministries and more in our Williamsport community.

### **FREE TO BE...IN '23**

Our ASK (After School Kids) Program has recently experienced phenomenal growth in numbers of kids attending each Wednesday and Thursday, 3:45 – 5:15. We've had as many as 20 children coming for food, games, Bible lessons, crafts, and homework help. The kids range in age from kindergarten to middle school.

YOU might find great joy in helping with this program. To find out more call the Director, **Pat Burket at 570.651.0887**. Or, if you want to visit or enroll a child, call Pat. *Written parental consent is required to allow a child to attend this program. (In-house training and clearances required for all volunteers.)*

**SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES**  
501 High Street  
Williamsport PA 17701



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Christ-based ministries for the homeless and folks living on the edge*