



The Quarterly Truth NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES, INC. 501 High Street Williamsport, PA 570-323-1797 **Rev. C. Angelique Labadie-Cihanowyz**, Director

Website: stmwilliamsport.org

Want me to come and share about Sojourners to your church or group?

Invite me! I'd love to!

Vision Statement Sojourner Truth Ministries shall be a loving, spiritual, and inclusive Christian mission. **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:



Greetings to all

I am so grateful for all that God has done here at Sojourner Truth Ministries over the past year since I came on as Director. Continuing to pursue Him and His vision for this place has been a great blessing amidst the challenges and changes. Staying the same is easier and offers less resistance than forging ahead, and this is certainly true in ministry. That being said, we're moving forward, offering dignity, prayer, and a safe place for our guests to be.



Our Saturday Dinner Church is now six months old, and we continue to tweak it to make it the best experience possible for both those receiving as well as those who come to serve. If you have not yet been- please come on a Saturday at 11:20 to worship with us! Don't be too late, or you'll miss it- the service is done at noon and move right into sharing a meal together. Meals together, around the tables, is so important. This

is designed to be where conversations and connections take place, as well as discipling and debriefing the message of the day. Weekday meals have been increasing, with an average of 20 coming in for breakfast and between 50-65 for lunches daily. All have opportunity to come early for pre-meal devotions.

The After School Kids program continues to develop as we figure out what works and what does not with our group of kids. What we've found in the last weeks is that they thrive on 1:1 attention more than group activities (which we still try). These kids are cared for and fed nutritious food, helped with homework if desired, and given plenty of opportunities to interact in various ways. A beautiful success is that some of the boys have felt comfortable enough to come to the end of Dinner Church (they are hearing praise songs and prayer) and stay for lunch. Little by little, they are hearing and experiencing the love of Jesus. Committed volunteers welcome (we will help with all required safety and background clearances). Especially needed are homework helpers.



Hours of Operation:

Monday thru Saturday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday - Closed

Monday - Friday - Breakfast 8:00am & Lunch 12:00Noon (Devotions 11:45am)

Saturday - Dinner Church - upstairs 11:30am (followed by Noon Message)

Tuesday & Wednesday - After School Kids - 3:30pm - 4:45pm (Ending Wednesday, May29th)

Sojourner House

We have a plan! Since beginning in this ministry spring 2018, there has been a new vision. Seeing the need and having the desire to utilize all of our space to the fullest, a plan has been developing, and it's getting exciting! Turning the former parsonage into short term, communal housing to help women coming out of a season of homelessness is what God has put on our heart. Meeting this identified need, the house guests will be vetted by a panel, and the care will be holistic. Participants chosen for this six month program will be highly motivated to succeed and become self-sufficient.

Our vision of success will be for women to secure stable housing, to have gainful employment, improve relational skills, move forward in healing, and become a positive influence in their circles- lessening the burden on "the system". This, in turn, will strengthen our community.

We are offering churches, groups, and individuals the opportunity to sponsor needed items or adopt a room with furnishings. We need capitol monies in order to sustain this program for a less dependent community. Please join in the restoration process of the home, and those who will come through- we expect to have up to ten at a time. These ladies will see the love of Jesus in all that we do.

This renovation project is using as much volunteer skill as possible, and a small team has formed through Volunteers In Mission. There is always room for more help! The work is going forward as the funds become available. The process has begun with heating and electrical work, as well as clean out. The opportunity to be involved by sponsoring a room, or job, or specific item from kitchen cabinets to new windows to flooring to paint, etc. is now!

We are also in need of volunteer staff to help oversee and mentor. Interested in being a part of the prayer and planning team? There's so much more...Contact Pastor Angelique 570-323-1797, Angelique4stm@gmail.com.

Praise Report:

This month was a true blessing for one of our sojourners. Michael has been suffering from chronic homelessness and unemployment, among other issues. He always walks with his head hung down in udder defeat. Well, To God be the Glory, this month Michael has landed a job and this is a wonderful start to new beginnings in his life. The first we have seen him smile and walk with his head held high in a very long time.

I began helping a woman this month who is homeless with her 3 grandchildren. Both of her daughters are battling addiction. When she arrived at STM, she was in tears. I sat with her for the better part of two hours, praying and trying to give her clarification on some issues. She then spent about a half hour at the altar pouring things and issues out to God. Her words were, " I feel so much lighter now".

A.S.

Items Needed:

- Postage & Postcard Stamps
- Local Gift Cards,
- Sugar
- Coffee & Creamer
- PAPER plates
- Nice dinner napkins (paper)
for dinner church
- Small size Takeout Containers
- Disinfectant wipes
- Bleach
- Window fan
- Qrt. & Sandwich size
Ziploc Bags
- Plastic ware
(spoons, forks, knives)

Quotes from "Sojourners" - people on their journey...

- " I come here because it is a safe place off the streets " - *Mike, in a season of homelessness*
- " I come early every day because I need to have my heart and soul fed besides lunch" - *Ken*
- "This is home to me, this is my second family" - *Grandma S*
- "I will take memories of my work experience at STM and remember to treat others with respect...Thank you for all you've taught me, Sojourner's" - *a student who comes to us through BLAST Intermediate Unit*
- "I learned more about myself in five weeks than the past 40 years through the UnAshamed Class..it has changed my thought process and in turn changed some pain to forgiveness"- *S.E.*
- " It's an honor to be a part of something that really makes a difference in the community"- *Derrick*
- " I came here to hear devotions, to get away from the house, and I come here for the meal and the people. There are not enough food stamps for the month, so eating here helps. It helps take a little bit of stress off my life" - *Barbara*
- " You can see God's Word taking hold here" - *Darnell- a man who comes in periodically for prayer*

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES

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STM newsletter Spring, 2019

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Inside This Issue
Dinner Church Update
After School Update
Sojourner House
Editorial: After School Volunteer
Sojourner Quotes
Help Wanted
Why STM is Important to Me

Address here

Editorial:

AFTER SCHOOL KIDS VOLUNTEER... A natural fit!

As a volunteer with the Afterschool Program here at Sojourner Truth Ministries for about two months, I have found it to be a natural fit, as I have always loved volunteering my time and skills to youth-serving organizations.

I find Sojourner After School Kids to be a quality afterschool program that offers so much more than just a safe place for your child to be after school. This after school program provides educational support by helping kids with homework and providing them with social learning through interactive games and activities. The kids are always given something nourishing to eat and are provided with healthy snacks every day. The peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are always a hit!

This afterschool program also gives the kids a chance to learn and grow in a fun, engaged, informal way and the energy the kids have is infectious!

Since I have been volunteering, I see how the attendance has grown. I also see that the kids really enjoy being here. I love the interaction we have with the kids and would like to have the opportunity to share some of this interaction with the parents. It is truly a blessing that the kids have a place like Sojourner to come to after school because most parents are not home from work and the kids need a safe place to be and can be off the streets.

With the kids about to be out of school for the summer, I will miss coming here on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will look forward to when the program starts back up in the Fall.

I am thankful for this volunteer opportunity to play a small role and to possibly make a difference in the life of a 'Sojourner After School Kid'

Linda Jackson
Volunteer



Volunteer staff person, summer volunteer part time staff to run and help with kids program, cleaners, organizers, manual labor, help with a renovation project, painting, partners for facilitating study groups and discussions, movies followed by discussion, seniors activities, resource development team, special music for Sat Dinner Church, Tuesday morning produce pick up from a local grocery store, social media help, grant writing, and more.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORIENTATIONS ARE THE 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS, 10 AM. COME AND LEARN MORE ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT! There are so many ways to get involved- what's your passion? We may be able to work that in!

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DID YOU KNOW

As a volunteer you could help with thank you cards? You could help clean up Saturdays (12-1:15), you could offer homework help, pass out after school snacks on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons, register kids, read to adults (mornings) or students after school, help teach reading, help with a Bible study for adults (daytime), pick a day of the week or month and offer local transportation, pick up produce from a local grocery store weekly, help with a fundraiser, help host a special movie showing on site, bring ingredients and make PBJ's to send with our guests, help with PR, handyman/person jobs, help teach basic rhythm to kids after school, come to play games, help with occasional mailings, offer special music, share your testimony, come to talk about your nonprofit and how it helps the community(schedule a Wednesday, 11:15 am), and much more! There are many ways you could be involved in helping as we minister alongside others to be more effective in sharing the love of Jesus!



Why STM is important to me...

Many years ago, my family and I were homeless and living in various shelters in Williamsport. We struggled with unemployment, addiction, and lost everything a couple of times. On the days that we did not have job interviews or appointments, we did not have many places to go while waiting for the shelter to let us back in. Depending on the shelter, they lock you out from morning to afternoon, Monday through Friday. There were many days that we could not cook our food or even have food, especially for lunch. Sojourner's offered us a safe place to nourish our bodies as well as being fed spiritually. We came to STM for several years until finally we could sustain our own home, cook our own meals, and keep groceries stocked. Even then, we still come to STM to visit and fellowship with those whom we built relationships with. STM is like a second family. Currently, I serve on the Board as Secretary (2017) and am also Treasurer (2019). I've learned many new skills such as maintaining the Facebook page and website building. I've assisted in brand design development, such as our new logo, new letterhead, business cards, postcards, etc. Being on the Board has allowed me to gain knowledge in professional roles and business ethics while building relationships and networking. It also provides the avenue to give insights of our sojourners journey to the other Board members. Sojourner's has definitively played a key part in my transformative journey and I do believe it will continue to do the same for me and for many others. God is moving in this ministry and in the lives of all who are connected to it. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of this ministry! All glory to God!!

Summer Love Bair
Secretary/Treasurer
Board of Directors

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Give me (Angelique) a call at 570-323-1797

www.stmwilliamsport.org or Angelique4STM@gmail.com