



The Quarterly Truth NEWSLETTER *Summer 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:



"It was so hot, I got a loaf of bread and before I got home, it was toast!"

We thank God for fans in our dining area. Some people come in to get out of the sun and heat because they do not have somewhere else to be. Some come avoiding the streets, an unhealthy atmosphere in the home, to stay away from bars, or worse. Of course, some people come in because they are known and welcomed. A kind word, encouragement, and a devotion before the hearty noon meal is just what many people need to get through another day. As I give thanks for simple things like working fans in the scorching July heat, I want to share some other things that have taken place at STM: We have some amazing volunteers, and without them, would not be able to minister the way we do. On a very hot day, our fridge broke down. Through a connection, another was promised within the hour. A group of youth from Faith Church in Montoursville came for a poverty workshop and to help with physical labor- what a positive experience! A group from United Way came and helped with physical labor, we had a health and resource fair, a group of high school campers came to do service work, volunteers have come each week to help with prep work and painting in the House next door (details in a separate article), dinner church continues to give both soul food and physical food for all who come on Saturdays, Transform Williamsport workers will be coming next week to cut branches and paint. It takes a community to keep this ministry going and thriving, and the community is stepping up! The support in so many ways is a testimony of how God is working here. Please, reach out to us, pay a visit, check our Facebook Page, Website, see what is going on firsthand.

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Saturday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday - Closed

Sojourner House Update!

Anticipating a communal, short-term (6 months) home for women coming out of a season of homelessness in our attached (former) parsonage is becoming more and more real. In the works for well over a year, we have planned and replanned, revised policies, are working diligently on fundraising (with a \$10,000 match for funds raised in July and August!). Yes, there are other local shelters for women, which are specific to domestic violence, just coming out of incarceration, substance abuse, people with children. This House is for those who have fallen through the cracks and may find themselves in compromising positions in order to have a place to lay their heads.



George adds his blessing to a wall prior to painting.

We hope to house up to 12 women (no children) and to give tools for not merely getting by but becoming stable and sustainable in the community. Please check our website for more information. Our advisory panel is made up of people who have been homeless at some point, recovery and mental health professionals, and concerned enthusiastic community members.

As the work progresses on the house, the panel pushes forward to address strategy. The physical work team welcomes newcomers (mostly Tuesday mornings) and is all volunteer except where we need insured tradespeople. This is saving us thousands of dollars! Make an appointment to come and see and write a blessing or Scripture on the walls before they are painted! Hear more of what we're up to and be a part of this something bigger!

Supplies we frequently use (and run out of)



Bleach

dish detergent

postage stamps

Thankyou cards /notes

sugar

powdered creamer

paper cups (no styrofoam please)

powdered drink mix

food service gloves

hand sanitizer

feminine hygiene supplies

Summer Scripture to encourage you - Isaiah 58:6-11

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;

then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.”

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a
sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring
whose waters never fail.”



STM Welcomes New Volunteer Staff

Mary Beth



Hi, I'm Marybeth Croll, a new volunteer at STM. I was volunteering once a week, but now have added Tuesdays because I enjoy serving here so much. Let me tell you why. I came because Pastor Angelique had put a request for help on FaceBook. I was given the assignment to help with social service advocacy for the sojourners. In the beginning I was told to spend time in the downstairs area where people congregate for breakfast, lunch, or just a need for a place to go. This was to get to know these great people. I started out randomly introducing myself to the sojourners I learned to listen, which is sometimes all they wanted or needed. Soon I became familiar with the regulars... and for the first time in my life I found myself praying with people I had just met. It felt natural. I am learning so much about people living in poverty and in a season of homelessness.

Each time I went to STM by faith was getting stronger than ever; I was praying all the time. I found myself looking forward to being there- God was and is working in me. He is using my talent of listening with compassion and an open heart. My ability to help in different ways is being used for His works. I love my new STM family and I feel the love from them. It is said God has a plan for each and every one of us, you just have to open your listening heart. C.O.F.F.E.E. Christ Offers Forgiveness for Everyone Everywhere

Donna



I came to know about Sojourner Truth Ministries in a very surprising and unexpected way. I like to call it "My Three I's" -- the Invitation to come and see, the Impact (and growth) that it has directly had on me, and the blessing of Involvement that STM continues to give me every time I walk through its doors.

-- **The INVITATION** Because our schedules had taken us in two different directions, we were happy when we had the opportunity to catch up and reconnect with each other. It didn't take long for Pastor Angelique to tell me all about Sojourner Truth Ministries in Williamsport, and to extend an **INVITATION** to come and speak at an upcoming "Wednesday of Hope" lunch, which takes place at STM. I accepted her kind invitation. After I spoke to the group, I joined her for a tour of the facilities. Pastor Angelique talked about the wonderful programs that were taking place, and the important role that the STM volunteers play in driving the success of these various programs. As I was getting ready to leave, she extended another invitation for me to return some Saturday for the weekly Church service followed by lunch. Without hesitation, I also accepted this invitation. -- **The IMPACT** When Saturday arrived, I went back to Sojourner Truth Ministries to help the other volunteers wherever I was needed. At the conclusion of the service, we began the lunch distribution. I enjoyed talking with many of the patrons who I had previously met on Wednesday. I expected to see some familiar faces that day. However, what I didn't expect was the impression both of those days would have on me! I have done volunteer work before, but never has my volunteerism had such a profound **IMPACT** on my heart and soul as this ministry. When I left Sojourner that afternoon, I realized that I had just experienced something that I had never experienced before. Something was different. Something had changed. Something that I couldn't explain in my typical and analytical way -- because I couldn't put it into words! In closing, I am honored and humbled to be **INVOLVED** in a Ministry that has helped me realize how the "gift" of a simple smile and a listening ear can reach boundaries far beyond what you would ever expect.

Blessings, Donna J. Miller

Laura

Our new Treasurer



Hello, my name is Laura and I am currently the Accounting Manager at North Central Sight Services. I am originally from Romania and have lived in the US for about 10 years. I am happily married and live with my husband and our three cats. I have always believed in being kind and grateful for what we have and working at NCSS has only heightened my desire to help in any way that I can. Orison Swett Marden once said "We must give more in order to get more. It is the generous giving of ourselves that produces the generous harvest." I was excited to see how much STM does for our community, and I am even more excited to be a part of it. I am hopeful that we can grow, together, so we can continue to do more for those who need our help.

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Inside This Issue

- ✚ New Volunteer Staff & Treasurer
- ✚ Ministry Update
- ✚ Sojourner House Update
- ✚ Wanted: Administrative Staff
- ✚ Summer Scripture

Address here

HELP WANTED:

VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF **TUESDAY Mornings 9-12**

Administrative duties include but are not limited to computer work such as reporting to various agencies), making phone calls, writing letters and emails and other weekly office tasks needed to help this growing ministry.

Multitasking, confidentiality, ability to work independently and effectively communicate are all essential to this volunteer job. Please leave a message at 570-323-1797, or email letter of interest to Angelique4stm@gmail.com



Sponsorship for items needed for the House next door: Please check our website for updated details.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? 1st and 3rd WEDS, 9 am RSVP for volunteer orientation

THANK YOU FOR ALL WHO ARE GIVING TO SUPPORT OUR WORK!!

You may be loving people whom you have not even met yet...

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or Stmwilliamsport.org or Angelique4STM@gmail.com**