



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER, 2024

### ***Merci! Danka! Gracias! Thank You!***

**YOU are doing something great with your support!** We are so grateful for the tremendous response to our spring “ask” letter. Through the Lycoming County Raise the Region Campaign and direct donations to Sojourner Truth Ministries, or House of Hope. As of the date of this writing we have already received \$10,764, roughly 22% of our goal of \$50,000. (Oops! Did it slip your mind? No problem. It’s never too late to respond.)

Because of your gracious gifts, and a few grants, we’re keeping up with the work we’re called to do: feeding more people, referring to additional services, tutoring children, teaching classes, taking care of our buildings, helping individuals to come out of homelessness, and making a good impact on the community. And always - sharing the Gospel and serving in the love of Jesus.

#### ***GOOD NEWS!***

- Recently an elderly Sojourner responded to the Message by asking Pastor Angelique to pray with him to **offer the remainder of his life to live for Jesus!**
- We held an **Ash Wednesday** service of worship.
- Two of our sojourners are being mentored in being **Christian men**. March.
- A “Journey with Jesus” **discussion group** has been meeting weekly before Dinner Church through March.
- We now have **four residents** at House of Hope, each working on a variety of important skills to prepare her to become independent and self-sustaining by the time she’s ready to graduate from the program.
- **Weekly presenters** for our lunches include N.A.M.I.(mental health), NCPA Food Bank on healthier choices, Amerihealth Caritas, smoking cessation

#### ***MORE GOOD NEWS!***

- **Chef Dave (Yost)** was the Sun Gazette’s **2023 Man of the Year!**
- The Mennonite Youth Choir brought **musicians** for a Saturday Dinner Church.
- A Kiwanis grant purchased materials for the ASK (After School Kids) program.
- **Safety improvements** are being made by volunteers from **Horizon Federal Credit Union**.
- **Lowes** completed the work on 663 Center Street, which will provide transitional housing for our House of Hope graduates.
- Thanks to 2 state grants we are in process of revitalizing our old kitchen cupboards, counters, stove and other equipment!

- We just acquired a **Chair Volleyball set** to give sojourners opportunities for cardio and upper body exercise, with loads of laughter in playing this non-competitive game.
- The sanctuary/community room renovation is complete, including new windows, lighting, and a sound system. Many thanks to the **Harry Plankenhorn Foundation!**
- **Lycoming County United Way** played a big role in our ability to provide almost 29,000 meals in 2023. Without them and our ability to purchase food through the North Central PA Food Bank (with your generous donations), it would be impossible to meet those needs



You get the picture. Sojourner Truth Ministries is multifaceted and meets a myriad of needs in our community, many to provide services and everyday happenings most of us don't have to think twice about. Perhaps it's knowing which social service can help, or how to contact them; a hospital visit from the Pastor; a Bible study or life skills class; feeling like part of a caring family at STM; a hot meal and/or a few groceries (thanks to Weis and Wegmans); someone to listen to and pray with a hurting soul. On and on it goes. We are both privileged and blessed to meet so many needs.

**DID YOU KNOW that we recycle food?** We get produce with limited shelf life from local grocers, use what we are able for fresh salads and fruit for our meals, and offer the remainder to our patrons. Whatever is not chosen is then offered to a local farmer. Hopefully there's nothing left, because then we have to pay to dispose of. Are you, or do you know a farmer who could use some leftovers? It's a pretty good deal! (no cost- you pick up) 570-323-1797 (Shawn)

We still have some **openings for 2024** Saturday Dinner Church providers and volunteers (times 10am-1pm) ... contact Shawn

**Volunteer Teams** welcome/needed! Please call the office to see where you might fit in!

Groups or individuals welcome to bring flowers to plant (Please call for details!)

**Supplies currently needed:** plastic 8 oz cups, paper napkins, Lysol, food service gloves (L and XL), Pinesol, coffee creamer, brown lunch bags (hefty size),

**We're On A Roll!** Collecting Paper Towels, stamps, scotch tape...things that come on a roll

**Volunteer teams welcome! Volunteers needed. Are you a Thrivent member? Your Choice Dollars can be directed to Sojourner Truth Ministries! Call your rep for more information, if you don't have one, call Keith Wood 579-323-9727**

## **ARE YOU, YOUR CHURCH, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED?**

### ***Current volunteer opportunities include:***

- Mentoring at House of Hope (women)
- Teaching a life skill at House of Hope or Sojourner Truth Ministries
- Cooking on site or bringing in a meal for House of Hope
- “Coaching” chair volleyball (easiest coaching job and most fun ever!)
- Leading a women’s Bible study (there is an ongoing class for men)
- Administrative assistance
- Office help . . . computer savvy
- Marketing
- Fundraising
- Providing music or other programming at STM
- Grant writing
- Helping with After School Kids program 1-2 afternoons/week 3:30-5pm (Background checks required)
- Property yard work: at STM, House of Hope, Duplex properties (one or all) once a week, one time, or as needed
- Maintenance & custodian workers needed
- Fix it . . . whatever “it” may be . . . lots of opportunities for individuals & groups! We look forward to working with each of you.
- ***VOLUNTEERS / GROUPS for workdays / mission projects. We welcome YOU!***

### **Notable Quotes Re: House of Hope: (a selective communal living program helping women leave homelessness behind)**

“There is not any place like the HoH anywhere in the county. This is so beautiful; it makes me want to cry.” – a county worker

“The HoH is giving you opportunities that you have not had up until this point...you should take full advantage of everything that is offered there” – a medical professional to a resident

“ my favorite part of my time at the HoH was being able to see the Michael W. Smith” – a resident

“I really like all the classes” – a resident

“ I have thoroughly enjoyed being with the ladies just as much as they have enjoyed the time they have spent with me”- a volunteer

## **TOURS AND OVERVIEW OF OUR MINISTRIES**

Call Shawn (570-323-1797) to set up a time to get the inside scoop!

We’re glad to come and share with your church or group!

Thank you in advance for the invitation.

*All gifts / contributions to Sojourner Truth House of Hope Ministries (EIN: 23-2125932), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, are tax-deductible.*

## **CHANGE FOR CHANGE**

We have a small ongoing fundraiser for the women at House of Hope. Gifts of pocket change (paper money accepted) can help change lives as the women have opportunities to learn about receiving unconditional love from people they may never meet. This fund provides for "extras" that many of us take for granted: going out for an occasional meal; going to a special movie; attending a local event of interest. Our budget doesn't include items like this, yet they can help to make a difference in the healing journey.

**HEALTH AND RESOURCE FAIR** was well attended by local agencies, and individuals who were seeking assistance.

**Thank You to our sponsors:** UPMC; River Valley Health and Dental; Community Services Group; The Meadows; AmeriHealth Caritas; CleanSlate; A. Bellve' Tatooing; AppleGate Recovery.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Kids Bible Club: Monday – Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

## **NEEDS**

Flavored Drink Mixes; Good Air Conditioning Units; Work Groups / Mission Projects

*If you would like to receive our newsletter or updated news on Sojourner Truth Ministries, please send an email at: [sojournertruthministries@gmail.com](mailto:sojournertruthministries@gmail.com) and we will add your name to our list. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated.*

**Facebook Page:** Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc. **Website** [stmwilliamsport.org](http://stmwilliamsport.org)



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