



Ruth's House

I AM RUTH'S HOUSE

Ruth's House is a home where you
can find yourself when you feel lost.

At Ruth's House I am
Safe, Sober, Secure
- Past Resident

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

I am Ruth's House "because I want to make a difference" - Volunteer




Contact us

Ruth's House of Hope, Inc.
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hello@ruthshousemn.org

OUTREACH OFFICE 507.334.5043
SHELTER 507.332.2236

 facebook.com/ruthshouseofhope

 instagram.com/ruthshousemn

Dear Friend,

We are Ruth's House. Ruth's House is made up of everyday people like you who want to help those who need it most. Our organization has been a beacon of hope for many women and children in our community, especially during the past few years. We have witnessed true stick togetherness through hard times and shared in each other's joy during triumphs.

The families at Ruth's House and Sarah's House function like yours - each day cooking dinner, going to work or school, laughing together, and sometimes crying while lifting each other up at the difficult moments life brings us.

We were elated by the love shown by our community during a kitchen fire at the beginning of the year. We reached out for help and were met immediately with offers of support and meals brought to our door. You were there for us, thank you!



Going through another pandemic year was wearing. Residents and staff were hopeful that we would be past it all soon only to be facing another variant and the continual lifting and renewing restrictions such as mask-wearing at the shelter and in the community. Because of the rise of cases in Rice County, some students were required to return to distance learning for a short period at the beginning of the year. This put a strain on all the residents who were trying to adjust to the new normal in the pandemic as they also experienced the challenges of domestic violence, poverty, and homelessness.

Ruth's House experienced staffing shortages throughout the year and all staff stepped up and filled in to ensure the shelter remained covered 24/7. This was a difficult time as our staff was overwhelmed with their regular responsibilities in addition to providing shelter coverage and pandemic-related struggles for themselves and their families.

Most of our front desk volunteers did not return in 2021 and the staff's workload continued to be increased because of this loss. Volunteers at the shelter answer doors, phones, and help with other day-to-day tasks which allow staff to focus on case management and one on one support for our residents. We are rebuilding our volunteer base and are thankful for their helpfulness!

The lack of housing in Rice County makes it challenging for many residents to find stable placements. Some landlords are asking for a deposit, the first month's rent, and require a person to be making three times the amount of the cost of their rent. The real life struggle is ongoing.

Ruth's House endured another pandemic year and we were able to continue serving those who need us most. We adapted and weathered changes using technology to stream our annual fundraiser renamed Helping Hearts Event-into homes around the country and helped our residents set up telehealth appointments.

We celebrated our first anniversary of operating Sarah's House, a sober home for women. Sarah's House provides step-down structured transitional housing and case management for up to five women at a time. The women at Sarah's House have a safe, separate space to commemorate milestones while they continue their recovery journey. For 18 years now, Ruth's House is known as the place for shelter and support for women and children in Rice County. Almost every day we receive calls and applications for our programs. We maintain a waitlist and sometimes it holds the names of a few dozen families waiting for help, just like Emily's* family.

We rely on your continued support so we can do the work and make a real impact on the lives of those we serve. Please prayerfully consider helping us by making a one-time or monthly sustaining donation by becoming a Champion of Hope. Your recurring monthly gift as a Champion of Hope allows us to stabilize our yearly budget, plan for the future, and ensure the sustainability of Ruth's House for years to come.

Thank you for your generosity and trust. YOU are Ruth's House.

* see story page 4

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne".

Suzanne Fox
Executive Director
Ruth's House

Emily's Story



"When my Mom and I needed a home Ruth's House was there in our time of need. I found Ruth's House to be a very loving open home, as well as a wonderful experience."

Thanksgiving where all the residents ate a meal together, Christmas around the tree with a special visit from Santa, and Easter where we made a meal together and had an egg hunt throughout the house. I quickly bonded with the younger kids, they could often be heard running around the main floor shouting "cousin" when trying to find me. Although we were not related by blood we bonded just like we were.

Twelve-year-old Emily came with her mom, Mary, and older brother, Timothy, to Ruth's House after their father kicked them out of their home. In the same week, Mary lost her job of five years at a manufacturing plant.

Emily shared, "When my Mom and I needed a home Ruth's House was there in our time of need. I found Ruth's House to be a very loving open home, as well as a wonderful experience." Our case manager, Meghan, helped me transfer to a local school, and get involved in the summer STEAM program which was through the Faribault school district. It helped to have a sense of normality and routine. I felt like anything I wanted to do I would have help and support.

I got particularly close with Maggie, she adopted me almost like a Grandmother. We baked, cooked, did crafts, and many other fun things together. I spent

My favorite memory at Ruth's House was when we all sat down together at dinner or when we all gathered around to talk.

"I will never forget my time at Ruth's House. If another kid asked me what to expect moving into Ruth's House I would say:

Follow the rules, be respectful, be kind, be patient, have fun, and be happy."

Emily, Timothy, and Mary are looking for the perfect home for their family in Faribault. Ruth's House is more than a shelter or a safe place to lay their head for the family, it gave them emotional, and personal connections, as well as the material things they needed.

Leading Light



As a little boy at Sunday School I sang this song:
I am the church!
You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is the people.

Fifty plus years later, I still believe that those words I know by heart tell the truth.

When I learned that the theme for this Annual Report was, "**I am Ruth's House,**" I realized that's true, too!

Everybody connected with the ministry and mission of Ruth's House brings unique gifts and a variety of experiences. Each person...every mom and every child, every staff member and volunteer, every donor and concerned community member... makes Ruth's House what it is today and will help it become what it needs to be tomorrow.

So, ask yourself, "Am I Ruth's House?" Or, "Will I be Ruth's House?" Think about it, pray about it, and then do something about it! Don't underestimate what the contribution you make to Ruth's House can do. I truly believe it will change somebody's life for good, including yours!

Pastor Jeff Sandgren, Board Chair

I am Ruth's House because "I care and I want them to know that they are not alone." -Board Member



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RUTH'S HOUSE OF HOPE

THE MISSION AND GOAL

Ruth's House is a non profit Emergency and Transitional Shelter with supportive services in Rice County, Minnesota for women and children struggling with homelessness due to domestic violence or other traumatic life circumstances such as illness, disability, substance use disorders, or poverty. Our Transitional Shelter Program, funded entirely by community donations and foundation grants, serves individuals both by meeting their immediate need for safe shelter, food, and basic needs and by helping them overcome barriers to self-sufficiency and stable, permanent housing.

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering lives, offering hope through transitional housing and support.

THE PROGRAM

Ruth's House Emergency and Transitional Shelter can accommodate nine families of women and their children for up to 60 days in emergency circumstances and up to 4 months as a transition to permanent housing, with the option of an additional 6 months to address more difficult barriers to self-sufficiency.

Ruth's House offers individualized supportive programming that helps families stabilize and work towards increasing life skills and self-determination so they can break the cycle of

poverty and homelessness. The programs at Ruth's House are flexible and individually tailored to meet each resident's unique needs. Individualized self-sufficiency plans include self-identified short and long-term goals and encompass health and wellness, employment, financial stability, and housing stability.

Sarah's House is Ruth's House's newest Pillar which was launched in the Fall of 2020. Sarah's House is a safe, separate, sober living space for single women who continue their recovery during their transition from inpatient to independent or supportive living in the community. Residents at Sarah's House continue with a structured step-down approach after inpatient treatment based on their individual paths which includes outpatient treatment as well as employment and/or volunteer opportunities. If applicable, when residents are ready to reunify with their children, they have the opportunity to apply to Ruth's House to pursue reunification.

I am Ruth's House because "I am passionate about helping women find out who they are as individuals and supportive of their personal journeys!"
-Ruth's House Staff

2021 RESIDENT SUCCESSES

Transitional Shelter Program
34 women served • 46 children served

Sarah's House
13 women served

Permanent Supporting Housing Program
93 women and children served

83%
of Ruth's House residents worked to overcome the effects of domestic violence they experienced at some point in their lives.

On average, residents increased their monthly income by
\$400

6 Women
pursued education including obtaining their GED and enrolling in post-secondary education.

100%
received safe shelter, food, basic needs, and supportive services.

Your Contributions at Work!

🏠 **EVENTS:** Our Helping Hearts Event pivoted to online during pandemic, Night to Unite returned to Ruth's House lawn, participated in eight new community events and presentations including Pride in the Park in Northfield and International Festival hosted by the Faribault Diversity Coalition, Faribault Foundation Pride Message Board

🏠 **RELOCATED:** Outreach office space relocated to Our Savior's Lutheran Church

🏠 **REPLACED:** Sewage pipes in basement repaired or replaced, volunteers sewed new curtains for resident's rooms, new fuse box installed, lighting in laundry room updated

🏠 **RESTORED:** New Year's Eve 2020 Fire and smoke damage to first floor of shelter addressed, first floor repainted

🏠 **SUCCEEDED:** Achieved our goal of serving more women, by reaching capacity at Sarah's House

🏠 **SURVIVED:** Coordinated our pandemic response with local public health, state offices and consequently achieved a safe environment for staff, volunteers and residents

🏠 **UPDATED:** Staff starting wages for Family Advocates increased by \$2/hr, playground refurbished and updated to create a safe fun place for children to play outdoors

We received over
\$41,000

from in-kind donations from hundreds of individuals and several groups and organizations.

Volunteers donated thousands of dollars of their time, talents, and creativity in unprecedented times with devotion to the mission of Ruth's House.

Volunteers helped update our playground area, repaired the house after the fire, and moved our Outreach office to Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

Volunteers helped with administrative duties to help keep our Outreach office afloat during an extremely busy time. Others joined our 2nd Annual Helping Hearts committee and walked alongside us as we pivoted from an in-person, to a virtual event. Many hours and meetings went into brainstorming, planning, and making our Helping Hearts event successful!

Ruth's House couldn't have done any of this without our volunteers and their support, ideas, creativity, hard work, and dedication. **THANK YOU!**



FINANCIALS

12 Months Ended December 31, 2020

REVENUE

Fundraising	\$282,160
Grants	\$131,034
Other	\$104,054
Total Income	\$517,248

EXPENSE

Administration	\$20,696
Payroll	\$313,091
Programming/Operations	\$135,806
Total Expense	\$469,593
Revenue/Expenses	\$47,655

2021 Donors

SAINTS

\$10000+

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"It's a better community when we can be there for people that need our help." - Volunteer

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Our goal has been to be 100% accurate in reporting gifts donated each year to Ruth's House. We sincerely apologize if we have made errors. Please let us know if you find any (hello@ruthshousemn.org) so we can correct our records and update these pages.



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