

Ruth's House

December 2021

Empowering lives, offering hope through transitional housing and support.



My House!

Carla arrived at Ruth's house with her mother and newborn son Marco. She experienced the typical struggles of adjusting to motherhood with the additional challenge of adapting to living in a shelter. Carla was determined to be a good mom and break unhealthy family patterns. Eventually, Carla, her mother and Marco left the shelter.

Carla returned to Ruth's House with new determination. She wanted the best life possible for Marco and understood it was her responsibility to give Marco a brighter future. Carla met with Kurt Halverson, our volunteer financial educator, and learned to manage her finances. She participated in classes at McKinley Early Childhood Center. During COVID when many people struggled to find and maintain employment Carla persevered and remained employed. The women at the shelter supported each other by cooking meals, providing rides, and helping with each other's children.

Ruth's House, the staff and the residents helped Carla find her way. She shared, "It was nice when you came home upset and had someone to talk to and I enjoyed sitting down and having dinner with others. Ruth's House felt comfortable; it felt like home. The best part... You find friends along the way you get to keep."

4-year-old Marco visited Ruth's House with Carla recently. As they walked up the sidewalk towards the shelter, Marco flung his little arms wide open and with a big grin he exclaimed, "this is MY house!"

Ruth's House is more than help, it's HOPE, and more than shelter, it's the SAFETY and comfort of a HOME. It's our privilege to provide new beginnings for families in crisis, families like Marco and his mom now have their own apartment and are thriving! As for Marco, he's an active 4-year-old, fighting crime with his superhero friends, dancing to Baby Shark, and preparing for school.

Christmas Wish List



Our ability to offer help and hope at Ruth's House is made possible by your support.

Gift cards

allow Ruth's House to purchase needed supplies for our shelter.

Walmart • Menards • Target • Ace Hardware
Aldi • Fareway • Hy-Vee • Kwik Trip • Amazon

Comfortable sofa set.

We would appreciate a like-new, kid-friendly sofa set for our living room.

When ordering from Amazon, you can donate their points to Ruth's House.

Please email giveruth@gmail.com to arrange donation drop-offs or visit ruthshousemn.org and click on How You Can Help.

Contact us



Ruth's House
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Faribault, MN 55021
ruthshousemn.org

Main Phone: 507-332-2236
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Save the Date!

2nd Annual Helping Hearts Event
Benefiting Ruth's House

FEBRUARY 12, 2022

Details inside



Playground Patrol

Karl Shares, Millie went on a field trip with her Brownie troop many years ago and the mission of Ruth's house resonated with all of us. I knew as I retired that volunteering at Ruth's house would be something that would be important. As a family we have identified a few areas of need that we want to focus on. These include anyone that does not have enough quality food to eat, anyone that has been involved with abuse, and children. To this end we put time and energy towards Ruth's House and the Community Action Center in Northfield. Both organizations are doing amazing work.

The Bouvin/Joyce family live on a hobby farm with horses, goats, chickens, and ducks and enjoy growing apples, pears, plums, grapes, raspberries and many other fruits and nuts. The family always has a big garden.

Grant Bouvin, a freshman at Union College in NY, studying engineering. Millie Bouvin is a junior at Northfield High School. She loves soccer, friends, and all things pets and animals.

My first job that Sandy asked for at Ruth's House was to sweeten up the playground area. This summer my kids and I began slowly weeding the pea rock and trying to get ahead of the weeds! We also cleaned out most of the large plastic toys. Then the kids and I put our energy towards the wooden playset. We sanded down the wood and painted it to get a few more good years of play out of it. In late summer I began cleaning up and painting the little playhouse. I almost finished before the cold set in. I recently installed a little awning and tray for kids to serve up imaginary goodies through the window to anyone with enough imagination to enjoy it.

Ruth's House is blessed to have Karl, Carolyn, Grant, and Millie sharing their many talents and bringing life back to our playground.

Sarah's House Offers Hope and New Beginnings



When Michelle faced struggles in her life, she was sent to Sarah's House as part of her aftercare post-treatment. Michelle had very few possessions upon her arrival, but the Case Manager made certain she had everything she needed. Michelle was assisted with groceries, clothing, toilet paper, and most importantly a driver's license and birth certificate to help her seek employment. With the assistance of staff, Michelle was able to secure housing, which helped her create a new beginning.

Michelle truly believed she would never see her four children again. The Case Manager helped Michelle connect with her social worker, as well as navigate the Child Protective Services process. She is very happy to report she now has full-time custody of her four children in their new home.

Michelle's long-term goal is to maintain sobriety and she says "Sarah's House was a huge part" of her success.



*"I don't know where I would be today without Sarah's House"
The staff made me feel cared about and, you are never "just" a client.*



Thank You!

**Thank you to our Board of Directors and
thank you to our Grantors and Fundraising Partners**

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Thank you to Ashley Olson for
designing this newsletter



Mardag Foundation
A family legacy. A partner for Minnesota.



**Rice County Area
United Way**



You too can become a Champion of Hope!

Do you want to be a part of our organization's future and help to bring over 7,000 nights of safe shelter to families in crisis each year? Become a Champion of Hope! Your recurring monthly gift allows us to stabilize our yearly budget, plan for the future, and ensure the sustainability of Ruth's House for years to come.

Get started with these 3 easy steps:

- Sign up either using the enclosed pink donation envelope or visit www.ruthshousemn.org and click on How You Can Help.
- Enter your credit card information or bank account information.
- Choose how much you will donate.

As a Champion of Hope, know that your donation will be used to provide continual HOPE to those we serve. Thank you!

Helping Hearts and Loving Arms

Our 1st Annual Helping Hearts Event gave us the opportunity to learn new technology and tested our agility as we pivoted to a virtual event. We thank our faithful supporters for bidding online, viewing our program and generously supporting Ruth's House. You provided much needed funds during a difficult year.

We are happy to announce our 2nd Annual Helping Heart Event will be at the American Legion in Faribault. Look forward to a fun evening socializing, playing heads or tails and dining together with friends at a beautifully decorated table. Bid on a stay at a family vacation home, a round of golf, a designer purse filled with treasures and the always popular dessert auction! Watch social media for a list of additional auction items.

The staff, volunteers and supporters of Ruth's House look forward to seeing you February 12th.

Please join us for our
**2nd Annual
Helping Hearts Event
benefiting Ruth's House
FEBRUARY 12**
American Legion in Faribault, MN

info.ruthshouse@gmail.com or visit
ruthshousemn.org/helpinghearts/
for up to date information

*Save
the
Date!*





P.O. Box 593
Faribault, MN 55021

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Because of your support and contributions,
last year we were able to provide over

7,000 NIGHTS
of safe shelter to homeless women and children



Ruth's House Vision Remains **A community where everyone has a safe place to call home**

In 2021, over half of Ruth's House families came to our doorstep fleeing domestic violence.

At Ruth's House, a safe place equals a dining room table for moms to gather with their children over a home-cooked meal and a warm bed for each family to safely rest their head at night. A safe place means knowing there is a Ruth's House staff to listen to their challenges and hopes anytime, day or night, which means everything to the families we serve.

Our shelter at Ruth's House is home for children while they stay with us, like *Marco*, who is greeted by his mom when he gets off the school bus. Ruth's House is home for his mom, who shares with another mom how she got through a hard day at work. Ruth's House provides safety and caring support to almost 100 women and children each year.

Your continued support means that Ruth's House will be there when a family faces eviction from their home. We will be there when a neighbor, fleeing domestic violence, looks for a safe place for her and her children. We will be there for women at Sarah's House - our safe sober living space designed to help women transition to healthy independent living. No matter what challenges families face at Ruth's House or Sarah's house we will be there, supporting them as they achieve their goals and move to stable, secure housing.



Would you prayerfully consider making a donation today? Ruth's House and Sarah's House are safe places full of love for those who need us most. As we look toward the future, we need your support more than ever. Your community needs your support to fill in the gaps until our vision is reality - A community where **everyone** has a safe place to call home.

Merry Christmas, we pray you and your family have a blessed Holiday season.

Suzanne

Suzanne Fox
Executive Director • suzannef@ruthshousemn.org

2021 Ruth's House Statistics

Ruth's House

Total People Served: 62
women 29
children 33

80% of the women
experienced domestic
violence recently
or in their past

Sarah's House

Total Women Served: 11

Total People Served: 73