



Ruth's



House



Showers of Blessings

by Daniel Webster

There shall be showers of blessing;
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
Sent from the Savior above. Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need;
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.
There shall be showers of blessing—
Precious reviving again;
Over the hills and the valleys,
Sound of abundance of rain.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





More than help, Hope



Contact us

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facebook.com/ruthshouseofhope



Dear Friend,

In 2019, Ruth's House celebrated our 15th year of helping women and children in crisis because of the outpouring of support from foundations and friends like you. Even though I became the Executive Director in February of 2020, I've had the opportunity to grow as a staff member with Ruth's House for over four years. I love the mission of Ruth's House and my guess is that you do too!



Last year, you came out to support us at our annual Hearts Gala, Tonic Sol-Fa concert, or maybe you dropped off some supplies, mailed a check, said a prayer, picked up a paintbrush or answered the phones at the shelter. There were numerous ways you showed up for Ruth's House. Thank YOU. Because of you, women like Morgan (see her story) found safe shelter at Ruth's House for her and her children and now they have a stable home in our community.

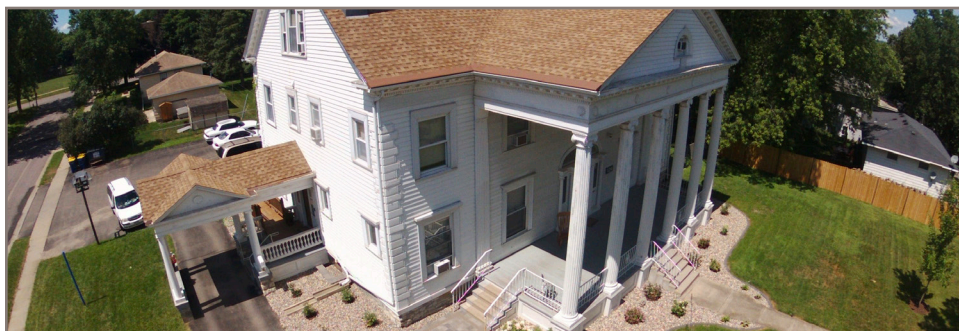
In light of the current pandemic, some of our regular fundraising events have been put on hold or canceled. We have missed seeing you! Our needs haven't changed though. Women and children seeking safe shelter, well that's only *increased*. Times are challenging and Ruth's House is here to help by continuing to provide a safe place to stay at our shelter home as well as offering supportive services through our professional and caring case managers and family advocates.

We are grateful to YOU, who has faithfully supported the mission of Ruth's House. Donors and grantors answered our plea to provide our shelter home with needed supplies such as masks, paper towels, and food as well as monetary donations of support.

In the fall of 2020, in addition to Ruth's House, we will be opening the doors to a new sober recovery home for women named Sarah's House. With Sarah's House, more lives will be empowered, more hope offered. Showers of blessings indeed. We can't wait to share the details with you soon!

With gratitude,

Suzanne Fox
Executive Director





Blessing After Blessing: Morgan's Story



Morgan came to Ruth's House from a treatment facility with five young children in tow, and pregnant with her sixth child. She shares, "Any fears that I felt were immediately put to rest when staff answered the door and welcomed my children and I with open arms and a genuine care for our needs. I came with very little and was immediately provided with clothing and personal hygiene items for me, and for my children. Staff set up a playpen for my youngest son in a large bedroom that would become my family's home for the next few months.

During my time at Ruth's House, staff worked with my younger children to ensure they were meeting their development milestones, with their learning disabilities. I was connected with local resources to help me move towards my goals, and staff also helped me develop a plan for childcare so I could find a job. Ruth's House set up volunteers so that I could attend AA meetings, which was really important to me so I could maintain my sobriety, for myself and for my children.

The residents and I began a weekly devotional time on Sunday evenings to get to know each other and so we could talk about issues we were facing. I found encouragement through this group, and a great circle of friends. I also shared encouragement and offered to be a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, and a support system for the other women."

After leaving, Morgan stayed in Rice County because Ruth's House helped her to build a life within the community. She shares, "I truly believe that God answered my prayers when He opened the door to Ruth's House of Hope for me and my children. I needed their facility and resources to gain control back of my life, to maintain my sobriety, and to become a stronger independent mother for my children. Ruth's House showered my family with blessing after blessing, from the material things we needed such as clothing, diapers, and personal hygiene, to the emotional and spiritual support. I found a new determination to get control of my life back. I'm forever grateful to Ruth's House!"

*"I came to Ruth's House with my infant son after fleeing a dangerous situation with my baby's father. I had nowhere to turn until I found **safe refuge** at Ruth's House. There, I found the **support** and **resources** I needed to **break free** and **succeed** on my own. I have since **secured** my own apartment and am **enjoying** every moment spent with my son building our **new life**!"*



Help in Crisis. Hope for the Future

More than shelter, **safety.**

More than help, **hope.**

More than change, **growth.**

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RUTH'S HOUSE OF HOPE, INC.

THE MISSION and GOAL

In 2004 Ruth's House opened in response to an unmet local need for safe housing and supportive services for homeless women and children. We are a nonprofit Emergency and Transitional Shelter in Rice County for women and children who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, due to domestic violence or other traumatic life circumstances such as illness, disability, substance use disorders, or poverty.

Our mission states: "Empowering lives, offering hope through transitional housing and support."

Ruth's House **vision** is that every person has a safe place to call home, and our **goal** is to end homelessness, one family at a time.

THE PROGRAM

The 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 six months to address more difficult barriers to self-sufficiency.

Programming includes individualized support that helps families stabilize and work toward increasing life skills and self-determination to end the cycle of poverty and homelessness:

- Strength-based case management with goal setting and weekly progress meetings
- Ruth's House is staffed and available for support 24-hours daily, 7 days a week at our shelter
- Children's programming, including a weekly preschool class and a weekly mother/child class with McKinley Early Childhood Center
- Financial education with volunteer Kurt Halverson of Hometown Credit Union
- Parenting and renters classes
- Family-friendly group outings
- Connections with an array of community resources

Staff at Ruth's House continually work with residents on obtaining economic health. Staff encourages and assists women in obtaining employment, and training is provided for job application/interviewing skills. Educational opportunities are encouraged and staff assists women with obtaining their GEDs, completing certifications, or enrolling in post-secondary education.

Staff utilizes trauma-informed services and a client-centered approach when working with residents to most effectively address their needs.

2019 RESIDENTS SUCCESSES

Emergency/Transitional Shelter

women 32 # children 26

Total people served 87

Over 7,000 nights of safe shelter provided yearly

Permanent Supportive Housing Units

women 14 # children 15

39%

of residents were fleeing domestic violence.

45%

had experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives.

52%

of the residents were able to gain health insurance.

88%

increase their monthly income.

100%

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



Thanks to your contributions!

- ✓ **INSTALLED:** new carpet on the main floor and staircase, new exterior, new tile in dining room and laundry room, additional security cameras
- ✓ **UPDATED:** 2nd floor fire escape
- ✓ **DEVELOPED** a safety committee
- ✓ **EVENTS:** Tonic Sol-Fa Concert, Hope in Harmony, Sounding Hope with the St. Olaf Manitou Women Singers, Suzie's Smile Shines Golf Tournament and our annual Hearts Gala
- ✓ **HOSTED:** National Night Out, Give to the Max Day - Open House
- ✓ **REPLACED:** dryer and two industrial freezers
- ✓ **OVER A DOZEN** volunteer groups generously donated their time and talents to assist with projects



Ruth's House believes that every person should have a safe place to call home.
Our goal is to end homelessness, one family at a time.

FINANCIALS

12 Months Ended December 31, 2019

INCOME

Donations	\$73,487
Fundraising	\$118,270
Grants	\$140,828
Other	\$51,501
HUD Program	\$187,096
Total Income	\$571,182

EXPENSE

Administration	\$18,179
Payroll	\$307,412
Programming/Operations	\$179,051
Other	\$19,627
Total Expense	\$524,269
Net Income	\$46,913

We received over
\$40,000

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

Volunteers donated over
4,000 HOURS

of their time, helping with fundraising events, administrative duties, transportation and childcare for residents, IT assistance, house repairs, and marketing/program development and program implementation.



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\$5000+

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"Ruth's House became my saving grace, they opened their doors to me and provided me with a safe place to live and a welcoming environment to grow as an individual."

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First English Lutheran Church
Fit for Life by Sheila Rolling



*"Many women have been given a **second chance** at life for themselves and their families. I would highly recommend this facility for anyone in need of a **safe, happy, healthy** place to get back on track."*

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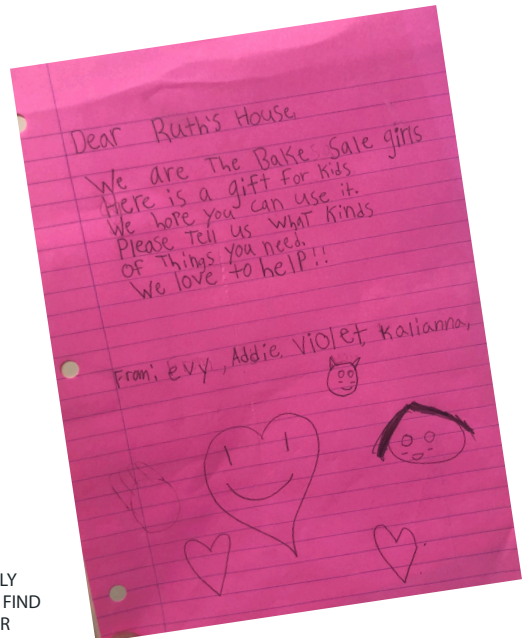
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Will Brosz
Zack Young

Thank you to Ashley Olson for donating time and designing this Annual Report.



OUR GOAL HAS BEEN TO BE 100% ACCURATE IN REPORTING GIFTS DONATED EACH YEAR TO RUTH'S HOUSE. WE SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR ANY ERRORS. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU FIND ANY (info.ruthshouse@gmail.com) SO WE CAN CORRECT OUR RECORDS AND UPDATE THESE PAGES.





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last year we were able to provide over*

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of safe shelter to homeless women and children