

The Starfish



Sisters in Shelter

March 2023

The Tale of the Starfish

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied. "Well, I made a difference for that one!"

The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved.

Director's Message



My heart overflows with the promise of Spring in the air.

In the early days of walking with women who had come to the safe house, and after breakfast, we spent time in quiet with what I would call "prayer". Each was encouraged to identify what she was individually grateful for. At first, this was very difficult, at least for some, and with good reason. We started small, and everything counted, even if it was a full night of sleep. As time went on, the gratefulness increased and "held". This is a practice that many of the women have let me know they have continued long after they have left the safe house.

I believe this is simple, sustainable and full of promise. Each day it is different for me. Today and this season especially, I am grateful for you. All of you who have thought of us and prayed especially for us. I hope you believe you are making a difference in our lives. Some days our sense of hope for our mission grows, and other days a young woman chooses to sleep in her bed instead of a closet. So yes, we count on your prayers. DAILY.

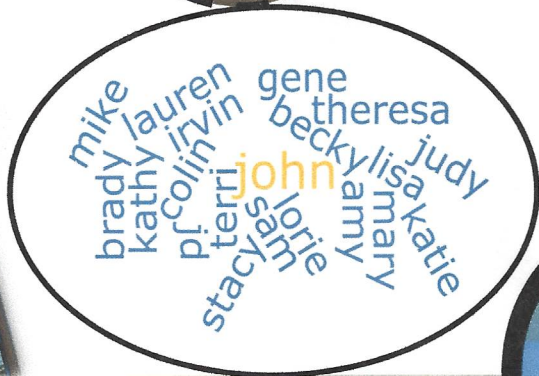
We also count on your support. You who are regular donors, our corporate sponsors, our one-time donors and the young girl who saved a quarter each day for the past month to help someone who has been traumatized and wanted to change her life. Every gift is savored and honored. If you specify it should be used for education, we help a young woman get the supplies she needs to graduate from high school. Or supply the tutor who can help her, if she needs to learn to read. Other times your gift is used to buy food or a small surprise for her when she accomplishes some new endeavor. A general gift is always put to use for the women and their upkeep.

Most of you know that we have closed our safe house for the past few months. This has been extremely difficult when someone has asked to come and we needed to say, "Sorry, we are not open now". Because of in-kind donations and hard work by our Board and many other volunteers, we plan to re-open the house soon. Our biggest challenge is providing 24/7 care. In the past, much of this work was volunteer, but now we intend to give a stipend for our night house companions. Please know how important you are to us, no matter what you share with us: money, time, or prayers. We are indebted to you. Spring comes in many shapes and sizes, and yes, even YOU!

I remain grateful and oh so thankful,

Sr. Mary Kuhlman, Executive Director

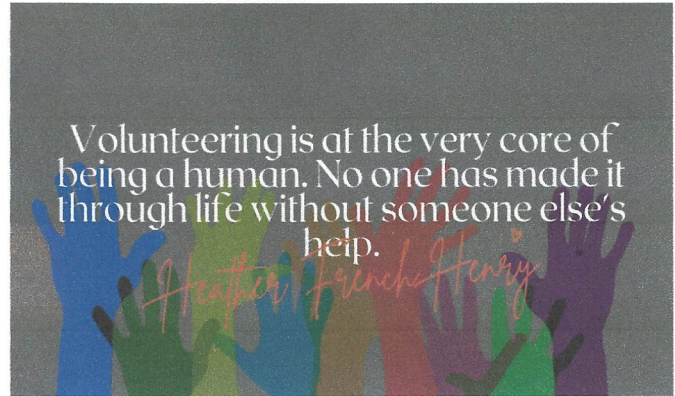
THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO PREPARE THE SAFE HOUSE FOR ITS RE-OPENING



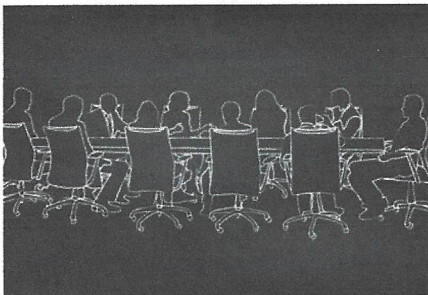
VOLUNTEER FAIR APRIL 13, 2023

Come and visit the Sisters in Shelter table at the Allen Eiry Center, 28 Hopewell Avenue in Tiffin Thursday April 13 from 10 a.m. to noon.

This annual event is sponsored by the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program and provides visitors an opportunity to learn about the many needs for dedicated helping hands in the area.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Current members of the SIS Board are: Gene Chintala, Stacy Stark, Alice Frazier Snook, Sam Shelt Palm, Amy Reinhart, Kathy Corthell, Terri Hampshire, Lorie Watson, Katie Snitker and Thomas Schweitzer.

Board terms are for three years. A number of board positions will become vacant at the end of June, 2023 and the Nominating Committee is currently searching for possible candidates to fill those positions. If you have an interest in serving on the board or one of its committees, or wish to recommend someone, please email sistersinshelter@gmail.com or call 567-205-8771.

Board Roles & Responsibilities



GRANTS RECEIVED IN PAST FOUR MONTHS

- Bayne Foundation
- Graef Family Foundation
- CHM
- White Charitable Fund
- Betty Jane Memorial Fund
- Aqua Ohio



We are grateful that these foundations share our passion for serving adult women survivors of human trafficking and for offering A/T Awareness and Education Programs. Their trust and support allow us to continue our work



- Planning for 24/7 staff coverage for safe house
- Review and update Job Descriptions for all staff positions
- Search for passionate and dedicated staffing team
- Staff training in addition to on-going volunteer and Board training
- Searching for office space separate from the safe house

Sisters in Shelter

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**Serving adult female survivors
of
human trafficking**

Anti-human trafficking education



OUR 2023 CORPORATE SPONSORS

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MERCY HEALTH

OUR 2023 CORPORATE DONORS

Clover Club Tavern and Eatery

POET Bioprocessing—Fostoria

Quick Tab II

Reinos

Smokey's Family Restaurant & Tap

Tiffin Masonic Lodge

UIS Insurance & Investments

Viewpoint Graphics

Walmart Store #1622 Tiffin

Webster Foundation



Your Support and Trust Matters to Us

Become a member of our SUSTAINER CIRCLE and set up a monthly giving plan.

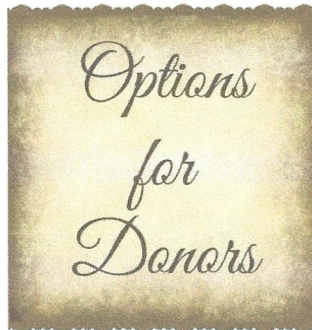
Make a direct charitable donation from your IRA when you have to take your required distribution.

Corporate Sponsorship

Business Donor

Volunteer

Plan/host a fundraiser for SIS



Help to establish an ENDOWMENT FUND for long-term sustainability.

Make in-kind donations: provide professional services; donate office supplies, ink, & other needed materials; provide house maintenance and landscape services.

