



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CONTACT US

RUTH'S HOUSE OF HOPE
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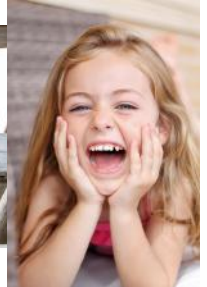
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Have you heard the term "third place"?

It's a phrase community planners use to describe a place that's not home (the first place) and not work (the second place), but a third place, a welcoming spot in the community where people gather, connect, refresh, and belong. Coffee shops, libraries, and community centers are classic examples.

While our organization doesn't fit neatly into this category, in many ways **Ruth's House & Sarah's House is a "third place" for women in transition**, a space free from domestic violence, where they can rest, rebuild, and take the crucial steps between crisis and stable housing. For every woman and child who comes through our doors, we offer an immediate sense of safety, belonging, and hope in this "in-between" stage of life.

Twenty years ago, our founding mothers saw a desperate need for safe shelter and support, and the people of Rice County stepped forward to make it a reality. Ruth's House and Sarah's House exist today because of the vision, heart, and generosity of friends like you. Our mission is powered by compassionate hearts and fueled by our community, every single day.

Here, lives are rebuilt. Families find connection, community, and the resources they need:

- Referrals to trusted partners
- Help finding employment opportunities
- Guidance in securing childcare
- Support that continues long after they move into stable housing

When life brings new challenges, our doors and our hearts remain open.

This work is only possible because of you. Your prayers, your financial gifts, your donations from our needs list, and your time as a volunteer are the fuel that makes transformation happen.

Your gift today puts safety, shelter, and hope directly into the hands of women and children in crisis. Please prayerfully consider a donation now and help them take the next step toward home.



With gratitude,
Suzanne Fox
Executive Director

ELEANOR'S STORY

Eleanor arrived at Ruth's House in the middle of a nightmare. She was fleeing for her life and the lives of her three young children after a night of domestic violence. She thought of the one place that might keep her family safe: Ruth's House. She remembered a friend who had once stayed here and found the strength to start over. She prayed the same could be true for her.

When she walked through our doors, she was met with warmth and compassion. Our staff immediately made her family feel welcomed and cared for. Eleanor had left in such a rush that she had no food or even diapers. Ruth's House provided her with all her needs as well as a safe place to rest. For the first time in what felt like forever, she didn't have to handle it all alone.

"If Ruth's House wasn't here when I needed it," she says softly, "I'm afraid I wouldn't be here either."

Slowly, she and her children began to feel something unfamiliar – safety. After Eleanor and her family felt safe her case manager started connecting her with resources to begin rebuilding her life. The constant fear that had shadowed them for so long began to lift. There was space for hope to grow.

It's because of caring supporters like you that Ruth's House is here ready to open the door, offer a safe bed, and begin the healing process for families in crisis. Your generosity doesn't just provide shelter. It saves lives.

Name changed to protect privacy

Written by: Carrie Hackney



"We will always be thankful that Ruth's House provided us with safety and a bed to sleep in. They helped me get everything I needed to begin a new life for me and my children."

THE MISSION AND GOAL

Ruth's House of Hope is a nonprofit 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. Ruth's House 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.

PROGRAMS

Ruth's House can accommodate nine families of women and their children. The programs at Ruth's House and Sarah's House are flexible and individually tailored to meet each resident's unique needs.

Sarah's House is Ruth's House's newest Pillar which was launched in 2020. Sarah's House is a safe, separate, sober living space for women who continue their recovery during their transition from inpatient services to independent or supportive living in the community. Residents at Sarah's House continue with structured step-down approach after inpatient treatment based on their individual paths, which includes outpatient treatment as well as employment and/or volunteer opportunities.

SUPPORTING RUTH'S HOUSE

FINANCIALLY Our Transitional Shelter Program is funded entirely by individual donations and foundation grants. In addition to making an individual cash donation, Ruth's House supporters are able to help us to achieve our mission through workplace giving and legacy funding. Please contact us at Ruth's House and we can assist you with helping to achieve an employer match for your donation or for setting up a Donor Advised Fund.

When setting up a Donor Advised Fund, contact your financial representative to get started and let your representative know that Ruth's House Tax ID is 87-0709671.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Think about the impact you can make in the future. To consider philanthropy with your estate, annuities, or trust, please contact us at Ruth's House and we can help you determine how best to provide us with this support.





RUTH'S HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
AT WORK

WE RECEIVED OVER \$53,000 FROM IN-KIND
DONATIONS FROM HUNDREDS OF
INDIVIDUALS AND SEVERAL GROUPS AND
ORGANIZATIONS.

OUR 20th ANNIVERSARY

Last August, Ruth's House celebrated our 20th anniversary with a free event at Apple Creek Orchard in Faribault. This was a community wide event with wagon rides, kid games and activities, food trucks, and live music. The event was a family friendly, celebrating the families that Ruth's House has served over the last 20 years and the families that we will serve in the future.



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2024 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

RUTH'S HOUSE | 40 WOMEN SERVED 35 CHILDREN SERVED

SARAH'S HOUSE | 8 WOMEN SERVED

83 Women and Children served

over 7,000 nights of safe shelter provided yearly

15 FAMILIES

were reunited with their children while at Ruth's House

72%

secured stable housing upon leaving

6 WOMEN

pursued education including obtaining their GED and enrolling in post secondary education

100%

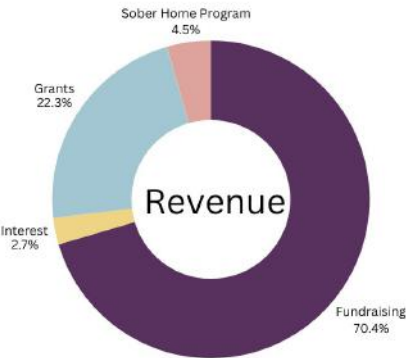
received safe shelter, food, basic needs and supportive programming.

2024 FINANCES

(12 months ended December 31, 2024)

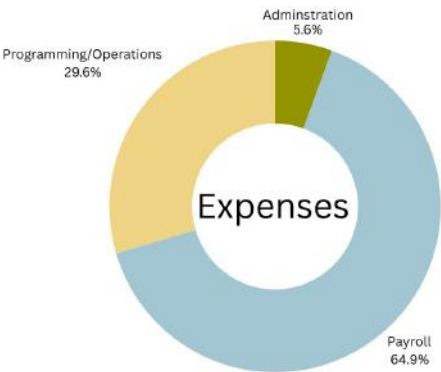
REVENUE

- Fundraising: \$486,833
- Grants: \$154,481
- Sober Home Program: \$30,839
- Interest: \$18,899
- Other: \$235
- Total Income: \$691,287



WHERE YOUR GIFTS WERE SPENT

- Administration: \$29,335
- Payroll: \$342,242
- Programming/Operations: \$155,980
- Total Expense: \$527,557
- Revenues/Expenses: \$163,730



Our administrative expenses are 5.6%, well below the recommended benchmark of 35% for charities, ensuring that the vast majority of resources go directly to supporting our mission.

2024 DONORS

RUTH'S HOUSE ANNUAL REPORT 2024

SAINTS \$20,000-\$50,000

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Southern Heights Dental Group
Sprengeler, Michael & Gail
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
St. Paul Saints
St. Paul's Lutheran Church of German Lake
Starkson, Julie
Studio 14 Salon & Spa
Studio J
Sunset Salon
Sweet Tooth Treats
The Depot Bar & Grill

Three Rivers Head Start
Tonolli, Kathy & David
Tony Langerud Insurance
Trinity Lutheran Church
Ullian, Jeanne & John
Upper East Side
Used-A-Bit Shoppe
Varley, Sandra & Paul
Vettrus, Ruthie
VonRuden, Megan & Bernie
Vopat, Karen
Wakely, Jean
Walmart
Way-A-Life Properties LLC
Wickstrom, George
Wille, Linda
Winter, Daniel & Cindy
Yamaha
Yerington, Cindy & Scott

IN MEMORY OF

Don Paddock
Florence DeCoux
JD Fox
Marilynn Waarvik
Mary Moore
Megan Graham
Rick Elsen
Verlyn Eben

^ indicates received through a grant

Thank you Britt Marthaler 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 (hello@ruthshousemn.org) so we can correct our records and update these pages.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD

WRITTEN BY BONNIE WICKSTROM

A LEGACY OF HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT

More than 21 years ago, a small group of committed community members came together with a shared vision: to create a safe supportive place for women facing homelessness due to domestic violence, poverty, health challenges, or other crises. In August 2004, Ruth's House opened its doors with a clear mission—to empower lives and offer hope through services. That mission remains unchanged today, upheld by a community that has consistently contributed time, resources, and compassion.

GROWTH ROOTED IN COMMUNITY Since opening, Ruth's House has continued to operate from its original location. What began as a single shelter has evolved into a vital network of programs and services designed to support women and children on their journey to stability and independence. Thanks to ongoing community generosity, we've expanded services dramatically. However, our ability to serve more families at once remains limited due to space and accessibility challenges in our current facility.

PROGRAMS THAT CHANGE LIVES Our compassionate, trauma-informed team delivers comprehensive services tailored to meet each resident's needs. These include:

- Safety and wellbeing support
- Career and education coaching
- Mental health services
- Financial literacy and budgeting
- Healthy lifestyle education
- Legal and healthcare navigation
- Housing transition assistance

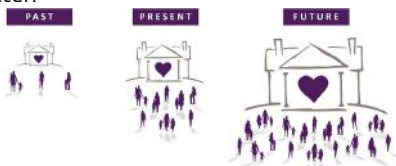
In 2024, we launched a new case management system, enabling us to track and respond to resident needs more efficiently—giving staff more time to work directly with families and deliver personalized support.

RUTH'S HOUSE ANNUAL REPORT 2024

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE This year, the Ruth's House Board of Directors adopted a bold strategy roadmap focused on scaling our impact and ensuring long-term sustainability. Key priorities include:

- Strengthening internal systems and operations
- Enhancing financial oversight
- Developing leadership
- Expanding programming to meet evolving needs of staff, volunteers, and board

This roadmap is a step forward in our vision to serve more families—and serve them better.



POWERED BY COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

Over 90% of Ruth's House annual revenue comes from fundraising and grants. Our major sources of support include:

- The annual Helping Hearts Event in February
- Ongoing gifts from generous individuals and businesses
- Purple Porch Project in October, honoring Domestic Violence Awareness Month—featuring family activities, a pledge walk, and a child-focused community raffle during Faribault's Fall Festival

These events are not just fundraisers—they are community movements, grounded in hope and solidarity.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE Donors, volunteers, and community partners are the backbone of Ruth's House. Your support allows us to deliver life-changing services, uphold our mission, and give women and children the opportunity for a new beginning. By giving to Ruth's House, you ensure that families in crisis find not just shelter—but safety, dignity, and hope. Together, we can build a stronger, more compassionate future.



RUTH'S HOUSE STAFF

Suzzanne Fox, Executive Director
Meghan Sawicki, Program Director
Carrie H, Operations Manager
Susan S, Outreach Coordinator
Sherri S, Lead Family Advocate
Nicole K, Case Manager
Michele R, Office & Volunteer
Administrator Assistant
Katie B, Family Advocate
Nikki B, Family Advocate
Susan B, Family Advocate
Kari D, Family Advocate
Amanda N, Family Advocate



Bonnie Wickstrom



Megan Putrah
VonRuden



Chuck Budde



Nate White



Joyce Elsen

RUTH'S HOUSE 23-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Cheryl Kleeberger



Cindy Yerington



Han Fuchs Aldrich



Jeff Jandro



Sandi Gerdes

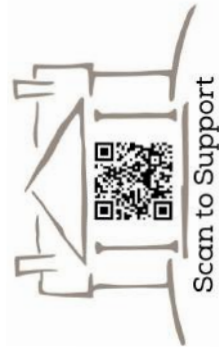


P.O. Box 593
Faribault, MN 55021

Because of your generosity and support,, last year Ruth's House was able to provide over

7,000 NIGHTS

of safe shelter to homeless women and children



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