



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026



Empowering lives, offering hope through transitional housing and support

Spring at Ruth's House is a season of new beginnings. As the snow melts and the sun returns, families step outside to enjoy fresh air, laughter, and a renewed sense of possibility. With the change in season also comes growth, children who have outgrown last year's clothes now need new ones, and winter boots are traded in for bigger shoes ready for warmer days.

We see that growth in more than just size. Our Family Advocate, Katie, recently shared, "Nick (name changed) has learned to ride his bike without training wheels, he's practicing for the Tour de France in the parking lot!" These everyday milestones remind us that stability creates space for children to simply be kids.

Spring is also a time of planning. With guidance from their case managers, moms are securing summer childcare, enrolling their children in camps, and preparing for important transitions like the first day of kindergarten. Each step forward builds confidence and independence.

At Ruth's House, we walk alongside every woman as she navigates her own path, whether that includes finding employment, accessing resources, or moving toward stable housing. And at Sarah's House, our recovery residence, something powerful unfolds: women begin encouraging one another. With support, they are working, attending school, volunteering, and continuing treatment. Over time, Sarah's House becomes more than a place to stay, it becomes a community.

This work is only possible because of you. Your generosity provided Easter meals, stocked our Community Pantry, and ensured families have what they need during this season of growth. As we look ahead to the summer months, we invite you to continue this impact. A gift today helps provide essentials like clothing, childcare support, and access to life-changing services for women and children working toward stability. Together, we can make sure every family has the opportunity to grow, thrive, and step into a brighter future.

Thank you for being part of these new beginnings.

Happy Mother's Day,

Suzanne

Suzanne Fox
Executive Director



**COMMUNITY
PANTRY**



Scan to Support

Ruth's House
PO Box 593
Faribault, MN 55021
ruthshousemn.org

Outreach Office: 507-334-5043
Shelter Phone: 507-332-2236
Donation Line: 507-323-8151
Email: hello@ruthshousemn.org

The Motherhood Ruth's House Helped Reclaim

Carrie Hackney- Operations Manager

When *Lily first arrived to Ruth's House, she carried very little in her hands just a few small belongings and the heavy weight of rejection. After being asked to leave her mother's home with nowhere to go, she was hit with the life-altering news only a short time later: she was pregnant. With no place to call her own and a baby on the way, she made a leap of faith toward a new life, but hope alone couldn't provide a roof over her head.

Lily spent the next six months at Ruth's House, a time that could have been defined by fear but was instead defined by growth. Lily was welcome with open arms by staff, and became the family she never had.

Ruth's House not only provided that hope but it helped ensure she had everything she needed for her journey into motherhood. Because of the "void" left by her biological mother, Lily gravitated toward staff.

During her stay, Lily didn't just wait for a permanent home; she actively built a foundation for one. She dove into classes hosted at the shelter by HomeTown Credit Union and Rice County Public Health. Those classes taught her how to budget for her growing family, how to communicate through tense situations, and how to manage her health so her blood sugar wouldn't spike and crash. Lily found strength in mental health workshops that helped her heal from the past.

Today, the "fun and exciting" memories of Ruth's House serve as the foundation for Lily's new life. After moving out of Ruth's House; she is a confident, prepared mother ready to give her baby the stable, loving home she always deserved. Her story is a beautiful reminder that when we provide a soft place to land, resilience can truly bloom. As Lily says to anyone else struggling:

"If you need help, ask. Help is out there. Don't be ashamed."

Your generosity is the reason that Ruth's House is able to help women like Lily.

*Name changed for privacy



Giddy-Up For Ruth's House

Grace Lopez Johnson - Development Manager

On February 7th, we hosted our 23rd annual Helping Hearts Event, and it was a tremendous success! Folks from near and far gathered at the 3 Ten Event Center in Faribault for an unforgettable night of live auctions, beautifully crafted cakes, fantastic company, and a country buffet. Our Emcee Eric Perkins began the night with the "Yeehaw!" heard around the world, setting the tone for the exciting events of the evening.

We are incredibly grateful to share that we surpassed our fundraising goal of the night, all thanks to the generosity and commitment of our supporters, sponsors, and volunteers. From the remarkably moving speech given by our resident speaker to the detailed decor on each table, we're thanking our lucky horseshoes for the opportunity to connect with our community in an impactful way. We can't wait for next year!

Scan the QR code to read the full list of our pillars, sponsors, and community partners. Please support the many local businesses that contributed to the success of our event.



SAVE THE DATE!
February 6th, 2027



Teeing Up For Hope

Bonnie Wickstrom & Jeff Jandro - Event Chairs

We're excited to invite you to our inaugural golf tournament, Teeing Up Hope for Ruth's House, taking place on June 23 at The Legacy!

This special event is a wonderful opportunity to gather friends, connect with others in our community, and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon on the course—all while supporting the mission of Ruth's House and Sarah's House. Whether you're an experienced golfer or just in it for the laughs, this tournament is designed for everyone who wants to have a great time for a great cause.

Your golf registration includes a box lunch and a delicious dinner buffet

provided by Randy's Meats. Throughout the course, you'll also find entertaining hole games, plus a silent auction featuring exciting items and experiences.

Not a golfer? You can still be part of the day! We're also hosting a pizza, soups, and desserts fundraiser. Simply place your order online and pick it up the afternoon of June 23 at The Legacy an easy (and tasty!) way to show your support.

We hope you'll join us as we come together to tee up hope and make a meaningful impact.



We've relaunched our sustaining giving program, Champions of Hope, to include new levels of giving! We're always developing ways to serve more people, and recurring donations make it possible for us to plan for the long-term future.

The tiers below reflect our shelter needs:

LIFE CHANGERS	<p>\$251+/MONTH</p> <p>\$1,577= one full day of Ruth's House operations</p>
HOPE BUILDERS	<p>\$101-250/MONTH</p> <p>\$175= one night for one family at Ruth's House</p>
COMPASSION COMPANIONS	<p>\$26-100/MONTH</p> <p>\$86= two nights for one woman at Sarah's House</p>
SAFE SHELTER ADVOCATES	<p>\$5-25/MONTH</p> <p>\$25= one full day of heat and electricity</p>



**BECOME A
CHAMPION OF HOPE
TODAY**

We have had a challenging year with decreased funding of services, increased grant competition, and economic instability. Community donations are the driving force of the work we do, and a donation of even \$5 a month has a significant impact in easing these struggles.

Making a monthly gift provides our organization with reliable financial support, increases our program stability, and allows us to expand our reach and provide services to more women and children.

Champion of Hope, Julie Olson, shares: "My husband Bob and I are charter members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Ruth's House is a special project here! I am so very pleased that our communities have recognized the need for these services and have also supported the program so enthusiastically. Let's all keep up the good work."

Signing up is easy, simply: scan the QR code, select your donation amount and frequency, enter your payment information, and live every day knowing that your contribution is making an active difference. When you make your first recurring donation, you are planting a new seed of hope. These seeds grow together and feed each other to create a communal garden of support, resilience, and transformation. Consider becoming a Champion of Hope today.

Grace Lopez Johnson- Development Manager



Needs List

Items on this list may be dropped off at our shelter in Faribault
(call 507-332-2236 for directions)
Donation days are:
Monday 1:00 - 3:00
Thursday 4:00 - 6:00

- Disposable Spoons & Forks
- Disposable Cups
- Disinfectant Spray & Wipes
- Coffee (ground & K-cups)
- Amazon Gift Cards

- Vinyl Gloves L & XL
- Postage Stamps
- Paper Plates
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Soap

YAY!
It's Spring Time Again!



Questions? Please call our donation line, at 507-323-8151 or giveruth@gmail.com

Building Stability Through Partnership and Life Skills

Meghan Sawicki - Program Director

Ruth's House has leaned into collaboration to better serve women and children in our shelter. Many of the women we serve arrive in survival mode, carrying the weight of generational trauma. Today, long-term stability requires more than temporary support, it requires practical skills, confidence, and community.

To meet this need, Ruth's House partnered with HomeTown Credit Union to offer a financial wellness series focused on real-life applications. Participants engaged in workshops on budgeting, banking, credit, debt management, and fraud prevention, while also receiving individualized support to address personal financial challenges.


"In fall 2025, I facilitated a financial wellness series... aimed to empower participants with the knowledge and tools needed to strengthen their financial wellness and make informed financial decisions," shared Melissa Kuhl, Community Engagement Coordinator, HTCUC.

Ruth's House also collaborated with Rice County Public Health to provide parenting and wellness education tailored to residents' needs. Sessions focused on coping with change, positive communication, behavior strategies, and creating consistent routines for children.

"It was great to collaborate with Ruth's House and meet all of the amazing women there... I truly enjoyed my time and look forward to collaborating again," shared Hannah Stimson, RN.

The impact is already visible. Residents are building routines, gaining employment, and applying what they've learned in daily life.

Together, these partnerships are helping families move from crisis to confidence, creating lasting change, one skill at a time.



"I feel more confident setting healthy boundaries with my children and supporting them through those moments. I also learned about the distraction technique that seems to work."

- Former Resident



Volunteers are in need in every Season
Spring 🌂 Summer 🌈 Fall 🍁 Winter ❄️



We're always looking for helping hands, and we would love to have you volunteer for any amount of time, large or small! We have lots of opportunities, to help bring our community together and support our women & children of Ruth's House!



Questions? Please call
Michele at 507-334-5043 or
michele@ruthshousemn.org

Please join us!



Behind every moment of hope is someone willing to give from the heart.



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



We Have
MOVED

The outreach office for Ruth's House has, for many years, been located at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Faribault. This space has great energy and the church has made it possible for us to conduct our outreach meetings, volunteer connections and staff meetings in an environment that is supportive to our mission. It was fitting that we located our outreach office at OSLC because many of our Ruth's House founders were a part of the church's congregation.

Over time, the number of Ruth's House staff that work from the Outreach Office has grown, and the activities conducted in the outreach office has grown. The available office space at the church could no longer accommodate our growing needs, so it was with some sadness that we realized we needed to move our outreach office to a new location.

The Ruth's House Outreach Office is now located at 128 15th Street NW. This new space is large enough to allow for all of the needs of our outreach activities. We are excited to show off the new office and once we are settled in, we will be having an open house for our volunteers and supporters.

We enjoy a special relationship with Our Savior's Lutheran Church and we are so grateful to them for providing office space for us and for their steadfast support of our mission. We will continue to connect with OSLC regularly and we know they remain supportive to our mission.

It is important to remember that this does not mean Ruth's House and Sarah's House shelters have moved. Our shelter locations are unchanged. This move only affects our Outreach Office.

Call 507-334-5043 for office hours or to schedule an appointment.