

Ruth's House

Empowering lives, offering hope through transitional housing and support

A Place to Belong

Story Written By: Carrie Hackney



When Sunny graduated from treatment, she needed to stay in Rice County. What she needed next was a safe, supportive place to continue building her life in recovery. That's when she found Sarah's House.

From the moment she arrived, Nicole, her case manager, and the residents made her feel welcome. "Everyone was so kind," Sunny shared. "It felt like home right away."

Over the next seven months, she found comfort, friendship, and encouragement in the home's warm, family-like atmosphere. "It was a wonderful experience," Sunny said. "The homey feel, the other residents, the staff, it all made me feel like I belonged."

With the guidance of her case manager, Sunny was able to take big steps forward. Together, they worked on getting her ID, passing her written driver's test, finding a church to call home in the community, and eventually securing her own apartment. Each milestone brought her closer to independence and confidence in her new chapter.

During her time at Sarah's House, Sunny also focused on repairing her relationships with her kids and grandkids. "Things were rocky for a while," she shared, "but being at Sarah's House gave me the space and support to rebuild those bonds. Now, we have a really good relationship again." Sunny's advice for others walking a similar path is simple but powerful:

"The only way to get help is to ask."

Her story is a reminder that with support, courage, and community, new beginnings are always possible.

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

Christmas Wishes

Give back in a simple way!
Donate gift cards to support our residents at our shelter today!



YOU CAN MAIL YOUR GIFT CARDS TO
PO BOX 593 FARIBAULT, MN 55021
OR CALL (507) 334-5043
OR EMAIL HELLO@RUTHSHOUSEMN.ORG
TO ARRANGE DROP-OFFS.

Save the Date!

Giddy-Up for Ruth's House
Hope on the Range

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2026

Details inside



Welcome Grace

My name is Grace Lopez Johnson, and in early October I began working at Ruth’s House as their Development Manager. I received my Bachelor’s degree in Political Science, minoring in Environmental Studies and Technical Writing at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and recently made the move to Minnesota. I love being involved in the community, thrifting, going to concerts, hiking, and supporting local coffee shops!

My position is an exciting new addition to our organization, focused on garnering support both monetarily and through donated time, experience, and skills. Our mission is to empower lives and offer hope through transitional housing and support, which we’re able to achieve through the kindness and generosity of the Rice County community. Within my first week, I attended the Faribault Fall Festival to promote our children’s raffle and Purple Porch Project, where we sold porch kits completed with locally grown mums, string lights, hand-made wreaths, and yard signs to raise awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I had the opportunity to connect with the kind people of Faribault as they welcomed me to the community and blew me away with their support and knowledge of our organization.

Raised in a Wisconsin small town myself, I understand how powerful the collaboration of a community can be. While selling mums outside of the Faribault Fleet Supply store, I got to interact with more generous people who were willing to purchase mums without taking them home so that they could be given away for free. Witnessing everyone rally together to ensure the women and children in need of our help had a safe space to sleep, nourishing meals to eat, resources to utilize, and caring people to heal with, was incredibly moving and secured my faith in this amazing community.

I am eager to continue to meet you all and work together to help as many people as possible. While our organization relies heavily on in-kind contributions, our goals could not be achieved without your altruistic monetary donations. With every dollar we raise, we are able to deepen our impact on the lives of women and children in need of hope. Thank you for welcoming me into your space with open arms and warm kindness; I promise to extend the same passion into our mission as all of you have.



Annual Helping Hearts Event- Giddy-Up for Ruth’s House

How time flies. 2026 is almost here and we are deep in the planning for our annual Helping Hearts Event on February 7 of 2026. We will be holding our premier annual event at the 3 Ten Event Center in Faribault again this year. Our theme is Hope on the Range (Giddy-Up for Ruth’s House). This western theme will create a fun and relaxed atmosphere with good food and spectacular decor. Break out your cowboy hats and boots and plan on supporting Ruth’s House mission by attending Hope on the Range.

Hope on the Range will feature the fun dessert auction event “Cake Quest” which was a huge hit last year. Our highly popular Gifts and Picks bags will be back and the live auction will feature some very exciting items. Most importantly, we will all be raising funds to help women and children in crisis right here in Rice County.

Unlike the price of groceries, ticket prices for Hope on the Range will not increase this year and we will continue to offer early bird discounts for tickets. Tickets are \$99 and early bird tickets purchased before the end of the year will be discounted \$20.





Difficult Times Require Increased Action

Throughout the years, Ruth’s House has been skilled at providing services that enhance the lives of our residents while making sure we do not duplicate services provided by state and federal programs. While Ruth’s House does not currently receive government funding, our residents often count on these funding streams to assist them in their lives and the lives of their children. We make sure our residents apply for needed services such as food assistance and assistance with health care and transportation needs and then we step forward to help with additional needs.

Because of government program cutbacks and the effects of the government shutdown, some of the services we have counted on for our residents are no longer available to them. This means that Ruth’s House staff must work extra hard to find alternative ways to meet our residents’ needs. In the past we have been able to use private grants to help fill the gap, but those resources are dwindling right now as more and more community organizations are applying for grants from foundations. Because of these dynamics, we are asking our supporters to help us to fill the growing gap this Christmas season.

Some of the ways you can help to fill the growing gap is by donating gift cards that we can use for food or fuel or other basic needs, or by checking our website to determine specific needs for items to be used at Ruth’s House (such as paper towels, laundry soap and toilet paper) and donating those items to Ruth’s House, and finally by donating to Ruth’s House to help us continue to provide needed services.



Save the date for Ruth's House first annual Golf Tournament, June 23, 2026 at Legacy Golf

Thank You

Thank you to our Board of Directors, Grantors and Fundraising Partners.

- 44 North
- Allina Health
- Faribault Foundation
- Hannah Lips
- Insty-Prints
- Kwik Trip
- League of Catholic Women
- Mankato Area Foundation
- Medica
- Multivac Cares
- Northfield Hospital + Clinics
- Open Your Heart

- Our Saviors Lutheran Church
- Prairie Island
- St. Peter’s Lutheran Church
- Walker Foundation
- WINGS



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



2025
 Christmas
 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I want to be honest with you, this year has been hard.

We've faced staffing shortages, unexpected losses in funding from two of our largest grantors, and the effects of a government shutdown that left many residents without SNAP benefits. As our community partners also struggle with funding gaps, local resources have been cut back or restricted in ways we haven't seen before. Affordable housing remains out of reach for too many. The uncertainty can feel heavy. And yet, this is a season of hope.

We remain hopeful because our mission matters now more than ever. Every day, we receive calls from people seeking safety, shelter, and a chance to rebuild. Our residents trust us to provide that safe place, to offer not just protection, but the promise of a future where they and their children can live, grow, and thrive free from violence.

At Sarah's House and Ruth's House, we are blessed to witness moments of transformation stories like Sunny's, whose journey reminds us that hope is alive here every day.

You have been part of that hope.

Your presence at our events, your notes of encouragement, and your gifts, large and small, remind us that this community believes in our mission. We truly can't do this work without you.

As we enter the Christmas season, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a meaningful one-time or monthly sustaining gift. Your generosity makes a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Though the future feels uncertain, we hold fast to the promise of our shared vision: a safe place for everyone to call home.

With deep gratitude and hope,
 Merry Christmas and a Hopeful New Year,

Suzanne

Suzanne Fox
 Executive Director

2025

**Ruth's House
 Shelter stats**

*As of 10/1/2025

RUTH'S HOUSE

Total People Served: 45

Women 30

Children 15

SARAH'S HOUSE

Women 6

Total People Served: 51