



SAFEHAVEN
MINISTRIES

A tri-annual publication from
Safe Haven Ministries

voices

Spring 2024



Dear Friend,

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.
This is what we are about: We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for God's grace to enter and to do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the
master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen.

This prayer was first shared by Michigan Bishop Untener in a gathering that recognized Archbishop Oscar Romero's martyred death as an advocate against injustice in his service and ministry in El Salvador.

The paradox of pain and possibility is held in our minds and actions each day at Safe Haven Ministries. I'm often lamenting February's sunless skies and bitter winds during our long days of crisis intervention and navigating the complexity of systems that fail to respond with accountability. Yet seeds, little dry pods, are planted in the deep rich dark soil - dormant with possibility before they push their way through the dirt to spring up toward the light.

Each day small and extravagant acts of kindness, justice, and service are connected to Safe Haven's mission so that the future is different and one of possibility for people being abused, controlled and manipulated in harmful acts. We will not let the threats that echo in someone's mind, the physical scars and the manipulative pain be the ending to their story.

On MLK day a child in our shelter took a crayon and colored in the the lines on a worksheet inviting her to "dream". She added stars around the outline of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and wrote "I dream to bring affordable housing and stable housing to all people." To dream of a future not our own and to plant seeds that hold promise. In our safe and secure shelter on that day a child's crayons and script spoke possibility.

Our vision is remarkably difficult because we enter by God's grace into the pain and brokenness of abuse and exploitation in our world with intentionality and purpose. We believe in the long journey toward justice and shalom, where nothing is missing and nothing is broken in our lives or our world. It helps every now and then to take the long view... future promise is here as a child colors in safety and coming still for what is to be.



Rachel VerWys, CEO

thank you!

SAFEHAVEN MINISTRIES

5 YEARS

We celebrate **1,825 + days** of 24/7 service, care, shelter, education, support and innovative impact from 2627 Birchcrest Dr SE

Following Christ's example and motivated by our community needs, our mission is to prevent and end relationship abuse and human trafficking.

YOUR INVESTMENT catalyzed support of survivors & preventing violence



SHELTER & HOUSING

Through the capital campaign we doubled our capacity to increase shelter services to 14 suites & 56 beds. This leveraged our work to continue to expand our services to add an additional 21 households of re-housing and transitional housing in 2024.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In 2022 we expanded our mission to include service provision for people victimized by human trafficking. We have served over 100 victims in our trauma informed facilities to meet the complex needs of exploitation.



COLLABORATION

We are joining with our community & multi-sector leaders to create change. In 2024 we will be part of launching a new domestic violence specialty court & reimagining our West MI Human Trafficking Coalition



SAFEHAVEN
LEARNING INSTITUTE

increasing our impact through education & equipping leaders to prevent abuse and violence



geri

- equipping youth in our community
- educating and training leaders
- resourcing organizations
- building awareness
- organizational culture change



49,283

nights of
safety
provided

UNIQUE
CLIENTS
SERVED **9,375**



13,609
crisis
contacts



Celebration of Hope



**Leaning
into the
HOPE of
Spring!**

**The world wakes
up in springtime!**

Having been grey, cold and still through the winter months, suddenly there are sights, sounds, smells, and flavors bursting from the natural world - inviting action, inspiration, and commitments to fresh starts and new beginnings

Safe Haven Ministries invites you to lean into the HOPE of springtime, a time to take action, and share in the commitment to support victims and survivors of relationship abuse and human trafficking. Together we can cultivate the HOPE to support the action towards safety, healing, fresh starts and new beginnings for individuals and children in our community.

With every donation, HOPE RISES. JOIN US by making a contribution to Safe Haven Ministries. You can mail your contribution in the envelope provided, or make your gift online at: <https://safehavenministries.org/support/> or use the QR Code below :



Thank-you!



**"Each day small and
extravagant
acts of kindness,
justice, and service
are connected to
Safe Haven's mission."**

Rachel VerWys
CEO

**LEARN
MORE
ABOUT**

**SAFE HAVEN
MINISTRIES**

SCAN THE CODE



2627 Birchcrest Dr. DE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

NONPROFIT
US Postage Paid
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit #1

Within
These
Walls

Join us for a tour and interactive dialogue
to learn more about the mission
of Safe Haven Ministries

You can
Register
Online!

Thursday, March 7, 7:30 am - 9 am
Thursday, August 8, 3:30 pm - 5 pm

**HELP IS
AVAILABLE**

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL
24/7 HOTLINE & CHAT



WALK IN - M-F, 8 AM - 5 PM



616.452.6664 - TEXT or CALL



SHMGR.ORG - WEBCHAT

SAFEHAVEN
MINISTRIES

2627 Birchcrest Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Join us for an evening of
Peace Over Violence
and *Celebration of Hope!*

WEARING OUR JEANS WITH PURPOSE



April
25
2024

Denim Day began more than twenty-one years ago, after the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction. The following day, women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim whose clothing choice of jeans was used to blame her for the assault. Developed by Peace over Violence, the Denim Day campaign is observed worldwide by millions of people.

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Studio D2D

401 Hall St. SW Suite 120
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

*Hope to see
you there!*



Use the
QR Code
to register!

For more information or to register, please contact us at development@shmgr.org or call 616.452.6664

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SHANNON VINSON, President
MICHAEL WIESE, Vice President
DANICA deWAHA-PERSONS, Treasurer
ESPERANZA DEGNAN, Secretary
MALEIKA BROWN
YANI CASTRO
JULIE MANION
ALEXANDRIA WALKER
MELISSA STEWART