



SOJOURNER TRUTH HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT

A ministry sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sister Peg Spindler, CSA

Dear Friends,

Recently a client observed, “At the end of the day, who was here for us? Sojourner Truth House.”

Where did that statement come from? I think it comes from the

reality of hope we live with every day. We say in our mission and vision that we are a “ministry of hope” — indeed a “village of hope.”

What does that mean? Hope is one of those virtues best described in symbol and story. The hands-held circle pictured below says it for me this year — with a cauldron and symbolic fire in the center that consumes hand-written listings of hurt, anger, anxiety, jealousy, bitterness and other negatives.

Healing and potential transformation rise from the ashes of those hard feelings because there is a support system at Sojourner Truth House for these women and their children.

(From the Executive Director, continued on page 2)

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

50% OF OUR CLIENTS ARE CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

This year Sojourner Truth House served approximately 1,500 clients per month. In November alone, more than 2,000 clients came through our door. By the end of 2011, we provided support to more than 17,000 women and their children. The last 14 years have proven that Sojourner Truth House plays a critical role in fighting homelessness and poverty in our community.

Now we're ready to do more.

With more people facing hunger and unemployment than ever before, we are thankful that our past accomplishments have prepared us for increasing challenges:

- 50% of our clients are children living in poverty.
- Our last quarter included a 26% increase in client volume.
- Indiana ranks 12th in the nation for the highest percentage of seniors who don't know where they will find their next meal.

(Meeting the Challenge, continued on page 2)

Finding the Way

Clients of STH hold hands around a fire during the fourth annual “Burning Bowl,” a year-end cleansing ritual that identifies wishes and goals for the coming year.



Photo reprinted with permission from The Times of Northwest Indiana.

Our Vision

Sojourner Truth House is a village of hope that empowers women and their children. Our unique model of service and collaborative actions inspires the human spirit so that participants can improve their quality of life and become contributing members of their communities.

(From the Executive Director, continued from page 1)

You can see it in the welcoming attitudes of our staff. You can see it in the circle pictured on page one – staff and participants holding each other up in our efforts to begin again, to reclaim our lives. You can see it in our eyes, hear it in our laughter and resolve, watch it in our resilience despite all we have experienced in life. At Sojourner Truth House, we hold hands in circles because that helps us grow in awareness of the hope that lives within each of us.

I thank all of you who have made it possible for us to “be here” for our participants at the end of each day!

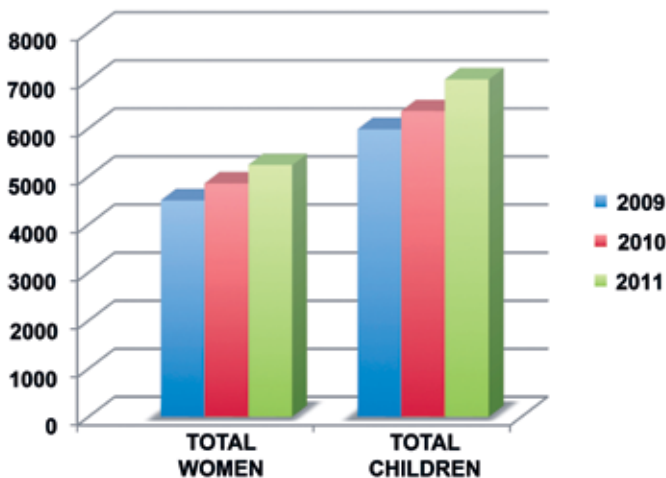
Living in gratitude,



Sister Peg Spindler, CSA
Executive Director

WHO WE SERVE

Although our focus is women and children, we served more than 1,300 men in 2011. Shown here are comparative figures for women/children during 2009, 2010 and 2011.



We are here for the children, offering hope and strength toward roots and wings.



(Meeting the Challenge, continued from page 1)

We are also thankful for people who are willing to invest in our future because, as you can see, our mission is more critical than ever.

As we try to meet our increasing challenges, we have big plans to expand upon our accomplishments and increase our impact. Here’s how:

Fortify programs to improve outcomes.

- Six new group classes have been added to address client needs.
- Creative incentives for clients are in place to encourage good parenting, etiquette, and employability skills.
- On-site educational childcare is provided for mothers as they improve their progress.
- Our new strategic plan guarantees operational excellence and a sustainable vision for the future of Sojourner Truth House.

Build community partnerships to serve more people in need.

- Northshore Dental Service has discounted its services to ensure that our clients have a place to go for dental emergencies.
- Jelly Pancake House in Merrillville donates breakfast to our clients twice a week.
- The Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation, Inc. inspired our donors with two matching grants totaling \$50,000!
- Legacy Foundation funded Non-Violent Communication workshops to help staff communicate more effectively with clients.
- As a WorkOne Access Point, we can grant clients access to the WorkOne website for résumé and GED assistance.
- Partnering with Indiana University and Catholic Charities, we now offer free car seat inspections and limited car seats to those who qualify.

All of these efforts require tremendous investments of our time, energy, planning and commitment.

Your financial support advances our mission of hope and help for homeless and at-risk women and their children.

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www.sojournertruthhouse.org • (219) 885-2282

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To our in-kind donors and anyone else who may have been omitted due to printing deadline or error, Sojourner Truth House would like to extend their deepest thanks for the difference you have made in the lives of struggling families.

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Mary Ann and C. Eugene Marker	Thomas Mulligan	Anthony Pisello	David and Nancy Schiesser
Dean Markovich	William and Denise Mulligan	Tomi Plikuhn	Sr. Georgine Schleper, PHJC
Ruthie Markovich	Peggy Mungovan	Richard and Linda Ponda	Sr. Loretta Schleper, PHJC
Amber Marks	Deborah Muresan	Janet Potasnik	Raymond and Dorothy Schoch
Georgianna Marks	Mary Louise Mybeck	Joni Powell	Sr. Willa Schoch, CSA
Susan Maroles	Kathy Myers	Toshana and Emmanuel Powell	Mary Schulte
Donna Martin	Arla Nance	John and Ann Powen	Emma Scott
Jeanine Martin	John and Darlene Navarro	Edmond and Normalee Power	Kim Scott
Marcus and Adriene Martin	Ruth Needleman	Kirsten Prasopoulos	James and Andrea Sebben
Sr. Marybeth Martin, PHJC	Sarah Nejman	Bernadette Price	Virginia Seljan
Patricia Mason	Rosemary and Thomas Nelson	Stacy Price	Charlotte Sgambelluri
Anthony and Patricia Massa	Network for Good	Kirstin Proud	Sr. Barbara Sheehan, SP
Evelyn Mathews	New Beginnings	Natalie Pugh	Stephen and Debra Shelby
Fr. Ted Mauch	Outreach Ministry	Anita Pulido	Jabrita Shelton
Joseph and Dolly May	New Buffalo Hypnosis	Stephanie Pulido	Tricia Shelton
McCarthy and Toomey	New Era District Assoc	Robert Pullins	Michael and Carol Shendrick
Martin McCarthy	Peggy Newton	Carol Quaglia	John and Carol Shingler
Mary Lou McCarthy-Artz	Brianna Nichols	Jeannine Quigley	Sr. Mary Josef Shingler, PHJC
James and Noreen McClendon	Madeline Nichols	Minnie Quinn	Denise Shultman
Vonnie McClendon	Maggie Nichols	Vita Quinn	Mary Sieracki
Elizabeth and Terrence McCloskey	Rosemary Nicholson	Jeanne Raffin	Barbara and Richard Sierra
Dick and Carolyn McCluskey	Sr. Marguerite Niesen, PHJC	Madelyn Rambo	Donna Sikorski
Mildred McCluskey	Tricia and George Nobbe	Diana Rangel	Tony and Ann Simchak
Carolyn McCrady	Janet Noonan	Nella Rannazzisi	Maryann Simmonds
Joanne McDevitt	Maureen Noonan	Mary Ranta	Gayle and Albert Simnick
Robert and Janet McDonald	Theresa Nordyke	Brittaney Ray	Nancy Simpson
Lauri McGowan	Carl and Margaret Norris	Rev. Marvin and Margaret Read	Frances Sipocz-Richardson
George and Maryann McGuan	Diane Norris	Joe Reinhold	Charlotte Skiba
Paul and Diana McGuan	Leona Novak	Tim Reinhold	Christ and Sharon Skizas
Patricia and William McIntosh	Yvette Nowak	The Remarkable Book Shop	Wayne and Lynn Slegel
Marilyn and William McKenna	Irene and Jim Nowell	Maria and Octaviano Reyna	Audrey Smith
Patricia McKinlay	Karen and Kurt Oldenbrook	Beverly Richard	Carol Smith
Lizzie McNair	Roshanta Ollie	Nicole Richards	James and Mary Smith
Jean and William McShane	Robin and Carla Olson	Bernice Richardson	Joanna Smith
Jim and Mary McShane	David O'Malley	Gay Richardson	Adam Sobel
Carrie McWay	Joe O'Malley	Dorothy Riegler	Rebecca Sobolevsky
Gabriel Medellin	Kathleen O'Neal	Juanita Rivas	Society of Nurses in
Ruby Medellin	Jenny Orsburn	Deborah Roberts	Advanced Practice
Judith Medici	Bro. Bob Overland, FS	Samuel Roberts	Andrea Sosa
Sr. Lucy Megaro, PHJC	Bobbie Page	Dorothy Robinson	Gloria Spencer-Bryant
Alfred Melendez	Julia Pagenkopf	Mia Robinson	Steve Spicer
Jocelyn Melendez	Dr. Charles and Rachel Pan	Diane Rockhill	Kathleen Spindler
Lora Mendenhall	Paul Panther	Sandra Rodriguez	Ethel Spisak
Patti and Dave Mendoza	Harry Papadakis	Jean Rogers	Arlene Spitz
Pauline Millard	Clem Parker	David and Mary Roos	St. Catherine Convent
Robert and Shirley Millard	Jan Parker	Ava Roscishevska	Joanne Stahura
Catherine Miller	Jeanne Parran	Kay Rosen	Margaret Mary Stahura
Irma Millirons	Angela Pasyk	Edith Rosescu	Tonia Stampely
Iris and Levi Mitchell	Barbara Patterson	Tina Roth	Louise Standefer
Lois Mitchell	Naomi Patterson	Jane and Robert Rottenberg	Lynn Staniszeski
Sheri Mitchell	Paula Patterson	Mary Catherine Rzetelny	Mary Stark

The Gift of Nutrition — *continued*

Gailwyn Starr
 Janet Stefano
 Joy Stelte
 Priscilla Stephan
 Mona and Mark Stern
 John and Elizabeth Stezik
 Joanne Stratton
 Kendra Stuckey
 Tara Sullivan-Boivin
 Ashley Sult
 Ted and Jacquelyn Sumara
 Ellen Swan
 Heather Swan
 Margaret Swanson
 Rolline Swent-Ko
 Harriet Szafranski
 Peggy Szygenda
 Frances Szymanski
 Barbara and Claude Taliaferro
 Stephen and Judith Tallackson
 Judith Tanter
 Mirthala and Thomas Taylor
 Patricia Testen
 Robert Thiel
 Claudia Thomas
 Robert and Shirley Thomas
 Valorie Thompson
 Vanessa Thompson
 Thomas Thurman

Kendra Tiedemann
 Pastor Jeanette Timberlake
 Deborah and Lawrence Timko
 Elizabeth Tolbert
 Ryan Tonk
 Lisa and Robert Tonkovich
 Marcy Torres
 Toyota of Merrillville
 Deb Trelo and Rosalind Davila
 Kerry Triplett
 George and Char Tsoutsouris
 Torr Tucker
 Regina Twitty
 Berniece and Dick Umbaugh
 United Steel Workers
 Local 6787
 Sr. Margaret Urban, PHJC
 Ethel Urbi
 Alice Van Handel
 Brian VanDenburgh
 Nick Vasil
 Kristina Vega
 Pamela and Charles Vergin-Green
 Doris Vician
 Monica and Juan Vitela
 Kayla and Robert Vodnoy
 Sr. Linda Volk, PHJC
 Bradley Vosberg
 Sally Voss

Dr. John and Carrie Wadas
 Tracey Waddelow
 Joyce and David Wade
 Laura Walda
 Bonnie Walker
 Elizabeth and Kenneth Walker
 Jane Walker
 Nancy and Jack Walter
 Gwendolyn Walters
 Robin Walton
 Dr. Marion Iverson and
 Reynelda Ware Muse
 Dave and Cathy Wartman
 Robert and Christine Wartman
 Jessie Washington
 Sr. Helen Watkins, PHJC
 Mildred Weinand
 Jennifer Weinert
 Deborah Weiss
 Claudia Wells
 Chareice White
 Robert White
 Ron White
 Jerry and Zelda Wiggins
 Tonya and Benjamin Wilcher
 Mary Beth Wiley
 Theresa Wilkerson
 Carolyn Williams
 Charlyse Williams

Christopher Williams
 Earnestine and George Williams
 Fran Williams
 Jazmine Williams
 Mary and Geoffrey Williams
 Nicholas Williams
 Renita Williams
 Ursula Williams
 Stephanie Willis
 Diann Wilson
 Laurene and Eugene Wilson
 Rachel Wind
 Shirley Winters
 Christina Wold
 Gary Wolfe
 Karen Wolfley
 Winfield Woodard
 Elizabeth Wright
 Vanessa Wright
 Jennifer Young
 Rodney Young
 Marilea Zajec
 Candace Zannou
 The Zell Company
 Donna Ziemer
 Bernard and Alice Zolp
 Marjorie and David Zucker
 Jessica Zvyak
 Rose and Emil Zych

Notably, Sojourner Truth House not only works with impoverished families in the short term with food and clothing programs, but also in the long term with education and family-strengthening programs. With our assistance, once a client secures safe, affordable housing, the relationship continues. We care what happens “down the road.” It’s part of our mission. It sets us apart. We can’t thank you enough for your support.

Don’t Miss the Walk for Sojourner Truth House!

Taking Steps to End Homelessness

The 13th Annual Walk for Sojourner Truth House will be on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at Froebel Alumni Park in Gary. The walk will support the thousands of women and children served at Sojourner Truth House day center. Have you registered yet to walk for STH? If not, please visit www.walkforSTH.org or with your smart phone scan here to register NOW!



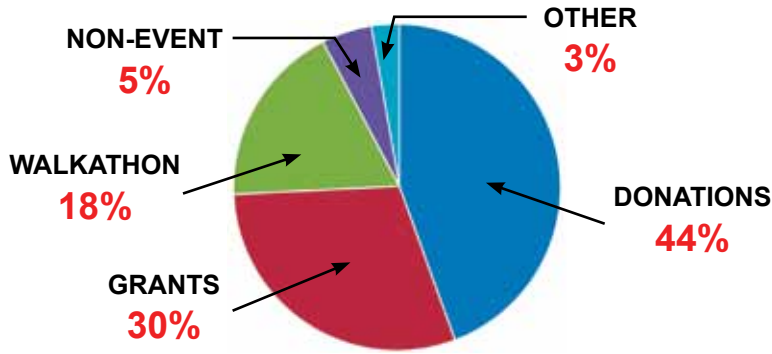
“I participate in the walk-a-thon to support, through sponsorship, Sojourner Truth House. As a volunteer, the interest concerning an individual’s emotional and spiritual needs is a priority. Financial donations are needed to continue to meet the needs of the community.”

— Janice Spencer, Team Captain, retired, Gary Post Office

JANUARY 1, 2011 — DECEMBER 31, 2011

INCOME / EXPENSES

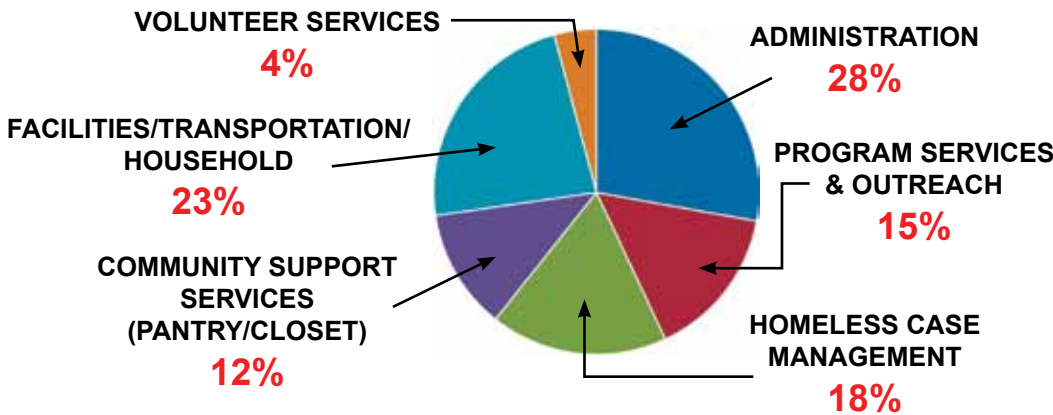
TOTAL INCOME = \$396,635.58



Sojourner Truth House is a ministry sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

The Poor Handmaids fund the shortfall of expenses in excess of income. In order for the ministry to continue, the Poor Handmaids will aid Sojourner Truth House but at a lesser amount this year. It is our hope that you, as donors and friends, will work with us to compensate for the difference as well as provide for future growth.

TOTAL EXPENSES = \$919,247.00



Building Community Partnerships

Sojourner Truth House support is all about friend raising and fund raising.

- Ask about our Womenade events. Clever title? Popular event!
- Form a team for this year's walk. Become a sponsor. United we are taking steps to end homelessness!
- Come join us for "Coffee and Conversation!"
- Inquire about volunteering.



WALK INFORMATION:

Email: walk@sojournertruthhouse.org
 Phone: (219) 855-2282
www.walkforsth.org

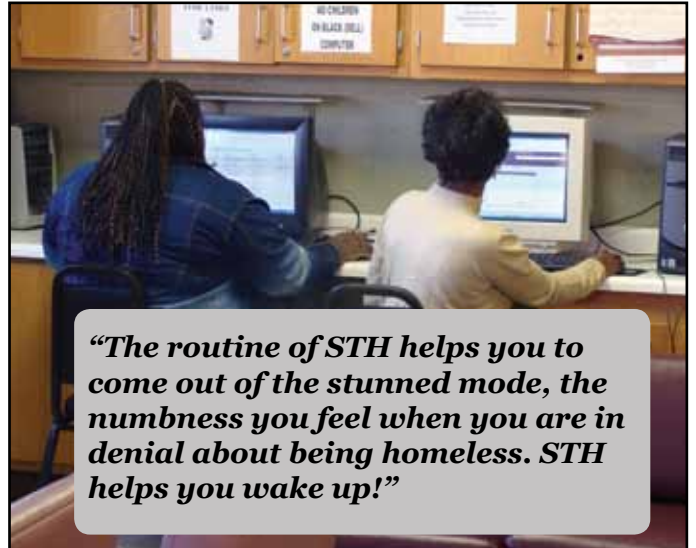
GENERAL INFORMATION:

Email: pspindler@sojournertruthhouse.org
 Phone: (219) 885-2282
www.sojournertruthhouse.org

MEETING THE CHALLENGE THE CLIENTS — WITH A VOICE AND A CHOICE...



“People change just by being here.”



“The routine of STH helps you to come out of the stunned mode, the numbness you feel when you are in denial about being homeless. STH helps you wake up!”



“I could talk without being judged; we feel welcome.”



“Sojourner Truth House helped me with my fears; I’m able to speak out more.”



“This place has given me back my life. Something here touched me so deep that I want a better life. A fire has been lit under me...I’m in my own place. I’m so happy.”

Sojourner Truth House took me where I was and helped me holistically.”

“Here, there was always somebody to listen to me and support me when I had nobody.”



**At the end of the day, who was here for us?
SOJOURNERTRUTHHOUSE**



**“Coffee and Conversation”
with Sister Peg Spindler, CSA**

You’re invited...

“Coffee and Conversation” gatherings are held at Sojourner Truth House throughout the year. Come and tour the facility with Sister Peg as she describes the day center, and hear a client tell her story.

**For reservations or additional information,
please call (219) 885-2282.**

“They’re doing amazing work at Sojourner Truth House. We must find a way to get housing for these women and children. I’m so proud of them and of the woman who spoke to us today...She’s a hero taking charge of her life.”

—Sally Van Bokkelen, Director of Christian Education,
Westminster Presbyterian Church

**SOJOURNER TRUTH HOUSE
2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Sister Nora Hahn, PHJC —
Co-chairperson

Sister Judian
Breitenbach, PHJC —
Co-chairperson

Sister Peg Spindler, CSA —
Ex-Officio

Judith Stanton, Esq. —
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Susan Cohen

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Kimberlee Ward

Sister Carleen Wrasman, PHJC

Daniel Yamtich

Pam Yttri

COMMUNITY CORNER

**...SOME
OF OUR
DONORS**

**AND
THANK YOU
EVERYONE!**



Ginger Levitan, Carolyn Deluca
of Service League of Northwest
Indiana with Sister Peg



Students Derek Bonner, Ashton
Krstevski (top row) with Sister
Peg, teacher Julie Anderson
and the “Boo Gram” ghost of
Forest Ridge Academy



Sister Peg with Eric McMullen
of First Midwest Bank
Charitable Foundation



Pat Pullara of GNIAR, Pastor
Sharon Baker of Marquette
Park Methodist Church



Alfonso Ramirez of Citizens
Financial Bank



Yolanda Stoffregen of
Pi Sigma Phi Sorority Upsilon
Chapter with Sister Peg

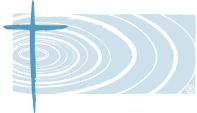


Lillian Beasley of STH with
Trish Maley of
“Moms on a Mission”



410 West 13th Avenue
Gary, IN 46407

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission

Sojourner Truth House is a ministry of hope and help for homeless and at-risk women and their children, sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. Through hospitality, advocacy, integrative services and collaboration, participants improve their quality of life and that of the community in a safe, trusting environment.



Sojourner Truth House supplied more than 7,500 families with food in 2011...



...and made sure thousands of people received clothing and household items...



...and through it all, there is always time for a hug.

Our core values flow from joyful service to all, especially the needy and underserved. These values are Openness to the Spirit, Community, Simplicity, and Dignity and Respect for all.