

Happenings

Shedding tears of **amazement,**
accomplishment, and **achievement**

thanks to
you

In 2019, you helped 58 individuals like Tamara achieve the dream of moving into their own safe, stable homes.



Many women who come to Sojourner Truth House have neglected their mental and emotional health. Maybe they can't afford it, or pride or fear of being stigmatized prevents them from seeking help. This was the case with Tamara, who entered our doors tattered, torn, tortured and toothless.

"As I observed her motionless body and her facial expression of a glazed stare, I said to myself she is not going to make it," says Pam Key, Director of Client Services at STH. "Bewildered in her own weariness, she explained to me that she'd been homeless for years, living from one abandoned building to the next. When I asked if she had previous substance usage or any form of physical or mental

health issues, her tears began to roll into an uncontrollable crying spell. I could only support her with tissue, and from time to time I held her hand so she could gather herself. She shared about failures in her past, her road to addiction, and all the abuse, abandonment, abortions and addictions. I said to myself that if she returned on the following work day we had a fighting chance."

"She came back!"

Slowly and cautiously, Tamara began the process of recovery to wellness. She embraced the support services and classes at STH, and after months of commitment and work, Tamara finally received the keys to her own apartment.

"As we stood in her living room, the tears began to roll—however, this time from both of us, and the meaning of these tears were amazement, accomplishment and achievement," Pam said. "As we drove back to STH, she informed me that we were near the abandoned houses that she'd been living in the past four years. It was so surreal—her past was on that street, and we had just celebrated her present a few miles back."

"It dawned on me that Tamara had a home all along," she shared. "That home was on the inside—it was her inner self that no longer needed a push, that inner Spirit inside that shares with us and reminds us that there is a safe place called home."

Help Us Make a Beloved Community for All in Northwest Indiana

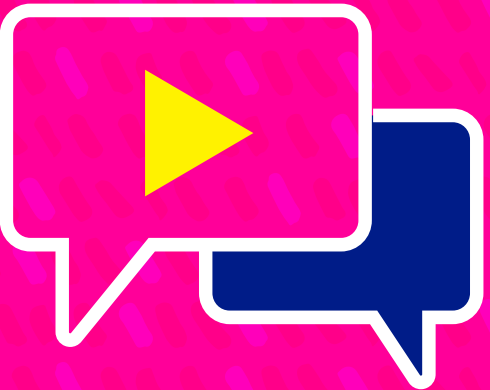
We’ve recently been through a season of horrific police brutality and white supremacy, and witnessed the power of community as Americans of all ethnicities marched and protested together to bring an end to systemic racism. Following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, we posted a statement on our website condemning that action, and acknowledging that the U.S. was built on the stolen land of the indigenous; our economy constructed on the backs of stolen Black bodies; and that our dominant white culture has been preserved through lynchings, Jim Crow laws, mass incarceration, red lining, police brutality and other means. Our statement also says:



“And many of us live this privilege even if unawares simply due to the whiteness of our skin. This is why we believe that Black Lives Matter is an important statement—because they haven’t mattered and it should now be obvious to all. We stand with our Black brothers and sisters in the struggle to attain a true equality, true equity, true economic and health parity and a true welcoming into American society ...We pray that we all learn the history we need to learn; that we all hear the pain of centuries of untold subjugation; that we all look into our own hearts, especially those of us privileged by the color of our skin, and believe that transformation can and must happen.”

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

We at Sojourner Truth House commit to doing our part in this transformation through the service we offer to the most vulnerable, trying to make a beloved community amongst all the people of NWI. And we invite you to join us. Simply go to our web site—sojournertruthhouse.org—click on the “**Racism**” tab at the top, then go to “**Finding the Truth**” and watch our weekly videos. We’ll be sharing our stories, books, poems, movies and other resources to help you undertake this journey with us to discovery and truth.



As our namesake asked nearly 170 years ago:
“Who made your skin white?”



Isabella Baumfree was born in 1797 to slave parents in Ulster County, New York. When she was about 9 years old, she and a flock of sheep were sold at a slave auction for \$100. As was the case for most slaves in the rural North, Isabella lived isolated from other African Americans, and she suffered from physical and sexual abuse at the hands of her masters.

In 1826, Isabella’s owner promised to grant her freedom on July 4th, if “she would do well and be faithful.” When the date arrived, however, he had a change of heart and refused to let her go. Isabella had completed what she felt was her obligation to this man so, inspired

by her relationship with God—she was known to have conversations with God in the woods—Isabella escaped to freedom, walking as fast as her six-foot-tall frame could go, carrying her infant daughter. By 1843, Isabella was known as a forceful preacher, and in what she believed was her religious obligation to go forth and speak the truth, she changed her name to Sojourner Truth. Almost 170 years ago, guided by her pure and unflinching Christian faith, Sojourner Truth stood in front of a crowd and proclaimed that black lives matter:

.....
“Children, who made your skin white? Was it not God? Who made mine black? Was it not the same God? Am I to blame, therefore, because my skin is black? ...Does not God love colored children as well as white children? And did not the same Savior die to save the one as well as the other?”

..... - Sojourner Truth

Please shout **“YES!”** and help us continue to honor her legacy today.

Thank You

to our Foundation Partners



All STH programs lead to stable housing—but helping women and families obtain housing involves more than just getting a roof over their heads. Homeless clients have few possessions, so we also try to provide some essential household items—furniture, dishes, linens, etc. It takes a lot of space to store these items, which are often donated.

Thanks to a generous \$25,000 grant from NIPSCO provided by the NiSource Charitable Foundation, we were able to add more than 400 square feet of storage space to our pole barn. “NIPSCO is proud to partner with a strong organization like Sojourner Truth House, said Rick Calinski, Director, NIPSCO Public Affairs. “They have a proven model to make a meaningful impact to so many in the community, we are happy to help them expand their capacity to serve those in need.”

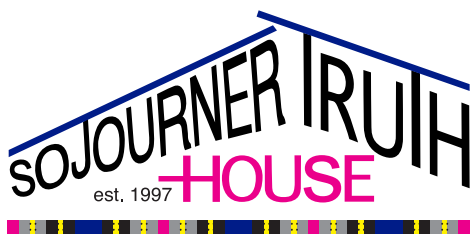
Thank you to the NiSource Charitable Foundation and the following grant makers in 2020:

- The Westerman Foundation
- Helen Brach Foundation
- Lake County Master Gardener's Association
- The Legacy Foundation
- Geminus Community Partners
- Service League of Northwest Indiana
- SAFE for Lake County

2020 VIRTUAL Walk for STH

In our first-ever virtual event on June 13th, more than 115 people participated in the 21st annual Walk for Sojourner Truth House from their homes, neighborhoods, schools, churches and parks throughout northern Indiana! Turning their steps into dollars, they raised a total of **\$90,000+** to help end homelessness. You can see some of our Walkers in our Celebration video at: walkforsth.org.

Thanks to all who helped make our virtual Walk a success! You helped provide food, transportation, support services and so much more to our most vulnerable women and children.



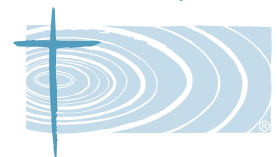
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www.sojournertruthhouse.org



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.

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

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. These are the shared values of all Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ ministries. Sojourner Truth House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; donations are tax deductible.