

# HAPPENINGS

## A Special Message from Angela Paul *YOU are Our Future*

Since 1997, Sojourner Truth House (STH) has been a steadfast beacon of hope for countless individuals and families in Gary, Indiana. Inspired by the compassionate vision of Sisters Joan Fisher, PHJC, and Peg Spindler, CSA, STH was founded to offer a haven of hospitality, recovery, advocacy, and housing to those experiencing homelessness.

For nearly three decades, we have been blessed to partner with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC), whose unwavering generosity has been instrumental in our mission. As we embark on our 28th year, we are transitioning to a new chapter, one that relies more on the power of community support.

While many nonprofits face economic challenges, we at STH remain undeterred. We are committed to preserving our legacy of service and ensuring a bright future for those we serve. Our dedicated Board of Directors shares this vision and is committed to supporting our programs and initiatives.

**Your support is the key to unlocking endless possibilities.**

With your help, we can continue to provide vital services that transform lives: compassionate case management, healing counseling, nurturing child supervision, empowering employment and career training, nourishing meals, and essential supplies.

In the months ahead, we will unveil exciting plans for growth and outreach, extending our reach to even more families in need. Together, we can create a future where homelessness is a distant memory.



We're filled with hope and gratitude. We believe that, with your support, we can not only maintain our current services but also expand our impact, making a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals and families.

Thank you for your unwavering support and passion for our mission. Your generosity fuels our work and ignites hope in the hearts of those we serve!

Angela Paul  
Executive Director



*Unlock hope: taking steps to end homelessness & hunger.*

# From Homelessness to Home: What Comes Next?

At Sojourner Truth House (STH), moving out of a shelter is just the beginning. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) operates on a simple but powerful idea: being stably housed gives people the foundation they need to confront and solve the deeper issues that led them into homelessness. With case managers providing guidance, workshops, and resources, clients can recover from trauma, rebuild their lives, and thrive in their communities.

STH supports around 100 PSH households across Lake County, offering a combination of affordable housing and essential services. Case managers **Crystal Thomas** and **Sam Whitehead** lead these efforts—Crystal oversees **South Shore Commons** in Gary, while Sam manages the **Gateway program**, which offers housing throughout the county. Both programs are largely funded by government grants, with STH providing furniture, food, and case management services.

**“Most of what we do takes a team.”**

“Our programs exist for those who otherwise would not be able to survive on their own,” Crystal shared. “They’ve been through the shelter experience, or they’ve been on the street, or they’ve stayed with family and friends. Now they’re in housing, and it’s like ‘Now what?’ Most programs put you in housing and then leave you on your own to figure that out. What are you going to do about a job or the kids? We’re here to cushion that, and ask how do we keep you housed, as opposed to having you return to being homeless? We’re trying to not continue the cycle and help better their lives.”



Sam manages 45 PSH households in the Gateway program that live in 20 to 25 locations spread mainly throughout Gary and Merrillville, with others in Hammond, East Chicago, Whiting, and Lowell. Each client has different barriers to obtaining housing, he explained.

“For some it’s financial irresponsibility, sometimes it’s untreated mental health issues, or it’s substance abuse and they need help creating a plan of action to maintain sobriety. Some clients need housing to get their children back,” Sam said. “We work closely with them to identify those barriers, establish goals and then try to work on those goals over time to get clients where they need to be to create the type of life they want, whether it be reunification with their kids, or whether they don’t want to stay in a shelter anymore but want their own space.”

One of the ways STH ensures PSH clients can succeed is by offering a wide variety of classes and workshops. At South Shore Commons, Crystal coordinates monthly calendars featuring sessions on financial literacy, life skills, trauma recovery, yoga, and art therapy. She also organizes family outings, such as trips to the Indianapolis Children’s Museum or local bowling alleys, to help clients experience life beyond their immediate surroundings.

“We try to take them outside of these four walls,” Crystal explains. “It’s important for them to reconnect with the world and feel part of something bigger.”

Transportation is another key service, helping clients access jobs, medical care, and other critical appointments. Crystal notes that transportation can be the difference between success and setbacks:

“A simple ride to the doctor can mean the difference between getting a disability case approved or denied. For many of our clients, there’s no family to lean on, so transportation becomes a lifeline.”

Sam also uses STH’s transportation services to bring Gateway clients together for monthly group sessions. These meetings offer a safe space for men to discuss topics like parenting, mental health, and sobriety while building a supportive community.

STH’s Executive Director, Angela Paul, said that integrating services for participants in STH’s day center and offsite PSH programs has been her staff’s proudest achievement in the last year.

“This effort has led to enhanced support in areas such as transportation, child enrichment, meals, financial literacy, and access to medical, mental health, and substance abuse services,” she shared. “Participants have also benefited from educational and employment opportunities, all provided onsite at both central and offsite locations.”

“Most of what we do takes a team,” Crystal added.

**That includes YOU—you are an important part of the team that surrounds STH clients with the support services they need to meet their goals and thrive. Thank you!**



Scan here!

Be a part of what’s next at STH - your gift helps ensure that more individuals and families can remain housed and supported. Visit [sojournertruthhouse.org/giving](https://sojournertruthhouse.org/giving) or scan the QR code to get involved.

## Can You Pass the STH Quiz?

### Questions

1. Sojourner Truth House is a homeless shelter: True or False
2. Sojourner Truth House only provides help to women and children: True or False
3. Sojourner Truth House has the largest food pantry in Lake County: True or False
4. It costs local governments (and taxpayers) an average of \$40,000 a year to provide services for one person experiencing homelessness: True or False
5. There are more than 150 people experiencing homelessness on any given night throughout Lake County, Indiana: True or False

### Answers

1. **False** - STH’s building is a Day Center that provides services to women and families living in local homelessness shelters that are brought in during the day when shelters close.
2. **False** - Since 2019, STH has provided support services to men living in permanent supportive housing in Lake County.
3. **True** - Since 1997, STH has provided food to more than 275,000 individuals.
4. **True**
5. **True**



# THANK YOU to our Funding Partners

Thanks to a generous grant from PNC Bank, Sojourner Truth House now provides two new washer-dryer sets and laundry supplies, meeting a critical need for clients without access to affordable laundry. Clean clothes help them attend job interviews, medical appointments, and school with dignity. The grant also funded new flooring, improving the safety and cleanliness of our space.



We are grateful to PNC Bank, and to the following organizations that made grants in 2024:

- Legacy Foundation
- Helen Brach Foundation
- AARP Indiana
- United Way Northwest Indiana
- Geminus Community Partners
- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's NAP Tax Credit Program
- First Financial Foundation
- Diocese of Gary's Northwest Indiana Mercy Fund
- John W. Anderson Foundation
- First Merchant's Charitable Giving
- The TJX Foundation
- Missionaries of the Precious Blood Peace and Justice Grant
- FSC Foundation
- Whole Foods Foundation



## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for our 26th Annual Walk  
for Sojourner Truth House!

**Saturday, June 14, 2025**  
8-11 a.m. CST

**Sojourner Truth House**  
410 W. 13th Avenue  
Gary, IN 46407

For more information or to register go to  
[www.walkforsth.org](http://www.walkforsth.org).

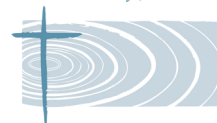


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Sojourner Truth House is a ministry of  
the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.