



Zoom Information  
Session May 14, 2020



# Questions

Please mute your microphone at this time.

We will have an open Q&A at the end. You are also welcome to submit questions as they arise via the chat function in Zoom and we will answer those questions at the end.

# SFTSM History

2011 - After learning that there were over 100 homeless children in Sun Prairie Schools a group of people started meeting, praying and researching how to start a family homeless shelter for single mothers and their children. SFTSM operated for years in private homes and through various community agencies to help Sun Prairie families during their time of homelessness.

2017 - Beautiful building now in use was opened and can house 10 families at a time of varying sizes.

Mission of program: *“Christ-Centered restoration through the storms of life”*

# Executive Director – Tami Fleming

BA in Social Work, some MSW work- 22 years of experience in Administration, 10 years in Social Work with Families, Former Foster Parent, Child Care Admin, Small Business owner/Operator 7 years, 8 years experience Homeless Street Outreach in Madison

Started Friends of the State Street Family & [www.madcityhomelessresourceguide.com](http://www.madcityhomelessresourceguide.com)

Volunteer Program Developer and Program Director at Catholic Charities- primary focus-The Beacon- trained over 600 volunteers in the first year

Personal Mission for SFTSM-to empower women-led families homelessness to gain the skills, tools and understanding to thrive beyond expectation upon leaving the program.

Contact: [Tami.Fleming@sftsm.org](mailto:Tami.Fleming@sftsm.org) (608-445-7067)

# House Manager - Tonia Strode

Tonia Strode raised 7 children of her own prior to agreeing to become the House Manager at Shelter from the Storm Ministries. She has many years of experience working as a Residential Counselor for at risk teens in Milwaukee, working in the public school system and working with adults with developmental disabilities. She also has experience as a Pharmacy Technician, Culinarian and Cosmetology. She is also a Pastor-in-training in her church, End Times Ministries Intl of Madison, WI.

My personal mission at SFTSM is to bring a sense of stability and self-worth in to the lives of the moms and children. I support the moms in decision-making, life skills building, ADLs and parenting as requested.

Contact: [Tonia.Strode@sftsm.org](mailto:Tonia.Strode@sftsm.org) (314-265-7756)

# Opportunity Coach - Gynel Orr

Degrees in Business and Human Services. Certification in Substance Abuse Counseling. Previous experience as Tax Assessor in Illinois (6 terms). Established Creative Accents business. Implemented a Homeless Bag Lunch Program, assisted with The Healing Place retreat for survivors of domestic Violence. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for neglected and abused children in foster care. Dane County Community Restorative Court Peacemaker.

As an Opportunity Coach at SFTSM, I meet with each resident to explore educational prospects (HSED/GED, classes to learn a skill or trade) to increase their earning potential. We create resumes, research employment possibilities, review previous debt and negotiate with creditors to increase credit scores. Residents make budgets and open bank accounts, resolve legal issues, and obtain driver's licenses and cars. I offer assistance for any needs of the residents.

My mission is to listen and to broaden options, to encourage new experiences, to build confidence, to showcase successes and to support the choices of each resident.

Contact: Gynell Orr - [gynel.orr@sftsm.org](mailto:gynel.orr@sftsm.org) (815-289-3632)

# Case Manager – Sarah Marty

Bachelor of Social Work & Master of Social Work – UW Whitewater. Previously worked as a Homeless Services Specialist at The Beacon.

- As the Case Manager at SFTSM I manage referrals and the waiting list, screen new families and provide ongoing case management while residents live here as well as case management for 12+ months after the client moves out.
- I focus on helping to motivate clients to make positive changes in their lives as well as client-driven goal identification, setting and mental health support.
- Often our moms have never been in a situation of complete support and encouragement like we are able to offer. We can offer them options for their future they could never imagine before. A high school diploma? A driver's license? A career path they are interested in pursuing instead of whatever job they can get. Time and opportunity to make decisions that can lift them out of poverty.

Contact: [Sarah.Marty@sftsm.org](mailto:Sarah.Marty@sftsm.org) or 608-561-1446

# Shelter from the Storm's House

## Shared Living Room Space

- House Meetings
- Trainings and Educational Classes



# Shelter from the Storm's House

A few pictures of  
our playroom\*

\*note, not accurate representation, typically  
much messier



# Shelter from the Storm's House

We have a variety of family suites that all include:

- Kitchenettes
- Private bathrooms
- Individual locking doors for privacy and security
- Twin/Full bunk beds
- Cribs as needed
- We can accommodate mom + infant up to a family size of eight



# Walkthrough



# Our program offers...

- A fresh start in a safe home for our families to be able to slow down, calm down from the chaos of not knowing where they will be sleeping or eating.
- A sense of normalcy slowly returns. Schedules, routines and plans are able to be made
- Free onsite Trauma therapy by a licenced MSW
- An onsite food pantry to ensure families have access to fresh, healthy ingredients to make meals in their private kitchenette or the larger family kitchen onsite.

# Our program offers...

Full time, onsite Case Management for comprehensive support with health care, housing, mental health services, etc. Trauma-informed, client-directed support.

Technical support & encouragement to complete:

- Driver's licence training/behind the wheel
- Career counseling
- HSED/GED Programs
- Certifications to increase earning power
- Financial coaching to pay down debt, including previous landlords
- Education on credit and strategic support to improve credit score

# Additional life skills education provided:

- Financial Peace University
- Trauma-Informed Self Defense by RCC
- Basic car maintenance and repair by Christian Brothers Service - SP
- Dog on Call
- Optional bible study
- Habitat for Humanity
- Parenting classes/coaching
- Nutrition/Cooking classes





# “Motors For Moms”

**We have a small grant and some designated giving for this program**

**We can use these funds to pay for:**

- **“Behind the Wheel” /drivers education classes.**
- **Previous tickets/fines that are a barrier to regaining a valid driver’s license**
- **Initial car insurance premiums**

**We work with “Christian Brothers Auto Service” (CBA) in Sun Prairie for a reduced rate on repair work to get vehicles road ready and teach clients basic maintenance skills for their vehicle.**

- **Individuals can donate their vehicle as a tax-deductible donation to SFTSM. CBA will check for road safety and make necessary repairs, if it is not worth the cost of repairs it is sold as-is or for scrap and the funds go into the Motors for Mom’s program.**

# FAQs...



Who qualifies for our program?

Shelter from the Storm is not an emergency shelter. We provide Transitional Housing for homeless adult women with children under age 18.

# Homeless Definition for SFTSM

Many programs require families to be living in a shelter, sleeping in their car or on the streets to be considered homeless.

SFTSM also includes families that are doubled up with friends and family or families that are living in a hotel as “homeless” and eligible for referral to our program.

Clients are not able to self-refer. We rely on referrals from Social Workers, Case Managers, etc. We are looking for moms who are interested/motivated in changing their life, becoming independent and self-sustaining through change and hard work. It is hard to admit that you need help, but that is where we come in. We do charge a nominal program fee because we are classified as Transitional Housing, not emergency shelter

# Where do we get our clients?



# FROM

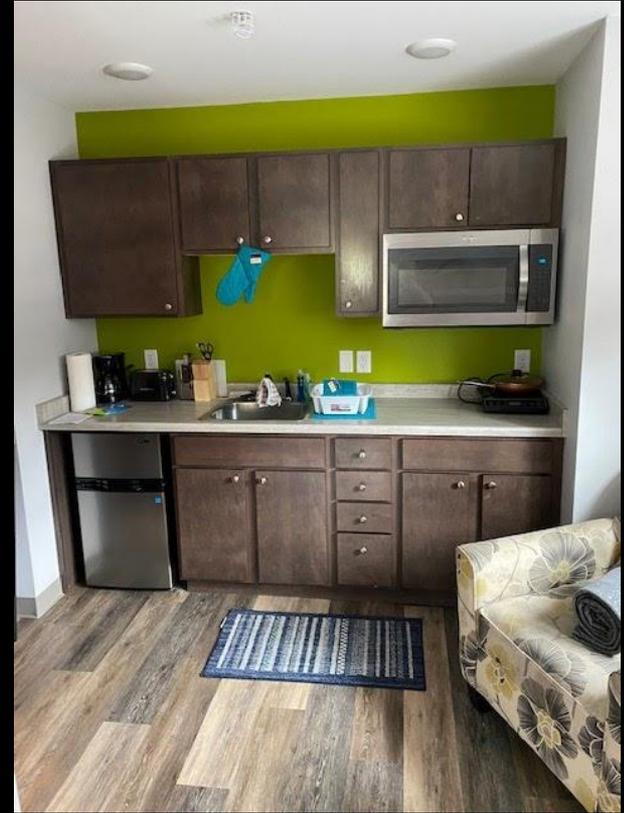
# YOU!

# FAQ: Are the units furnished?



Each unit is furnished with beds, new bedding, new towels and rugs as well as table, chairs and kitchen items. We also stock a basic pantry for the family as part of our welcome in addition to them having access to our onsite food pantry.

Several items will go with the family when they move out to get them started in their permanent home.



**FAQ: Why is there a background check authorization with the application?**

We are housing a vulnerable population and run a criminal background check on applicants who are being screened for admission to SFTSM. Safety is our number one concern.

We assess each applicant individually and we prioritize a client's future over their past.

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# FAQ: Who is living at Shelter from the Storm?

- 71.4% African American
- 13.3% Caucasian
- 12.2% 2 or more Ethnicities
- 3.1% Hispanic
- As of April 2020: 19,661 Bed Nights and 98 Clients served, 68 of whom were children under 18

Last year was the first year of our new programming model- here were the results:

- 96% of our families moved out into permanent housing
- 100% left with full-time employment that paid a higher rate than they had made before.
- 90% that worked with our Opportunity Coach significantly reduced or eliminated their consumer debt, and raised their credit score up to 200 points higher

# FAQ: What happens to my client's status on the homeless priority list (VI-SPDAT)?

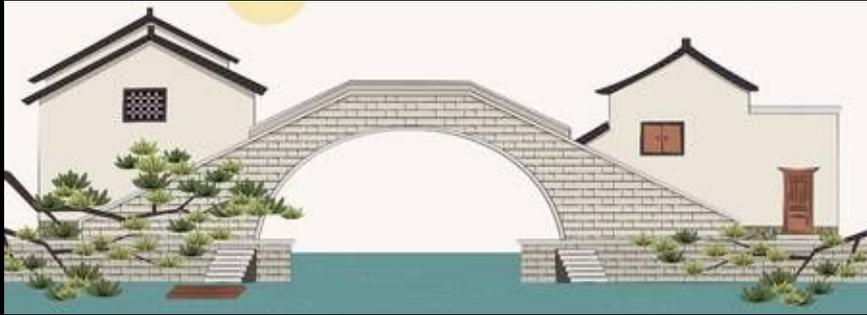
- At this time, families that move in to our Transitional Housing program are left on the housing list, but moved to the bottom of that list, as they are no longer considered “homeless.”
- It is unlikely they will be eligible to gain entry in to a housing program through the VI-SPDAT. That is why it is important to consider if our program is right for your client.
- At this time, clients who have not completed a VI-SPDAT prior to entry to SFTSM are not eligible to complete a VI-SPDAT while in our program.

# FAQ: How are we funded?

- **Fundraisers**
- **Individuals**
- **Churches in the Greater Madison Area**
- **Corporate donations**
- **Private foundations**
- **Grants**
- **Monthly program fees from clients**



# FAQ: Bridge housing?



We accept referrals for bridge housing based on current availability in the house. Bridge referrals are subject to the same screening process as typical clients.

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# FAQ: How long is the waiting list?

As many of you are probably familiar with, waiting lists are constantly changing.

- We do prioritize Sun Prairie students over Madison students in an attempt to house them in their existing school district.
- Typically we are sheltering 70-80% Madison students.
- We cannot predict how long it will take for a suite to open up.
- Sometimes who we can accept is determined by the size of the room open.
- Residency time varies. From a couple months to 12 or more. Every situation is unique.

# I have a client I think might be a good fit?



When in doubt, refer. We screen clients on a case-by-case basis. Clients who are ready to make personal changes to pursue individual success and stability are most likely to thrive in our program.

Please feel free to call Sarah (Case Manager) or email prior to the referral with any questions but it is not necessary.

# I referred someone, what's next?



- If you would like to communicate with the Case Manager about a client's status after referral please include a signed release from the client with your referral.
- Case Manager will email the client monthly to confirm status on waitlist.

# How can you help?

- Referrals
- Volunteering your time and your unique skill set
- Donations of unwanted vehicles that are in working order or in need of light repair (tax-deductible)
- Tell your friends



# Thank you for attending



Next Steps: 1. Questions from group chat 2. Live questions

**Thanks again!**

[www.sftsm.org](http://www.sftsm.org)

