

# What's Happening @ the House?

Shelter from the Storm Ministry's Newsletter - Keeping you informed and sharing our growing ministry news.

## Our Beautiful Garden has been planted!

Thanks to a Community Reinvestment Grant from the Willy St. CoOp, we were able to plant a gorgeous garden on-site for children and adult residents to enjoy for years to come!

We were amazed to find out that the Willy St. CoOp had selected our dream project to receive a grant. We named it (with permission from the Author's family) "The Maya Angelou Healing Garden." We filled it with semi Dwarf fruit trees, butterfly bushes, and flowering perennials that will grow and fill the space next to our lovely patio and playground as the years pass. We also included several garden stakes along the path with inspirational quotes from Ms. Angelou and dug a round sunken sandbox for our little ones to enjoy. We hope to add seating in the future on the circular patch of sod inside the garden and colorful bird cages (referencing "I know why the Caged Bird Sings" by the Author) and a little free library with inspirational books for children and adults. We hope to add to our garden each year as area gardeners divide their plants and share them with us.



Coming Next Month - Learn all about our solar conversion and the people and grants that made it possible!



**LOOKING for VOLUNTEER COACHES**- *what is a volunteer coach? It's a volunteer who helps new volunteers get comfortable and will help and work alongside of them until they are comfortable-* call Tami if you are interested at 608-445-7067.

1

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Jung Garden Center, Mars Landscaping & The Maya Angelou Estate.

2

### VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Sherry Buchner, Jane Nehmer, Cal Fleming, Tonia Strode, and several of the Mamas and children who reside at the shelter!

3

### AGAIN, THANK YOU WILLY ST. COOP!

(continued from page 1)

Next year we also hope to add a solar water fountain and some lovely wind-chimes, and an eating garden. Several of our moms and their little ones did help us plant, spread mulch, and continue to water and weed. Sherry Buchner (volunteer) has been especially helpful in keeping our plants healthy and our patch weeded. Cal Fleming, and Jane Nehmer were also instrumental in getting the plot ready for plants and planting several of the trees and shrubs in some of our worst heat of the summer. What troopers!



We'd also like to thank Jung's Garden Center in Sun Prairie for giving us a great discount on plants and throwing others in for nothing so we could stretch our budget to really fill the space with plants that will (in about three years) be absolutely lush and beautiful! We are already looking forward to the four varieties of apples, plus pears and peaches from our new trees! [www.willyst.coop](http://www.willyst.coop); [www.jungseed.com](http://www.jungseed.com)

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## MEET JANE NEHMER- BOARD MEMBER, ACCOUNTANT & ALL-AROUND AMAZING VOLUNTEER

When you have lived in a great community like Sun Prairie for most of your life, you cannot help but have the passion for giving back. I raised three kids while working for the Sun Prairie Area School District for 30+ years as an Accountant. After celebrating graduations, weddings, and new grandbabies, there was always a little time left to help others at the end of each day. I heard about Shelter From The Storm Ministries and decided to fill out the volunteer application and see where it would take me. After a coffee date with Angela Ackley, I jumped in to assist with financial duties. The Shelter opened in June 2017 and I balanced my time as an Accountant with volunteering and working with the moms and kids.



Each of us has received grace-gifts from **God**. And as each has received a gift, we **are to** use it **to** serve one another, as good stewards of Gods varied grace (1 Peter 4:10).

In January I was given the privilege of joining the SFTSM Board of Directors. I am involved with Finance, Marketing/Fundraising, and projects around the Shelter. Wearing many hats is challenging but I have witnessed so many good things happening for the moms and their children as well as the ways the Shelter meets the ever-changing needs of the families. The love and support that SFTSM receives from Sun Prairie and the Greater Madison Area is nothing short of amazing and I am so proud to be a part of it.

## Pastor Tonia Strode Scripture

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

projecthome

Serving Dane & Green County, WI

**Project H.O.M.E.**  
is a local private  
non-profit helping  
to break the cycle of

homelessness and poverty.

Project Home has been investing in homes, neighborhoods, communities & people from energy improvements to health & safety repairs for 48 years. As a homeless shelter, SFTSM qualifies for WisWAP



through Project Home.

The Wisconsin Weatherization Assistance Program (WisWAP) uses energy conservation techniques to reduce the cost of home energy. Correcting health and safety hazards and potentially life-threatening conditions is the first consideration in WAP activities.

**The Weatherization Program** looks to reduce the energy usage of a home in order to lower the utility bills of the household while making the home safer, more comfortable, and function better as a whole system.

Weatherization work will include:

- Air sealing and insulating attics
- Insulating exterior walls
- Reducing air leakage

In the next month, Project Home will be completing the work and we look forward to the energy savings these efforts will provide. Visit the Project Home website at

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



*Thanks to Sarah, our Case Manager for the many afternoons she spent at **Sunshine Place** to help Sun Prairie residents navigate the rent subsidy programs available for people who lost employment due to COVID shutdowns. She was able to help over 50 individuals and families! Way to go!!!*

# From the Director

*In 2020, adopting every issue, problem, worry, fear?*

If you are an empathetic person, it's hard not to feel like an emotional punching bag if you watch the news this year. Racism, riots, a devastating pandemic, economic crises, and now the polarizing negative campaign ads... ugh! Don't get me started... Sometimes I really hate the fact that we have all of the news of the world at our fingertips...it becomes too much information.

I don't think we were created to have and carry this vast burden on a daily basis. That is God's territory... Plus He sees the whole picture, not just the sometimes sensationalized and slanted view that a soundbite of the news offers. God sees the positives that we aren't shown; He knows how it will all turn out, He has the power to change things....He is built to carry that burden. It's too much for us mere mortals to shoulder. That is why we have to give it all over to Him.

When I started doing street outreach to the homeless in Madison- about nine years ago now, I used to stay up nights worrying about this person or that person, especially when the weather would worsen. Sometimes I would come home from outreach and just cry because of what I had seen. It can be traumatic, seeing people living in trauma. Also, the addicts just broke my heart each time they would fall off of the wagon...it felt like trying to nail Jell-o to a wall... Impossible. I would just worry about them losing a job or a girlfriend ... would that make them drink or use again?

The problem was, I was adopting their struggles as mine to solve, like it was my burden to carry...I would have burned out if it weren't for a friend of mine telling me that I had to stop going on as if I could "fix" another person and to read and meditate on the Serenity Prayer... the WHOLE thing.

*God, grant me the Serenity, to accept the things I cannot change...  
Courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time,  
accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.*

*Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it.*

*Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will.*

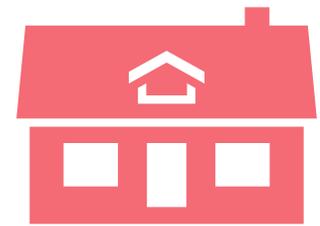
*That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.*

That was the spiritual swift kick to the head I needed. I was NOT personally responsible to rescue every person I met on the street or solve their issues. I have limitations of ability, finances, time, resources, etc. Instead, I focused on what I COULD do; I gave the rest over to God; I changed my mindset to accept and understand that through hardship, God can help us to find peace. Does God want His people to suffer? No, but God can teach us so many things through hardship, it's not always a bad thing.

So if you are filled with worry or anxiety about 2020, maybe limit the time you spend watching the news or listening to talk radio about all the things that are wrong with the world right now, and meditate on the Serenity Prayer and give those burdens over to God. He can carry them..and *"trust that He will make all things right if we surrender to His will. Love and peace be unto you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.*

-Tami

**Did you Know???** Shelter from the Storm Ministries, Inc. in Sun Prairie has provided families with **22,603** bed nights of shelter since opening in June of 2017.



Donate

Ever wonder what's happening behind the scenes when you click the Donate button, receive an email acknowledging your donation, or see our Newsletter pop up in your email inbox?

SFTSM strives to keep in touch with each and every one of our donors and we do this with the help of Network for Good. NFG provides marketing and fundraising support to 125,000 small non-profits. NFG furnishes us with online giving capabilities, calculates donor summary reports, offline giving reports, tracks all funds with proficiency, targets, retains, and engages donors and much, much, more. We chose this donor management system because it suits our needs the best. It helps us target, retain and engage donors. It is complete, not complex.

For ways you can connect to SFTSM- please go to our website: [www.sftsm.org](http://www.sftsm.org)

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