

# Voice of Hope

SUMMER 2024

*"Only with the help of God and Shirley's House of Hope could I make the decision to turn my will and life over to God."*

## You Restore Hope: Diane's Story



Photo Courtesy of FreePik

My life was pretty average. Ordinary, really, until a series of unfortunate events hit. My husband of 25 years suddenly died of a heart attack at age 50. I was only 48 at the time with 2 young adult children ready to leave the nest. I began to drink all day to soothe the pain. I realized I was losing control. The same day I'd decided to commit to recovery, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Because of the treatments, I spent two years sober, but relapsed into destructive living as soon as I healed from the medical procedures. As I attempted sobriety, I found myself living more and more isolated. Suddenly, for the first time in my life, I was completely alone. I am an identical twin, so when I say "alone," I mean that I've **never been alone my whole life.**

I was raised in a Catholic home, but I didn't fully understand or embrace the Christian way of life. I was lost, both physically and spiritually empty. I had turned to alcohol to ease, fix, and hide many feelings and emotions. Alcoholics Anonymous' Big Book describes addiction as 'cunning, baffling, and powerful,' and this was certainly true for me. It was only then I realized that I was powerless and my life had become unmanageable. I spiraled out of control and was blacking out and losing entire days. I could not keep a job, and was eventually evicted from my apartment. My family had given me all the help they could, and gave me an ultimatum: I must go to Shirley's to get help, or they would have to cut contact.

I realized that only a 'Higher Power' greater than myself could restore my sanity. Only with the help of God and Shirley's House of Hope could I make the decision to turn my will and life over to God.

Nine months is a long commitment. I was scared to death of recovery. The Shirley's House of Hope staff came alongside me and helped me find the loving power and stability that God can have in all of our lives. At 55, I had lost everything: my home, my job, my life companion, my car, my driver's license, and nearly lost the rest of my family. They guided me, helped me set boundaries and rules, they helped me look for and find a new job, and helped me save money to move out on my own! I felt like I was 15, but with their help I have been able to become an adult again. I now have hope for what could be the second half of my life in front of me!

I tend to think in 'creative scenes,' so I imagine my life as a picture of myself hiking up a rocky hill or on a rigorous bike ride, looking over and realizing that Jesus is and has been right by my side . . . this whole time!

My self-esteem has been restored, and I've developed a powerful positive attitude that will allow me to help and provide guidance to other struggling women; to hopefully lead by example and become the woman that others want to emulate. Thank you to Kathy and the other staff at Shirley's for giving me a second chance at life. Thank you to my spiritual mentor, my AA sponsor, and my friends and family for not giving up on me.

"Diane's" name has been changed to preserve anonymity. This story is Diane's writing. All edits have been approved by her for both content and accuracy. Diane is a real student who has benefitted from Shirley's House of Hope's Recovery Program and Housing model.





## Thrivent Choice Member? Please Read!

Eligible Benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can recommend where Thrivent Financial Distributes a portion of its charitable funds through Choice Dollars®, part of the Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program.

With your Thrivent Choice recommendation, lives of women and children at Shirley's House of Hope can be rebuilt, renewed, and restored. **As of May 2024, over \$21,700 has been raised through your partnership.**

Check your eligibility—you can end domestic abuse and drug addictions today!

Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4836 and say, "Thrivent Choice."

To initiate a project to benefit Shirley's House of Hope, visit [Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://Thrivent.com/actionteam).

Your Thrivent Project could be used to pay for adopting a room, providing landscaping, and more! Contact Julie for more ideas at 715-305-9782.

Thank you for rebuilding, renewing and restoring lives of women and children with your Thrivent Choice Dollars.

## Join the Team at SHOH!

*Shirley's House of Hope is looking to fill the Activities Coordinator position! If you are looking for a work environment with a strong sense of community and the opportunity to care for others, Shirley's House of Hope would love to have you on board! **Head to SHIRLEYSHOUSEOFHOPE.ORG to apply today!***

# Welcome to the Team!

## Stacy Clements

Hi! My name is Stacy. I began working at Shirley's House of Hope in December 2023. I am doing the finances for Shirley's as well as helping assist our Executive Director, Elizabeth. It didn't take me long to realize that this is a special place and this is exactly where God wants me to be. I have always had a heart for ministry, so when I heard about the need here for someone to help out with the finances, I knew this would be a great opportunity to use my gift in accounting and couple it with my desire to use my skills in a way that blesses others. We serve an amazing God who loves to give good gifts to His children, and I see that every day at Shirley's House of Hope. In my free time I enjoy spending time with family (especially my young niece and nephew) and close friends, cooking, listening to audio books, and getting out in nature whether that be camping, hiking, picnicking, snow shoeing, biking, etc.



## The Annual Iggy's Auction Benefit is here!

Iggy's Auction is accepting items to make up a Benefit Auction for Shirley's House of Hope again this Summer! Whether you are planning to downsize, organize, or just clean out your storage, Iggy's Auction will accept your clean, saleable items throughout all of July!



**Call Iggy's Auction to plan for dropping off your items. Then bring your unwanted but valuable items to Iggy's!** Be sure to let Iggy's Auction know that you are donating on behalf of Shirley's House of Hope and they will do the rest. An auction will be held in August with 70% of the proceeds going directly to Shirley's House of Hope.

**Iggy's Auction** – 206 East Depot Street, Marshfield, WI 54449  
**Trina: 715-305-2475 or Iggy: 715-650-2475**

**Items that sell well at auction:** Guns, Coins, Real Estate, antiques, Bobble Heads, Crocks & Stoneware, Primitives, Complete Sets, Ammunition, Tools, Jewelry, Sports Memorabilia (cards, jerseys, plaques, etc...), Rare and Unique Items, Old Toys, Sporting Goods (hunting, fishing...), cars, animal mounts, Collectables.

**Items Iggy's Auction cannot accept unless they are unique, new, or have antique value:** Pianos, Tires, Mattresses, Box Springs, Everyday Clothing, Clear Glass items, Coffee Cups, Mismatched Dishware, Old Computers & Monitors, Blinds and Shades, Car Seats & Cribs, Makeup, Garage Sale Stickered Items, Organs, TV's (Flat Screen OK), Items that are broken, torn, dirty, chipped, or cracked, Lamps (antiques OK), Old Tupperware, Stuffed Animals, Non-working items, VHS Tapes, Small Used Appliances, Exercise Equipment, Misc. Glassware, Books (sets OK)



Like us on Facebook at Shirley's House of Hope





## Run For Hope 2024 a Success!

Our second annual Run for Hope on April 20th at Wildwood Station was an incredible success! One hundred and ten supporters showed up that brisk Saturday morning and celebrated all of the work they had done to raise funds for Shirley's House of Hope. With the support of our event sponsors, almost **\$48,000** was raised. Because you cared, services continue to be provided to the women and children who so badly need them; vital services such as shelter, the 9-month Recovery Program, and the Transitional Housing Center for our program graduates.

Thank you to all the runners and walkers who sought support for Shirley's House of Hope from their family, friends, coworkers, and peers. A special thank you to our event volunteers who helped make our second Run for Hope just as much of a success as the first: Pat Sternitzky, our long-time friend and event emcee; Kaitlyn Schrock for the absolutely beautiful photos; and KamBray's Mobile Restaurant and Catering for bringing their excellent food truck. Thank you also to our local Hamm Radio Clubs for the clear communication across the event; V & H Automotive for donating two golf carts for the day; and Andrew Gingrich for his EMT services; as well as everyone who helped with setup, check-in, and day-of registration. We also express our thanks to the 40+ local businesses and donors who provided prizes for the top fundraisers.

### Congratulations to all of our top fundraisers!

Brad Mathison - \$2,148

Nancy and Jerry Petcher - \$2,128

Tammy Kirsch - \$1,967.80

Amber Mitten - \$1,806

Beth Schaefer - \$1,738

Spring Fleming - \$1,721.05

Mary Jicinsky - \$1602



Tammy Kirsch was our grand prize winner for the Wisconsin Dells Waterpark Package drawing! Congratulations, Tammy!

Thank you again to all who made this event an incredible success to bring hope and new life to women and children healing from the effects of domestic abuse and drug and alcohol addictions. Please join us next year at the 3rd Annual Run for Hope on **Saturday, April 26th, 2025!**

### Bronze Sponsors

Marshfield Insurance Agency  
Partners Bank  
Drach Chiropractic Center  
Munson Bridge Winery  
Forward Bank  
Associated Bank  
Counter-Form  
KamBray's Mobile Restaurant and Catering  
Crockett Septic  
97.5 WFH / 105.5 FM WIRI Wisconsin  
Century 21 Gold Key Realty  
Festival Foods  
The Boson Company

### Silver Sponsors

The Hearing House  
Kwik Trip  
Pizza Ranch  
The Family Radio  
Stratford Sign Company  
89Q Hope is Here  
Skrade Design  
American Auto Sales & Service

### Gold Sponsors

Mathison Realty & Services LLC

### Platinum Sponsors

Central Wisconsin Broadcasting  
Creative Automation  
Rock Oil Refining  
Our Father's House Christian Community Church

## 2024 Summer Needs List

Mattress Protectors

Landscaping

Staining SHOH Fence

Twin-Size Sheet Sets

New Pillows

New Bath Towels

Laundry Baskets

Baby Wipes

Personal Planners

## GARAGE SALE BENEFIT AUGUST 1ST-3RD

Kevin and Rita Bradley are participating in Spencer's Garage Sale Day's again this year, and all proceeds are going to Shirley's House of Hope! You can visit their Garage Sale at 806 W Roberts St from Thursday, August 1st to Saturday, August 3rd, starting at 8:00 am each day. We can't wait to see you there!

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE A LEGACY - Partner with Shirley's House of Hope for National Make a Will Month

Have you planned for the future yet? August is National Make a Will Month. This month serves as a crucial reminder to ensure your wishes are honored and your loved ones are cared for after you're gone. You can take it a step further this year by including a legacy gift for Shirley's House of Hope in your will and continue your partnership for the cause you care about.

Making a will may be a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be! FreeWill is a Public Benefit Corporation dedicated to streamlining the will and estate-planning process so that you can rest easy knowing your assets are secure and your desires are fulfilled. Their platform is easy-to-use and free! For more information, go to [www.FreeWill.com](http://www.FreeWill.com).





# Your gift today can be the first step for another woman like Diane.

Women in our community like Diane are looking for a safe place to heal from domestic abuse and drug and alcohol addictions. Through your generous partnership, women continue to receive the life-giving care provided by Shirley's House of Hope, through the love of Christ Jesus. The Recovery Program includes food, clothing, shelter, classes, case management, counseling, and accountability to ensure each woman is supported and given the tools she needs to break free. The average cost to care for a woman and her children is \$130 per day. Your gift today can help another woman and her children break the horrific cycle of abuse and addiction.

## 2024 Fundraising Budget Progress

Shirley's House of Hope is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that receives no government funding and is supported entirely by the generosity of our donors. Thank you for your loyal partnership and care.



31%

CURRENT AMT RAISED: \$208,323\*

GOAL: \$676,248

\*At the time this publication was written

## SAVE THE DATE!

### The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Iron Chef/Silent and Live Auction

**Thursday, November 7th 2024** — 5:30 – 8:30 pm — Hotel Marshfield

Watch as local area chefs face off in a culinary competition and race against the clock to create the best dish out of a mystery meat for a panel of judges!

YOU get to be the judge, too! All guests will taste and evaluate each contender's appetizer to determine which chef will receive the People's Choice Award. A full meal from Hotel Marshfield's chef will be served as well.

Keep an eye out for the Iron Chef Silent Auction, opening in mid-October!



Shirley's  
HOUSE OF HOPE