



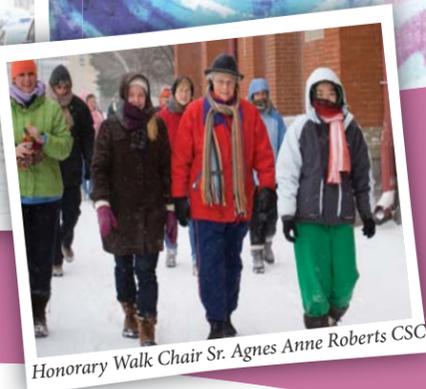
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For advance registration and more information please visit:  
[www.stmargarethouse.org](http://www.stmargarethouse.org)

Join Us for **Winter Walk**

Sunday, February 15

2:30 pm

Start/registration location

**County City Building**

Registration begins at 1:30pm



Read Baby Read  
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Timeline

Through  
the  
Years  
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Winter Walk  
Sign Up  
Insert

# HAPPENINGS

February 2015

Vol. 25 No. 1

News & Notes from St. Margaret's House ~ Improving the Lives of Women and Children

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me.

~ Matthew 25:35-36

## Celebrating 25 Years of opening doors to the community!

Twenty-five years ago on June 18, 1990, St. Margaret's House excitedly opened their doors to the community for the first time. And although no one came that day, there was no shortage of dreams as written in the journal kept by our founders.

June 18, 1990 Opening Day

*"A beautiful sunny day for a new beginning.*

*The possibilities for this project are endless." Dreaming of things on our wish list I came up with even a sandbox and an easel. Prayerfully, someone or some people might donate these and other items. We envision a quiet area for the children, and another one for the adults; a common ground for group activities for the children like finger play, singing games, a dressing table area for changing baby's diapers. It's been nice dreaming of having these things. Prayerfully they'll all come true."*

Please join in over the next year as we celebrate 25 years of opening doors to the community!



**Mark your calendars**



2/15/2015

Winter Walk

6/18/2015

25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

7/22/2015

South Bend Cubs Night at Four Winds Field

9/17-9/18 2015

MNC Radiothon

10/29/2015

Fashioning Our Lives



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Someone once asked our founder, Sarah Tracy, about the work of St. Margaret's House, "Well, what exactly do you do?" Sarah responded, "That's the wrong question. The question is not about what we do but who we are." The answer to who we are is as certain as the words, "a community of hospitality" and as mysterious and complex as each person who walks through our doors. In a recent survey, the guests described St. Margaret's House in one to three words. Here is what they wrote: a blessed atmosphere, restorative, kind, a very very nice place to go, loving, sincere, friendly, a safe place, a place to find hope, warm, a blessing, full of love, God's gift to me, life-giving, generous, caring, a haven for women and children.

We are grateful to Sarah and her founding volunteers who had the vision, courage and tenacity to open the doors of St. Margaret's House. Because of her, members of the Episcopal Church, our community partners, our volunteers, donors and staff, we have been able to be a community that has opened doors to hope for thousands of women for 25 years.

~Kathryn A. Schneider,  
M.Div.

## Read Baby Read

Did you know...

- Over 300 children in St. Joseph County are on the waiting list for Head Start.
- 61% of children in South Bend live in homes without books.
- 50% of children cannot write their name upon entering kindergarten.

These statistics describe the children who come each day to St. Margaret's House. 100% of the children who visit us are in families that live below the federal poverty line. Almost 50% live in homes that have incomes of less than \$500

In response to this, St. Margaret's House embraced a program called "Read Baby Read." The growth we have seen since this program began has been remarkable. At first, pre-school children would sit for a moment and then walk away. Many of the children did not even know how to even open a book. Now, as community volunteer Toni Fein comes each week, a group of children run to her and sit through whole books as she reads. As mothers have recognized the ability of their children to listen to stories, they too have become engaged and have started learning from Toni and reading to their children.



## Christmas at St. Margaret's House

Donations came from far and wide to ensure our St. Margaret's House guests had a wonderful holiday season. Through your generosity over 2,000 gifts were given this holiday season!



We love all our volunteer cooks!

## Want to get involved?

DONATE NEEDED ITEMS

- Women's clothing: Esp. sizes 20+
- Conference room table
- Walking shoes
- Underwear
- School uniforms
- Forks, spoons

VOLUNTEER WITH US

We are looking for:

- Clerical help
- Cook/Kitchen help
- Handyman or woman to help on an as needed basis

Please consider including St. Margaret's House in your estate planning.

## 25 YEARS of opening doors to the community



Find us on Facebook!