



2024
In Review
page 2



Get
involved!
page 3



Join us for
Winter Walk
front &
back covers

HAPPENINGS

Winter 2025
Vol. 35, No. 1

News & Notes from St. Margaret's House ~ Creating community. Changing lives.

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



A new look at walking a mile in her shoes.

Each winter for 26 years, we have held **Winter Walk** to raise funds for and awareness of our work with women who rely on their feet for their transportation—no matter the weather. This year, we've added some exciting new elements to the experience!

NEW START LOCATION: Winter Walk will launch from **South Bend City Church**, located in the beautifully renovated South Bend Tribune Building. Doors open at 1:00pm. After a brief welcome rally at 1:50 pm, the walk will kick off at 2:00pm.

NEW ROUTE: Our one-mile route will have an interactive component, highlighting the places and paths that are part of the daily lives of many of our guests.

NEW TOUR EXPERIENCE: We finish the walk at St. Margaret's House, where we'll continue reflecting on what it means to belong in this place of friendship, hope, and support—with stops throughout the building to learn more about this work. And as usual, there will be homemade cookies, hot cocoa, popcorn, live music, and plenty of fun.

Please join us!

Winter Walk

Sunday, February 16

REGISTER NOW
stmargarethouse.org

AROUND THE HOUSE: BY THE NUMBERS IN 2024



This past year, **1,022** women visited St. Margaret's House **13,618** times, our highest numbers in over a decade.

"St. Margaret's House helps me feel more loving and kind to others—and knowing I can handle anything."

"Being here helps me think better so that I can know what to do with my next move."

~quotes from 2024 Guest Survey

We recently launched a new guest database to track visits and services to better support the many things that happen here. In this process, we discovered that since 2004, St. Margaret's House has had **a quarter of a million guest visits!**

In 2024, we had **2000+** one-on-one appointments with guests to provide emotional support, advocacy, resources, advice, and help with practical needs like job searches and paperwork. In these appointments, we advocate for individuals and offer consistent encouragement.

"You can talk to staff about anything."

"St. Margaret's House helped me when I couldn't help myself. There is not enough paper in the world to hold my appreciation!"

~quotes from 2024 Guest Survey



In 2024, **418** volunteers served for **11,388** hours—the equivalent of **6** full-time employees!

"I feel like family when I come to St. Margaret's House."

"I appreciate the love they give to all people."

~quotes from 2024 Guest Survey



A Saving Paradox

A paradox is something that seems counter to common sense and reason, but is nonetheless true. Recent days at St. Margaret's House have reminded me of the paradox that God dwells in a special way among the most vulnerable and marginalized.



Together with our community partners, we scrambled to make sure that no human being slept outside during the recent string of frigid winter nights. Susan,* a guest we helped to get out of the cold, bears witness to the abundance of God in the midst of our dominant culture that would instead have us believe there is not enough to go around for everyone. Despite having so little security herself (no safe, steady place to sleep or leave her belongings, no dependable phone or transportation, reliant upon places like St. Margaret's House for hot, nutritious food), Susan is quick to share what she does have. When given two hot breakfast burritos and two juicy oranges to last her through the day, she said, "These look so good. I need to share them with my friends."

Susan has an acute understanding that we belong to one another. While grateful for the warm room and bed we provided so she could get her frostbitten hands and feet out of the cold for a few days, she couldn't wait to get back to check on her circle of friends. They are how she survives the inhumanities of homelessness. They look out for each other.

Susan sometimes has no choice but to do things she's not proud of just to survive. But, paradoxically, God feels close at hand when I am with Susan. She reminds me of the simple yet radical ways of the Kingdom: sharing what we have; taking seriously our responsibility to each other.

Thank you to all who support the vital work we do here. In doing so, you are standing with the Susans of the world in affirming that there is enough to go around, and that it's up to us to prove it so.

I hope to see you all at Winter Walk!

Katie Elliot, M.Div., Ph.D., Executive Director

*Name has been changed.

Make a gift.

The majority of our funding comes from individuals like you who believe in the life-changing work of St. Margaret's House.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Donation amount: \$50 \$100 \$200 other: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to St. Margaret's House and mail to:
St. Margaret's House • 117 N. Lafayette Blvd. • South Bend, IN 46601

I have included St. Margaret's House in my estate plan.

I would like more information about estate planning.

Donate online at stmargarethouse.org
or scan this QR code.

Thank you for your generosity!



Volunteer with us.

Be a part of the amazing work of St. Margaret's House! We have weekly opportunities on our Kitchen Team, Front Desk Team, and In-Kind Donations Team. To learn more, please submit a form on our website or contact Felicia Metoyer at felicia@stmargarethouse.org

Donate items.

We are currently accepting women's and children's **winter clothing** that is clean and in good condition. We also need:

- pants: jeans, leggings, sweat pants, black pants
- small housewares: dishes, pots & pans, silverware
- blankets, towels, sheets
- women's new socks
- full-size bottles of lotion, deodorant

We are accepting donations on **Thursdays 10am-4pm**. Please check our website for more details. Thank you!

St. Margaret's House *Happenings* is published three times each year.

St. Margaret's House is a project of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana and the Cathedral of Saint James, South Bend, Indiana.

The scarf used in the design of this newsletter was created by St. Margaret's House Silk Creations artist Patricka Williams.



117 N. LAFAYETTE BLVD.
SOUTH BEND, IN 46601

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

stmargarethouse.org
574.234.7795



Winter Walk

Sunday, February 16

The Walk kicks off from **South Bend City Church**.
Doors open at 1:00pm and Walk begins at 2:00pm.

The one-mile route ends at St. Margaret's House
for a reception with homemade cookies, hot cocoa,
live music, building tours, artist demos, and more!

REGISTER AT stmargarethouse.org

THANK YOU TO OUR LEAD SPONSORS:



AND OUR MAJOR SPONSORS:

