



Happenings

Fall 2025 | Vol. 35, No. 3

NEWS & NOTES FROM ST. MARGARET'S HOUSE | *Creating community, changing lives.*

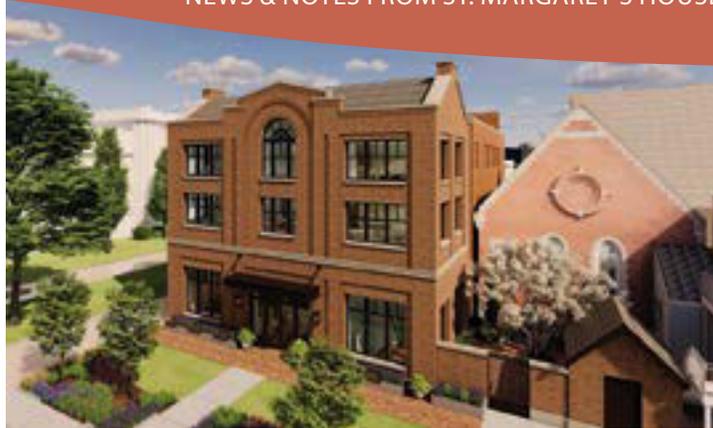
St. Margaret's House expands for the future

At St. Margaret's House, every meal shared, every warm shower offered, every quiet moment of rest confirms what our founders knew 35 years ago—that hope grows when people are cared for with dignity and love.

We are thrilled to announce a transformative new chapter in the St. Margaret's House story—the renovation and expansion of our building! This project will create a safer, more beautiful, and more flexible space designed by and for the women who find a sense of home here. With this expansion, we'll also be able to extend our hours and offer more programs and services to meet the growing needs of our community.

Would you like to learn more?

Scan here or visit our website to see floor plans, images, and to learn how you can be a part of this incredible project for our community.



EXTERIOR: *Our main entrance moves to the south side of the building at ground level. An enclosed courtyard garden spans the space between our building and the Cathedral of Saint James.*



RECEPTION AREA: *Guests enter through an inviting vestibule and will be welcomed with a smile at a beautiful front desk. The steps lead to the dining area which is also accessible by a new elevator.*



DINING AREA: *We will add 6,500 square feet to our dining and commons area—allowing us to serve 50% more women and children each day. Images are architect's renderings of proposed designs.*

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Our dining area expands from **60 to 90 seats** to allow us to serve more people each day.



Our renovated building will have **50% more space** with additional room for programming, rest, and reflection — including a chapel/tranquility room and multiple program rooms.



New laundry facilities will allow guests to wash up to **3,000 loads** of laundry each year.



Our **expanded Art Studio** will enable more women to explore creativity and self-expression.



A private **courtyard garden** will offer a safe and restorative space to connect with nature.

CALENDAR

 **Thursday, November 20**
Last Day for Clothing Donations
During the construction period, we will not be able to accept clothing donations.

 **Wednesday, November 26**
Thanksgiving Feast
We will enjoy a traditional feast thanks to Notre Dame Campus Dining and staff from the City of South Bend.

 **Friday, December 12**
Guest Christmas Luncheon
This annual and much-anticipated celebration is made possible by many volunteers, including Whole Foods Market.

 **December 17–23**
Christmas Shoppe
Guests can select Christmas gifts for themselves and their family members. To donate gifts or volunteer as one of Santa's elves, please visit our website.

 **Friday, January 2, 2026**
Relocation to the Cathedral
We will begin offering services from our temporary location in the Cathedral of Saint James.

 **Sunday, February 15, 2026**
27th Annual Winter Walk
Join us for our “Under Construction” edition of Winter Walk, with kick-off at South Bend City Church.



AROUND THE HOUSE: **Sharing the joy of food.**

This summer and fall, St. Margaret's House introduced **Good Eatin'**, our new initiative led by local nutritionist Tama Crisovan. Created to help women feel more confident and at peace with food, the program combines education, tasting, and conversation.

Over the course of six sessions, Tama meets with guests (*pictured above*) to explore common food misconceptions, share practical tips, and sample healthy, affordable dishes made with ingredients often found in food pantries.

“Food is a lifestyle. We make so many little choices every day,” Tama explained. “We all want to be nourished. The way you eat is a form of self-love.”

Tama is also working closely with our kitchen staff and volunteer cooks to review our meal program. Together, they identify simple, affordable ways to make our menus even more nourishing—adding more fiber, using fewer artificial ingredients, and ensuring every plate reflects care and dignity.

“I want to affirm people's knowledge while introducing new ideas about eating,” Tama said. Through *Good Eatin'*, she's helping us see that healthy food isn't just about nutrition—it's about community, confidence, and love.

BY THE NUMBERS: **A bountiful summer harvest.**

This summer, the **Growing Together Garden** grew 17 different fruits and vegetables for meals served at St. Margaret's House! This project is made possible through a collaboration of the Purdue Extension Master Gardeners and Unity Gardens. We are so very grateful for their hard work and especially: the delicious bounty.



Give the gift of Silk Creations.

Find beautiful Christmas gifts!

Prince of Peace
Church of the Brethren
Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday,
December 6
9am–2pm



We have a new look and redesigned website!

For the first time in our 35-year history, St. Margaret's House has a brand-new logo—designed with care to reflect who we are today and where we're headed.

We invite you to explore the story behind our rebrand and take a peek at our redesigned website by scanning here or visiting stmargarethouse.org



  Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
stmargarethouse.org

DIRECTOR'S CORNER: **Because beauty heals.**

The renovated and expanded St. Margaret's House will be a safer, more flexible space fit for the increased demand for our services and complexity of needs we face daily. Even more importantly, it will also announce to everyone who sees it that South Bend is a generous and compassionate community that properly cares for women and children.

Our new building will be a visible testament, in the heart of downtown, to a belief that is deeply rooted in the Christian tradition:

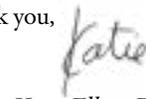
that the goods of the earth are a gift to the entire human race, not just a select few. We are building a thoughtful, intentional space—using natural materials like brick, glass, and wood as much as possible—because our guests, especially, need and deserve access to beauty and its healing properties.

For more than two years, we have been working with a trauma-informed designer and architect to translate our guests' ideas of beauty and healing into every design touch. The deep burgundy color on some of the walls? Our guests chose that. It helps them feel grounded when so much else in their lives feels up in the air. There will

be a chapel/tranquility space that is always open because our guests told us they need a dedicated space to gather themselves, to pray, and to grieve. Time and again, our guests named their longing for access to nature that feels safe, so we are building a secure outdoor courtyard garden. The fabrics you'll feel on our chairs and couches? They definitely won't be the fabric that one guest told us reminds her of the blankets used in jail.

Thanks to our lead donors, we already have more than \$5 million of the \$7.5M we need for the new building. The next step is to raise \$1M from you—our community of faithful supporters—to get us over the \$6M hump. With \$6M in hand, two extraordinary opportunities open up that will allow us to reach our goal of \$7.5M.

My invitation to you is two-fold. First and foremost, please continue your usual financial support that helps us meet the needs of the women and children who walk through our doors each day—your annual support is critical to our mission. Secondly, if you have the ability to do so, I invite you to consider also making a meaningful financial investment in this special, once-in-a-generation building project. Thank you,



Katie Elliot, Executive Director



GET INVOLVED

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.

You can donate online at stmargarethouse.org.

If you prefer to send payment by mail, please make checks payable to St. Margaret's House. Thank you for your generosity!



VOLUNTEER.

Share some holiday cheer in December or help as we prepare to relocate our services during construction. Many hands are needed! Visit the "Get Involved" section of our website or contact Felicia Metoyer at felicia@stmargarethouse.org

DONATE ITEMS.

Please note that we are NOT accepting clothing during building construction.

Right now, the items we need most are:

- Christmas gifts (Please see the list on our website)
- blankets
- warm winter gloves
- full-size shampoo/conditioner, lotion, deodorant, razors
- diapers and pull-ups in sizes 5 & 6
- sanitary pads

Please check our website for more details. Thank you!

ATTENTION: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The renovation and expansion of our building will begin in early January 2026. Even while construction is happening, our mission will stay the same: to welcome every woman and child with love, care, and respect.

We expect construction to take at least 12 months. During this time, **St. Margaret's House will be open for services at the Cathedral of Saint James.** Our goal is to minimize disruption and continue as many daily services as possible; including

meals, guest services, and programming. During the construction period, however, we are not able to offer Clothes Closet services for our guests. For this reason, **we cannot accept donated clothing after November 20, 2025.** We will continue to accept toiletries, diapers, pads, and other items as needed.

Please check our website to contact Selina Bauschke at selina@stmargarethouse.org with questions. Thank you for understanding!

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

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



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**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.**

~ Matthew 25:35-36

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Have you heard our big news?