



# *Finding Home in the Heart*

A Capital Campaign for St. Margaret's House



## Our Mission



**Through the healing power of a loving community, St. Margaret's House affirms the dignity of women and children by providing a safe space and meeting essential needs.**



To accomplish our mission, we work every day to:



### Meet Guests' Essential Needs

We attend to essential and immediate needs with a healthy lunch, hot showers, rest, clothing, toiletries, and access to phone, mail, and computers.



### Provide Guest Services & Programming

We provide individual attention, referrals, and programs to help women take concrete steps to improve their lives.



### Build Relationships

We welcome women and children into a safe community of care and support that changes lives.

### For 36 years, we have addressed needs with care and compassion.

In our 2025 Guest Survey\*, our guests describe St. Margaret's House as a place where basic needs are met with dignity—where hearts and lives are renewed through relationships, encouragement, and hope. Our guests told us:

- *My complete emotional and mental health system was gone and St. Margaret's House has helped me rebuild that.*
- *They always make me feel welcome. I now have somewhere to go that is safe.*
- *Because of St. Margaret's House, I now have 13 years clean.*
- *They were there for me when I had no one.*
- *Safe, welcoming place during a time when I needed stability.*
- *I've begun to love myself more.*



**61%**

of our guests have an income of less than \$1,000 per month\*

For nearly

**8 in 10**

of our guests, "home" is uncertain—from homelessness to unsafe or temporary housing\*

\*Data and quotes from St. Margaret's House Annual Guest Survey, August 2025

## The Challenges

### On an average day at St. Margaret's House, we see...

75–100 women  
seeking safety  
and community  
assistance

5-10 guests  
experiencing  
symptoms of  
withdrawal

5-10 guests  
with untreated  
serious mental  
illness

**Moments  
of Grace**

Staff on  
constant alert  
ready to  
de-escalate

Situations  
with no  
resolution  
available

*“Our space stresses everyone. The over-stimulation does not help. You can't hear yourself talk or think.”*

~ Staff member

*“When you enter the first floor and the dining area, it's overwhelming. You're accosted with so many people, the smells, the sounds, so much activity. It's a lot!”*

~Volunteer

*“The walls here remind me of a jailhouse.”*

~ Guest

**Our guests deserve** a safe,  
hospitable, trauma-informed space  
that supports these intersecting realities.



**We envision** a space that represents and reflects the needs and the identity of our community.

Months of thoughtful research, listening, planning, and community engagement activities have led to a comprehensive building plan for St. Margaret's House.



*"We have a deep respect for the rich tapestry of stories, backgrounds, experiences, and cultures that each person brings to St. Margaret's House. We want to weave that richness into our physical environment."*

— Mary Fran Brandenberger, Former Associate Executive Director

Our guests, volunteers, and staff have participated in the visioning of a safe, healing, beautiful space—including selecting amenities, colors, and finishes.



## In the Heart of South Bend



Our new space will build on our optimal location in the heart of downtown South Bend.



**6,400**

square feet of additional space

**61% increase**

in total square feet

**88% increase**

in square feet of space dedicated to programming

**750% increase**

in square feet of our main vestibule and entryway

**65% increase**

in the size of our main dining and common room

**828% increase**

in square feet of space dedicated to rest, mental health, and decompression; including a beautiful chapel/tranquility space.



## Increasing Our Capacity



Investing in our physical space will allow us to meet our mission better ... and more expansively:

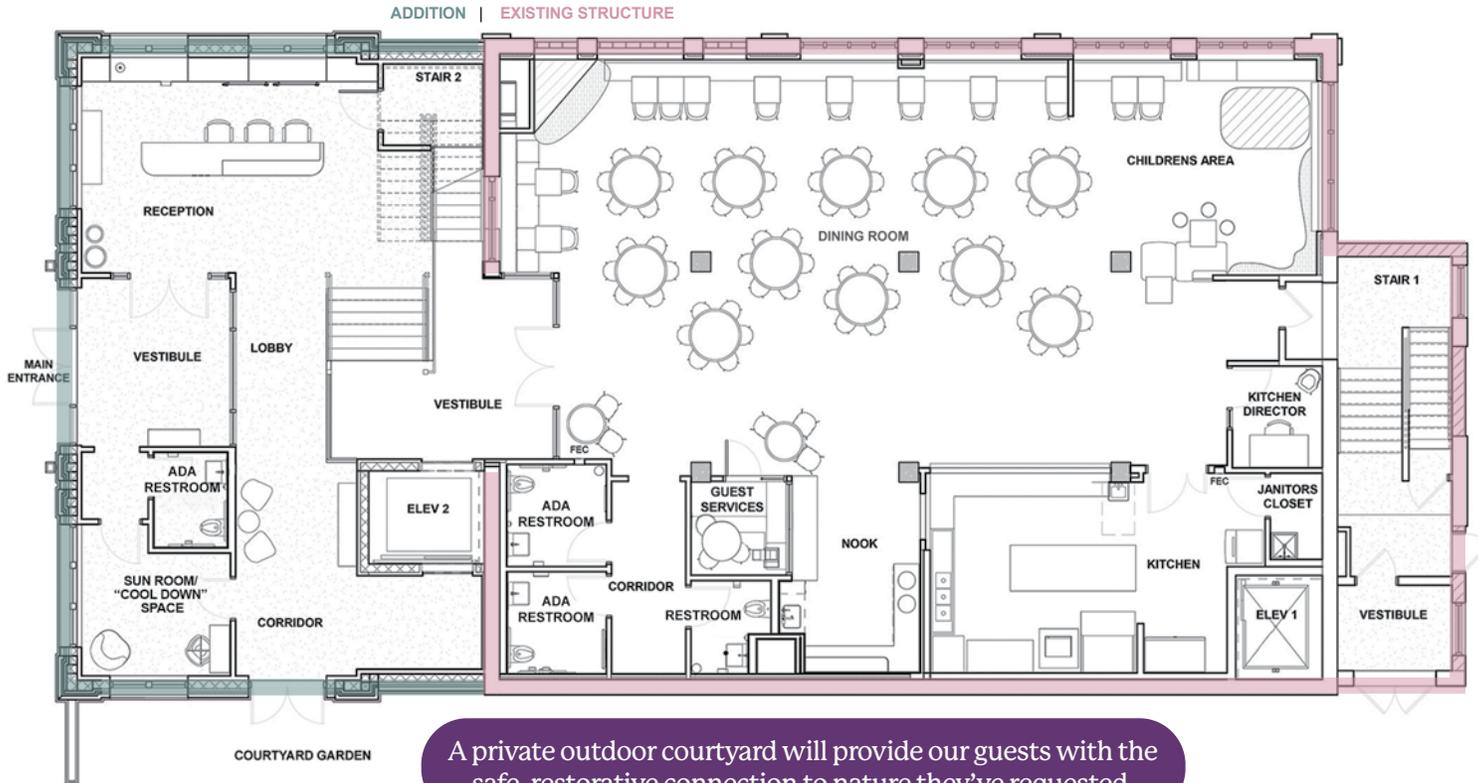
	CURRENT CAPACITY	PROJECTED CAPACITY
Increased capacity for meal service and community in the dining area	15,600 meals per year 60 guests per day (cramped)	23,400 meals per year 90 guests per day (comfortably)
Increased programming offerings	1 formal programming room	3 formal programming rooms
Laundry access for guests	Not currently available	up to 3000 loads per year (12 loads of guest laundry per day)
Increased hours of operation to meet critical gaps	10am – 3pm	8am – 6pm (in phases, as revenue allows)
Addition of full hot breakfast	Continental breakfast and hot lunch daily	Freshly prepared hot breakfast and hot lunch daily

## Our New Building

A new southern-facing entrance will ensure St. Margaret's House is more visible to the greater community.

*Architect's rendering of proposed design for building exterior.*

## FIRST FLOOR/GRADE LEVEL | ENTRANCE + RECEPTION | DINING ROOM



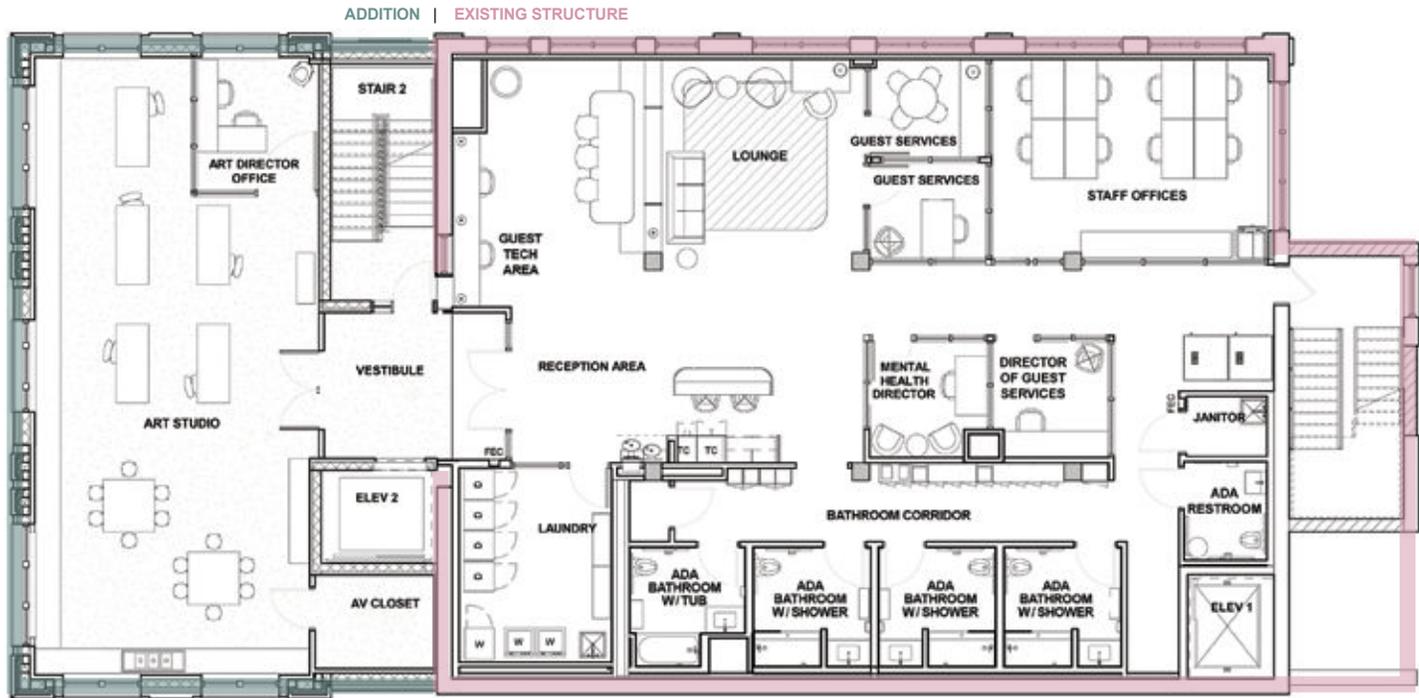
## Our New Entrance

Placing our reception desk next to the vestibule will allow us to welcome guests face-to-face, rather than by security camera.

*Architect's rendering of proposed design for reception area.*

# Our New Second Floor

## SECOND FLOOR | GUEST SERVICES | LAUNDRY + SHOWER/BATH AREA | ART STUDIO



Our second floor features more one-on-one meeting spaces, added laundry facilities, and an expanded shower/bathroom area. The Art Studio moves from the third floor, with extra space to welcome new artists.

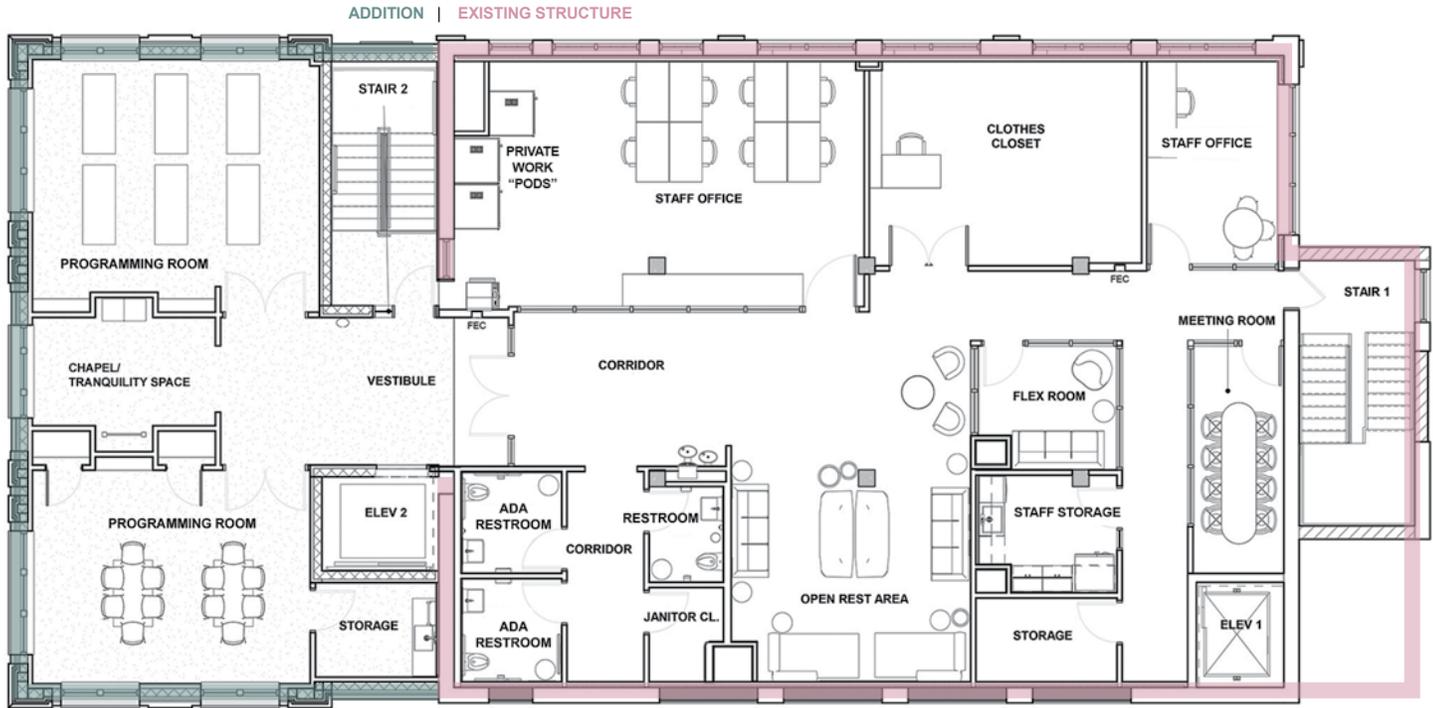


We've expanded the dining and commons area by 65%, allowing us to increase the number of people we serve each day.

*Architect's rendering of proposed design for dining area.*

# Our New Third Floor

## THIRD FLOOR | PROGRAMMING SPACES | CLOTHES CLOSET | REST AREA | OFFICES



Our third floor offers an improved layout with two formal programming rooms, a purposefully designed Clothes Closet, a more dignified resting area, and a beautiful new chapel/tranquility space.

# An Invitation



This is more than bricks and mortar.

It is hope.

It is dignity.

It is home.

Please join us in building it.

## Project Timeline

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Design Development & Refinement + Workshops with Guests/Staff/Volunteers				
	Capital Campaign: "Quiet" Phase		"Public" Phase	
		Final Pricing/Construction Documents		
			Relocation of Services to Cathedral	
			Construction Phase	
				Move-In

## Project Budget

**CONSTRUCTION COSTS TOTAL**            **\$6,789,350**

**OTHER PROJECT COSTS TOTAL**        **\$1,210,650**

Professional fees & consultants

Furniture, fixtures & equipment

Technology & safety

Miscellaneous fees

Project cost contingency

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**Total Investment**                        **\$8,000,000**



When this campaign launched publicly, we shared a bold vision — and the community has responded.

**To date, we have raised more than two-thirds of the project’s \$8M cost,** a sign of the community’s remarkable trust in and support for St. Margaret’s House.



# St. Margaret's House

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*Portraits in this piece feature the women of our St. Margaret's House community. Photography by Emily Allison, Hey Sisters! Photography*