



Happenings

Spring 2026 | Vol. 36, No. 2

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

More Than Bricks: *Bringing our new home to life*

We can't fix all that is broken in our world, but we can make sure that, within these walls, women continue to find the welcome and gentleness they don't find "out there." This conviction started us down the path, three years ago now, to dreaming and designing the building we need to keep pace with the increasing complexity of need among our guests. Our current home was built more than 100 years ago to be a printing press—not a place of solace and healing for women.

To change that, our St. Margaret's House community—including our guests—has been working extensively with a trauma-informed designer and architect to vision a renovated and expanded space where we can thrive for decades more to come. It was a bold thing to ask our network of friends and supporters—this entire community—to stand with us as we set out to raise the \$8.5 million needed to make this vision a reality.

Today, our hearts are filled with immense gratitude and awe as we report that, together, this network has successfully raised the full \$8.5 million! To those of you who have already given so sacrificially to this capital campaign: thank you for laying this incredible foundation. Construction has started and is slated to conclude in Summer 2027. We feel the strength of everyone in our network standing with us in the belief that our guests need and deserve a place to call their own that is worthy of their God-given dignity. In the words of poet Cole Arthur Riley:

"To make a home—to construct some small site of resistance where you have agency; where you might breathe a little deeper, where you hold the key—is no minor liberation."

While bricks and mortar play an important role in making possible this kind of liberation—when a woman can truly rest and feel like she belongs—that \$8.5 million only funds the physical structure. What happens within those walls is what gives them life. To live into our new building as expansively as we dream to, we must ensure that our daily care, our programming, and our hospitality can rise to meet the realities our guests face every single day, both now and in the future.

St. Margaret's House has the trust of the women we serve, a wonderful relationship with countless community partners, and a loyal network of supporters. We are poised to deepen our impact. For those who funded our building, your gift is already at work; for those looking to join us today, we invite you to stand with us financially to sustain the vital, daily work that will make our new building a home.



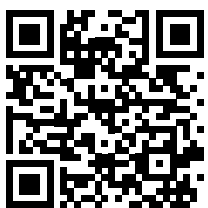
Exterior BEFORE (facing Washington St.) AFTER (rendering)



Entrance BEFORE AFTER (rendering)



Dining area BEFORE AFTER (rendering)



Join us for our **Groundbreaking Celebration!**
Thursday, June 25 • 1:00pm • St. Margaret's House

We're breaking ground, St. Margaret's House style! Join our community for a joyful celebration of new beginnings. Together, we will bless this sacred space, leaving messages of love and hope that will uphold the walls of our future. You've been an important part of our history—you won't want to miss our next chapter!

◀ *Scan here for more details and to donate.*

CALENDAR

📅 Thursday, June 18

Anniversary of our Founding

Since 1990, St. Margaret's House has been a safe haven for women and children in South Bend. We are grateful for the community support that allows us to continue affirming the dignity of our guests every day.

📅 Thursday, June 25

Groundbreaking Celebration

Please join us for this exciting celebration of a special moment in our history! *See front cover for details.*

📅 Calendar change.

Shortcakes on the Blacktop

Many people have asked about this delicious annual tradition. Due to ongoing construction, the Cathedral of Saint James will **not** host Shortcakes on the Blacktop this year. We are grateful for the years of support this event has provided to St. Margaret's House!

📅 Summer Field Trips.

In the midst of our construction project, we are excited for our summer field trips, including the annual Guest Picnic, Potawatomi Zoo, Prairie Winds Nature Farm, Unity Gardens, and the South Bend Cubs.

📅 Saturday, August 15

Art Beat

Join us for the largest annual event in downtown South Bend, where the streets fill with performing, visual, and culinary artists for a day-long celebration. Our Silk Creations artists will be exhibiting their beautiful, hand-painted work again this year. Be sure to find our booth!

Check our website for more details:
stmargarethouse.org

The scarf featured in the design of this newsletter was hand painted by Silk Creations artists Alma and Ravini.

AROUND THE HOUSE: Spring has sprung at SMH.

Finding peace and connection. ▶

Our guests enjoyed a day of renewal and prayer at our annual Guest Retreat, hosted by **the Sisters of the Holy Cross**. Surrounded by the serene beauty of the convent grounds, guests practiced “forest bathing” and personalized their *Glimmer Journals*, tools to help capture small moments of daily joy and peace. We are deeply grateful to the Sisters for providing this sacred space for reflection and community.



◀ Honoring the best.

We are proud to announce that our own **Annie Maguire**, Guest Services Associate, has been named to the **Michiana Forty under 40** Class of 2026! This prestigious award recognizes young professionals for their community impact and leadership. Whether Annie is providing crisis intervention, leading bilingual programming, or managing case work, her “relentless yet gentle advocacy” transforms the lives of the women we serve. Congratulations, Annie!

Racing for our community. ▶

Along with staff members Selina Bauschke and Felicia Metoyer, we were honored to join our friends at **Tire Rack** for their official Indy 500 “Front Porch” event! Porch Parties are a beloved tradition that showcases the support for the Indy 500 race throughout Indiana. While our building project means our annual drive to collect underwear was a bit smaller this year, we were thrilled to share the spirit of the Undie 500 with race fans.



◀ Celebrating our volunteers.

Our downtown neighbor, **Fiddler's Hearth**, hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. These past few months have brought unique challenges as we transitioned to a temporary location in the Cathedral of Saint James during our building renovation. We simply couldn't do this work without the hands, hearts, and unwavering commitment of our volunteers. Thank you!

BY THE NUMBERS: The value of volunteers.

In 2025, our incredible community of **373 active volunteers** donated a staggering **12,094 hours** of service—a contribution valued at **\$405,028** that directly fuels our mission and provides essential support for our guests!

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

AN INTERN'S EXPERIENCE: **The power of listening.**

It is a little before noon and the delicious smell of warm casserole wafts through the dining room. Cheery spring flowers decorate the dozen tables. As we await the announcements and prayers that signal the start of lunch, I am chatting with a guest. "What is special about St. Margaret's House is there is always someone to talk to," this silver-haired woman said. "People *listen* here."

As a Master's Degree student in Mental Health Counseling at IU South Bend, I am fascinated by the power of talking and listening. I interned at St. Margaret's House this spring, where I had the privilege of seeing its power in action. At lunch, we sit together in community—staff, volunteers, and guests. Women share small talk, laughter, and sometimes deeper stories.

I heard about a medical emergency that started a cascade to homelessness. Perilous escapes from domestic violence. Addiction and the climb to recovery. We also showed each other favorite photos from our phones, chatted about our kids or grandkids, and found much to laugh about together. Again and again, I was



profoundly inspired by our guests' ability to seek and find joy in the everyday, even in the midst of enormous challenges.

A highlight was co-leading a class on emotions with Susan St. Ville, our Mental Health/Trauma Specialist. Tears sometimes flowed as women knew they would be understood and not judged. They were quick to support each other, sharing what had gotten them through their own dark times. They offered each other heartfelt affirmations born of lived experience: *You can do this!* and *God is there for you!*

At another lunch, I chatted with a guest who had been coming to St Margaret's House for years. She shared with our table funny stories of her mischievous dog. After our apple cobblers were finished, she began to tear up, recounting a loved one's recent traumatic injury. Eventually, she brightened. "I was really struggling with sadness today. I knew I needed to come to St. Margaret's House. I feel like a weight has been lifted. This is where I should be."

~ Jennifer King Lindley, Intern (above left, with Sabrina)

GET INVOLVED

MAKE A GIFT.

The life-changing work of St. Margaret's House is powered by neighbors like you. Your support affirms the dignity of our guests and ensures they receive the care they deserve.

You can donate online at stmargarethouse.org.

If you prefer to send payment by mail, please make checks payable to St. Margaret's House. See our graphic (below, left)



for information about ways to donate. Your generosity makes an important difference. Thank you!

Four ways to give. All benefit St. Margaret's House.

As you consider your giving strategy this year, here are some helpful options to keep in mind and discuss with your tax advisor.

<h3>1 EVERYDAY GIVING</h3> <p>Give from what's available today.</p>	<h3>2 ASSET-BASED GIVING</h3> <p>Give from what you've built.</p>	<h3>3 DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS (DAFs)</h3> <p>Give now, decide later.</p>	<h3>4 PLANNED & LEGACY GIVING</h3> <p>Give from your life's legacy.</p>
<p>How it works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash, check, or online gifts made from your monthly budget. Provides immediate support: meals, safety, and care for our guests. <p>2026 note: <i>New tax changes may allow a charitable deduction even if you don't itemize—making it easier to start giving.</i></p> <p>Best for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-time donors Consistent, monthly support Immediate impact 	<p>How it works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donate appreciated assets like stocks or give directly from retirement accounts (like Qualified Charitable Distributions). You may reduce taxes on capital gains or required distributions while making a larger gift than cash alone. <p>Best for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donors with investment assets Those age 70½+ (QCDs) Maximizing tax efficiency <p>Simple takeaway: <i>Increase your impact—without increasing your cost.</i></p>	<p>How it works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to a charitable fund, receive an immediate tax benefit, and designate grants to St. Margaret's House over time. <p>Why it matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates flexibility, especially in higher income years and allows for more intentional, planned generosity. <p>Best for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bundling charitable gifts Strategic, long-term giving Families building a culture of philanthropy <p>Simple takeaway: <i>Plan now and support your community for years.</i></p>	<p>How it works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include SMH in your will, retirement plan, or estate. <p>Why it matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows you to make a transformational gift—often far larger than what's possible during your lifetime—while still caring for your loved ones. <p>Best for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term impact Values-driven estate planning Leaving a lasting legacy <p>Simple takeaway: <i>Your values can live on for generations.</i></p>

Learn more on our website: stmargarethouse.org or contact us to discuss giving options.

VOLUNTEER.

You can help us during the summer months while our local college student volunteers are on summer break. Please 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.

Our current needs include:

- full-size shampoo/conditioner, lotion, and deodorant.
- diapers and pull-ups in sizes 5 & 6
- sanitary pads

Please check our website for more details regarding ongoing needs. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

stmargarethouse.org





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For I was hungry and
you gave me food,
I was thirsty and
you gave me drink,
a stranger and you
welcomed me, naked
and you clothed me.

~ Matthew 25:35-36

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

An \$8.5 million milestone. A Groundbreaking like no other.

Check inside to:

- Get your invitation to our **Groundbreaking Celebration Thursday, June 25.**
- See the before-and-after construction renderings.
- Find out how you can help bring our new home to life.

