

Our First Year Reflection

WOW, Time flies! It's been a year since the Lord placed us here in NW Ohio to serve Him among the homeless at the Sanctuary Homeless Shelter. We have personally observed God transforming people from their emotional and spiritual

brokenness to healing and restoration, from addiction to sobriety, and from homelessness to having a home.

On a personal note, to tell you a little about us, before we moved, as graduate college students, our own family of 4's income was so low that we could never afford anything, often living on rice for weeks at a time. While not technically homeless, we certainly understand being poor experientially! But as we responded to God's call and direction to move here, He provided blessings upon blessings including a 4 bedroom, 2 bath house on N. Cherry St. that we were able to purchase, in addition a trustworthy car and virtually all our home furnishings were donated. A real lesson in His abundant provision if we obey His directions. A lesson we share with those we are privileged to minister to at the Sanctuary.

About our ministry experience, let me say that we were (and still are) a work in progress. Neither of us had ever had a job in ministry nor have we ever had any leadership roles. While we both have Master degree in Theology and also in Counseling, it took some experimenting to find where we best could serve given our individual giftings and personalities. Pastor Mike worked with us as we experimented in the various roles as shelter directors. In the process, we learned all the ins and outs of the job but found that my (Pheba) gifts were best used in counseling the shelter guests and sharing the Gospel with them as well as working with our supporting churches. While Pastor Sam (Sibin) was best suited to handle the administration and day to day activities of the shelter.

Overall, we shared the Good News with over 2250 people this year in various churches and settings and have ministered to 78 families already this year. We have just been so humbled to see God show up in every one of their lives. It was wonderful seeing agnostics develop faith, abused learning how to forgive and move on, abusers humbled into asking forgiveness, grandmothers rising up to be faith leaders in their families, godless men and women becoming faithful, God fearing believers. We see change happening everyday because God shows up everyday at the Sanctuary.

As God keeps showing up day after day at His Sanctuary we invite you to partner with us and God in serving the poor and needy at the Sanctuary Homeless Shelter.

First, we need your prayers both for the ministry and for our family personally. With 2 small children, we often get to "share" the joys of colds as well as both of us have struggled twice with Covid.

Second, the responsibility can be overwhelming at times. Please pray that we set good boundaries for our guests and ourselves. It is very difficult emotionally to ask someone to leave the shelter but it is often a necessary task in order to protect the other guests.

Third, drop by and visit our new prayer room (the green door) or drop in to visit us (red door). We love to talk about what God is doing or invite us to your church to share what God is doing here



The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter



Dear Friends,

November 2022

Each year we average housing about 80-100 families. Almost all of which are from the local 4 county area.

No one wants to be homeless...and no one wants to see them on our streets or in our parks. But the truth is that homelessness is a harsh reality of the 21st century even in rural areas like ours. Almost 30 years ago, God called the Sanctuary to help these “least of these” and with your support we have been faithful.

SOME ENCOURAGING STORIES

Fred moved into his own apartment and is doing great after living in the Sanctuary for 10 months! Having received Jesus as his Savior while in the shelter, he reports that he is keeping his faith strong. He moved from being an emotionally broken, physically limited and spiritually bankrupt man to a joy-filled rejoicing believer who delights in sharing his faith with others.

Sean told us; “I cannot thank you all for what you did to help me get back on my feet. I was wondering why you were so tough and always on my case, but later I realized I needed that pressure to do what I needed to do. So yes, thank you for pushing me to help me work hard, stay on track and to find me an apartment. I just wanted you to know how grateful I am to you all”.

Jessie said, “Thank you for making me and my son feel loved and cared for. Thank you for all you did to support us”.

WILL YOU PLEASE HELP US HELP?

Each year we need to raise nearly \$150,000 to accomplish our calling. In a ministry our size, every dollar makes a difference. We are by the power of the Holy Spirit changing lives...not just for this life but many times for all eternity. But **we need you. It's that simple.**

Enclosed is a mailing envelope for your gift or you can text (430)800-2540 or you can scan this QR Code on the right or you go to <https://bit.ly/3FDnyUp>. If you are on social media, you may also use our Facebook Page: Sanctuary Shelter

**In Christ's Service,
Pheba and Pastor Sam**



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