



Supportive Transitional & Emergency Housing Ministry



Spring 2024  
STEHM is a 501(c)3 organization

Connect with us!  
Phone: 302-655-5568  
Email: [office@STEHM.org](mailto:office@STEHM.org)  
Visit [www.STEHM.org](http://www.STEHM.org)

## Spring – A Season of Hope and Renewal

### *Blessings from Our Community... at Easter and Beyond*



In February, parishioners at Christ Church Christiana Hundred collected items for our Martha House program, including cleaning supplies, household goods, and toiletries.

Brandywine Garden Club continued their support and shared their talents by maintaining and beautifying the Martha House yards, planting beautiful flowers to provide an inviting welcome to our residents. They also gave a jump start to our annual “urban garden,” planting tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, green beans, strawberries and herbs that our residents will be able to harvest and enjoy. Brandywine Garden Club, we can’t thank you enough for your hard work and dedication!

We have also continued to receive periodic “surprise pallet” donations from Walmart, for which we are very grateful.

Another blessed Easter was brightened by caring gifts from our supporters. St. Joseph on the Brandywine Church generously provided bags of food for Easter dinner for our Martha House residents, as well as grocery store gift cards. And, not to be outdone by the Easter Bunny, Brandywine Garden Club prepared beautiful Easter baskets for each one of the women and children residing at the Martha Houses.

We are so thankful for the ongoing support we receive from our community -- at every season:

### *A Spring Refresh*

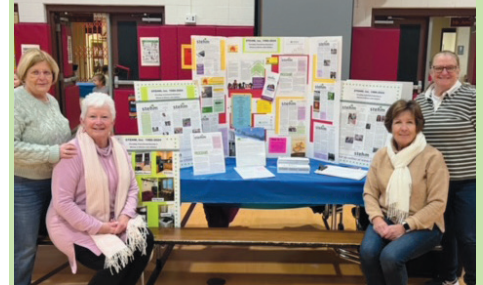
We take pride in maintaining STEHM’s Martha Houses as safe, secure and welcoming facilities where our ladies can get a new start. That maintenance is not always easy however, and, in fact, takes a lot of work, given that the facilities themselves are 100 years old. So we are very fortunate to have a talented “Mr. Fix-it” in board member Rich Curry and his group of volunteers and reliable contractors. Some of the recent projects:

- Repaired plumbing drain lines (Geoff Ryan and Son)
- Repaired and repainted walls and ceiling (Thank you volunteer Wayne Guymon)
- New wall cabinets to improve storage in the laundry room
- New motion sensor lighting to enhance security at entry doors
- New carpeting on the stairway (Installation donated by Carpets & More, Kennett Sq)
- New flooring in the living room and office (Thank you volunteer Mark Meixner)

In addition, the children’s area in both houses received a recent refresh, thanks to a generous donation of toys and art supplies from the Patel family, along with new wall murals, activity desks, and bright and cozy rugs thanks to board member Renate Flannelly.

*Thanks to all of you for sharing your time, talents and dedication.*

### *Get to know STEHM!*



STEHM has served those experiencing homeless in our community for almost 40 years and yet many of our neighbors are still getting to know us. So we are grateful when we have the opportunity to share information about our mission.

- In January, STEHM volunteer Chelsea Wirth invited us to participate in Hillendale Elementary School’s MLK Day of Service / Give Back Day event. Along with several other local nonprofit groups, we were able to set up a display and answer questions about our organization. Students and parents brought donations and high school students volunteering at the event presented us with wonderful inspirational plaques they had painted for the Martha Houses and our residents.

- We were able to offer a presentation about our programs to residents at Cokesbury Village in Hockessin, who also generously collected the always-much-needed household supplies and personal hygiene items.

- In addition, STEHM recently had an information table at a community flea market event at Grace Episcopal Church in Wilmington.

We love to share information about how STEHM is working to improve the lives of unhoused persons in our community, so please let us know if you would like to learn more about us.

## Welcome back, Margaret!

STEHM is delighted to welcome back Margaret Wallace to our staff. Margaret previously worked with us from 2016 to January 2021, and re-joined our staff in November 2023. Margaret serves as manager of our Motel Ministry program, which provides week-long motel vouchers to unhoused people in emergency situations. Since returning, Margaret has made several improvements to that program: negotiating room rates with additional motels, revising the voucher request form for easier follow-up, and ensuring more equitable distribution of the available vouchers among the many agencies we work with. Margaret is also house manager for the Martha House program, scheduling appointments for house-related issues and working with other staff to assist residents as needed.

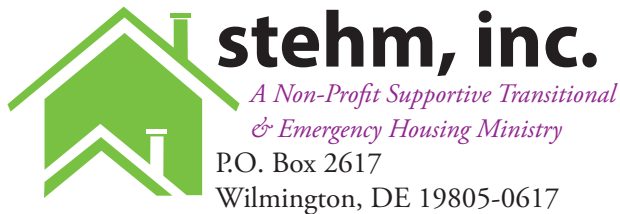
## Success Story: Starting Over

Su was a resident of Martha House for six months. She was a young woman who came to us from a difficult situation and not a lot of family support. Su was working the night shift for Amazon while going to classes to obtain her High School Diploma. After some time, she realized this night shift was too exhausting to keep up while trying to complete her classes in the day. So she located new employment that provided more of a balance so she could complete her goal. Su was very excited that she would soon be graduating and finally obtain her Diploma.

While Su was at Martha House, she engaged in the Financial Independence Pro-

gram provided through our collaboration with West End. She worked to build credit and increase her score, structure a budget and save money.

Su is very independent and soon was able to secure housing for herself. STEHM assisted her with the first month's rent from our Graduate Resident Incentive Program (GRIP) and also provided many household items to get started in her home. She was thrilled to move into her own apartment and was very proud that this would be her first place to call her own! She stated that Martha House is a great program that helps provide a sense of security for women who are starting over. Women just like her.



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## About STEHM

Since 1986, Supportive Transitional and Emergency Housing Ministry (STEHM) has been serving the Wilmington, Delaware area by offering housing solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. The Motel Ministry provides short-term emergency housing for needy or displaced persons, thereby offering respite as well as the opportunity to connect with available services and plan for more permanent shelter. Martha House provides longer-term transitional housing for women and their children, fostering the goal of independent living through counseling and life skills training in a safe, supportive environment.

**Mission:** To provide safe, secure housing and specialized programs for those experiencing homelessness.

**Vision:** A community where everyone has a home in which they can grow and thrive.