



Supportive Transitional & Emergency Housing Ministry

Fall 2024
STEHM is a 501(c)3 organization

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Meet Our New President!

We are pleased to introduce Suzanne Martin as the new president of STEHM’s Board of Directors. Sue first joined our board in late 2015, at the urging of long-time board member, Eileen Mallouk. At that time, many of the public and private grants that STEHM relies on for funding were moving to online formats, including the support received through the Jessie Ball Dupont Foundation and St. Joseph on the Brandywine R.C. Church. Knowing that Sue was tech- and computer-savvy, Eileen convinced Sue to take on the role of liaison for that important effort and she quickly became a valuable member of the grant-writing team.



Chase, focusing on control management and ensuring that proper security and safeguards are in place. And when she’s not working, native plant gardening, yoga, cycling and a general love of the outdoors are key passions for Sue.

It didn’t take long for other members of Sue’s family to get involved with STEHM as well. In 2017, Sue’s son, Andrew, created the Martha Houses’ “urban garden” as his Eagle Scout project. Working with Sue’s husband Eric, her three daughters, and others, Andrew cleared a drab and unused backyard space, built garden beds, secured the area from adjacent yards and alleys, and planted vegetables and herbs that Martha House residents were able to use and enjoy. And seven years later, the success of that project continues to this day, as the garden has become a lovely oasis and a much-enjoyed summer activity for residents year after year.

Sue stated, “I am very excited to serve as STEHM’s President. We have a great group of hard-working and committed board members, and together, there is so much that we can accomplish.” Just a few of her goals for her time as president are: to take a fresh look at how we measure success, given the lack of affordable housing and sky-rocketing rents in our region; to work closely with all of our stakeholders, including the various agencies referring individuals to our programs; and to ensure that our programs build and foster a community that supports unhoused individuals in a manner that serves them well and prepares them for a brighter future.

Remember we told you that Sue is computer and tech-savvy? In her day job, Sue works in technology for J.P. Morgan

*Visit the new
STEHM.Org!*

At long last, STEHM has a brand-new website. We are still at STEHM.org but with a new look and format. Over many years, the website has gone through various iterations as it was passed from one volunteer to another, each adding changes and enhancements based on their own skills and background. The problem was, when the next volunteer took over, they didn’t necessarily know how to maneuver in the existing framework. So, over time, the website became increasingly unwieldy and unstable. Enter board member Stacy Smith Tyson and DreamHost, a company offering website hosting, development and support services. With an up-to-date and easier-to-maintain structure, as well as ongoing support, the new website will allow us to better connect (and stay connected!) with you. Give the all new STEHM.org a try and let us know what you think.

Thankful In Every Season

STEHM is blessed to have wonderful support throughout the year from so many organizations and individuals in our community.

With a donation from the Female Benevolent Society, STEHM was able to purchase bus passes for the ladies residing in our Martha Houses. Many of the residents there do not have cars and are dependent on public transportation to get to their jobs and other appointments.

We received a wonderful donation of always-needed paper and cleaning supplies for the Martha Houses along with a monetary donation from Grace Episcopal Church in Wilmington.

For 20 years, supporters John and Kathy have regularly contacted our STEHM office to find out what our current needs are and donated items from that “wish list.” Recently they generously donated school supplies, along with food and supplies for the Martha Houses.



We are sincerely grateful for each and every donation. Thank you!

STEHM, Inc. Board of Directors

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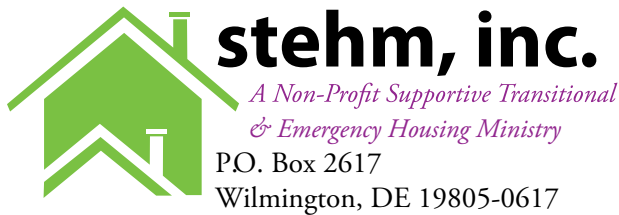
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About STEHM

Since 1986, Supportive Transitional and Emergency Housing Ministry (STEHM) has been serving the Wilmington, Delaware area by offering solutions for unhoused individuals in our community. The Motel Ministry provides shorter-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.



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Time for a Change

Brandi was a resident of Martha House for six months. After leaving a difficult relationship, Brandi had decided that she needed to make a change for herself and her future and was connected to STEHM. She had little family support, except for her sister, and the two of them tried to help each other out when possible.

Brandi had been working six days a week at Giant for a few years, running the floral department. She is very creative and also makes various

crafts that she then sells online and at bazaars.

While Brandi was at Martha House, she actively engaged in the Financial Independence Program provided through our collaboration with West End Neighborhood House. Through that program, she worked to build credit, structure a budget and save money.

Brandi is an independent woman who, even though she worked six days a week, was still unable to afford rent on her own. She discussed this with her sister and

they decided to house-share to assist each other with living expenses. Brandi would also be able to help her sister with her nephew.

STEHM assisted her with the first month's rent from our GRIP funds. Brandi felt good about this arrangement since she was able to find housing in this challenging time of astronomical rent prices and it was a win-win for both her and her sister. She said that Martha House was just what she needed: a safe place to stay and the help that made the next step toward her future possible.

Child's Play

At the Martha Houses, our residents include not only women but their children. Living in a transitional home can be difficult for children, however home-like and cozy we strive to make it, and the goal of our Children's Educational & Targeted Support Program is to provide emotional and targeted support designed to meet the needs of each child. Trained board members and volunteers are available to provide academic tutoring if needed, along with creative outlets and activities for the children. To that end, the children's area in both houses was recently expanded and remodeled and the children have been enthusiastically enjoying this colorful and welcoming space, filled with toys, games, art supplies and books.

