



Supportive Transitional & Emergency Housing Ministry

Fall 2025

STEHM is a 501(c)3 organization

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A Harvest of Blessings

At STEHM, we often say “We couldn’t do what we do without the generous support we receive from our community.” And that has proven true since our program first began, almost 40 years ago. Recently, we have been blessed to receive:

- A donation from Gina Ward to purchase a new bunk bed for one of our Martha House bedrooms. (As you can imagine, the previous bunk bed received a lot of wear and tear over the years from our many resident children!)
- A grant from the Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation toward the purchase of new security cameras for our Martha Houses to ensure the safety of our residents.
- Use of a new storage unit thanks to Pam and Anthony Alfieri. This allows us to store donations of small furnishings and other home goods that we can offer to our graduating residents as they move on to independent housing.
- A donation from Nemours Children’s Hospital of books especially chosen for our Martha House resident children.
- A generous collection of cleaning supplies, paper goods and other household items from members of Grace Episcopal Church.
- A fall clean up of garden beds around the Martha Houses, along with beautiful seasonal plantings, thanks to the Brandywine Garden Club.
- Grants from Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Wilmington Flower Market, Incyte Corporation, Female Harmony Society, the Fund for Women, and Artisans Bank.
- And in this time of uncertain public funding for many social programs, we are so grateful to have received generous donations from The Lawton Trust and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church to be used in our Motel Ministry program, which offers a one-week motel voucher and a temporary respite for those in the most desperate need.



Each and every donation is so appreciated and we cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support.



Meet Our New President!

STEHM’s Board President for the 2025-26 term is Renate Flannelly. Renate has served on STEHM’s Board of Directors since December 2020. Using her background in elementary education, Renate was the driving force behind the development and implementation of the Children’s Education and Targeted Support (CETS) Program for resident children at STEHM’s Martha Houses. That program offers individual tutoring as needed, along with appropriate toys, books, art and targeted workshops designed to meet each child’s needs. Renate also serves on our Grants Committee. A native of Rochester, New York, Renate currently lives in Wilmington with her husband, Barry. She is also the mother of four adult children and is very involved with her two grandsons, both under the age of two. When not otherwise occupied, Renate enjoys traveling, photography and hiking. We feel most fortunate to have Renate at the helm!

Savings Incentive Program – A Bonus for Their Efforts

STEHM has recently introduced a new Savings Incentive Program for our Martha House residents. Residents “in good standing” are now eligible to receive monetary incentives for successfully reaching 30-day (\$50), 180-day (\$75) and 270-day (\$100) milestones. Upon reaching each milestone, the corresponding incentive will be deposited into the resident’s savings account and added to their own required savings, which are fully refunded to them when they leave the program. In order to be considered “in good standing,” residents must be in compliance with

all program rules and expectations, participating in all required activities and case management sessions, and demonstrating consistent effort toward achieving their established personal goals.

This initiative is designed to promote growth, accountability and progress during residents’ time in the program. We hope these small bonuses, acknowledging success along the way, will further encourage and support residents’ efforts toward their ultimate goal of independence and financial self-sufficiency.

Help Wanted!

STEHM is currently seeking new board members! The STEHM Board of Directors is an active, working board, with each person contributing their skills to support and grow this vital organization.

We are especially seeking members with experience in marketing, public relations, grant writing and social media. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Terri Morrin at tntmorrin@gmail.com.

The Right Program for the Right Candidate

Arianna was a resident of Martha House for nine months, having come to us through one of our partnering agencies. At the time, she was homeless and seeking assistance. Her goal was to find stable housing and a job, which made her a great candidate for the Martha House program.

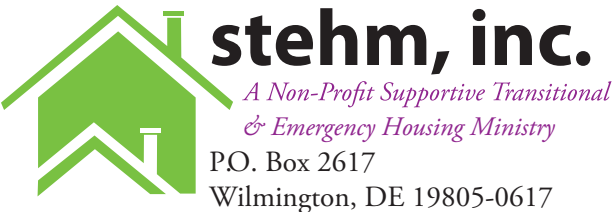
During her stay at Martha House, Arianna engaged in the Financial Independence Program, working with a Certified Financial Planner through our collaboration with West End Neighborhood House. She worked diligently to pay off some previous

debts, increase her credit score and save money. During her first few months with us, Arianna struggled to keep a consistent job, as well as with the loss of her mother. Through these trials and tribulations, however, she continued to stay focused and was ultimately able to land a full-time job as an Activities Coordinator at a senior living facility. In this position, Arianna grew to love her responsibilities and enjoyed engaging with the patients. She also proved herself to be goal-oriented and productive.

After eight months with us, Arianna began looking for her own apartment. She went to see various

apartments, searching to find a place on the route to her job, to ensure she could get to work. Arianna applied and was accepted for an apartment close to a bus route and in a convenient area. STEHM assisted her with the security deposit from the GRIP funds, as well as a number of household goods. Arianna said that she was “happy to be a part of the program” and that it had helped her tremendously in the transition from homelessness to independent living. She extends her gratitude for the opportunities the Martha House program gave her.

And that is what Martha House is all about – opportunity.



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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.