stehm

Supportive Transitional & Emergency Housing Ministry

Spring 2026
STEHM is a 501(c)3 organization

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Remembering Dorothy



It is with great sadness that STEHM acknowledges the recent passing of founding board member Dorothy Medeiros. Dorothy was among those volunteers who, in 1986, began raising funds to provide motel stays for unhoused persons seeking shelter at local churches. That led to the creation of STEHM and its Motel Ministry. Later, Dorothy was instrumental in the creation of Martha House.

Dorothy remained an active STEHM board member throughout our 40-year history and was an inspiration to all of us. In her honor, we have renamed our Motel Ministry program "The Dorothy Medeiros Motel Ministry" and will install a plaque of remembrance and dedication at the Martha Houses. And because Dorothy was focused on action rather than accolades, STEHM has established "The Dorothy Medeiros Fund," with distributions used to support the Motel Ministry program. To make a donation to this fund in her memory, please use the QR code found here or visit our website (www.stehm.org).

G is for "Guilty" and Grateful

Since 2013, a small group of local women has presented the popular "Guilty Girls Giving Group Warehouse Sale," a fun and philanthropic event showcasing premier retailers offering top merchandise at a significant discount. And each year, all proceeds from this event are donated to a single community nonprofit. This year STEHM was chosen as the 2026 beneficiary and the event was successful beyond our wildest imagination, resulting in a donation of $55,000 to STEHM! In this time of rising inflation and funding challenges, this event came at the perfect time. We cannot thank these caring Guilty Girls enough and are so very grateful to them.

Celebrating 40 Years

In 1986, after learning that people experiencing homelessness were increasingly seeking help from local religious institutions, church outreach volunteers began working to obtain funds to provide these persons with emergency shelter in motels. And thus, the Motel Ministry program and STEHM, an acronym for "Short-Term Emergency Housing Ministry," were founded. STEHM then expanded its mission and in 1988, began providing longer-term transitional shelter for women and children at a house in Wilmington, calling it Martha House. To reflect that expanded mission, STEHM's full name was changed to "Supportive Transitional and Emergency Housing Ministry."

Today, 40 years later, with two Martha Houses and an ongoing Motel Ministry, STEHM has provided shelter to almost 9,000 men, women and children for a total of more than 175,000 bed-nights.

STEHM has only been able to continue its mission thanks to generous contributions and ongoing support from many sources, including government, business, private foundations, churches, other charitable groups, and most importantly, from YOU. So please join us as we celebrate our accomplishments thus far -- and our hope that, someday, our community is one where everyone will have a home in which they can grow and thrive.

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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.

Support in Every Season

All of us at STEHM are well aware that the enduring success of our mission is thanks to you, our supporters. That support may take different forms, at different times of the year, but every donation is deeply appreciated. Your kindness has been felt in so many ways:

*Donating foods, household and personal items collected by churches, businesses, organizations and individuals throughout the year;

*Foundations and nonprofits saying "yes" to our appeals for grant funds that allow us to maintain and enhance all of our programs;

*Responding to our annual appeal with generous donations;

*Making the holidays special for Martha House residents by donating Easter baskets, Christmas trees and presents;

* Maintaining our Martha Houses and outside gardens to make them a safe and welcoming place;

*Supporting graduating Martha House residents by donating supplies and usable furnishings for their new homes and the storage space to hold these items until needed.

We thank you for these and so many other ways you have demonstrated your caring and compassion over these 40 years.

A Brief Stay with Big Results

Alberta was a resident of Martha House for three months. She was referred to the program through a local law enforcement agency that provided a motel voucher and led to an interview for transitional housing. At the time, Alberta was experiencing homelessness, couch surfing and seeking stability. She needed a stable environment to maintain employment as a full-time home health aide. Her circumstances and motivation made her an appropriate candidate for the Martha House program.

During her stay, Alberta participated in the Financial Independence Program and demonstrated commitment to her financial goals, working hard to save for a home for herself and her children. Within a short time, Alberta was able to reach her savings goal, pay off debt and clear negative items from her credit report, all while continuing to work at her job, day in and day out.

By the third month of the program, Alberta had saved enough to move out of Martha House and into her own apartment. She applied and was accepted for housing where she could have her children with her. STEHM assisted her with her security deposit from the GRIP funds; she was also eligible to receive a one-year housing subsidy through the Expanded GRIP program. In addition, STEHM provided Alberta with household items and furniture from donated items in STEHM's storage unit. She thanked STEHM and the staff for "giving me a place to get myself together" and was grateful for the opportunity STEHM provided. Sometimes an opportunity is all it takes to begin again and move toward a brighter future.

stehm, inc.
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