



# HEARTNOTES

2025 SPRING NEWSLETTER

## Empowering Women

Transforming Lives Together For Stronger Communities





## A Message of Hope from our Executive Director

Dear Friends of Hannah's House,

Spring is a season of renewal, growth, and transformation—the very essence of what we witness daily at Hannah's House!

As we reflect on our mission, vision, and values, we are reminded that each woman's journey is unique, shaped by her past but not defined by it.

I want to share with you the story of Chelsea, a young mother with twin one-year-olds, whose path to healing and independence is unfolding before our eyes. Chelsea came to us carrying the weight of a traumatic past—one marked by drug addiction, felonies, and the deep scars of generational abuse and trauma. Yet, despite the challenges she has faced, Chelsea has chosen a different path. She remains clean, committed to her journey, and is taking small but steady steps toward transformation.

At Hannah's House, we embrace **Choice Theory**, which empowers our residents to take ownership of their lives, envision a brighter future, and make decisions that align with their **Quality World Picture**—a personal vision of the life they desire for themselves and their children. For Chelsea, that vision includes stability, a safe home for her twins, and the ability to break the cycle of trauma that has followed her family for generations.

Your generosity is making this possible. Every donation, every hour of volunteer work, and every word of encouragement contributes to Chelsea's journey. Because of your support:

- Chelsea has access to **parenting classes**, helping her develop the skills to raise her children in a loving and nurturing environment.
- She is working towards **employment and financial stability**, taking small but meaningful steps toward self-sufficiency.
- She is surrounded by a community that believes in her, reinforcing that she and her children deserve a future filled with **hope and opportunity**.

Chelsea's story is one of many, and while the road ahead is not always easy, it is one paved with possibility. **Your support is not just changing lives—it is breaking cycles, restoring hope, and giving families a chance at lasting transformation.**

Thank you for being part of this journey. Thank you for believing in our mission. Thank you for standing with Chelsea and the many other women who walk through our doors seeking hope and healing.

With gratitude,

Susan Frucci  
Executive Director, Hannah's House



# Hannah's House

## *A Safe Haven of Hope and Support in our Community*

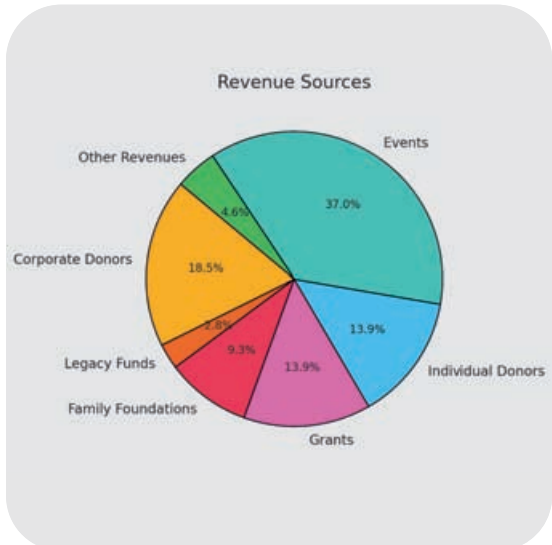
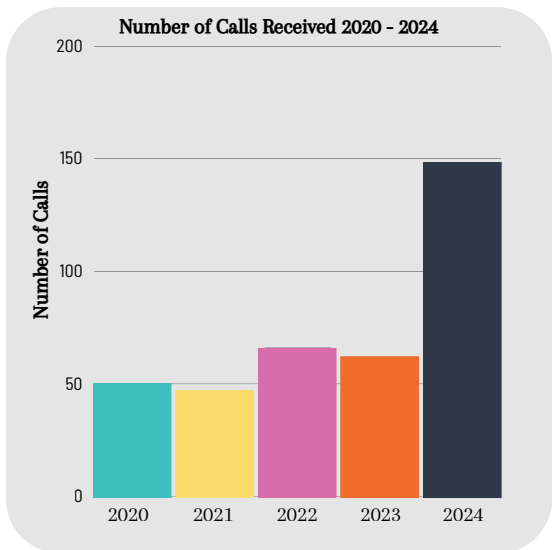


As we reflect on 2024, we are reminded of and deeply grateful for the growth we have witnessed in the women we serve. Their resilience and determination inspire us every day. At the same time, we recognize the ongoing and increasing demand for safe housing in our community. More women than ever are reaching out to Hannah's House for stable housing and comprehensive care to break the cycle of generational trauma and transform their lives.

Homelessness is on the rise nationwide. In January 2024, over 770,000 individuals were experiencing homelessness—an 18% increase from the previous year. Family homelessness grew by nearly 40%, with 150,000 children affected. Among homeless women, 48% of those in shelters were pregnant at the time of entry, and 52% had been pregnant in the year prior. These numbers emphasize the urgent need for targeted interventions.

### Surging Demand: A Call for Action

In 2022, we received 66 inquiries from women in need of housing. By 2023, that number remained steady at 62. However, 2024 has been an unprecedented year, with 148 inquiries—more than double the previous years. The need for safe housing continues to grow, and we must rise to meet the challenge.



### How You Can Help

Donations are the lifeline that keep our mission alive. As the demand for safe housing grows, community support is more critical than ever. Contributions—whether through financial donations, volunteering, or advocacy—help ensure that women and their babies have a safe place to call home.

### There are many ways to be part of the Hannah's House family

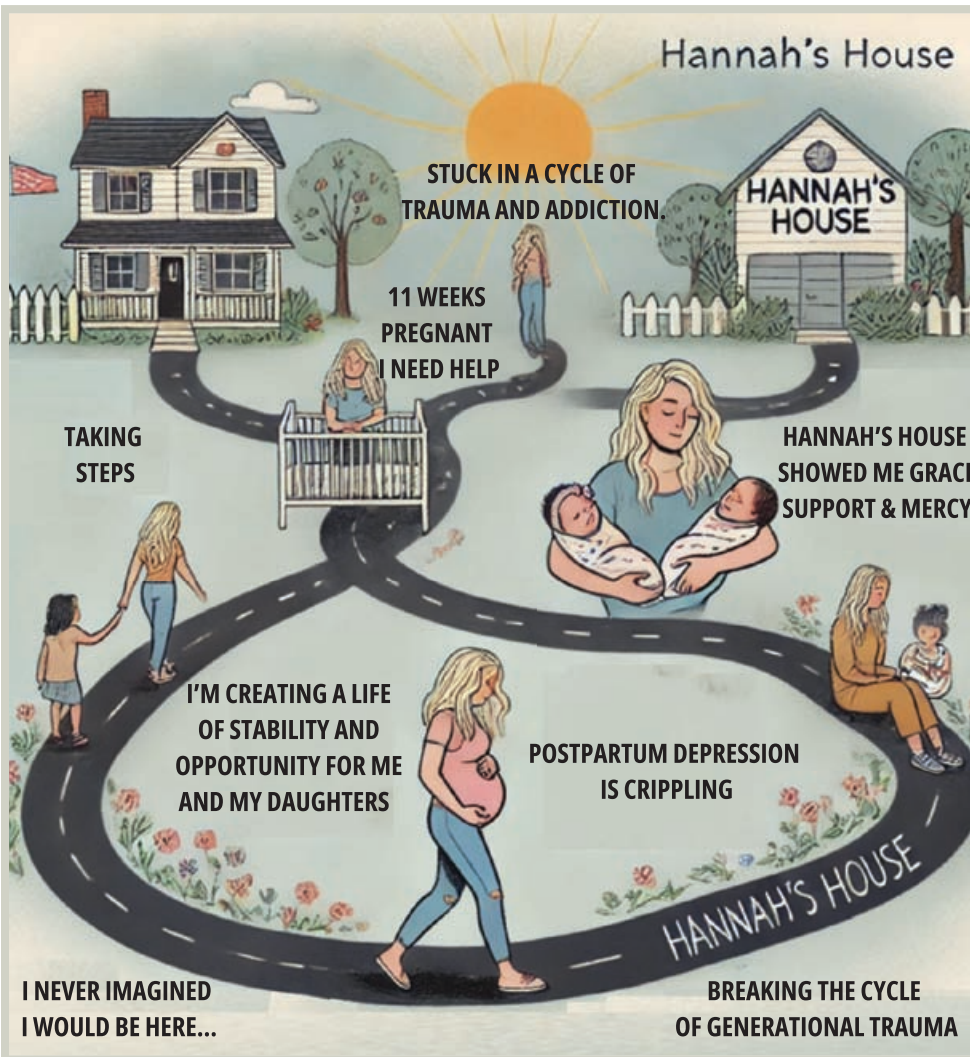
- Corporate Donations - Partner with us to make a lasting impact.
- Legacy Funds - Leave a lasting legacy of hope and support.
- Family Foundations - Strengthen families by supporting our mission.
- Grants - Help us expand our reach and services.
- Individual Contributions - Every gift, big or small, makes a difference.
- Events - Participate in the Papa Irish Golf Outing and Holiday Happenings to help fund our mission.
- Volunteering - Offer your time and talents to support women and children in need.
- Advocacy - Spread awareness and be a voice for those in need.

Contact us today to learn how you can be a part of this great mission! Please reach out to Anne Landis at [Anne@hannahshousemichiana.org](mailto:Anne@hannahshousemichiana.org) or call our office at: 574-254-7271 to get involved. We are so grateful for your support!



# Chelsea's Story

## A Journey of Strength, Recovery, and Faith



### At Hannah's House

I found more than just a roof over my head. I found grace, mercy, and second chances. Through structure, accountability, and unwavering support, I began to see myself beyond my struggles.

I learned life skills, parenting techniques, financial literacy, and the power of community. At Hannah's House, I wasn't alone. Fear was replaced with hope, and uncertainty was met with a clear path forward.



### Healing Through Support and Faith

Postpartum depression shook my confidence, and for a moment, I believed adoption might be my only option. I was terrified that I couldn't provide for my twin daughters, Lovelyn and Lillian, but the staff at Hannah's House encouraged me to pause, heal, and not make life-changing decisions in crisis.

Through counseling, support groups, and faith-based programs like Spiritual Thursdays, I found strength. I found belief in myself as a mother. My favorite part of the program is Spiritual Thursdays -- it uplifts my spirit and leads me closer to Jesus.

I am creating a life of stability, love, and opportunity for my daughters. Hannah's House became my safe place—a home that gave me structure, friendships, and a deeper faith. The support I received reminded me of my worth. **I wasn't just surviving; I was growing.**



### Looking Ahead: A Future of Hope

My daughters are now 14 months old, and they are my greatest motivation. With each day, I grow stronger spiritually, emotionally, and as a mother.

My vision for the future is clearer than ever—In one year I see myself having my own place with my babies. I want stability and security for my daughters. I am determined to remain in recovery, to be the mother they deserve, and to embrace the opportunities ahead.

Hannah's House has shown me that I am not defined by my past. Through faith, perseverance, and the support of a community that believes in me, I am proof that hope, heart, and harmony can transform a life.

My journey is far from over, but I now walk this road with confidence, knowing that my story is one of redemption and new beginnings.



**VALUES** THRIVE **IMPACT**

BUILD FRIENDSHIPS SKILLS PARENTING BUDGETING SKILLS

SUPPORT STAFF LIFE TRANSFORMATION MEAL PLANNING

**MOTHERHOOD** FAMILY

HOUSING INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY COURAGE

SAFE MENTAL WELLNESS SUPPORT PHYSICAL WELLBEING LOVE

EMPOWER SPIRITUAL GROWTH EDUCATION ADDICTION RECOVERY STABILITY

OPPORTUNITY CONFIDENCE BRAVERY



# Holiday Happenings 2024 Unites Us

## *As we Honor Two Remarkable Families in our Community*

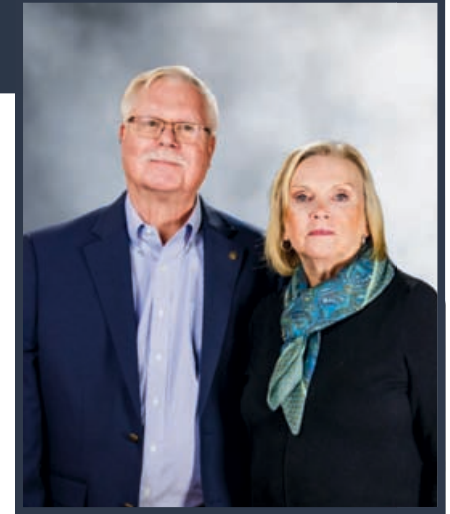
### The Hannah's House Tree of Life Award

Each year, Hannah's House presents the Tree of Life Award to an individual or organization in Michiana that has made a lasting difference in the lives of women, babies, and families—championing the cause of life.

We are honored to recognize **Annetta and Andy Place** as both the recipients of the Tree of Life Award and the Honorary Chairs of the Holiday Happenings event.

Annetta and Andy have built more than houses—they have built homes, strengthening families and communities with their unwavering dedication to faith, family, and service. Their generosity and leadership shine as an inspiration to us all, demonstrating what it means to uplift others through kindness and action.

We are deeply grateful for their commitment to empowering women, babies, and families in our community.



## The Diane and William B. Killilea Lifetime Service Award

The Diane and William B. Killilea Lifetime Service Award honors individuals or organizations that exemplify servant leadership—continuing the legacy of Hannah's House founders, Diane and Bill Killilea, who dedicated their lives to uplifting others.

This year's award was presented to **Amy and Amish Shah**, whose deep-rooted commitment to service has left a profound impact on the South Bend-Elkhart region.

Amish and Amy's lives have been shaped by a strong sense of community and purpose. Their journey—from meeting at Marian High School, to raising a family, to dedicating their time and resources to philanthropic causes—reflects their passion for making a difference.

Amish fondly recalls his Sunday school teacher, a lifelong mentor, who often said, "Anyone can run a business, but to make a real impact, contribute to your community." These words have been a guiding principle for the Shah family and the way they choose to give back.

Amy, a former pediatric nurse, has devoted herself to supporting women and children through her work with Riley Children's Foundation, CAPS, and the YWCA. Amish, CEO of Kem Krest, is a dedicated advocate for youth financial literacy and entrepreneurship, having played a key role in launching Lemonade Day, Junior Achievement, and StartUp Moxie in Elkhart County.

Their joint efforts also led to the creation of Junior Achievement's BizTown and Sydney's Peace Garden at Wellfield Botanic Gardens, a tribute to their late daughter. Through their leadership, service, and philanthropy, Amy and Amish Shah continue to inspire and uplift others, ensuring that their community not only grows but thrives.

*Thank you*



### A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

On a beautiful December evening guests were welcomed by the sound of Christmas Carolers for our annual **Holiday Happenings Gala**. It was truly an unforgettable evening as we celebrated Hope, Heart, and Harmony: A Drummer Boy Celebration.

The theme of the evening, *The Little Drummer Boy*, is a powerful metaphor for the work we do at Hannah's House. The Drummer Boy gave his all—not in wealth or status, but in the purity of his heart and his willingness to share what he had. This story reminds us that even the smallest act of giving, when rooted in love and purpose, can create ripples of transformation. Creating memories, built with love and generosity by our community as we continue our mission to empower women and babies, is a dream come true!

Our sold-out event raised over \$300,000, which will support our programs—from providing vital baby essentials to helping moms take their next steps toward a bright future.

We'd like to give a special thank you to our amazing attendees and donors for their generosity, as well as our hosts, **Shannon Kaser** and **Josh Short**, for bringing energy and excitement to the evening.

We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who participated in the LIVE auction and diamond earring raffle, and to our sponsors and underwriters whose generosity helped make this event possible.

Thank you, **Danielle**, for sharing your story with us, for your vulnerability, and for your authenticity in your journey.

Once again, another incredible evening was flawlessly executed by **Allison Limon** and her team at The Gillespie Center.

Thank you **ALL** for making this event a success!





PO BOX 1413  
MISHAWAKA, IN 46546

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
South Bend, IN  
Permit #484

## UPCOMING EVENTS //

SAVE THE DATE **PAPA IRISH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

**09.22.25**

September 22, 2025

Morris Park Country Club

Registration information is COMING SOON!

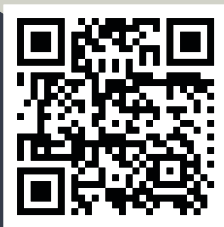
SAVE THE DATE **HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS ANNUAL GALA**

**12.05.25**

December 5, 2025

Gillespie Center. Join us as we celebrate our annual Gala with a night of fabulous food, cocktails, dinner and auction.

# Visit



[www.hannahshousemichiana.org](http://www.hannahshousemichiana.org)

- DONATE ONLINE
- VIEW OUR AMAZON WISH LIST
- MEET OUR STAFF
- MEET OUR BOARD
- LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED
- FIND INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS & PROGRAMS