

SPRING 2023  
VOL.13 NO.1



# NEWS & NOTES

*Facilitating positive life change for previously incarcerated women.*

## Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Praising God for his goodness!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, held Saturday, February 11, 2023. We saw friends from Paw Paw, Gobles, Kalamazoo, Portage, Lawton, Mattawan, Decatur, South Haven, Lawrence, Bangor, and beyond. It was good to be together, eat together, and support women in our community seeking positive life change.

We estimate about 125 attended; total raised was \$13,423! We are definitely flipping pancakes again in 2024.



### IN THIS ISSUE

#### VOLUNTEER NEWS

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### PEARL SPOTLIGHT

#### A NEW WAY TO HELP OUR PEARLS

#### COMMUNITY IMPACT

#### WISH LIST

## Contact us!

phone: 269-415-0777

email:  
[info@wingsofgodinc.org](mailto:info@wingsofgodinc.org)

website:  
[www.wingsofgodinc.org](http://www.wingsofgodinc.org)

facebook: @wingsofgodinc



# Volunteer News

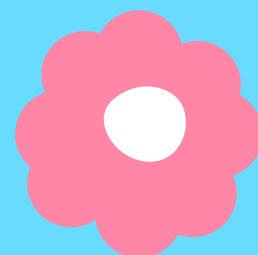
**341** Total volunteers hours August 16, 2022 through March 31, 2023

**123** Total Morning Muscle Volunteer Hours

**153** Total Class Instructor Hours

**33** Total Transportation Driver Hours

**32** Total Yard Work/House Project Hours



There are over 50 individuals who volunteer on a regular basis as well as an additional 35 individuals who volunteered as community service days for their church at the Wings of God.

**If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, email us at: [info@wingsofgodinc.org](mailto:info@wingsofgodinc.org).**

## Thank You TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many helping hands are needed to encourage our Pearls (program participants) and share the love of Jesus Christ. Some way to help include:

Mentors — Licensed Counselors

Prayer Team Leader/Member

Yard Maintenance

Transportation Help



*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."* —Hebrews 13:16

Thank you to our volunteers who are sharing the love of Christ to the Pearls.

Stephen Arnest, Steve Aschleman, Krista Asher, Barbara Baker, Sue Barber, Bill Bates, Cassandra Bates, Lois Baudoux, Sarah Bergren, Laurie Boyd, Lisa Brandt, Mary Bricker, Kathy DeBoer, Donna Densmore, Liz Devries, Judy Fitzgerald, Elaine Gipson Herron, Mary Good, Diane Grimm, Pam Hamilton, Katie Hartwell, Sheila Hayhurst, Char & Del Heckaman, Don Jeltrema, Dania Jewett, Charlotte King, Rebecca Laws, Carol Lutz, Jeannie Merritt, Nichole Newnum, Kimberly Otten, Andriecce Patten, Pastor Adam Potgiesser, Kim Putnam, Katie Rall, Jeff Rebenstorf, Linda Riley, Jim Roberts, Pastor Jack & Patricia Shanley, Mike Siver, Carol Sjoquist, Sheryl Stapert, PJ Storm-Artis, Pastor Thad Stout, Gynetta Thompson, Randy & Andy Thorburn, Linda Truman, Tom Varker, and Susan Zygodlo

***We always have a list of projects both inside and outside the house for church groups! Shown left, the Second Serve Saturday Team from The Bridge Church tackled some of our desperately needed kitchen projects in December.***





# Upcoming Events

We need volunteers for this FUNdraiser in June!

## 2023 BUCKET Brigade

**WHERE**

**STREETS OF PAW PAW**

**WHEN**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Details & Sign up online at:

**[wingsofgodinc.org/bucket-brigade](https://wingsofgodinc.org/bucket-brigade)**



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



**Join us for the Summer Clean Up & Lunch**  
**Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Sign up online at:

**[wingsofgodinc.org/wings-of-god-adopts-a-highway/](https://wingsofgodinc.org/wings-of-god-adopts-a-highway/)**

## Save the Dates

### 2023 BENEFIT DINNER

Thursday, October 12, 6:30pm at a NEW LOCATION: **Heritage Glen Golf Club**

Table hosts: start thinking about your guest list!

### NEW BENEFIT CONCERT

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 7pm Watch for more information coming soon!

## Our Mission



Shown above, left to right, are Pearls Laura, Lashon, and Kathy. (Not shown - Rebecca)

*Wings of God is a Christian-based program committed to helping women overcome the challenges they face as they transition from incarceration back into society. Our approach is grounded in Christian values of compassion, forgiveness, and love, and we believe that every woman deserves a second chance and the opportunity to rebuild their lives with the help of a supportive community. Your prayers for their success is appreciated.*

## Spotlight on Pearls

# All my dreams are coming true

Hi, I am Angie, a previous Pearl, who graduated from the Wings of God Transition Home program in February 2021. After graduating I moved into the Next Step Home and continued to grow in my job at McDonald's. My faith and trust in God continued to grow. I love Wings of God and when the opportunity to work as a Sunday Weekend House Manager became available, I applied and Wings of God said "Yes!" Working at Wings of God was good for the Pearls and for me. Just staying connected with Wings of God was beneficial, the Pearls could relate to me, and I believe I inspired them to see the big picture — a picture of not only hope and recovery, but also accomplishment.

My hope is in God for now and for my future. I feel victorious in my recovery — I praise God for that! I am so thankful for all I've achieved — I bought a car on my own; I got married in 2021; I am the Assistant General Manager at a McDonald's in Portage; My husband and I are going to be homeowners; I am thrilled that we will have a home that welcomes my family!



My favorite part of Wings of God is getting the tools I needed to build a strong foundation for my life. I want to encourage new Pearls to not "quit before the miracle happens". Something that my house manager said to me a lot! I am thankful to Wings of God for being here in Paw Paw waiting for me and for anyone that is ready to find a new way to live!

Thank you to all of our donors and supporters who make this ministry available. Thank you Wings of God for helping me make my dreams come true!

## Prayers answered, blessings realized



Hi, my name is Amy Ajileye, a Graduated Pearl from 2016, and Night Manager at Wings of God. In August of 2022, I married my wonderful husband and now we are expecting our son in July.

Soon I will be transitioning to my new position as Donor Relations Representative at Wings of God. This will allow me to spend time with my newborn baby and I am overjoyed at the life God created for me. I never knew that God had this great life for me. What a wonderful God we serve!!





# Share a Meal

## Bless the Pearls with your home cooking

You can cater a meal from your kitchen!

Choose a day - Monday through Friday - to create your favorite dinner and drop it off at the Wings of God house. Fill out our Google Form to sign up at this link:

<http://tiny.cc/tlg5vz>, or you may call the house and speak to a House Manager at 269.415.0777.

Just a few instructions:

- Your meal can be cooked or baked and ready to serve, or you can bring a dish that is ready to be put into the oven for baking. Whatever works best for you! Just include baking instructions.
- Please pick a dish that will serve 8 women.
- Please, no recipes that include wine, beer, or alcohol as an ingredient.
- Please deliver to the WOG home at 310 N Kalamazoo Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079 at 4 pm.
- Feel free to share your recipe! The Pearls often gather favorite recipes served at Wings of God to take with them when they leave.



*Rita, our Assistant House Manager, is shown above with the home-cooked dinner she brought for the Pearls. "Share a Meal" is another great way you can contribute to Wings of God.*

## Rita O'Brien is our Saturday Weekend House Manager

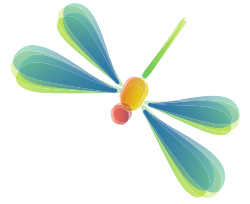


We asked Rita, "What is the favorite part of your job?" and she replied:

"What I love about Wings of God is when we do devotions with the women and we can get real and talk openly about how God is using us to help them. I enjoy it when we all work together as a team with the women and share a meal together."

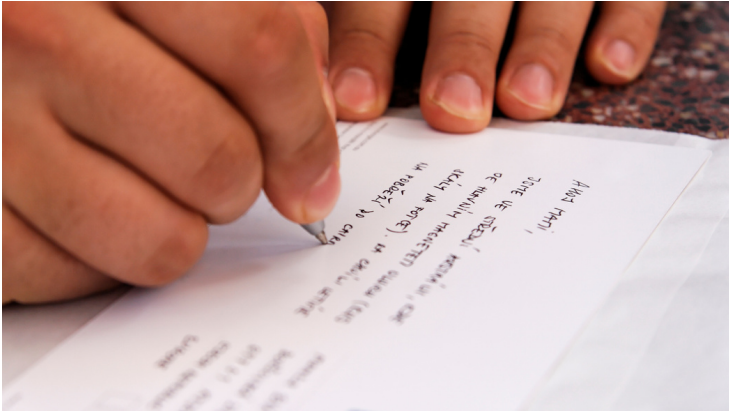
# Community Engagement

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN 2023



### Van Buren County Jail Quarterly Outreach

Connecting with female inmates in partnership with Reach the Forgotten Ministries. Delivering WOG outreach flyer & postcards with notes of encouragement handwritten by Pearls.



### Adopt-A-Highway Spring, Summer, & Fall Pick Up

Pearls, Staff, & Volunteers keep a 2 mile section of our community clean through Michigan's Adopt-A-Highway Program. 2023 will be our 3rd year participating!



**Celebrate Recovery Cookout** Pearls, Staff & Volunteers will be providing and serving the August Monthly Meal for participants and staff.



**Domestic Violence Coalition Clients Thanksgiving Dinner** Pearls plan, cook, and deliver a Thanksgiving meal for about 20 people, including client's children.



2023 COMMUNITY  
IMPACT



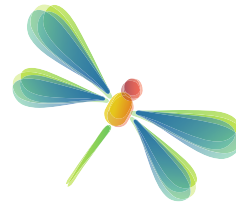


# Wish List

**Please feel free to call the Wings of God House at 269-415-0777 to donate any of these needed items.**



Toners for Lexmark CX725 Printer: #74C1SK0, 74C10Y0 or 74C1SM0  
Composition Books  
Spiral bound notebooks  
Lined Notebook paper  
Copy Paper  
Thank You Notes/Cards



Coffee Creamer  
Peanut Butter  
Grape/Strawberry Jelly  
Miracle Whip  
Mayonnaise  
Ranch Dressing  
Ketchup



Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Bottled Water  
Liquid Laundry Soap  
Dryer Softener Sheets  
Liquid Dish Soap

**amazon**  
**wishlist**

Gift Cards are always appreciated!

- Walmart
- Dollar General
- Biggby
- McDonalds
- Subway



- >Royal Walk Windproof Umbrella for 2
- >Emerson SmartSet Alarm Clock
- >Kitchen Sink Water Filter



To purchase one of these items, got to <https://wingsofgodinc.org/wish-list/> and then click on that line for a direct link to the Amazon Wish List Item.

## Quick Facts

### Resident Statistics:

- 107 Residents since inception February 2012.
- 231 Children have been impacted by the 107 women who were ministered to at the Wings of God.
- 4 Residents as of April 10th: Laura, Lashon, Cathy. & Rebecca.  
Please pray for them!!

