



Summer 2020

Business as Unusual

Welcome to our 'summer' newsletter in early fall. As with all things 2020, nothing is quite the same. And, we have found that it is OK. Without the normal markers to establish a sense of time passing (Easter celebrations with family, 4th of July gatherings, etc.) time seems to become almost a void.

For those of you who don't know, Dorothy's House furloughed its staff at the end of March. We had 3 women actively in our program at the time and we made sure that their world did not blow up just because the world around us seemed to.

As I struggled through the summer months without the team that makes this whole thing work I was forced to look for silver linings in everyday that we continued to prop up these lives. In actively searching for those silver linings I found so much good that was happening that the decision to apply myself 110% to the mission became easier by the day.

And, the forced change made us think about our areas of service and how we might do more with less going forward. We officially re-opened in July and it feels like we haven't missed a step.

The support of this community in new ways continues to affirm for us the value you see in the work that we do and we couldn't be more grateful.

[Make a donation.](#) [Share a prayer.](#)

Outings and Events

In April-- with most of our programming unavailable until things started moving online-- we took a chilly but rewarding day trip to The Grotto, including a picnic lunch.

Garden Parties! With everything quiet on the property mid-summer, we hosted a few farm to table, safe, socially distanced, Garden Parties to keep our friends close. Thanks Angel- for hosting two parties! And thanks a ton to Beau from Panache for making them magical!

Labor Day celebration-- For the first time ever, Dorothy's House participants across all three areas of our organization, Recovery, Front Porch and Transitions joined staff in our backyard for Labor Day festivities. Thanks Mike for supplying the ribs and pulled pork. We missed you as you waited out your COVID-19 test!



Our Grotto trip!



Labor Day BBQ!



Garden Party fun!

Introducing Dorothy's House Front Porch

Part of the expansion of care at Dorothy's House includes a subsidized housing solution for all survivor profiles (men, LGBTQ+, women with custody of their minor children, those still struggling with active addiction and survivors of labor trafficking) where they can establish safety and begin their healing journey with the support and services offered through our Care Coaches.

We started to tip toe our way into this program over the summer and will continue to grow as our funding allows.

BuildDorothysHouse.org

Last year we tore down the home on our second property to prevent it from falling down. We are currently in the process of rebuilding this home to provide residential services and support for 4 additional survivors. Our plan is to fill this home with young women who have been identified through adjudication or shelter to be survivors of trafficking and/or exploitation. As always, our focus will continue to be providing these young women with a safe and supportive environment where they can discover new healthy practices of life so they may grow and change their belief systems about their value and worth in the world, learning to establish safe relationships and boundaries, and forgiveness as they build upon the skills necessary for successful independence in our community.

Fundraising and development are back underway, [#builddorothyshouse.org](https://builddorothyshouse.org)

THANKS! We work because you care.

We are so grateful for everyone who has reached out and touched our mission in so many ways in the last months. Your ongoing love, support and prayers are felt everyday. Take a look at some of the ways people are helping:

Nicole G. reached out to all of her groups; bible study, book club, yoga class, etc. and arranged for a small army to take over watering and weeding for our small farm over the summer. It has never been so beautiful or filled with love.

Beau from **Panache** planted the garden this year with a little more focus on form than function then worked his magic to introduce our farm to table, safe social distancing garden parties. A few enchanting evenings to introduce more people to the issue of human trafficking and the work we do with survivors. Thanks to Angel for co-hosting the first two events!

Strategic America: The team continues to bring innovative ideas to our communications and social media campaigns. They produced a television and radio PSA in support of the mission and secured significant air time for us. Watch it [here](#)!

Gloria Dei Mens Ministry: Jimmy, Mike, Loren and Terry mow and trim for us every week. This kind of hands on help frees up so much time to focus on the mission at hand.

Steve, Terry and Bill showed up and painted our entire second floor giving a fresh update

to our bedrooms and gave us time to do a much needed deep clean along the way!

Principal Foundation Giving Chain: What fun we have had receiving special surprises as part of this unique giving program designed to support local businesses and charitable organizations in our community. We have enjoyed cupcakes from Crème, pastries from Main Street Café, BBQ from Smokey D's, fuel/grocery gift cards, spa/personal gifts. All of these have helped keep our spirits up and celebrating the silver linings.

Eat-A-Thon: The typical event had to be cancelled but the organizers made the most of technology to host a Stare-A-Thon on Zoom. Dorothy's House had three contestants and Bruce Ganzer was able to hold out the longest and won! All charities received \$1000 and we got an extra \$100 for winning!

Aureon: Amy assembled a gift of laundry and dishwasher pods that will help keep things clean for months!



Sammons has been a steady partner since our inception and continues to help. They have stepped up during the pandemic in an amazing way!



Iowa Family Chiropractic donated a portion of their new patient initial visit fee to Dorothy's House in order to support the work we are doing and contribute to the activities and outings that our participants enjoy!



As if the Coronacoaster wasn't enough...

Our beloved 100+ year old silver maple mostly came down during the Derecho. Miraculously, it missed our house and everyone in it. We are hoping to have the remainder of the tree removed before the snow flies and will recreate our beautiful-now, not so secret garden- in the spring.



Want to help?

Dorothy's House is hiring!

Part time direct care evening hours! Inquire [here](#).

Visit our
website

Got Questions?

.....

Dorothy's House | PO Box 57672 | Des Moines, IA 50317
info@dorothyshouse.org | 515-777-4383 | www.dorothyshouse.org

.....

ADVOCATE. DONATE. EDUCATE