



We Graduated!

Haven House Newsletter – Summer 2026

Linda & Athena

When Linda moved from Illinois to Michigan with her daughter, Athena, in April 2024, she relied on her tax refund to support them while searching for employment. With a felony on her record and no steady income, the family soon found themselves experiencing homelessness, and Linda turned to Haven House for help.

Linda says, "I expected Haven House to be chaotic, with lots of people all around and a lot happening at once, as you would think a shelter would be. But it wasn't. It was cleaner than most shelters, and the requirements kept everything running smoothly."

With the support of Haven House's case management team, Linda secured employment and was approved for housing in July 2024. She shared that balancing the program's requirements while searching for an affordable rental and raising her daughter as a single parent was challenging, but she knew it was a necessary step toward getting their family back on their feet.

After moving into her new home, Linda enrolled in Haven House's Partners in Progress (PIP) aftercare program, where she continued receiving case management and support. Although the program is designed to last up to 14 months, additional support is available when needed to help families achieve long-term stability. Linda encountered a few setbacks after leaving the shelter, but with the continued guidance of our Housing Resource Specialist, she and Athena remained on track. In June 2026, Linda successfully graduated from the program.

Reflecting on her experience, Linda shares:

"The PIP program gave me someone I could confide in and who helped guide me so I could keep my housing. Pam was incredibly encouraging and an excellent communicator. She was always available to bounce ideas off of, and she wasn't afraid to tell me the hard truths when I needed to hear them. I am truly grateful for her support."



Volunteer Testimonial

"This was something I had never done before. So doing something for the first time like this is exciting. Of course, the mission of Haven House in serving the community is critical and deserves support. Being able to assist with food and groceries at Haven House allows staff to work more with the clients."

–Marc

Follow Us on Social Media





REBUILDING THEIR LIVES Program Impact



SHELTER STATS

Since January 1st, we have sheltered 32 families—54 adults and 66 children.

We're proud to share:

16 of these families have already moved into homes of their own.

PARTNERS-IN-PROGRESS (PIP) STATS

Aftercare program, 32 active families
We're proud to share:

4 families graduated from PIP after 14+ months

OUTREACH STATS

Providing case management support without needing to enter shelter, 21 families active in outreach

We're proud to share:

10 families moved into housing

Exciting News!

50%

Moved into
permanent
housing
destination!

Shelter Client Testimonial

"They believed in us and that felt amazing!"

—Anonymous



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Summer 2026

Meet the Team Behind Our Mission!

Chequoya Thomas:
Community Engagement Director



Pam Young:
Housing Resource Specialist



Aria Palasek:
Volunteer & Projects Manager



Jobi Hammond:
Shelter Manger



Lisa Sarver:
Reception Coordinator
Joined team
February 26'

Shelter Coordinators:

Melissa



Persephone



Kelly

Joined team
May 26'

Miracle

Joined team
June 26'

Shelly

Joined team
July 26'

Note from our Executive Director



Meghan Palma

"This July, I celebrated 16 years with Haven House. I've had the privilege of growing alongside this organization through many different roles, and each experience has strengthened my passion for our mission and the families we serve. It's been incredibly rewarding to see how Haven House has evolved, adapted, and continued meeting the changing needs of our community.

This year has been especially exciting as we make much-needed improvements to our shelter thanks to a MSHDA Shelter Repair Grant. These updates will help ensure that Haven House remains a safe, welcoming, and comfortable place for families during a difficult time in their lives.

While supporting families in our shelter remains at the heart of what we do, our Outreach Program continues to expand our impact through shelter diversion, helping families experiencing homelessness move directly into permanent housing without needing a stay in our shelter. Together, these programs allow us to serve more families and provide the right level of support based on each family's needs.

As I reflect on the past 16 years, I am filled with gratitude for our dedicated staff, volunteers, board members, donors, and community partners. Your support makes this work possible, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside our community to help more families find stability and a path forward."



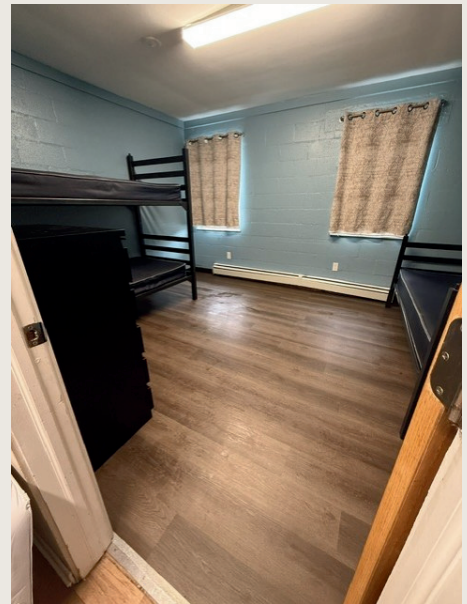
Shelter Repair Updates

Thanks to a Shelter Repair Grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, work began in April on several much-needed improvements. See the progress below!

BEFORE



AFTER



COMPLETED



Wait.....there's more!

Shelter Repair Updates

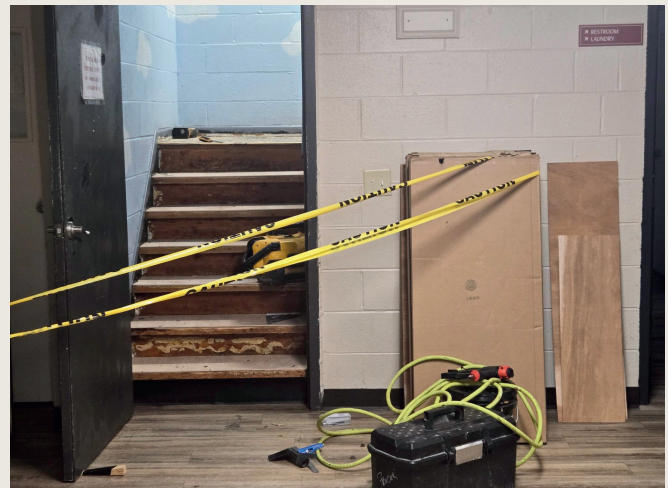
BEFORE



AFTER



LOADING ...



Community Impact



Haven House received a generous \$50,000 grant from [Jackson Financial Inc.](#) to support our Housing Assistance Fund, which helps cover first month's rent, security deposits, and past-due utility bills for families moving into stable housing. This funding will allow families to secure permanent homes more quickly while also making room for additional families in need of shelter services. We are grateful to Jackson for their continued partnership and commitment to ending family homelessness in our community.

Community Support

Redeemer United Methodist Church



 **HELO Club**
A Greater Lansing
Social & Charitable
Organization
bloom where you are planted

Order of the Eastern Star-Okemos Chapter



Community Spotlights



Needed diapers & snacks from our Amazon wish list!



Household and cleaning supplies from The Peoples Church and Eastern High School Class of 2026!



Freezer meals for a quick dinner and homemade pancakes from Redeemer Church & 2142 Community Church!



Donuts from Strange Matter Coffee Co.!





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Haven House Newsletter
Summer 2026

Engage with us!



BECOME A 2027 SPONSOR



Will you help us make
an even greater impact
in 2027?

More than just a fundraiser, Pancake Palooza is a fun, family-friendly celebration that builds community and raises awareness. Each year, our enthusiastic volunteers—our “Star Servers”—rally their networks to compete for the title as Pancake Palooza Champion, all while raising critical funds for families in need. Be part of the impact on 2.27.27!

Contact cthomas@havenhouseel.org
to learn more.



HAVE-A-HEART FOR THE HOMELESS

Have-A-Heart for the Homeless (or simply Have-A-Heart) initiative. This campaign has seen countless businesses, schools, clubs, and other groups give their customers, clients, employees, and members the chance to make a difference by donating \$5. For their donation, participants receive a paper heart displaying their name to be showcased at the establishment throughout the campaign.

Visit www.HavenHouseEL.org/haveaheart
to learn more!

Interested in partnering?
Contact cthomas@HavenHouseEL.org

**Thank you to our current
partners!**





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Haven House Newsletter
Summer 2026

MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE

JUNE 28TH-SEPTEMBER 26TH

Meijer is helping combat hunger in our community through its [Simply Give program!](#)

You can make a difference too by adding a [\\$10 Simply Give donation card](#) to your cart during your next Meijer trip. These contributions are [turned into gift cards](#) that directly support families at Haven House.

Shop Bath Township Meijer, 7157 E Saginaw St, East Lansing to participate



JOIN MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

If you want to make a lasting difference, consider joining our Monthly Giving Club. It's a simple act—one you set up once, like a subscription—but it has a powerful, ongoing impact. While you may set it and forget it, your monthly gift continues working behind the scenes, providing families with consistent, reliable support all year long. Just \$25 a month can help meet urgent needs and create lasting change for those in shelter.

<https://havenhouseel.org/monthly-giving-club/>



ADOPT-A-CHILD FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

As of July 22nd, 44 children in our aftercare program have been adopted as part of this initiative.

In the last weeks before school begins, our focus has pivoted to the back-to-school clothing needs of our in-shelter children.

Our hope is to be able to provide gift cards to these families so they can go back-to-school shopping together.

Questions?

Contact apalasek@HavenHouseEL.org.

ADOPT-A-CHILD FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Help children in need start
the school year in style!



More Ways to Help



View our
Urgent
Needs

Give today!



LOVE HAVEN HOUSE? ★★★★★

Leave us Google review about your experience!



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Summer 2026

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Liberty Mutual Insurance volunteers spent part of their day back in May on a landscaping project and we are grateful for their hard work and attention to detail!

Whether you love cooking, working with children, enjoy an office setting, looking for a large group opportunity, or you've just been looking for a way to give back, Haven House has many opportunities to support our mission. **Volunteers have provided 4,160 hours so far in 2026.**

Interested and have questions? Contact our Volunteer & Projects Manager, apalasek@HavenHouseEL.org

SPREAD THE WORD

Help us spread the word! Forward this newsletter to friends and family –every gift counts. Whether it's a one-time donation, monthly support, urgent shelter items, or volunteering, your generosity helps families facing homelessness.

Want to tour our facility and learn more? Contact our Community Engagement Director, cthomas@HavenHouseEL.org



Our Contact Information

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