

Sarah's "Victorious Women" eNews, March 2021

1 message

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Sarah's... an Oasis for Women
"Victorious Women"

May, 2021
eNews

Women healing from trauma continue vibrant, meaningful lives and contribute to the common good.



This year marks 25 years since Sarah's opened its door to the amazing women that call it home!

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Join us to Celebrate our 25th Anniversary!



Save the date for Sarah's... an Oasis for Women's "Welcome Home" event! Help Sarah's celebrate 25 years since opening its doors and the amazing women who call it home.

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, June 9.**
[Register today!](#)

[Become a Sarah's Super Hero](#) for our event and share information about Welcome Home with friends, family, and neighbors. Encourage friends and family to register for this free event that shares the story of how this program has made an impact right here in the Twin Cities.

Former Staff and Residents - Join our Whatsapp Group!

If you are a former staff member or resident at Sarah's and are interested in joining the former Sarah's Whatsapp group to be contacted on a daily basis, reach out via our website or email director@sarahsoasis.org directly.

Looking for Volunteer Translators

Thank You for Your Support

Thank You for Sharing with a Friend!

Thank you for passing along Sarah's eNews to a friend and having them reach out to subscribe or sign up for the monthly conversation/virtual tour at SarahsOasis.org.

Greatest Wish List Need

Thank you to all who purchased items from Sarah's wishlist. We continue to accept newly purchased items for the safety of our residents. Please see our wishlist for our greatest needs. You may purchase items from any source and have them delivered to Sarah's. Please contact Director@SarahsOasis.org for the delivery address.

<https://www.sarahsoasis.org/immediate-needs>

Sarah's residents who are not working need to purchase essential items like toothpaste, sanitary pads, and deodorant and many more are not working than pre-COVID. The best way to help with this is to purchase or designate your donation for \$10 or \$20 Target gift cards. Send to the address below or make a donation online and designate by contacting Director@SarahsOasis.org.

Individual donations are also essential to the mission of Sarah's. If you are able to make a monthly commitment of even \$5 a month, please do click "Donate Now" or the link below. You will help the women of Sarah's a lot with even a small donation. Every dollar is stretched and used to provide for basic needs of our residents.

<https://www.sarahsoasis.org/donate-2>

Volunteers

Thank you to every volunteer who has made masks, picked up prescriptions, brought household items from the store, safely driven residents to appointments, talked on the phone, sent cards, or social distanced in the yard with residents, and more.

Our volunteer application is currently open! Volunteers are selected based on mutual expression of Sarah's needs and the individual volunteer's expectations, skills, and strengths. Sarah's staff must be able to assure Sarah's women that their privacy and safety are being protected at all times. Visit <https://www.sarahsoasis.org/job-openings> if you're interested in applying.

Other Upcoming Events

About Sarah's... an Oasis for Women

Sarah's Director hosts a ministry conversation and virtual tour on the third Wednesday of the month at 10 AM via Zoom. If you have questions about Sarah's, are totally new to Sarah's, or haven't visited with us in a while, please register at sarahsoasis.org.

Upcoming dates: Regular virtual tours are expected to resume in August. Stay tuned! Or if you would like to schedule a one-on-one tour and conversation, contact us on the website.

Norene: Determined and Motivated Mother - Part I

"We just got the tickets! They're leaving on Tuesday and will arrive here on Wednesday!" The joy in Norene's voice was so overwhelming she was barely understandable as she explained that she would see her children, next week, after waiting for more than a year. Almost exactly a year before this conversation, Norene came to live at Sarah's... *an Oasis for Women* on a cool spring day in 2010. Norene is a strong woman who speaks with conviction, hope and respect. She talks about her home country with nostalgia.... "I did my primary and secondary education there. I've been to university and was working there for the past twenty years. I got married there. I have two kids born there, seventeen and fifteen. I had a home there. That was my life."

Norene reflects on her history and the circumstances that brought her to Minnesota and to Sarah's. "In my country, we lived in a large suburb of the capitol. I worked as an administrator and my husband was the chief accountant at his company." There were multiple political changes throughout the years, but, Norene recalls,

We are currently looking for volunteers that would be willing to work at Sarah's to do informal transcriptions and interpretation. These volunteers would be placed on a call list in case we need their translation services in the future.

In particular, we are looking for people who speak: Amharic, French, Hindi, Hinko, Kalenjin, Oromo, Pashto, Pele, Punjabi, Shona, Swahili, Tamil, Tetela, Urdu.

Please visit our [Volunteers page](#) or email director@sarahsoasis.org directly if interested.

Other Ways to Connect

Monthly eNews from the Sisters of St Joseph: <https://www.csjstpaul.org/stay-connected/>

Weekly inspirational newsletter from the Sisters of St Joseph: <https://csjministriesfoundation.org/>

Watch videos on Sarah's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SarahsoasisOrg/featured>

"My life was so peaceful. Until 2008, that's when things started affecting my life. I wasn't involved in politics. I had my job. I would contribute when discussing with other people, but I was not active in politics. My husband was the one who was kind of active in politics, but without my knowledge, because I wasn't approving of it."

Norene then explains how life fell apart for her family. Her husband left their home in the suburbs and told Norene he was going to take a vacation in the country to study. However, he was actually campaigning for the political opposition party near the rural home of the country's leader at the time. Norene notes, "It was the president's constituency. It was a very volatile constituency. I don't know what gave him the guts to do such a thing. Anyways, this is where all the problems started. The President's people were after him. They wanted him."

Norene's life initially continued like normal. "I was still working. I was still living my life. My kids were still going to school. Life was normal. Then, we were attacked by people working for the new ruling government. The first time they didn't beat us or anything. They just locked us in a room and turned the house upside down. Whatever they were looking for, they didn't find it. We thought that was the end of it. But, they came back. When they didn't find my husband, they went to his parent's home in the rural area. They didn't find him there either. They burned the houses, three houses. Even now I don't know where my in-laws are, because they had to run for their lives." Immediately, opposition party leaders took her husband into hiding in the UK but, Norene and her family initially thought he was dead. "He was missing for nearly three and a half years. We only learned he was alive, about three months ago."

Soon after the attack, there were elections in Norene's country and her husband's party, the opposition party, won. The ruling party was defeated and "That's when they started again. That's when I had a very nasty experience." One day, Norene woke up in the hospital. "They beat me up till I was unconscious." Her face still bears the reminders of that horrible experience with a quarter inch long indentation, about two inches below her right eye. Fearing her own safety and that of her children, she went into hiding, leaving her children with friends.

Please visit our website at <https://www.sarahsoasis.org/>.
Donate to our cause at <https://www.sarahsoasis.org/donate-2>.
Sarah's is a ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet.

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