

# Monthly Newsletter

MOTHER TERESA HOUSE



May 2026



## Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

We are inviting a new staff member to our team! Find out more information on the following pages.

Construction on our Zimmer house has finally begun! If no problems occur, the renovations should be complete mid to late August. We hope to open the Zimmer house by September 1. Please join us in prayer that everything goes smoothly.

We hope that everyone has been enjoying the occasional sunny days we have had lately. We look forward to the warmer weather here at MTH as the increase in animal



activity and sun gives our guests the opportunity to watch the birds and squirrels, enjoy the spring flowers, and even sit outside if able.

Thanks for reading!

*MTH Staff*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Mother Teresa House Updates

Volunteer Spotlight

Our Next Informational Meeting and Training

Stories of Impact

How can you help?

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# Volunteer Updates

Thank you to everyone who has, and continues to serve with us! We especially want to thank the volunteers that will be leaving Mother Teresa House. These volunteers together provided over 900 hours of care for our guests!

Srikar Chilamkurthi  
Aamir Hasan  
Kavya Jonnalagadda  
Saahiti Kurella  
Claire McGlone

Shashank Pagadala  
Neti Pali  
Fatima Vite  
Avery Zimmerman

We also want to welcome our new volunteers to Mother Teresa House.

*Welcome Nick Wright, and Saba Saed!*

## Volunteer Spotlight

Meet our volunteer Kavya!



Kavya has been volunteering for the longest out of our volunteers that are leaving. She has shown consistent communication and responsibility along with exemplary care towards our guests. She is always ready to be at service doing anything needed. We wish her the best in her future endeavours!

*Thank you for your countless hours in helping our ministry Kavya!*



## May 2026 Training

Invite your friends to our upcoming tour and volunteer informational meeting! We will talk about what being a caregiver entails and provide training on needed skills at our upcoming practical skills training. Here are the details:

- Informational Meeting: Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3p
- Skills Training: Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 10a-2p
- Location will be shared once attendance is confirmed.
- Please fill out application on the website before attending. Training is tentative on sufficient sign up.

[www.mothershouse.org/how-can-i-help/volunteer/](http://www.mothershouse.org/how-can-i-help/volunteer/)



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## Learn more about the newest member of our staff: Michelle Sommer, Director of Development

Hello! My name is Michelle Sommer, and I am honored to join Mother Teresa House as the new Director of Development. I'm excited to become part of such a compassionate community and to help strengthen the relationships and resources that support our mission of caring for the terminally ill.

I bring more than 20 years of experience in the medical field, with a previous focus on neurorehabilitation. Throughout my career, I have managed volunteer and internship programs, coordinated fundraising initiatives and special events, and built strong, lasting relationships within the community. I have also served on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Therapeutic Recreation Association, including roles as Member-at-Large, President-Elect, and President.



My work, both in healthcare and in the community, has continually reinforced the power of meaningful connections and the profound impact they can have on individuals and families.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, walking our dog Faith, traveling to new places, boating up north during Michigan summers, and attending MSU sporting events—Go Green!

Fun fact: I recently discovered a personal connection to the Zimmer Road house. During an Easter gathering with my husband's family, I learned that his relatives, Darlene and Weldon Parker, were the original builders and homeowners. Darlene worked as a nurse before raising her children and remained devoted to caring for others throughout her life. It feels especially meaningful that our mission and ministry continue on the foundation they established—a reminder that God works in remarkable ways.

I am truly grateful to be here and excited for this opportunity. I look forward to connecting with everyone and working to support this mission together.

~ Michelle

*"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."  
- Mother Teresa*

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# You can help us make a difference!

## Donations

These donations will be used in our daily care for our current guests. By making a donation, this will allow us to continue to provide personal, around-the-clock care to those in the greatest need at no cost. Thank you for your generosity!

We are currently in need of...

- Meijer gift cards for groceries
- fitted sheets for a twin bed
- 2 crockpots
- coffee maker
- birdfeeder

## Donate your time!

We are always looking for hands-on caregivers to provide loving, comforting care to our guests.

For more information come to our next orientation (see page 2) or reach out to Sophia at [serving@motherteresahouse.org](mailto:serving@motherteresahouse.org)



## Join our Prayer Team!

Want to help, but don't have the time or resources? Help us through prayer! Prayer is the bedrock of our ministry. For more information about our Prayer Team or to join please

visit our website at <https://motherteresahouse.org/how-can-i-help/volunteer/> and scroll down to the "Prayer Team" section. We appreciate all prayers we receive.

*Thank you for reading!*

MOTHER TERESA HOUSE	517-484-5494
<a href="http://www.motherteresahouse.org">www.motherteresahouse.org</a>	P.O. Box 13004 Lansing, MI 48901

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## *New: Prayer Intentions*

Hello all, thank you for reading our monthly newsletter! Starting this month we will be attaching a prayer calendar along with the monthly newsletter. The idea of this is that every day there is either a staff member, board member, volunteer, or prayer intention for Mother Teresa House that you can join us in praying for. The prayer doesn't have to be long, you can do a personalized prayer if you know the person, or simply ask God to work in and through them.

Thank you for your continued support of Mother Teresa House!



# May Prayer Intentions

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Scheduling					1 Bianca Bekke	2 Josh Lafave
3 Potential volunteers	4 Patti Simon	5 Sophia Morales	6 Michelle Sommer	7 Gracie Gifford	8 Stella Landolt	9 Stephanie Applebee
10 Administrative tasks	11 Alexis Talamantez- Alamanzar	12 Phil Mondro	13 Michael MacLaren	14 Sister Elizabeth Mary Przedowojewski	15 Alan Olsen	16 Lauren Dunn
17 Financial donors	18 Ryan Timmer	19 Chris Bourque	20 Mary Van Poppelen	21 Linda Pung	22 Angie Moody	23 Kasey Bandy
24 New volunteers	25 Alyssa Benit	26 Cindy Boyton	27 Mary Brown	28 Ryan Chackunkel	29 Ethan Cisler	30 Crystal Cook