



**20 Impact
25 Report**



A Letter to our Supporters

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2025, we do so with grateful hearts, giving thanks to God for His faithfulness and provision through Freedom House Ministries. Our mission is rooted in the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:35, where He calls us to serve Him by caring for those who are hungry, vulnerable, and in need of shelter. This calling continues to guide and shape everything we do.

In 2025, Freedom House had the privilege of serving **42 families**, offering a place of refuge, stability, and hope during seasons of uncertainty. Through prayer, compassionate care, and the faithful support of our community, **50% of the families we served moved into stable, permanent housing.**

We furthered this commitment by stepping into the gap of low-income housing availability through partnerships with Golden House and House of Hope, helping nine families secure housing voucher eligible units so they could continue their journey out of homelessness.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25 that when we welcome the stranger and care for "the least of these," we are serving Him. This ministry is about more than housing—it is about restoration, healing, and walking alongside families as they move toward hope and wholeness.

This work would not be possible without you.

To our faithful volunteers, generous donors, church partners, and supporters: *thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ.* Your prayers, generosity, and commitment allow us to live out this mission in tangible ways.

As we look ahead, we remain confident in God's continued guidance and provision. Together, we will keep walking faithfully in this calling, trusting that as we serve others, we are serving Christ Himself.

With sincere gratitude and blessings,

Jennifer Schmohe
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Schmohe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Impact Stats

Because of YOU lives are saved, families are strengthened and stability is achieved.



50%

EXIT SUCCESS

Half of the families served moved into stable housing



42

FAMILIES SERVED

There were 103 children and 59 adults served throughout 2025



87%

RACIAL DISPARITY

Individuals served in shelter are disproportionately experiencing housing instability



126

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

Families stayed in shelter for an average of just over 4 months throughout 2025



82%

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLDS

Single mothers made up the majority of households served



55%

TRAUMATIC HISTORIES

Over half of the adults served had a history of domestic violence, sexual assault or human trafficking

35 Years of Freedom House

Freedom House Ministries was founded in 1991 by a small group of concerned Christians. They wanted support, hope and joy to be brought to families who were facing homelessness. They anchored their efforts in the Matthew 25:35 verse, as they stepped out in faith to serve families in Green Bay. To this day we are the only family shelter in Green Bay, who serves with the missional calling to love, serve and support in the spirit of "love your neighbor as yourself." Throughout the years, the Board of Directors has been a critical support to the staff, supporting and shaping the future of Freedom House Ministries. Today, this leadership body has evolved to a robust representation of concerned citizens who care deeply for the families and children we serve.

Board of Directors

Karen Lancelle, *President*
Schreiber Foods
Sarah Richardson, *Vice President*
Elevance Health
Kristi Hansen, *Secretary*
Nicolet National Bank
Adam Paal, *Treasurer*
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Merril Lynch
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Conway, Olejniczak, and Jerry
Matt Rentmeester
Baird Creek Preservation Foundation
Stacy Slatky
Bank of Luxemburg



Faith as a Foundation

At the heart of Freedom House's mission is the belief that lasting transformation includes spiritual renewal.

The Alpha program, led by volunteer Barb, provides families with a welcoming space to explore and deepen their faith. Through weekly gatherings, families engage with foundational questions about God, purpose, and hope while building community with one another.

Barb shares. "Watching families discover that they're loved by God, not because of their circumstances, but in spite of them, changes everything about how they see their future,"

As a faith-based nonprofit, we believe spiritual wellness is inseparable from the journey toward stability. Alpha nurtures this essential foundation for families.



Building Pathways to Lasting Stability

PROGRAMMING FOCUS SHIFTS DUE TO HOUSING LANDSCAPE AND DEPENDENCE ON LIVING-WAGE EMPLOYMENT

When federal funding cuts paused and eliminated housing vouchers in 2025, Freedom House Ministries faced a critical question: How could we help families achieve permanent housing without the subsidies previously relied upon by low income families?

The answer reshaped our approach entirely.

"We realized we needed to shift our focus from simply finding housing to ensuring families had the economic foundation to sustain it," says Elisa Mandarin, Director of Success. "It wasn't enough anymore to help someone secure a housing a voucher and move into an apartment. They needed more income, skills, and confidence to keep that apartment long-term."

This understanding transformed our Housing Navigation and Economic Mobility pillars from supplementary services into the cornerstone of our programming. Success Coaches began working intensively with each family to develop comprehensive plans addressing both immediate housing needs and long-term economic sustainability.

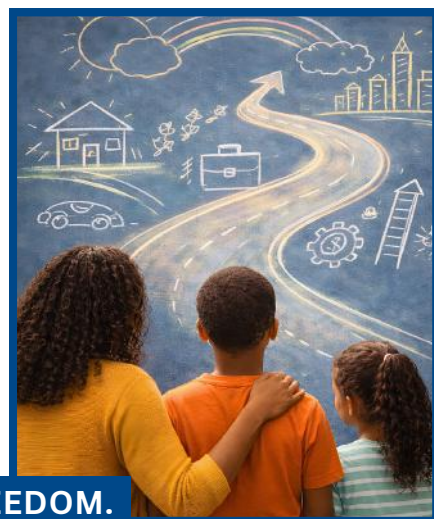
The work is deeply relational. Coaches assessed skills, identified career interests, and removed barriers preventing families from securing living-wage employment, whether it was childcare logistics, resume building, interview preparation, or connections to job training programs.

"Families often felt like they can't do it. They can't find a beautiful home or secure a career with real advancement opportunities," Elisa explained. "Our role was to educate and guide them to believe they could achieve greatness through their own efforts. Because they absolutely can."

The results speak to this shifted approach. Families built sustainable futures on their own terms, accepted positions with benefits, negotiated better wages, and planned career trajectories rather than just taking any available job.

This wasn't about making families fit into available subsidies. It was about equipping them with tools to create their own stability.

When a family leaves Freedom House with both a signed lease and a paycheck that covers their rent, utilities, and groceries with dignity intact, that's permanent change.



That's true FREEDOM.



Barrier Removal Fund Created to Reduce Financial Challenges

Frequently, the gap between homelessness and stability is a security deposit or car repairs. It also could be the steel-toed boots required for a job.

Our newly created Barrier Removal Fund exists for these pivotal moments, when a family has one final obstacle threatening their progress forward.

The Barrier Removal Fund is a dedicated resource creating targeted assistance for security deposits, transportation, work related expenses

standing between a family's transition from shelter into permanent housing.

By removing these barriers we protect the investment we've already made in each family's success. Their hard work deserves to lead somewhere, and this fund ensures a new chapter beyond homelessness happens.

If interested in contributing to the Barrier Removal Fund or learning more, contact Steve Schauer at steves@freedomhousegb.org or 920-273-4901.

Celebrating the Little Wins in 2025

Exiting shelter into long-term housing is always a big win at Freedom House, but we've learned that lasting change is built on little wins. These little wins give our residents the confidence and stamina to keep moving forward.

HERE ARE SOME LITTLE WINS FROM 2025:

Two moms sitting together in the shelter salon, doing each other's hair and reflecting on a recent house meeting. Together, they laugh, nod, and gently challenge each other to protect their time and energy for what really matters, even when life feels overwhelming.

We get to witness parents learning to slow down and be more patient with their children, pausing before reacting, listening more closely, and responding with greater understanding. Over time, they begin to notice small but meaningful shifts: fewer power struggles, more trust, and stronger connections with their kids. These changes ripple outward, creating calmer households and a greater sense of emotional safety for the whole family.

A mom who has dreamed for years of starting her own business getting connected with the Small Business Development Center and meeting a mentor who reignites her excitement and belief in herself.

A Money Made Simple class teaches a mom about locus of control, realizing she can influence her future instead of feeling carried by circumstances. She also learns how to budget through income changes, builds credit, plans for emergencies, and learns how small, consistent choices can add up over time.

Along the way, families are setting healthier boundaries, building a stronger and more supportive community around them, and choosing to invest in themselves. These moments might look small, but they are powerful. Little wins help families see what they are capable of, build confidence, and take ownership of their future, laying the groundwork for lasting stability long before the keys to a new home are in their hands.

*Thanks for supporting the small wins that lead to big changes, for families.
When families get stronger, our community wins.*



Restore hope for families

Become a Change Champion, so you can be a hero for families. A recurring gift helps ensure we are always ready to take action—when and where it is needed most.





Volunteerism Brings Joy to Families

As I stepped into my role as Volunteer Coordinator in 2025, I was immediately amazed by the generosity and compassion of every volunteer, meal team, and service group serving Freedom House families.

Volunteers are truly the heartbeat of who we are as an organization. Meal teams created connection through shared lunches and dinners. Groups brought joy

through Family Night crafts and games. Each volunteer helped families feel seen, loved, and cared for.

My cup fills with joy when I interact with those who care so deeply about families working hard to find a home they can call their own. It truly takes a community to make a difference, and that happens weekly at Freedom House. I'm honored to serve families and to work alongside volunteers committed to making a lasting impact.

If you are interested in partnering, contact me at volunteer@freedomhousegb.org. We also have a great webpage that highlights a multitude of volunteer opportunities.

Please view those opportunities at www.FreedomHouseGB.org/Volunteer.

Thank you for making 2025 extraordinary!

Julio Zuniga Jr.
Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Impact



345

UNIQUE VOLUNTEERS

made a difference by serving meals, sorting donations, cleaning and having thoughtful conversations with families



2,995

TOTAL HOURS GIVEN BY

volunteers throughout 2025 by individuals, families, businesses, churches and service groups

Our volunteer community showed up consistently last year, with 140 meal teams (32 new teams) providing nourishment and connection. There were 126 service groups who tackled countless projects. Volunteers also led 23 Family Night activities, creating moments of joy and normalcy for children and parents to bond and love. Every number represents people choosing to care.

Join Us in 2026

There's a place for everyone to make a difference at Freedom House. Serve meals that nourish families. Maintain outdoor spaces where children play. Welcome guests at the front desk or provide childcare during important appointments. Your time matters in countless ways.

Looking for event-based opportunities? Join us at our Hygiene Drive in March, October's Egg Roll Fundraiser, or Festival Foods Brat Barns throughout the year.



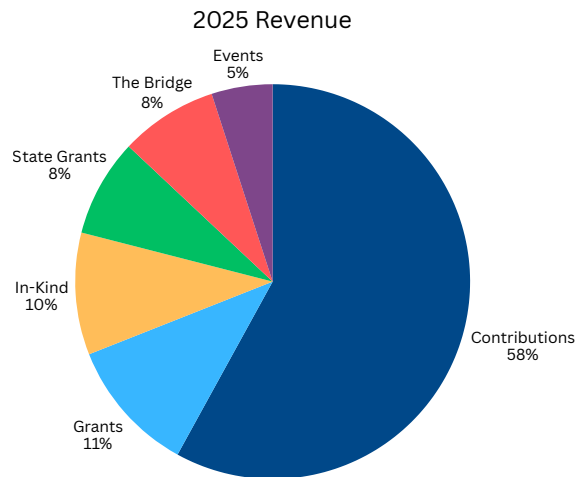
We've also created a meaningful new opportunity: helping families move from Freedom House into their permanent homes. There's something powerful about being present when a family crosses that threshold into stability.

Whatever your skills or schedule, we'd love to connect with you. Contact Julio Zuniga Jr. at volunteer@freedomhousegb.org to find your fit.

Financial Overview: Community Investment in Change

In 2025, Freedom House was sustained by extraordinary community support. In total, 990 unique donors invested in our mission, demonstrating deep commitment to disrupting homelessness forever.

Long-time supporters continued their faithful partnership and new donors stepped forward with generosity and vision, expanding our capacity to deepend the impact on families.



Strong community support enabled us to maintain comprehensive services while strengthening our financial foundation.

Every dollar invested represents belief in what's possible.

Long Live Your Values

Make a Gift Through Your Will or Estate Plan

Freedom House is working harder than ever to disrupt homelessness forever so families can live a life filled with joy and stability. Learn how you can positive alter generations with a gift through your will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy.

920-273-4901 • freedomhousegb.org/ways-to-give/planned-giving

Community Care in Action

Dignity begins with the basics—clean clothes for work, shampoo for a child's first day of school, fresh sheets for a family's first night of rest.

In 2025, our community understood this deeply.

Neighbors, individuals, churches and businesses ensured every family at Freedom House had access to essentials that many take for granted.

Your generosity provided:

- **9,014 clothing items**
- **4,962 hygiene items**
- **4,419 cleaning items**
- **975 bedding items**

These donations honored parent's dignity so they could dress professionally and children could attend school with confidence. Self-care remains a foundation to self-worth. Families fostered pride keeping their room and the shelter clean. Children and parents could sleep comfortably and safely.

These weren't just donations—they were acts of recognition. Recognition that every family deserves to feel human, respected, and valued while rebuilding their lives.

That's what community looks like in action to help families achieve stability and joy in their lives.



Facebook.com/FreedomHouseGB



Instagram.com/FreedomHouseGB



LinkedIn.com/company/Freedom-House-Green-Bay

THANK YOU

Thank you for standing alongside families working hard to overcome homelessness. Your generosity, prayers, and unwavering commitment make our mission thrive. Without this community's support, we couldn't offer the hope and stability to families desperately in need. We are deeply, profoundly grateful.

2025 Annual Events Recap

Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

Freedom House participated in the community-wide Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive in March. We received hundreds of supplies to honor the dignity of families and help keep our shelter clean.

Gandrud Car Show

Staff and volunteers worked the concession stand at the annual Gandrud Car Show in August. Hundreds of supporters bought brats and burgers to raise critical funds for shelter services and resources.

Mash Dash

Freedom House was a proud benefactor for the annual Bay Highlands MASH DASH run/walk on Thanksgiving morning. Hundreds of individuals braved the weather to support families during their journey to stability.

If you would like to get involved by sponsoring, volunteering or donating to any of the events Freedom House hosts or is a benefactor of, please get in touch with Keren Cotter at kerenc@freedomhousegb.org.



2025 Highlight



Seeds for Change is Freedom House's largest fundraiser of the year, supporting our shelter services that provide basic needs (meals, clothing, hygiene products), Success Coaching, workforce training and housing navigation.

More than \$50,000 was raised at the 2025 event to help over 40 families, comprising of more than 160 parents and children.

Join us for Seeds for Change in September at Gather on Broadway.