



# A HOME OF MANY BLESSINGS



BUILDING POTENTIAL, SHARING LOVE

# FOSTERING CARING, INCLUSION AND CONNECTION



On any given night in Saginaw County, there are about 350 homeless individuals. Many of them are single women, often

with young children in tow, living in their cars, moving from one friend's couch to another's, or even sleeping on the street.

Mustard Seed Shelter offers these women temporary shelter from the weather, a clean bed, warm meals, a shower, a comforting hug and a chance to “unpack” their life stories and begin to piece their lives back together. Guests are connected with necessary medical, psychological and substance abuse treatment, as well as education and employment resources and government housing grants for those who qualify.

The main goal of Mustard Seed Shelter is simple – to welcome women who are broken in spirit and to show them love, mercy and compassion as we guide them toward self-sufficiency. At the same time, we provide a safe, stable home environment for our guests' children, helping to break the cycle of poverty.

## OUR MISSION

*We water the seed of inner strength in women experiencing homelessness so they can make a better life for themselves and their children.*



## CHANGING LIVES, STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Unlike other shelters that place a time limit on how long guests can stay, Mustard Seed recognizes that repairing a lifetime of brokenness takes time. Our guests stay, on average, 3-6 months. During their time with us, we are able to connect them with a number of life-changing services:

- Recovery and crisis resolution support groups
- Individual counseling sessions
- Life skills support groups
- Parenting skills training
- Mental health assessments and treatment referrals
- Assistance with goal planning
- Money-management coaching and mentoring
- GED and educational support
- Job training

## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND AFTERCARE



NEST (Neighbors Enabling Success Together) provides furnishings and household items free of charge to Mustard Seed guests and anyone at risk of or emerging from homelessness. By connecting the surplus of perfectly good household items with those who need them, we have helped people create “homier” homes where they want to stay. We have also helped create meaningful volunteer experiences and bring visibility to the complexity of poverty and homelessness in our community. Learn more about this powerful program on our website.



*“They planted that mustard seed in me, and things started to change. I was able to knock down walls and conquer things.”*

Tammy, former guest



# GROUND ED IN FAITH, OPEN TO ALL

Mustard Seed Shelter is a faith-based organization that is not directly connected to a specific church or institution. Guests are not proselytized, nor is faith of any kind a requirement for entering or remaining in our shelter.

Because of our small home environment, we have the opportunity to help women rebuild their lives by helping them address both their crisis situation and the core reasons that led to their homelessness. We work hand in hand with our guests, helping them access the services they need to turn their lives around.

Since our founding in 1995, Mustard Seed has welcomed more than 1,400 women and children, providing emergency shelter to more than 90 individuals each year, and assisting more than 90 each year with permanent supportive housing services that put women and children into a stable housing situation.

Mustard Seed is supported primarily by donations from individuals, churches, clubs, organizations and local foundations. We are proud to report that 97 cents of every dollar received goes directly to life-changing programs.

## YOUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE CAN HELP TRANSFORM SOMEONE'S LIFE

Whether you make a one-time gift or become a Friend of Mustard Seed Shelter with a monthly or annual commitment, your donation makes a difference. Visit the Give Now section of our website to see numerous ways to get involved and support Mustard Seed's work.

Contact us about becoming a Friend, planned giving options and volunteer opportunities.

"The kingdom of God  
is like a mustard seed  
... the smallest of all  
seeds but becomes the  
biggest, so that the  
birds in the air shelter  
in its branches."

(Matthew 13:31-32)



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*Mustard Seed Shelter is a 501(c)(3) organization as described in the IRS tax code and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.*