

PASSING THE BATON



This year has been a year of transition for Ruth Harbor and for our long-time executive director, Mark McDougal. Anticipating retirement was approaching, Mark and the Ruth Harbor board developed a transition plan in 2020. This plan provided the time and resources to search for a new executive director and allow for a period of overlap to transfer the years of experience to the new director.

Before starting the search, the board identified some clarifying values:

- the vision and mission of Ruth Harbor is unchanging; we wanted someone who will *carry on* the mission and *not change* the mission.
- the work environment and financial position of Ruth Harbor is healthy and we want to lean into this, not disrupt this.
- the donor community supporting Ruth Harbor has a great deal of trust in Mark and Ruth Harbor, and we want to transfer this trust to the new director.

In early 2022, the board identified Chris Eller as the new executive director, and he was able to start as “executive director designate” on June 1. Chris was a current board member and comes to Ruth Harbor with more than 30 years of ministry experience in Central Iowa.

Both Mark and Chris have expressed deep gratitude to the board for their determination, guidance, and financial investment to see this transition fulfilled. As an organization, we are thankful for our donors and staff who have been so supportive on multiple levels. We also appreciate the blessing and support from Ruth Harbor’s founders who brought this vision forward and then entrusted their vision to the board and staff. ■

Ruth Harbor will host a retirement reception for Mark & Deb on Saturday, January 7 from 4-7:00 pm Compass Financial Services, 4801 Westown Pkwy, West Des Moines. Please join us!

Ruth Harbor Stories

Stories of God’s love transforming lives through your partnership with Ruth Harbor.



Rose’s Story

“I came from a really dark childhood, and so did my mom, and so did her mother. The day I found out I was pregnant, I was in a really, really dark spot. Ruth Harbor changed that. I chose open adoption because I want to be a part of my daughter’s life, but I knew I couldn’t take care of her at that time. I want my daughter to witness my growth and say, “that’s your mom, she came from the streets, and look at her today.”



Susu’s Story

“I honestly had nowhere to go and it was Ruth Harbor that gave me a place to go. I met my house parents at the bus station and they have been my best friends ever since. I don’t know what I would have done without them. I don’t know where I’d be, but I know I wouldn’t have my own home and I wouldn’t be able to take care of my child. Seriously, you guys make me want to do better.”



Kristin’s Story

“When I came to Ruth Harbor it gave me time to figure out my next steps. I needed to figure out what I needed to do and how to embrace the situation that I had. Ruth Harbor gave me a home and it gave me family life and it gave me that push to get a job. Sometimes with just a pat on the back they helped me see I can get through this. Ruth Harbor showed me that I am more blessed than I thought.”

Making A Difference

Together we are making a difference two generations at a time.

Board of Directors

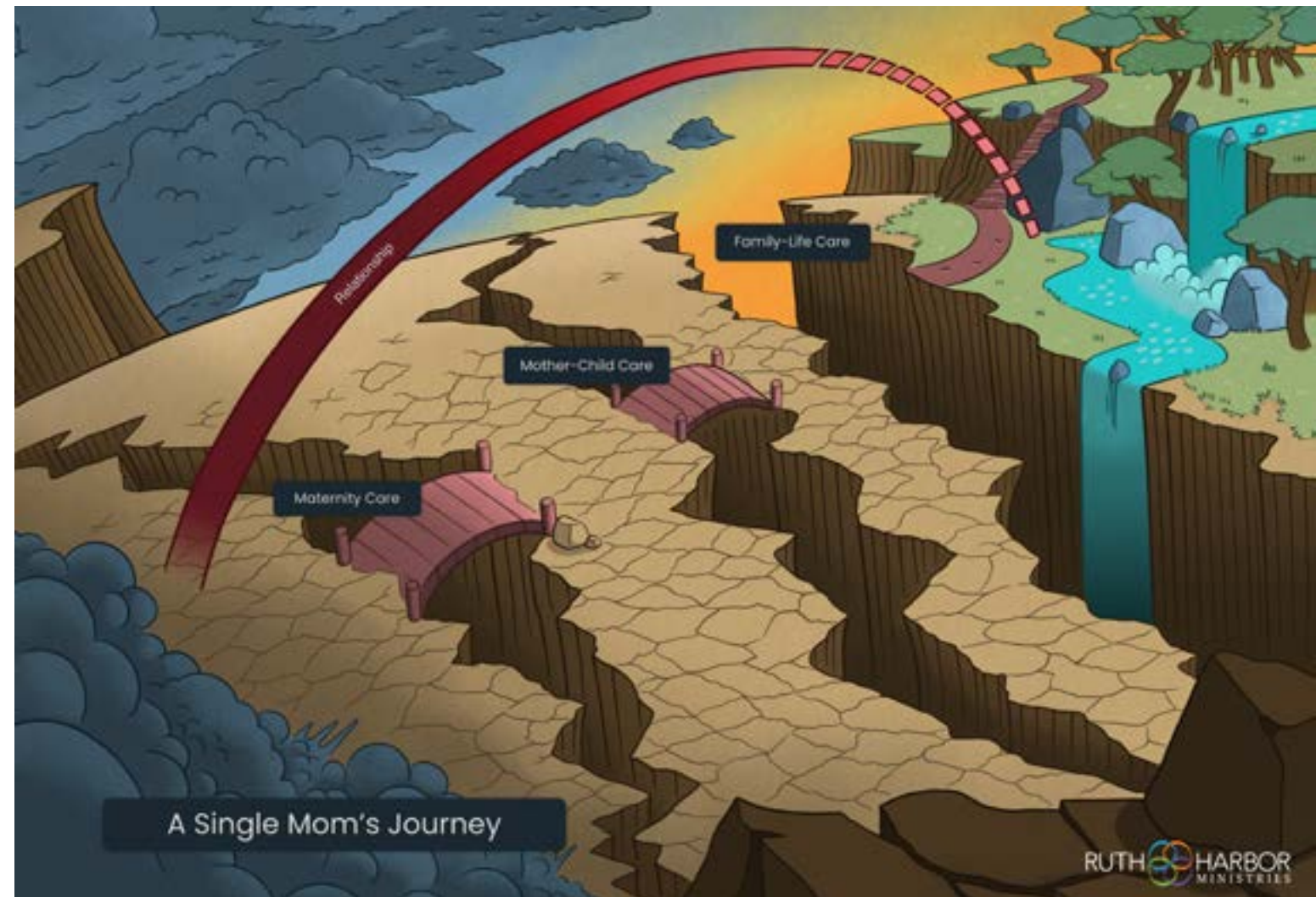
Steve Boal
Carmine Boal
David Dominguez
Beth Eilers
Tim Lubinus
Kylee Malik
Mike McDonald
Marti Skow
Bill Zook

STAFF

Wendy Carlson
Chris Eller
Edina Kalabic
Shawn & Cara Kunz
Mark McDougal
Jessica Morris
Aimee Phillips
Sara Sorensen
Matthew & Casey Stout
Stacy Terrill

Partners

- Agape Pregnancy Center
- Alpha Women’s Center
- Bethlehem House
- Birthright Iowa
- Cherish Center
- Christ Life Ministries
- Life Care Clinic
- Freedom for Youth
- Friendship Center
- Garden Gate Ranch
- Heart of Hope
- Hidden Acres
- InnerVisions Health Care
- Metro Women’s Center
- National Housing Conference
- New Horizons Adoption Agency
- Pregnancy Center of Central Iowa
- Single Parent Provision
- Team Restoration Ministries



STAND WITH MOMS & SEE LIVES TRANSFORMED



Make A Difference All Year Long

Regular monthly contributors are critical to Ruth Harbor’s ability to serve women and children. We provide safe, secure housing, family meals, access to health care, transportation, counseling, life coaching, and job training without cost to moms.

Here is what it costs to provide these services for a mom:

- **Your gift of \$40** would meet the needs of a single mom and her child for a single day.
- **Your gift of \$280** would meet the needs of a single mom and her child for a week.
- **Your gift of \$1200** would meet the needs of a single mom and her child for a month.



Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

Ruth Harbor Ministries
534 42nd Street
Des Moines, IA 50312
(515) 279-4661



You can give online via ruthharborcares.org and click on “Give.”

We provide a Christ-centered home and life-skills coaching for mothers experiencing pregnancy or parenting young children.

RUTH HARBOR

TOGETHER WE ARE IMPACTING TWO LIVES AT A TIME

33

women served this year

14

babies born or served through our homes this year

75%

women who have completed their programming

10

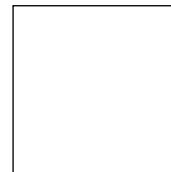
women in our new Family-life Care program

Homes where God's love transforms lives.

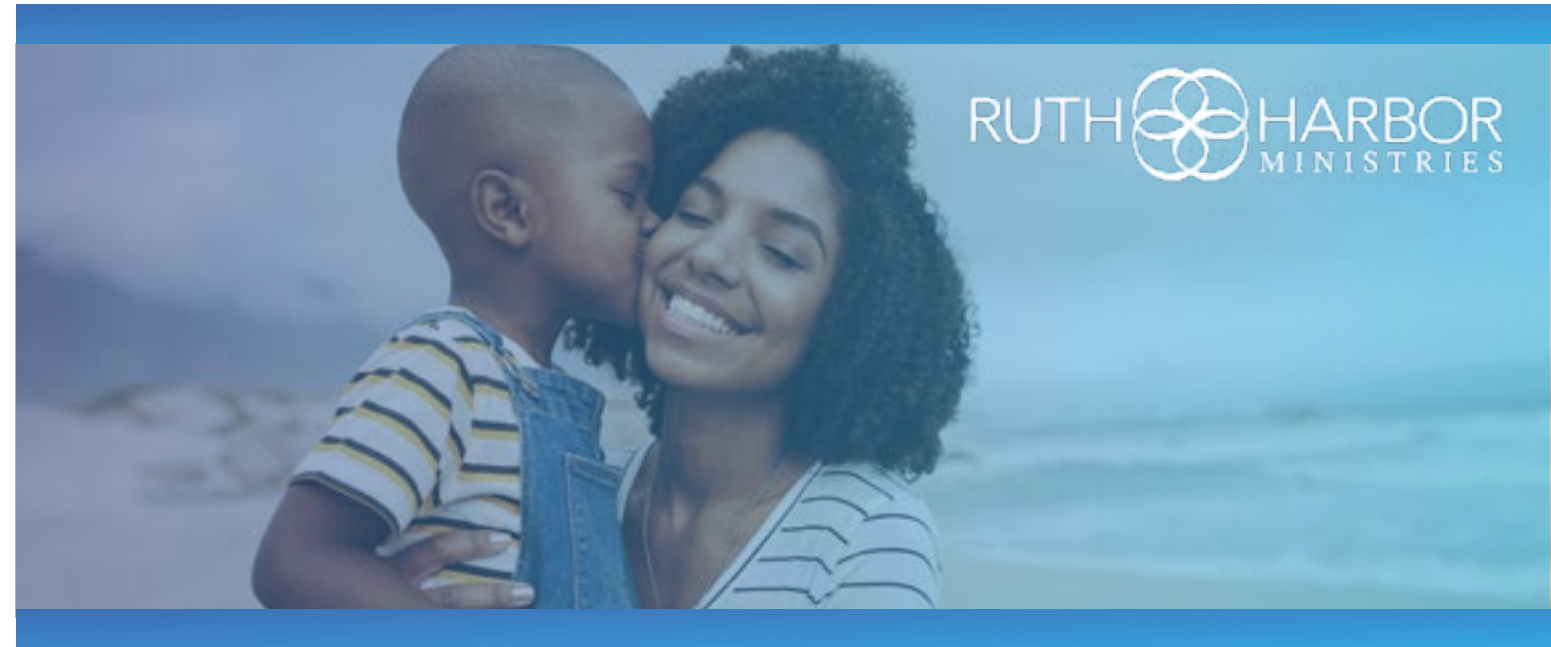
www.ruthharborcares.org



534 42nd Street
Des Moines, IA 50317



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



THE RUTH HARBOR FAMILY

For more than 20 years, Ruth Harbor has invested in the lives of young women experiencing pregnancy. The stories of true life transformation are many and profound. Women have discovered Jesus, and we have watched the trajectory of their life, and the life of their child changed forever.

In 2015, we recognized the need to walk further with a young mom when she chooses to parent. She needs a place where she can bond with her child in the safety and care of a loving home. Through the generous partnership of Ruth Harbor's donors, we purchased the Carlisle home to serve as a mother/child home.

Today, God is slowly revealing the next step for Ruth Harbor. We are calling it "The Ruth Harbor Family." We recognize there needs to be another step as we walk with a woman and her child to see true generational change. Many women who came to Ruth Harbor in 2022 are coming to us deeply rooted in poverty. The Cycle of Poverty cannot be broken in a few months. It takes consistent help and encouragement over an extended number of years.

Fundamental to helping women rise out of poverty and become self-sustaining is the need for secure housing and more intentional coaching and accountability.

How Can You Help with The Ruth Harbor Family?

We have identified three key ways to enhance our ministry to young women to help them break the Cycle of Poverty and begin living on a firm foundation.

Continued relationship after leaving Ruth Harbor. Anyone who has raised children to adulthood knows parenting doesn't end when a young person turns 18. Many young people stumble into adulthood as they learn to care for themselves and provide for their own needs. A family walks with these young men and women during this phase of life. As they make choices, family is there to assist them and provide counsel and help them learn from their poor choices. Similarly,

the women who graduate from Ruth Harbor need to be in continued relationships and community. Because many lack family support, we need to be there to assist them as they become independent and make mistakes. We need to be "family" to them.

Affordable housing. For several years, we have recognized the need for a next step regarding affordable housing. When a woman completes her Ruth Harbor program, she is ready to be on her own, but she often needs a longer and more affordable on-ramp to life. We have the opportunity to purchase a four-unit apartment complex that will allow us to provide an independent home for our graduates at a monthly rent that can scale with their ability to pay. This permits us to continue in relationship with our moms and assist them financially while they gain full independence and can care for their family.

Intentional care, connection, and community. Like a family, a trusted relationship is the key to helping a young mom gain full, sustainable independence. To develop and build this kind of community, we need to hire a Family Advocate, someone who serves as a continued life coach and connection to our graduates and the Ruth Harbor Family. Whether connecting to check in and make sure things are going well or holding some regular family events to help build community, accountability, and connection, a Family Advocate is essential to seeing our ministry to young moms and their families expand.

We can accomplish this together. The cost to expand Ruth Harbor's ministry and build a Ruth Harbor Family is well within the reach of our donor family. To purchase the apartment building, hire the Family Advocate, and fund this ministry opportunity, we ask our extended donor family to contribute an additional \$200,000 per year for the next three years. This will give us the tools to accomplish the long-standing goal of Ruth Harbor—to see lives transformed through God's love. ■



Affordable, safe, independent housing with Ruth Harbor as the landlord provides the kind of safety net and accountability Ruth Harbor moms need to complete their journey to a healthy life.