



RUTH  HARBOR
MINISTRIES

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

A Note from the Director

Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. ~ Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

These powerful verses perfectly capture the gratitude and joy we feel when we reflect on the incredible individuals who have bound themselves to the mission of Ruth Harbor, making the invaluable work of rescuing mothers and children in distress possible. On June 1, I celebrated my first year of employment here, and this journey has been nothing short of eye-opening. With over three decades in church ministry, I believed I had witnessed the full spectrum of human emotions, from anger to hope, and everything in between. But the depth of brokenness matched by the personal courage I've seen at Ruth Harbor has truly touched my heart.

At Ruth Harbor, we are privileged to walk alongside courageous moms who are champions of tenacity and determination. Pregnancy alone presents physical, emotional, and mental challenges, and for our moms, there's even more on their plates as they strive to meet their basic needs of food, shelter, and safety. The "Top 10 Necessities" for a Ruth Harbor mom differ from what many of us may know. Even proper medical care, something we might take for granted, barely makes the list. Imagine a mom joining us in her third trimester, yet she hasn't had the chance to see an OB or any physician. This reality underscores the critical importance of our work here.

Ruth Harbor is a "para-church" organization, which means we come alongside the church rather than replacing it. Strengthening our partnerships with local congregations is a top priority to provide the long-term community that Ruth Harbor moms need to thrive. While we can offer a "safe harbor" during pregnancy and those initial steps into single motherhood, we firmly believe that long-term family support is best found in a local church.

I'm excited to invite you to this year's Ruth Harbor Banquet on November 2.

Our theme, "Strands of Love," based on Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, will highlight one of our key values: "Generous Partnership." During the event, we'll have the honor of hearing from three incredible guest speakers who will each address an aspect of the God-

ordained community that addresses the needs of families in crisis.

Gov. Kim Reynolds will share her heartfelt efforts to assist moms and involve/engage fathers through the tools of state government. **Greg Baker** will emphasize the vital role that government and church shepherds play in God's plan to address brokenness in our state and how these institutions must work together for healing and restoration. Additionally, Pastor **Mike Augsburger** will share how his church, Soteria Church, has stepped into the gap, making a lasting impact in the lives of Ruth Harbor moms.

As part of this God-called, God-ordained ministry, you have already made a significant difference through your regular, monthly contributions. Your support provides the essential resources that enable Ruth Harbor moms to navigate the journey of single motherhood with the help they need. For that, we are truly grateful.

If you haven't yet become a monthly contributor, we humbly invite you to join us in this mission. We need your help, whether it's walking into the fire with the brokenhearted or offering intercessory prayers and financial support. Every contribution, big or small, makes a meaningful impact.

Keep an eye out for more details in the coming days, as we'll be sending your invitation to join us for this year's banquet. If you're interested in hosting a table, feel free to let us know by sending an email to aimee@ruthharbor.org.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and belief in the work we do at Ruth Harbor. Your partnership plays an integral role in bringing hope and healing to families in crisis. Together, we are making a difference.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Eller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Eller
Executive Director



Staff Highlights

Sara Sorensen, Program Director

Sara came to Ruth Harbor in October 2022. Originally hired as the Assistant Program Director, she became Program Director in May 2023. Sara lives in Altoona with her springer spaniel. They are active in pet therapy and compete competitively in several canine events. Sara has six nieces and nephews and enjoys playing the role of aunt anytime she can. She graduated from Purdue University in July 2020 with a master's degree in Human Services and in her spare time enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Lindsey Moore, Assistant House Parent

Lindsey serves as an Assistant House Parent at the Carlisle home during the week. She and her husband Alex occasionally serve as Back Up House Parents on the weekends. They have been married since December of 2022, and they're welcoming a baby boy into their family in October of 2023. Lindsey graduated from college with a degree in Women's Ministries. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, reading, drinking coffee, and studying theology.

Amanda Shuey, Family Life Care Specialist

We are pleased to announce Amanda Shuey is our new Family Life Care Specialist. In this role, Amanda will work with alumnae of Ruth Harbor to stay connected with them. This is part of the Ruth Harbor Family initiative announced at last year's banquet. Previously, Amanda served as our Life Coach working with residents of Ruth Harbor.

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Aimee Phillips, administrative director
Mark McDougal, development director
Jessica Morris, office assistant
Matthew & Casey Stout, house parents
Lindsey Moore, assistant house parent
Amanda Shuey, family life care specialist

Connect with Us

Ruth Harbor Ministries

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

Client Site: www.ruthharbor.org

Donor Site: www.ruthharborcares.org

House & Home Needs

It takes a lot of items to care for our moms and their children. You can help by donating to our wish list. A full list of items needed can be found at:

www.ruthharborcares.org/wish-list

- Gift cards (Mid K Beauty Supply, Walmart & Amazon)
- Natural laundry detergent (for HE machines)
- Dreft laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Facial tissues
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers (size newborn, 4 & 7)
- Montessori toys (for infants & toddlers)

SAVE
THE
DATE!



Strands of Love

FUNDRAISING BANQUET
 With Special Guest Speakers
 Governor Kim Reynolds
 Greg Baker
 Dr. Mike Augsburg

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • DES MOINES

Summer Fun at Ruth Harbor



“I AM PRO-MOM”

Your Partnership Makes A Difference!

Regular monthly contributors are critical to Ruth Harbor’s ability to serve women and children. We provide safe, secure housing, family meals, 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 \$60** would meet the needs of a single mom and her child for a single day.
- **Your gift of \$320** would meet the needs of a single mom and her child for a week.
- **Your gift of \$1400** would meet the needs of a single mom and her child for a month.



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