

## A Small Blessing

One day at Safe Harbor's Community Center, an unexpected blessing unfolded, reminding everyone that God's timing is always perfect. Three generations of a family, Maria, Betty, and young Samantha, visited the center with a special wish – a pair of shoes for Samantha's first day of school. Financial struggles had made it impossible for them to provide this simple need for Samantha, and they feared the potential embarrassment she might face in worn-out shoes.

With hope in their hearts, Maria and Betty visited the community center, hoping to find even gently used shoes that would fit Samantha. The warm and welcoming atmosphere instantly embraced them, and they soon joined in for lunch.

As lunch concluded, the staff invited Maria and Betty to their donation room, where they unveiled the beautiful new clothes and perfectly fitting shoes for Samantha. Overwhelmed with emotion, tears of gratitude filled their eyes as they realized that their prayers had been answered.

Leaving the community center that day, Maria and Betty were filled with gratitude and a deep sense of belonging in their community. Safe Harbor was more than just a place; it was a haven of love, compassion, and generosity. It was a place where miracles could happen.

On her first day of school, Samantha felt like a princess in a fairy tale as she proudly wore her new shoes, a gift from the kindness of strangers and someone who has always had perfect timing.

*Sam was so excited looking down at her new pair of shoes.*



## VolunteerHub

MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

### Meet Patty Frady, Safe Harbor's ReSource Warehouse Volunteer

Patsy began volunteering weekly at Safe Harbor's ReSource Warehouse after the passing of her beloved husband, Ken, and she has remained for several years.

Patsy's impact extends beyond the walls of the store, serving as an inspiration to both fellow volunteers and store visitors alike. Her ability to connect with people and treat strangers as friends is truly remarkable. She effectively shares her knowledge of Safe Harbor and its services, spreading the message throughout the community. Patsy's passion for meeting new faces enriches her experience, while her genuine warmth shines through every interaction.

With two children and six grandchildren, Patsy's life is a testament to her values. Her cherished Bible verse, John 3:16, encapsulates her faith. We are so thankful to Patsy and all our volunteers who help make Safe Harbor a warm, welcoming place to share God's peace with those who need it.



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*Thank You for your continued support.*

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**Safe Harbor of NC**

Anchoring Lives Through Christ

## Harbor Highlights

2023 Fall Newsletter

## Where There Is God's Love, There Is Hope

Deb's early life was filled with hardship. After growing up in a home filled with physical and verbal abuse, she had high hopes for a better life when she met her husband.

Today, Deb is no longer struggling alone. With God's help, she found love, care, and a sense of belonging at Safe Harbor. They also introduced her to The Voice and

Unfortunately, Deb again faced abuse, this time from her husband. She also battled severe health issues that led to several toe amputations, making creating a stable environment for herself and her children even more challenging.

Despite these obstacles, Deb's love for her children and unwavering determination led her to search for a stable and safe home. However, challenges persisted as her son battled with drugs and alcohol and became violent. Fearing for her life, Deb found herself with nowhere to go and no one to help. She sought safety with the police, who took her to a local shelter.

That's when she found out about Safe Harbor of NC. Once there, Deb recalls immediately feeling safe, secure and loved. "It was such a blessing," she recalls. "I wouldn't have to live on the streets, wondering where my next meal would come from."

It was at Safe Harbor that her life truly changed. She received the healthcare she needed and finally found safety and comfort at The Passage. The Passage, an extension of Safe Harbor's Community Center, assists women experiencing chronic homelessness who cannot secure housing.



Foot Solutions, where she received specialized shoes and could walk without a cane or walker. Soon after, an organization named Debra's Shoes was founded and named after her. It assists those who can't afford suitable footwear for their health conditions. Actively involved in Debra's Shoes, Deb encourages others facing similar health conditions.

Deb's story is a testament to the transformative power of faith, community, and resilience. Her

unwavering spirit is a reminder that with support, determination and God's word, one can overcome even the most challenging circumstances and find peace, security, and purpose.

Scan to view the video to see Deb's special day when she got her customized shoes.

Scan the code to see a video of Deb's story!



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ECFA Accredited

\*Some names and pictures have been changed to protect the identity of our clients.

Find us on:



**Safe Harbor of NC**  
Anchoring Lives Through Christ

*"...for God has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for His own glory." (Isaiah 61:3)*



# Chief Executive Officer's Letter



*"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Hi friends,

You may notice in our writings that we use words like "substance use disorder" instead of "addiction"; "return to use" instead of "relapse"; "people with alcohol or drug problems" instead of "alcoholics" or "addicts." The reason? We are tired of people dying in isolation because of the shame that is associated with addiction. We want to be the forerunner in removing the stigma! Those in recovery should be celebrated just like cancer survivors.

Using pro-recovery language is a start. Safe Harbor wants to remove labels attached to substance use disorder. A Christian has a new identity in Christ! The past does not define them!

If you want to know more about the addicted brain take a listen to Dr. Kevin McCauley:

Scan the code to see his video



Thank YOU for making a difference,

*Vicki Murray*

Vicki Murray  
Chief Executive Officer

# Great Things Are Happening Because of You!

## Messages of Faith & Healing

Each Thursday morning, devotionals are held at Safe Harbor. It is a special time for staff, volunteers and participants. Vicki Murray, CEO of Safe Harbor, with her calming presence and radiant smile, leads the devotionals. She has an incredible gift for speaking to the hearts of those present, blending her faith, compassion, and inspirational wisdom to create a unique experience.

"I look forward to the devotional every Thursday. It makes me feel hopeful and grateful and I know that God is with me every step of my journey."  
-Whole Woman participant.

"Hearing the words at the center gives me the strength to face my challenges and it lets me know that God is always with me" -Community Center visitor.



Vicki Murray, CEO Leading the Thursday devotional with prayer

## A NEW BEGINNING: WOMEN EMBRACE HOME AND HAPPINESS



These women have recently secured housing and now have a place to call home. The photos capture the joy and gratitude on their faces as they receive a multitude of items, from cozy towels to decorative touches that will add warmth to their new space.

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours." Mark 11:24

## Safe Harbor of NC would like to say "Thank You" to our Small Business & Corporate Sponsors

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## A Message of Thanks

"A special thanks goes to Safe Harbor for giving me the opportunity to have my life back; I am so grateful. I no longer have to question or prove my value or worth because God has already proven my worth, and he says that I am priceless, precious, and invaluable every moment of every day. The woman I am becoming is not bound to drugs, men, or any other false god or comfort. I am finally free of shame; I am healthy, happy and patient. I have so much energy, and my heart is centered in the heart of God. I love my life, and I really like who I am."  
-A graduate of our Whole Woman Program

## CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

"I began working at Safe Harbor in January of this year. I soon realized this was a very special organization, one that loves women. Imagine my shock and sadness when I learned that a friend of my past was coming to Safe Harbor to receive help. She was experiencing homelessness and was struggling with substance use disorder. I am grateful that Safe Harbor is a sanctuary for women like my friend, offering safety, and a chance for a fresh start through faith. It is a crucial lifeline in our community." -Safe Harbor Staff

