



The Beacon

Official Newsletter of The Lighthouse

July 2024 Issue #30



Community Connection

Here at The Lighthouse, we strive to build community on a daily basis. Whether it is through one of our support groups, our Food Bank, our Family Thrift Store, Community Chapel, or just a passing smile in the hallway or on the street, connecting with others is a vital part of what we do. Why is this so important? First, connecting with one another is biblical. God created mankind to be in relationship with Him and with one another. Second, when we come together as a community, much like a family, we build up and benefit from one another, providing encouragement and support through various life circumstances. And as believers—knowing that Christ is the Rock to build our life upon—we point others to a saving relationship with Him. Being in community with one another is how we show the world around us Christ's love in action.

Shae Redhawk knows the importance of community. Growing up in a home where she felt mistreated, Shae moved out as soon as she turned 18. Seeking to make connections, Shae fell in with a group of friends who ended up becoming a bad influence, and the friendships fell apart. Alone, Shae moved forward, getting her own apartment and working toward the goals of buying a better car, purchasing a house, and securing a better job.

In 2022, Shae ended up in a terrible car accident. God's hand of protection was over her as, due to her height, the vertebrae in her neck were jammed rather than being shattered, and Shae miraculously survived! Sadly, the car wreck left permanent damage to her back and neck, leaving her in chronic, severe pain. After the accident, Shae tried to do everything on her own. She had no friends to support her and no family who would help in her time of need. Much to her dismay, Shae ended up losing her job, her apartment, and her car. Things seemed hopeless. As she struggled to make it on her own, Shae secured another job, but all of her earnings went toward the motel she was now staying at; she was homeless. Eventually, through a turn of events, Shae's stepfather and mother moved out of the trailer where they were living and allowed Shae to move in. She then poured her earnings into making it livable and slowly worked to replace the fridge, hot water heater, and other appliances. During this time, Shae had no hot water for three months. As she continued to work on rebuilding her life, Shae reached out to some online communities via Facebook. It was through the online community that Shae began to build new relationships. Through the encouragement of her new friends, Shae learned that asking for help was okay. Shae joined several Facebook groups that advertised resources around Fort Wayne, connecting her to The Lighthouse Food Bank. It is here at The Lighthouse where Shae began to experience real community. At her first visit to the Food Bank, Shae met Olivia, our Community Care Manager. Olivia made Shae feel welcomed and unashamed to be there. Olivia provided her with a list of support groups where Shae could come and continue to build relationships. Shae has faithfully continued to come each week to Community Chapel, where she feels like she has truly connected and has a community of people who love and care about her. She continues to live in her trailer as she struggles to balance her chronic pain, work, and daily needs, but she has come to find The Lighthouse to be a vital part of her community—offering support, encouragement, and, most importantly, the love of Jesus Christ.

"I have met a lot of nice people here. The Lighthouse has helped me a lot.

Coming to Chapel each week has given me something to look forward to." - Shae Redhawk

Summits:

- August 15th
Addiction Summit
- October 10th
Disability Summit

BID ONLINE AUCTION

FREE Sober Labor Day Party

The Lighthouse
2024 Annual Celebration & Night of Giving

Date & Time:

Auction opens @ 7am, Sunday, 7/14
Auction closes @ 7pm, Saturday, 7/20

<https://www.32auctions.com/TheLighthouseAuction2024>

Date: Monday, September 2nd

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Lighthouse Community Center
3000 E. State Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Date: Thursday, September 19th

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: The Lighthouse Community Center
3000 E. State Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46805



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**THE LIGHTHOUSE
COMMUNITY CENTER**



The Lighthouse Staff 2024

“Give thanks to the
Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love
endures forever.”

- Psalm 136:1

Check it out!

We have a new website address:



.lhfw.org



**THE LIGHTHOUSE
FAMILY THRIFT STORE**
6230 Lima Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818

\$2,400.00 Clothing Assistance

Did you know that your continued support helps provide clothing vouchers to the community through our Family Thrift Store? We have given over 95 clothing vouchers this year to those in need!

