



Spring 2026

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: A Personal Reflection

Upcoming Events

Check Our Website for Details

Dine & Donate @ Gia Mia

Thursday, March 12th, 11a-9p
31 S 1st Street, St. Charles
Mention 'Lazarus House' to donate
20% of the orders' net sales!

Trivia Night

@Pollyanna Brewing
Monday, April 13th, 7-9p
106 S Riverside Ave, St. Charles
Support Lazarus House while testing
your knowledge with friends!

Boots & Bling

(formerly Posh Picnic)
Friday, May 15th, 6-10p
Fishermen's Inn
43W901 Main Street Rd, Elburn

Pet Walk

Benefitting Lazarus House
Sunday, June 14th

Any questions or inquiries, contact our
Event Manager, Ann Marie
AnnMarieD@LazarusHouse.net

My name is Carlos González-Méndez and I recently stepped into the role of Development Manager at Lazarus House. Serving at Lazarus House for the past five years has been both a privilege and incredible learning experience. I was raised right here in St. Charles. The opportunity to do service work in my hometown has opened my eyes to what kind of impact is possible when we work together and support each other. I typically find it difficult to write about myself, but I think it really helps give an understanding of what it is that Lazarus House provides beyond hospitality, safe shelter, food and education.



I was raised in a house that was full of love, compassion, lessons, and opportunity. After a few moves in my early years, we arrived in St. Charles when I was five years old. I attended award winning schools (Go Hurricanes and North Stars!), I was involved in after school activities, and I ate family dinner every night without a worry of where I would sleep that night. Through my teenage and early adult years, I struggled mightily with mental health, leading me into unhealthy and unsafe situations. I was fortunate to have a support system that did not give up on me when they had every reason to.

The purpose of sharing part of my story is to help garner an understanding that those experiencing homelessness are not different than us, aside from the size or ability of their support system. As I began working at Lazarus House on the Operations team, I got to learn the stories of our guests, especially the youth. I began to see myself in these young men, and I knew my experiences gave me something to offer in support of their journeys. From that very first year, I knew I wanted to be a part of this compassionate community that cares for all their neighbors, regardless of status.

I am excited to continue working with and meeting all of YOU that make offering hope and a future possible through your contributions and support of our guests. Now that you know a little about me, I would love to know what makes Lazarus House special to you...please do not hesitate to call or email to set up a time for a shelter tour or a quick coffee!

~Carlos González-Méndez, Development Manager | (630) 587-2144 | CarlosGM@LazarusHouse.net

Recent guest stories...

When Emma arrived at Lazarus House, she was carrying more than just a small bag of belongings. In her arms was her 3-year-old son, Lucas- a bright, loving child with special needs. In her heart was the quiet fear of a mother who had nowhere left to turn. Lucas's father, Alex, joined them shortly after. Before coming to us, the family had been forced to live apart, moving wherever someone would let them stay, after losing the townhome they once shared together as a family.

Alex wasted no time finding work and secured a factory job shortly after arriving at Lazarus House. Emma spent her days caring for Lucas while also attending school full-time online, holding tightly to the hope that education could help change their future. With the steady guidance of their case manager and weekly meetings, it became clear that Lucas needed more support than they had ever been able to access before.

Through a new connection made by their case manager, Lucas was evaluated by Dr. Ann Weller at Plum Tree Psychology, who generously assessed him and provided a diagnosis of Level 3 Autism. With support, Emma connected Lucas to occupational and speech therapy and enrolled him in a preschool equipped to meet his unique needs.

The family continued working closely with their case manager, navigating the complex process of applying for SSI benefits for Lucas. Months later, a turning point arrived: they were accepted into our Center for Transitional Living Program, Lucas was approved for SSI, and the weight that had pressed on this family for so long finally began to lift.

Today, Emma is nearly done with her degree, and she and Alex are both working, saving, and most importantly, thriving together as a family. What once felt like an impossible journey is now a story of resilience, support, and hope made possible through compassion, community, and hard work.

Liam is an older gentleman in his 80s and a proud U.S. Veteran. After experiencing family conflict and the weight of past hardships, Liam found himself without a place to stay. Like so many others, the impact of COVID was devastating for him. He owned his own business, but as the pandemic unfolded, the business declined, leaving Liam overwhelmed with debt and uncertainty. Feeling lost and with nowhere else to turn, he came to Lazarus House.

From the moment Liam arrived, we worked to surround him with support. We quickly connected him with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, whose staff met with him regularly and helped him navigate the resources available to him. Through this partnership, Liam was ultimately connected with Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MHSV), opening the door to new opportunities and renewed hope.

During his time at Lazarus House, Liam worked hard, saved diligently, and began rebuilding his life step by step. After six months, he was ready to meet the next chapter head-on. With the support of MHSV and the resources provided through Lazarus House, Liam secured an apartment right here in town. Today, he is once again housed, independent, and moving forward with confidence toward a brighter future.

A guest of Lazarus House, Joe, was recently helping another guest with his laptop. With extensive IT experience, this was right in Joe's wheelhouse. He dedicated a lot of time and effort to fixing the laptop, and when I asked why he was doing so much work, he simply replied that it was his way of giving back—it was *the right thing to do*. He added, "It may only work for 10 months or just one month, *but it's worth it either way.*"

His words got me thinking about the guests who come to Lazarus House. Unfortunately, some find themselves returning more than once. It's easy to fall into the mindset of wondering what will be different this time around. But Joe's perspective is a great reminder that change doesn't always happen in a straight line. It may take one, two, or even more attempts for someone to regain independence—but *every effort is worth it.*

These are just a few stories from the many inspirational guests and residents that come through the front doors. Thank you to all who make stories like these possible, read on below for ways to get involved in 2026!

2025
by the numbers
Fiscal Year

184 Individuals



19,154 Nights of Shelter



44 Children



Events to Support Lazarus House

Fifth Saturday Shopping with The Little Traveler!

We are happy to partner with The Little Traveler again in 2026, providing an opportunity to give back while supporting a local business! The Little Traveler will donate 10% of purchases made on Fifth Saturdays to Lazarus House.

Shoppers must mention Lazarus House as their charity of choice at checkout.

Fifth Saturdays in 2026: May 30th, August 29th, October 31st & #GivingTuesday (Dec 2nd)



2026
Lazarus House

Trivia Night

Monday, April 13th @ 7pm-9pm
Pollyanna Brewing Company - St. Charles

****Doors Open at 6pm!****
****Game will NOT begin until 7pm****

\$30 per person TO PLAY
****Each Round Earn Prizes****
Register to Play or Donate Online!



Register Here!



Our gracious host -
Pollyanna Brewing
Co. (St. Charles)



Golf *FORE* Goodness Scramble

Save the Date!

September 14th, 2026

Eagle Brook Country Club



'I Had No Idea'

TOURS

Lazarus House

"There is much more to Lazarus House than a homeless shelter."*

"I had no idea Lazarus House provided all those different services!"*

*Common sayings after touring Lazarus House

Join us for a casual and informative tour of Lazarus House,
meet our staff and learn about our programs!

Come see your gifts making an impact!

To schedule your tour:

CarlosGM@LazarusHouse.net
(630) 587-2144

Lazarus House
214 Walnut Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

Non Profit
Permit #206
U.S. Postage
Paid
St. Charles, IL



Lazarus House Presents.....

BOOTS &
Bling

Lazarus House
Working together to offer hope
and a future

formerly
The Posh Picnic

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 15TH 2026

Thank you to Creations Creative in St. Charles for printing Lazarus House newsletters and being great partners!

