

for the \$500 check and told them there would be a special plaque or mention of the donation somewhere in the finished building, in recognition of our support. Members thanked her for all the good work she has done, and is doing, and wished her the very best in her future efforts.

The new Happy/Sad Tail Twister procedure began. Members can relate a happy or sad experience to the group and pay a small fee to the Twister. Fortunately all the news was good as there were several birthdays and anniversaries, although several Lions asked whether the anniversaries were good or bad news; Members never miss an opportunity to pop a joke on each other.

For more information about the Door Village Lions Club or to volunteer, please call George Morley at 219-362-5653. ■

Fifth Third Bank Workday at WWRH

Herald Argus, Printed on Wednesday, August 12, 2015

By Jessica Campbell, Staff Writer

Sonshine Troche, Ex. Dir. of WWRH, has moved into the main floor of 1001 Maple Ave. to finish building the Worthy Women Recovery Home, and to be onsite when the home opens. Although we are in compliance and have temporary residence, we do not have all of the drywall and framing completed upstairs. However, the main floor is 90% completed. "Our community, over 360 Volunteers and Contractors, have helped us this far along. Although many obstacles have deterred us, especially this year, we are not giving up. We needed \$500,000 on September 7, 2011, and we need \$55,000 to complete the minimum requirements in order to open Worthy Women Recovery Home by years end.



August 11, 2015 not only did the Fifth Third Bank donate much needed money, they came out to build a 23 foot long wall on the second floor of the home, as well as other jobs.

For 4 hours, bank managers from different branches in Northern Indiana came and used their skills. The team of six, Stephanie Valenzuela, Sonshine Troche, Michael Sobeck, Jessica Mallonee, Chad Gaskey, Trent Bierman and Char Lewis, worked on framing and moving drywall as well as cutting back drywall around the windows to extend the window trim. The upstairs has a large dorm style bedroom and one residential/volunteer assistant bedroom. We needed to frame over the plaster, so that we can complete the drywall upstairs.

Michael Sobeck is the Regional Manager of the Northern Indiana territory for Fifth Third.

"This is our second year to give back to Sonshine's group," Sobeck said. "We wanted to not only give a financial gift, but give back our time."



Sonshine has been with the La Porte County Drug Free Partnership since July 2007. The fact is that La Porte and Porter County are tied for 2nd place for having the most heroin problems and issues in the state of Indiana.

There are two recovery houses in Porter County for women and men recovering from drugs, and in La Porte there is nothing, YET! With your help and financial gifts we can open this year, and finish the basement later."

We are grateful that Fifth Third Bank and their skilled labor, saved us \$500 in contractor costs, at Worthy Women Recovery Home. ■

Our new website is under construction. Stay tuned for updates on our launch date!

This newsletter was created with the generous support of Ahsek Media. Visit them online at ahsekmedia.com.



RECOVERING HOPE

Worthy Women Recovery Home 7th Annual Banquet and Auction

Saturday, November 14, 2015 | 5-9 PM
Heston Hills Banquet Center, LaPorte

DINNER - fine food and superb dining experience

AUCTION - Something for everyone

TESTIMONIES - Our ladies share their stories

HOME UPDATE - Past and present

Please RSVP by October 31, 2015

info@worthyrecovery.org | (219) 363-5234 Laura | (219) 405-7006 Sonshine

For sponsorship opportunities, please email info@worthyrecovery.org or call Laura Francesconi at (219) 363-5234.

Registration: 5-6 PM

Dinner/Auctions: 6-9 PM

Cost: \$40 per person



NIPSCO helps out Worthy Women Recovery Home

Herald Argus, Posted: Sunday, August 2, 2015 1:30 PM

By Jessica Campbell, Staff Writer

Every little bit helps when it comes to fundraising and donations and, on Saturday, when a team from NIPSCO volunteered their time at the Worthy Women Recovery Home in La Porte, the help was more than just a little bit.

The house at 1001 Maple Ave. was bought in 2011 by Sonshine Troche to become a recovery home for women returning to La Porte County from jail or prison.

Troche, the president of the home, said the house was a disaster when she bought it. Within a month of the purchase, she and her team were renovating the house, tearing everything down but the bricks and supporting walls.

On Saturday, the house began to look like a home.

Troche's organization, Worthy Women, was chosen for the NIPSCO Charity of Choice campaign.

Angie Nelson-Deutch of Michigan City said each year NIPSCO chooses a local charity. This time, the company was looking for organizations that served human needs and services.

Within the Charity of Choice campaign fundraiser, the company has a program called Dollars for Doers.

"NIPSCO donates \$20 per hour for every employee who volunteers for an organization," Deutch explained. "We were looking for projects where employees can volunteer, then we bring in a check for all of the hours spent."

The NIPSCO crew began fundraising in June and will present a check, with the minimum amount of \$3,500 to the Worthy Women organization in September.

The overall campaign goal is to collect \$150,000, but Deutch plans on raising an additional \$1,200 in just employees' volunteer hours.

"We're over half way there," she said.

The WWRH is the second organization of the campaign that the company chose to work with. The first one was hosting a large hog roast to help benefit the Stepping Stones Women's Shelter in Michigan City. The donation came out to be more than \$6,000 for the organization. In the past, the company has chosen the American Heart Association, the Boys and Girls Club, American Red Cross and the Veterans Organization.



come help is just, well, it shows that they see the need as well."

The drywall upstairs is only 40 percent complete, painting is still needed upstairs in the rooms and all of the bedding and furniture needs to be purchased. Without the help of donations and volunteers, Troche said, the amount of money it would cost to finish the house would be around \$123,000. With people's help, the cost decreases to the still hefty sum of \$55,000.

"That's the beauty of having guys like NIPSCO come out," she said. "A painter would cost \$25 to \$30 an hour and these guys are coming out for free. They're donating, I think \$20 an hour, and it just shows the impact the volunteer service has on us."

The home will be a safe spot for women struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. There are 14 spots available and, depending on the situation, women can stay from a minimum of six months to two years. They will have to work and get their GED and volunteer at local events a few hours a month.

Troche already works within the jail with these women before they are released, and when the home opens, she will be a safe and familiar asset. She is also planning on living within the shelter for the first year with the women.

Worthy Women is a Christian-based organization, but that will not affect anyone who needs help from living at the home Troche said.

"They don't have to be Christian to come here, and they don't have to be Christian when they leave here," she said. "People say, 'Well, it's a Christian program, so only Christians can come.' That's the furthest thing from the truth."

Troche just wants the home to be a place where women can get sober and turn their lives around, just like she did when she faced an addiction problem many years ago.

"We all have different denominations," she said. "The common thread in the community is people are suffering from drug and alcohol addictions and people are dying. The sooner we get this house done, then the sooner people don't die. Especially my women."

Troche and the crew are always looking for people willing to help out, either a monetary donation or with construction.

Deutch has not set a date, but plans on coming out another afternoon with more NIPSCO employees. If interested in helping out, contact info@worthyrecovery.org. ■



Deutch said she spoke to many NIPSCO employees who wanted to help the La Porte shelter, but she also had this home in the back of her mind.

Deutch and Troche have known each other for about eight years, after they met during town meetings and events.

"It is a good organization with a really good mission," Deutch said. "It was one of those organizations that spoke to me."

NIPSCO workers showed up on their free, beautiful Saturday afternoon to paint, power-wash and clean the soon-to-be shelter.

Tom Miltenberger of Michigan City has been working for NIPSCO for 33 and half years. He and his family are frequent volunteers for the chosen projects.

"It just sounded like a worthy cause to help out," he said. "My wife and I help out every now and then when we can."

Flying around trying to keep up with her helpers, Troche was amazed at the amount of local help willing to support this idea.

"I'm not from here, I grew up in Germany, then came here," she said. "And to not be from the community and have this many community members

Door Village Lions support Worthy Recovery Inc.

Herald Argus, Printed: Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Story and Photos submitted by George Morley

The Door Village Lions held their annual Steak Fry and picnic on August 10, 2015 at the Scipio Township Park in downtown Door Village. Head Chef Greg Konieczny grilled the steaks and chicken breasts, and members brought a vast variety of hot dishes, salads and desserts. There were several guests on hand as well as a number of St. Joseph County Madison Township Lions who attend every year.

A brief meeting was held before dinner. President Joe Pahs updated the group on upcoming projects. During Children's Dignity Week, a new program initiated by Lions International President Jitsuhiro Yamada, first graders from Kingsford Heights, Riley and Kingsbury schools will be presented their own books. This is in addition to the Dictionary Project where third graders will get their own dictionaries.

The famous Food Trailer will be readied for action for another busy year of selling delicious sandwiches and fries. Clean up is needed before the weekend Yellowstone Trail Fest in Hamlet.

After the meeting, guest speaker Sonshine Troche, Executive Director of the Worthy Women Recovery Home, informed and updated the group of the progress being made on the home. She hopes to have it up and running by the end of the year. After dinner, Ms. Troche was presented a check from the Lions to help this wonderful organization. Sonshine thanked club members

