



Where God's love transforms lives from surviving to thriving.

Ruth Harbor is a Christian organization that serves women who are pregnant or parenting a young child and are in generational poverty and often struggling with the effects of trauma. Many of the women are homeless or couch surfing when they call us and have drug use, mental illness, and criminal convictions in their background.

Founded in the late 1990s, Ruth Harbor opened its first home in Des Moines in 2001 and its second home in Carlisle, IA in 2018. We are a donor-supported ministry and receive funding from individuals, churches, and Christian organizations and businesses. We are a non-denominational ministry.

About the House Parent Position

The role of House Parent is a fundamental part of our ministry philosophy and practice. We believe God ordained the family as the primary place to develop healthy, trusted relationships. Unfortunately, many of Ruth Harbor's residents have never experienced a healthy family environment. While most of the residents who come to Ruth Harbor are not Christians, the House Parent (a single woman or couple) models the values, responsibilities, and character of a Christian family and home.

We Are a Ministry, Not A Church

Ruth Harbor serves as a *para*-church ministry. This means we come alongside the church to serve our community in ways that are difficult for a church to perform (like provide housing to pregnant women). True biblical community, however, happens within the body of Christ, the local church. While we are a missional organization seeking to expose our residents to the gospel and to find real, eternal healing in Jesus Christ, we also model for our residents the importance of a healthy, biblical local church. Ruth Harbor proactively works to develop relationships with local congregations that appreciate the difficulties Ruth Harbor moms face and can minister to them with grace, mercy, love, and truth.

What Kind of Person Does God Call to Serve as House Parents?

The role of House Parent at Ruth Harbor is an "all-in" position. Couples or women who serve in this role have a missional calling on their life, but rather than leave for Africa or India to reach the lost, they are called to go to the hurting, unreached, poverty-stricken, often forgotten women and children in our own communities. As a House Parent, you will live in a Ruth Harbor home and do life with our residents. You will experience the difficulties and heartache of a lifetime of poor choices and toxic relationships, often starting with our resident's mother and even grandmother. You will grow to love our residents as your own family, but you understand and appreciate the temporary nature of your role. Your job is to help women gain the skills and ability to thrive as a single mom, not become dependent upon our help. You must balance your compassion with a clear focus on this ultimate goal.

RUTH HARBOR MINISTRIES

House Parent

Purpose for the Position:

The House Manager provides direct care and supervision of residents living in Ruth Harbor's home to ensure safe, secure, Christ-centered living environment to help women learn to thrive as a single mom or within a healthy, supportive community/church.

Job Responsibilities:

- Oversee the day-to-day functions of a Ruth Harbor residence including instructing and modeling desirable health and personal habits while demonstrating a Christian role model to residents.
- Maintain a daily log on each resident, briefly indicating both progress and problems.
- Serve as a part of each resident's care team and help develop a care plan for each resident, in cooperation with the Life Coach and Counselor, containing goals and objectives with projected dates of accomplishment and involve the resident, referring agency if relevant, and family whenever possible.
- Ensure a safe environment for our residence, which means at times responding to crisis scenarios.
- Maintain healthy boundaries that build trust with residents and move them towards full, complete independence.
- Review weekly with the Life Coach the status, progress, and family situation of each resident during Care Plan meetings.
- Supervise and manage part-time Backup House Parents for the home.
- Maintain Ruth Harbor vehicles, house and yard as needed.
- Model community involvement, including membership and cooperation in a local church.
- Within your local church, work to develop mentor and discipleship relationships between trusted members of the church and residents.
- Coordinate and supervise resident volunteer and work activities: mentoring, special classes, crafts, etc. within the home.
- Work effectively within a team environment.
- Attend staff meetings and special functions.
- Greet guests and give house tours, as needed.
- Develop a continuous learning posture and participate in training and educational opportunities provided by Ruth Harbor for both personal and professional growth.
- Gain an appreciation for the physical, emotional, and spiritual demands of this position and prioritize seasons of rest and rejuvenation to maintain personal health and vitality.

Job Requirements:

- A strong Christian testimony and in full agreement with Ruth Harbor's Statement of Faith.
- A missional calling to serve women and small children who have experienced great difficulty in their life.
- The ability to develop trusted relationships with residents as well as partner organizations and churches.
- A clear understanding of (or desire to learn) the complexities and difficulties of ministering to women and children in generational poverty and trauma in the background.

Reports to: Housing Directors

Decision Making: Authorized to make decisions within assigned budget constraints and with the consultation of the Housing Directors.

Employee Status: This is a full-time position. Given the nature of this position, it is expected that there will be great flexibility with hours.

Additional Information:

- Ruth Harbor only employs born again believers who are in complete agreement with our Statement of Faith. A pastoral reference is required as part of the application process.
- Membership and participation in a local church that is in agreement with Ruth Harbor's Statement of Faith is required for continued employment. If an employee is moving into Central Iowa, membership in a local church is expected within six weeks of your start date.
- Ruth Harbor provides House Parents with most of their living expenses. In addition to housing (including all utilities, Internet, etc.), House Parents have access to ministry vehicles to use for any ministry-related transportation, as well as any food related to ministry (meals with residents, etc.).
- Currently, Ruth Harbor is unable to provide health insurance.
- House Parents receive regular time off and generous vacation time off.

Application Information:

To apply for this position send a cover letter and resume to Aimee Phillips at aimee@ruthharbor.org.

Ruth Harbor Ministries Statement of Faith

It is important that each staff member and volunteer understand that the ministry of Ruth Harbor concentrates on the essentials of the Christian faith below. We are called together in unity focusing on the Word of God alone, not espousing any particular doctrinal stance which would divide us.

1. We believe there is one God eternal existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Gen 1:1; John 10:30, 37,38; Matt. 28:19-20)
2. We believe in the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (Apostle's Creed)
3. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible and authoritative Word of God. (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21)
4. We believe that mankind is sinful by nature and that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential and an absolute necessity for salvation. (Rom 3:19-25; John 3:16-19; John 5:25; Eph 2:8-10; Titus 3:5-6)
5. We believe in the present and continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit; by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (Eph 4:30; Eph 5:18; I Cor. 3:16; I Cor. 6:10-20)
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto eternal life and they that are lost unto eternal damnation. (John 5:28-29)
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 8:9; I Cor 12:12-13; Gal 3:26-28)
8. We believe in the creation of man by the direct act of God. (Gen 1:26-28; Gen 5:1,2)

Additionally:

9. We believe in the sanctity of human life as set forth in the scriptures:
For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (Psalm 139:13-16)

Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast. From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. (Psalm 22:9-10)

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you. (Jeremiah 1:5)

10. Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

"...God is love" (1 John 4:8). We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accordance with Scripture nor the doctrines of Ruth Harbor Ministries.

We define, interpret, and apply the concepts of marriage, gender, and sexuality as taught in the Bible without regard to how mankind would like to redefine, misinterpret, or misapply those concepts. In accordance with the teaching of the Bible, we believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male and female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage," as understood in the light of the Bible, has only one proper meaning: the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a biological man and a biological woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a biological man and a biological woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that the leadership of Ruth Harbor Ministries must lead by example on these areas in order to preserve the function and integrity of Ruth Harbor Ministries as a Christ-centered ministry, and to provide a biblical role model to Ruth Harbor Ministries' fellowship and surrounding community. Thus, it is imperative that all persons on the board of RHM, employed by RHM, or who volunteer and have contact with our clients agree to this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality.

I have read the Statement of Faith, and my signature below indicates my understanding and acceptance.

Signature

Date