

Welcome to the Mary Margaret House Women and Children's Homeless Shelter

In 1988, The Nehemiah Project was organized by representatives of area churches creating a ministry to those who are homeless and desire to rebuild lives that have been broken by difficult circumstances. Those who come to **The Nehemiah Project** understand this is a Christian ministry operated according to the principles of the Bible, The Word of God. Accordingly, we invite perspective guests to **read carefully** the following covenants (rules) by which we minister and live together in a Christian community of mutual respect and assistance. Those who are willing to submit to these covenants will be asked to sign an application form indicating their willingness to abide by these covenants during their residency at one of The Nehemiah Project homes.

Covenants of The Nehemiah Project, Mary Margaret House:

1. All guests must be **18 years** of age, and or accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
2. No one may possess/use **illegal drugs or alcohol** at any time while residing at this shelter. At the Innkeepers discretion you may be required to submit to a drug and alcohol test. If you refuse you will be asked to leave immediately.
3. **All prescription and non-prescription medications** must be turned in to the Innkeeper upon entering the shelter and/or filling prescriptions or purchasing over the counter medication. If any prescription and/or non-prescription medications are found in your room it will be grounds for dismissal.
4. **Smoking is permitted outside on the front porch only.** Never in the house, the enclosed front and back entrances, back porch or the sidewalk.
5. **Foul or offensive language** is not permitted in the house or on the property.
6. **Men:** No women and/or children are to be on the property of the Men's shelter next door and no men are permitted at the Mary Margaret House (the obvious exclusion is Nehemiah Project Staff, guests and service personnel as approved by The Nehemiah Project Directors). Special permission may be granted by the Director for fathers to visit their children, if applicable.
7. **Dating** between guests of the men's and women's houses is **Not Allowed**. Should this occur, both Guests/Residents will be asked to leave. *The Bible speaks of men as brothers, and women as sisters. Any relationship beyond this, while here, is not permitted. **Energy and focus of each guest is to be striving to resolve of brokenness in their lives, including healing family relations, searching and training for gainful employment, seeking housing, and counseling with clergy and other professionals. The staff will assist you in locating proper resources.***
8. **No dangerous weapons of any kind are permitted on The Nehemiah Project property:** Box cutters, knives, or other potential weapons **must** be surrendered to the Innkeeper when you arrive. Items will be returned when you leave.
9. **Violent threats or disrespect** directed toward staff or other guests will result in immediate removal and/or 911 call.
10. **Borrowing or lending** of money or other items is **not** permitted between guests and between Innkeepers and guests.
11. **Offensive or pornographic** material is not permitted on the property. Remember this is a ministry of the Lord. If you're not sure about what is in your possession, please ask the Director to make the call.
12. **Cell Phones** are to be turned off at 11:00pm. No phone calls, texting or playing games is to take place after lights out. If this becomes a problem, you will be required to leave your cell phone with the Innkeeper in the office at night.

Scheduled Operating Hours

1. **The House opens at 5:00pm (EST) daily.** You **must** check in between 5:00pm and 6:00pm daily by signing the Registration Book. If you have an acceptable reason for being late, such as work requirements, etc. you **must** call and inform the Innkeeper on duty before 6:00pm or previously inform the Mary Margaret House staff. Once you arrive at the Mary Margaret House in the evening, you are not permitted to leave, unless previous permission has been given to participate in an evening activity. You must sign in the Registration Book at the time of your arrival, each and every day. Failure to return to the Mary Margaret House each day (without prior approval) is cause for immediate suspension.
2. If and when you are not considered a guest of The Nehemiah Project, any personal items or clothing remaining unclaimed for more than 30 calendar days, can and will be discarded at the discretion of the Director(s).
3. **Bed Time is 11:00pm. Guests need to be upstairs by 10:30pm and House lights are out from 11:00pm until 6:30 am daily.** No radios, showers, laundry, loud conversations, smoking, cell phones, etc. are permitted during this time. Small book lights for reading are permitted. This is for the comfort and quietness of staff and guests who are sleeping.
4. **The House closes at 8:00am (EST) daily.** All guests are **required** to leave at this time pursuing employment or other personal obligations.

5. **Children:**

- All Children are to be showered and in bed no later than; 8:00PM for children 8 and under ,(except Bible Study nights), 9:00PM for children 9 -12 years old, teenagers upstairs by 9:00PM with lights out at 10:00PM every night.
 - Mothers must keep children “under control” at all times. ***They may not be left at/on The Nehemiah Project property with other guests/residents and/or Innkeepers.***
 - Mothers are to “pick up” after their children and help them keep rooms’ neat/tidy.
 - School-age children must be enrolled in school and/or if home schooling, have arrangements to do so at an alternate location.
6. Bible study occurs 7:30pm each **Tuesday** evening at the House and each **Thursday** evening at 7:00pm Hope Hall.
7. If you desire to bring a guest into the House not considered a resident, you **must** have proper permission from the Director(s) or Innkeeper on duty.
8. The Nehemiah Project (Houses) is **not** handicap accessible. Please speak to the Director(s) regarding possible suitable arrangements.

Personal Hygiene and House Cleanliness

1. Guests are requested to bath/shower **daily**. This is for your health and comfort of others. Personal hygiene items are available. When the house is full bathroom time will be limited to 15 minutes and it would be appreciated if some would take showers in the morning and others in the evening. Please clean bathroom after each use.
2. Each guest will be assigned (posted) **daily** chores for the care, comfort and cleanliness of the House and other guests.
3. Each guest is responsible for her own (and children’s) personal laundry. Towels and bed linen are supplied and must be laundered weekly. Laundry soap is provided. Towels/wash cloths should be properly placed after use for drying in your assigned room.
4. Guests are to dress modestly and appropriately while on the property and at functions attended by The Nehemiah Project guests. No revealing shirts, short shorts, short dresses or skirts or bathing suits.
- 5.

Meals and Food

1. All guests are expected to assist with evening meal (6:00pm) and table setting preparation, unless someone is assigned this chore. If you cannot be present for the evening meal because of work requirements, etc. a meal can be set aside for you upon proper notification to the Innkeeper on duty before 6:00pm. Evening meals are provided / prepared by The Nehemiah Project; guests are **not** permitted to “fix/cook their own thing.”
2. Breakfast consists of cereal, toast, coffee or other items available in the breakfast cupboard. Guests are expected to prepare their own limited breakfast and **properly clean** kitchen after use.
3. You may prepare a **sack lunch** for work purposes with available food(s).
4. Snacks are available in the snack cupboard. Guests should **not** be spending money for “junk food” or “fast food”. Money earned is to be reserved for future housing (rent) and other necessities.
5. **Special dietary needs** should be made known to the Director(s) or Innkeeper on duty.
6. Purchased food(s) brought into the House by guests will be considered “food for all”, unless **Special dietary needs** are recognized.
7. **All food(s)** are to be consumed in the dinning room (unless an exception is made by the Innkeeper for snacks in the sitting room). Food is **not** to be eaten or stored in guest rooms.