



PRESENTS

# Almost Home<sup>2024</sup>

June 24th | Barton Hills Country Club

# Welcome to Almost Home

Thank you for choosing to spend the evening with us. This evening, we draw attention to the needs of vulnerable women in this community.

We are excited to announce that we are increasing our shelter capacity for women from **15 beds to 23 beds**. This expansion is vital in providing a safe and supportive environment for women who are experiencing homelessness.

The funds raised tonight will directly support this expansion and provide essential services, with a focus on securing case management. As always, we strive to provide our residents with the tools they need to transition into permanent housing. Your generous donations make it possible for us to continue offering these life changing services.

Please consider supporting our efforts by giving generously. Every contribution helps us to make a significant impact on the lives of women in our community.

Scan the QR code below to donate:



Thank you for your support and commitment to making a difference.

# *Bear Friends:*

It is my distinct honor to welcome each of you to Almost Home. This evening, we come together over our shared passion for supporting homeless individuals in our community and to reaffirm our unwavering support of the Shelter and their mission to provide basic needs, safety and dignity to those facing unimaginable challenges every day. Your presence here tonight is a testament to your deep commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others, and for that, we are sincerely grateful.

I am delighted to introduce Darren McCarty, whose words will undoubtedly inspire us all. And also excited for us to have the chance to hear from Cazzie Avery, a former client, who will share his powerful story. Cazzie's journey is not only a testament to his resilience but to the significant transformations that because of your support are possible at the Delonis Center.

While we support all adults in need, tonight we give special attention to the struggling women in our county. For the first time in over 20 years, we are thrilled to announce that we can expand our women's shelter capacity by 50% with your help. Your support will enable us to provide shelter, case management, supportive services and vital resources to those in our community who have fallen on hard times.

Thank you for playing a crucial role in ending homelessness. Your generosity and compassion provide more than just shelter; you offer hope, stability, and the opportunity for individuals to rebuild their lives. Because of you, people can transition from merely surviving to truly thriving. Please enjoy all this evening has to offer. It is a rare gift to be able to gather with such a great group of community leaders, advocates, and friends. Thank you for all that you do for the Shelter Association and our community

With heartfelt appreciation,

*Kathy Wood*





## Keynote Speaker

*Darren McCarty*

Darren McCarty is a Canadian former professional ice hockey forward, best known for his years playing with the Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League (NHL). McCarty made a name for himself as a tough and gritty player, often taking on the role of the Red Wings' enforcer throughout his career. McCarty became a key player on the team, contributing to their success on the ice. He was part of the Red Wings' Stanley Cup-winning teams in 1997, 1998, 2002, and 2008. In 2008, McCarty played a pivotal role in the playoffs after resurrecting his career in the Red Wings minor league system, helping the team secure their fourth Stanley Cup victory during his tenure.

Aside from his accomplishments on the ice, Darren McCarty has also been involved in various other endeavors. He has participated in charity golf tournaments, showcasing his love for the sport and giving back to the community. Additionally, McCarty has ventured into the world of professional wrestling, making appearances in Total Nonstop Action Wrestling (TNA) in the mid-2000s. Darren has been open about his struggles with alcoholism and his journey to recovery. He has spoken publicly about his experiences with addiction and has been an advocate for raising awareness about addiction issues and mental health awareness.

McCarty has become known for his involvement in the cannabis industry. He has openly discussed his use of cannabis for medicinal purposes, particularly for managing pain and symptoms related to his hockey career. McCarty has launched his own cannabis brand, the Darren McCarty Brand.





## Client Speaker

*Cazzie Avery*

Former Shelter Client, Cazzie Avery, embodies the spirit of persistence and resilience. Once homeless, he faced numerous challenges that tested his strength and determination. Despite these hardships, he remains an epitome of positivity and outgoing energy, driven by a strong faith that has guided him through life's toughest moments. Interestingly enough he is a huge Red Wings Fan!

A devoted father and brother, Cazzie has experienced profound loss and trauma. He also suffers from PTSD. However, these experiences have only fueled his commitment to overcoming adversity and helping others do the same. At The Shelter, Cazzie made a conscious effort to avoid drama and negativity, understanding how easily others' attitudes can drag you down. His empathy and understanding for those around him were constants, as he strived to lift others up despite his own struggles.

Cazzie is now channeling his passion and creativity into a new chapter of his life by returning to school to study photography. His journey from homelessness to pursuing higher education is a testament to his unyielding spirit and dedication to personal growth. As a guest speaker, Cazzie shares his story to inspire and motivate others, proving that with persistence and faith, one can rise above even the most daunting circumstances. His is a wonderful story, "Recovering from Homelessness".





## Schedule of Events

2:30 PM	Golfer Registration
3:00 PM	9 Hole Scramble
4:30 - 5:00 PM	Golf Prizes and Giveaways
5:30 PM	Cocktail Reception Begins
6:30 PM	Dinner Service
7:00 PM	Program Begins
8:00 PM	Closing Remarks

## Speakers

Opening Remarks:	Sarah Paspal-Jasinski
Executive Director:	Dan Kelly
Keynote Speaker:	Darren McCarty
Client Speaker:	Cazzie Avery

## Where to Find



Page 28	Auction Information
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*Thank you for your support!*

# Thank You to our Sponsors!

## Thank You

To All of Our Sponsors for Making Tonight Possible

### TITLE

*Brian & Mary Campbell*

### BRONZE

*Bank of Ann Arbor*      *Jekyll + Hyde Labs*  
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### DINNER

*Domino's Pizza*      *Kapnick*  
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# SAWC Programs and Services

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we were able to extend holistic services to 1108 individuals this past year and house 288 through the following program and service areas:

- Residential Program
- Non-Residential Program
- Shelter Diversion
- Co-ed Mat Program
- Winter Warming Programs
  - Rotating Shelter
- Mental Health Services
  - Housing Crisis Stabilization



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# SAWC Programs and Services



- Case Management
- Recuperative Care
- Pathways- Substance Abuse Disorder Support
- Medical Care Coordination
- Housing Supportive Services
- Documentation Support
- Income Identification
- Community Resource Allocation
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- Transportation Services

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from what we  
get, but from  
what we give."

- Ben Carson

*Tamie and Cheryl Buhr*





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**Violinist, Allyson Cohen**

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# Wine Pull

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How it works:

1. Purchase your ticket for \$30

One of our committee members or volunteers will be happy to sell them to you.

2. Pull from the wonderful assortment of wines.

All wine has been donated - so 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Shelter Association.

3. Pull as many times as you like, but hurry! Once the tickets are out, so is your luck!

HAPPY PULLING!





# Ante Up

## TO END HOMELESSNESS!

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*\*Supply is limited, first come, first serve.*



Rob & Jennifer  
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**Thanks for  
everything  
you do, SAWC.**





## *All Together Now*

As a proud member of this community, we are excited to sponsor and gather together with you to support the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County.

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Michigan Medicine is honored to support the Almost Home event hosted by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County.



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*Why Not Keep It Local?*



University Bank is proud to sponsor The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County's golf outing. The shelter's important work in offering support and housing solutions to those facing homelessness across Southeast Michigan is truly commendable. Along with that University Bank is excited to announce the opening of a new branch in Ypsilanti, further supporting families and businesses in the area.



[www.university-bank.com](http://www.university-bank.com)



# Silent Auction

Closes at 7:15 PM

*Thank You*

**To All of Tonight's Auction Donors!**

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Please have your auction number  
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out information.



A three-story red brick building with large black-framed windows. The building is the Robert J. Delonis Center, located at 312. The text is overlaid on the upper two floors of the building.

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to end homelessness one person  
at a time.

We are grateful for your  
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Robert J. Delonis Center

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# Thanks for joining us

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