



**The Samaritan Community, rooted in respect, hope and healing, provides assistance to meet the needs of families and individuals who wish to improve their lives.**

1407 Bolton Street, Baltimore, MD 21218

410.669.1229

[www.samaritancommunity.org](http://www.samaritancommunity.org)

Fall 2009

# Samaritan Community NEWS

## Dear Friends,

The Samaritan Community begins our 26th year in a strong position, primarily as a result of your continued support of the organization. We have also been busy. As part of Memorial Episcopal Church's Capital Campaign, the Samaritan Community was awarded funds to undertake a strategic planning exercise to evaluate our past and plan for our future. We looked at our entire program and made tough decisions about how and why we should proceed. Most importantly, we re-affirmed our mission:

*"The Samaritan Community provides assistance to meet the needs of families and individuals who are in crisis and wish to improve their lives. Our program is rooted in respect, hope, and healing."*

We have long recognized that our strength is our size – because we are small the Samaritan Community is able to deliver a quality and depth of service that few agencies can match. During the strategic evaluation we asked how could we affordably augment our services with additional professionals to meet the growing needs of our clients. I am happy to announce that Angela Allen joined the Samaritan Community in late August as our first Lutheran Volunteer Corps intern. She introduces herself later in these pages, but her

personal commitment to social justice fits squarely within our mission.

In response to the increased need for food we have begun an additional food pantry on the last Saturday of each month. In addition, a committee of the board has worked for many months to develop a better solution for the Samaritan Community's property on Wilson Street. The house is in transition and will soon become an "Oxford House" in partnership with Episcopal Housing. Finally, in accordance with our strategic plan we have engaged development consultant Peter Dunn on a short-term basis to assist the board in our efforts in stabilizing the Samaritan Community's finances through increased fundraising. You will hear more about that in the months to come.

Our work has not gone unnoticed. In April, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation awarded the Samaritan Community a grant through their Small Grants Program. These funds will support further program development and will be released over a two-year period. In a period of severe economic decline an endorsement of this kind, combined with our growth both in staff and program, is nothing short of a miracle.

Thank you again for your continued support.

*Sallye E. Perrin*

*Sallye Perrin, President of the Board*

## Tribute to Sharon Krieger and 26 years at Samaritan Community

During Sharon's 26 years as the Program Director of the Samaritan Community, she has grown this program from a food closet stocked with canned goods into a dynamic organization that touches thousands of lives every year. From the very beginning when Barney Farnham asked Sharon to take this project on, Sharon realized both the need and potential for the Samaritan Community.

One of Sharon's first decisions was to diminish the barriers between staff and clients, a change that highlighted a new direction and integrity for this grassroots nonprofit. One example is the *Samaritan Breakfast Club*, where everyone serves, eats, and cleans up together as a family. At a recent *Women Together* group meeting, one woman remarked, "I came as a volunteer, but I don't feel like a volunteer, I'm a member just like everyone else."

In the 26 years since Sharon breathed life into the Samaritan Community, the organization has become a model provider of effective community services.

Understanding the complexities of people and their problems has enabled Sharon to be extremely effective at her work and to make a profound difference in the lives of thousands of our neighbors. Although the complexities and challenges of Sharon's work are many, she has a very simple mission which guides her work and her life. "Our mission here," Sharon says, "is to let people know that they are loved!"

Memorial Episcopal Church will honor Sharon and her work after church on Sunday, November 1. Please join in celebrating this moment in the Samaritan Community's history.

— Peter Dunn

### — Upcoming Opportunities to support the Samaritan Community —

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009 — Festival on the Hill

During the Festival on the Hill, bring a roll of TOILET PAPER (or better yet, a sealed 6-pack) to the Samaritan Community booth. Why TP? To remind us of the many critical non-perishable needs of our community.

We will also be conducting a door-to-door TP solicitation that morning, and we can use your help!

In the afternoon, stop by for the "Guess the Number of Rolls" contest.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009 — Neighborhood canned food drive

Volunteers will take to the streets to fill the Samaritan Community pantry shelves. We will canvass the neighborhood the week before, requesting that neighbors be on hand to donate or leave foodstuffs on front steps.

A pizza party will be held at the conclusion of the event.

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009 — Tribute to Sharon Krieger

Contact Memorial Episcopal Church at 410.669.0220 for more details.

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009 — Annual "Taste of..." fundraiser

Save the date for a delightful occasion of delicious food and drink, and good conversation, in one of the grand houses of Bolton Hill. Invitations will be mailed shortly. To be added to the invitation list contact the Samaritan Community.

**For more information about upcoming events, call us at 410.669.1229 and leave a message, or e-mail [samaritanvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:samaritanvolunteers@gmail.com)**



## THE SAMARITAN COMMUNITY

Memorial Episcopal Church  
1407 Bolton Street  
Baltimore, MD 21217

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Baltimore, MD  
Permit No. 2961

### The Samaritan Community QUIK SNAPSHOT

#### Demand for services increases

■ In 2008, 1,523 individuals/families received approximately 1.5 bags of food. Of that number 782 are unduplicated individuals. This is significantly higher than in 2007, when only 600 unduplicated individuals received food from our food pantry.

■ Many of those who come for the food pantry are also in another crisis. The Samaritan Community works with them one on one through the individual and group sessions to assist them in their crisis and to avoid other crises. In 2008, the Counseling Program provided counseling and/or therapy sessions to 725 people.

■ Also in 2008, the crisis intervention program supported 96 individuals/families by granting emergency financial assistance ranging \$5 - \$20 dollars. In addition, we do make grants in the range of \$100 - \$200 for utilities, and sometimes more for rent or mortgage. In 2008 a total of \$16,485.10 was granted in emergency assistance to families.

■ The demand for the Samaritan Community's services has increased significantly in 2009. In the first quarter of 2009 the Samaritan Community received 45 additional requests for crisis intervention emergency assistance. At that rate that means we are likely to receive an additional 190 requests this year. Most troubling, many of these requests are from other agencies and institutions who are finding it difficult to locate resources for their clients.

## Love Abounds At The Samaritan Community

My own day was transformed, for the better, because I interviewed RC. The first thing that struck me was RC's friendly, self confident and open manner. She traveled across town to be here this morning, after her long night shift at Wal-Mart. She was not tired, but invigorated, even enthusiastic about talking with me, because she wanted others to know what she has experienced. She wants to encourage others to seek help and to know that help is available. There is no need for questions; she jumps right into telling her story.

Five years ago RC was living on Rogers Avenue with her daughter and working regularly as a certified nursing assistant. Then everything fell apart. She got sick and landed in the hospital, and did not have health insurance. She lost her job. Her daughter became pregnant. She had no income and couldn't pay her bills. A friend prayed with her, told her about the Samaritan Community and helped her make contact.

From her first encounter with a member of the Samaritan Community staff, RC got help – action, not empty promises. She received money to pay her gas and electric bill, food and clothes. She applied for and received medical assistance for herself, her daughter and her new grandson. She was guided through the process of applying for help from the Department of Social Services, and subsequently was directed to America Works, which found her employment at Wal-Mart. Throughout, she was counseled by the Samaritan Community staff, and she regained her sense of self respect and personal dignity.

Life is better now for RC and her family. They still live on Rogers Avenue, and she has income to pay her bills. Her daughter who is 18 and her grandson who is a mischievous 2 (he loves his grandma!) are doing well. She still gets help occasionally from the Samaritan Community when she needs it, but she looks forward to returning to her nursing career and becoming fully independent soon.

RC is hugely grateful for the love and support she has found at the Samaritan Community. In her words, "Opie (Susan Smeragliuolo, LCSW-C) and Ms. Sharon (Sharon Krieger, Program Director) are angels from God." They are her "pearls." She is so overwhelmed with love for the Samaritan Community that she refers friends who need help, but only those who are sincere and want to help themselves.

I am grateful to the Samaritan Community Board for granting me this privilege. My own personal faith has been strengthened greatly through the meetings I have had with clients.

— Lee Starkey



## Introducing Angela Allen! New Lutheran Volunteer at Samaritan Community

My name is Angela Allen and I will be working closely with Sharon and Opie as the new intern/volunteer here at the Samaritan Community. I am originally from the

Twin Cities in Minnesota — land of the 10,000 frozen lakes — and I recently graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota with a degree in psychology and a minor in peace studies. This year I am living in Baltimore through participation in a program called Lutheran Volunteer Corps, an organization that brings people from around the world, and places them in positions at various non-profits and social service agencies in different cities across the United States.

I've only been working at the Samaritan Community now for a little over three weeks, and while the work has been immensely challenging, I have to be honest and say that upon arriving, I did not expect to gain as much perspective as I already have so early in my time here. Hearing the stories of the clients we serve along with the ways in which Sharon and Opie have helped to improve their lives has greatly inspired me, and I hope that I can make as much of a positive impact on the families and individuals in Baltimore, as those who work at this organization have for so many years.

Thank you so much for welcoming me into your worlds, and for allowing me the opportunity to help you through your journeys. I look forward to working with all of you in the next year, and I am so grateful to be a part of this wonderful community.

— Angela Allen