



THE SAMARITAN COMMUNITY

1407 Bolton Street
Baltimore, MD 21217

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

The Samaritan Community Connection

Learn how Samaritan Community is helping neighbors in Baltimore!



THE SAMARITAN COMMUNITY

1407 Bolton Street, Baltimore, MD 21217 | 443.438.9286 | samaritancommunity.org | facebook.com/samaritancommunity

Fall 2023

Cibele and Carlos: Finding Hope, Help, and Healing at Samaritan



Carlos and Cibele have gone through very tough times. They are on the journey back to a secure future.

Cibele and her husband Carlos moved to the US and lived in Florida for 18 years. He owned his own business and she worked for an insurance company. They were a very hard-working couple who had comfort and security until one morning in 2017 when Cibele woke up and was totally blind.

During the next two years she endured nine surgeries. Each surgery required a month of bedrest and lying face down in a brace. She lost her job and Carlos had to give up his business to provide the 24-hour care she needed. Ultimately, they had to sell everything they owned including their car. Then, Carlos had a heart attack.

Penniless and facing homelessness, they found shelter in Baltimore through a childhood friend. Feeling hopeless, Cibele went for a walk one morning and saw a sign - literally. While passing Memorial Episcopal Church, she saw a sign that read, "Welcome immigrants and refugees" and found the entrance to The Samaritan Community.

"As soon as I met Sharon (Program Director), I knew my life was taking a turn for the better," recalls Cibele.

Sharon offered immediate help with food and winter clothing, and later with dental and housing assistance. They also joined our weekly support group. Cibele now volunteers in our clothing shop, where her amazing organizational skills have been put to good use. She is thrilled to give back and loves her time at Samaritan Community.

"Samaritan Community is my home and my family, and Sharon and my new family have been the happiest surprise of my life," says Cibele.

The affection is mutual with Sharon saying, "Cibele is remarkable and courageous. She and Carlos are finding their way toward a hopeful and secure future. They will forever be cherished members of our family here at Samaritan."



Cibele and our clothing shop volunteers work hard to ensure our members can easily find what they need in a kind and welcoming atmosphere.

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Advisor

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SAMARITAN COMMUNITY FAQs: QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE SMALL ORGANIZATION WITH A BIG IMPACT

When was Samaritan Community started?

We started as a food pantry 45 years ago in the basement of Memorial Episcopal Church. We're still in the same location, but a lot has changed. Today, we are an independent 501c(3) non-profit with a mission to provide assistance to individuals and families who are in crisis and wish to improve their lives.

What services do you provide?

We have six core services – our food pantry, clothing shop, case management, emergency financial assistance, individual empowerment counseling, and group support. Some people may only need help for a short time until they're back on their feet, while others are looking to rebuild their lives and may need services for a longer time.

How many people do you help?

We estimate helping 300 vulnerable households a year, impacting approximately 600 men, women, and children annually. Roughly 95% of our members live in Baltimore City.

How many people work at Samaritan Community?

We have one full-time employee, our Program Director, Sharon Krieger. We also have five part-time staff who work in programming or administration. Not to mention, our amazing team of volunteers who help keep us running.

Where can I learn more?

Check out our website at samaritancommunity.org or "like" our Facebook page at facebook.com/samaritancommunity



Samaritan Community is a small organization with a big impact on people in Baltimore. Our mission is to provide assistance to individuals and families who are in crisis and wish to improve their lives.

A Beautiful Day on the Farm: Samaritan's Board & Staff Connect at Summer Luncheon

On a beautiful day in September, members of our Board of Directors and staff gathered at the picturesque farm of Peter Dunn, our Director of Community Relations. Guests enjoyed an afternoon filled with nature, delicious food, and many laughs. But what brought them together was their passion and commitment to Samaritan Community and its members. The day was a wonderful chance to focus on the community within Samaritan and the important role it plays in the greater Baltimore community.



(from left) Board Secretary, George; and Board Member, Steve, enjoy a chat and a laugh.



Board members, staff, and their guests came together to enjoy each other and celebrate their shared commitment to Samaritan Community.



(from right) Board President, Alma; Board Secretary, George; Program Director, Sharon; and Board Vice-President, Marjorie were able to unwind.

Celebrating Sharon Krieger, Program Director: 45 Years of Tireless Compassion to Help Others

Sharon is one of a kind - a living example of compassion and fortitude, giving herself to others, literally day or night. Working side-by-side with people facing eviction, homelessness, food insecurity, unemployment, isolation, and many other types of crises, Sharon stands with members during their darkest times and celebrates their successes.

"As soon as I spoke to Ms. Sharon, I knew I'd be okay. She told me that she wouldn't let go of me until I was back on my feet and able to handle everything myself," recalls one member.

When we started as a food pantry 45 years ago by The Rev. Barney Farnham, Sharon was one of our first volunteers. As we became more aware of the community's needs, Sharon became an employee and then our Program Director. Throughout this time, she expanded our services to meet these ever-growing needs.

Alma Bell, who has been with Samaritan Community from the beginning and now serves as our Board President says, "Sharon is one of those truly rare individuals who is able to give from a place that does not seem to decrease. I know of no one else who sees people as Sharon does. It has been an important learning experience to be a part of The Samaritan Community way, with Sharon as our example."

"My hope is that Samaritan Community will always be able to say in word and in action; all are welcome, you are valued, don't give up, people really do care, and we can help," says Sharon.

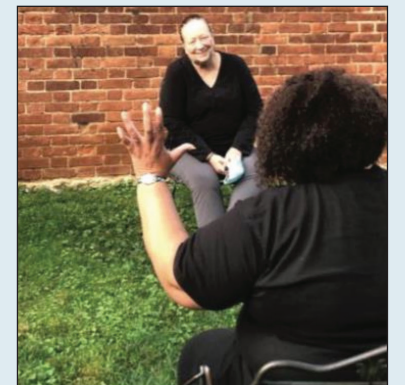
Thank you, Sharon, for everything you do for so many people in Baltimore.



Taken back at our beginning, Sharon carries supplies into the pantry.



Thank you, Sharon, for your unwavering commitment to others.



Now 45 years later, Sharon remains just as committed to our members as she was then.

A Great Day at the Festival - Thank You, Bolton Hill!

Samaritan Community is proud to be a member of the Bolton Hill community. This fall, we participated in the Festival on the Hill event, an annual celebration of all things Bolton Hill. Attendants were able to purchase coffee and baked goods from our table as well as learn about our work. We were also one of the beneficiaries of the event's proceeds. Thank you, Bolton Hill!



Board Secretary, George, enjoys the atmosphere while representing Samaritan Community at the event.



Samaritan Community was one of the beneficiaries of the event's proceeds. Thank you, Bolton Hill!



Board members, Gus and Wendy, welcome visitors to our table.