

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Our Annual “Movie Night Gala”
at The Charles Theatre

When Seeing a Movie Makes a Difference!

Monday, May 20

Reception starts at 5:45 pm

Showtimes vary, starting at 7 pm

\$75 per ticket or \$100 per Patron ticket

(a portion is tax-deductible)

To purchase your tickets online, go to:
samaritancommunity.org



You can make a big impact on a person's life by simply going to the movies. Please join Samaritan Community at this annual fundraiser at the historic Charles Theatre. Savor delicious food from Tapas Teatro, enjoy a movie of your choice, and win a fantastic item (or two!) at our highly-anticipated silent auction.

See you at the movies!



Our Marvelous Member, Marva: Inspired to Help Others, She Started Samaritan's "Knitting Club"



Marva founded and now leads our "Knitting Club" group, in which participants learn to loom knit scarves, hats, and other beautiful creations.

Marva first came to Samaritan Community about 18 months ago when a friend suggested our services, particularly our long-standing "Breakfast Club", a weekly event during which members, staff, and volunteers come together to prepare and enjoy a meal together.

After attending her first "Breakfast" and a post-meal session of Sheng Zhen, a system of movements, meditations, and contemplations designed to cultivate love and resiliency during difficult times, Marva was hooked. She became a "Breakfast" regular and a valued member of our community. She was also finding that being a member of a tight-knit community, like Samaritan, was making her happier and enriching her life a great deal.

"I met many new friends and was moved by how everyone at Samaritan Community supports each other," recalls Marva.

Being such a generous and engaging person, Marva took the initiative and approached Sharon, Program Director, about starting a new life enrichment group that could help other members just as "Breakfast Club" helped her. Marva soon created and now leads "The Knitting Club", which teaches participants how to loom knit, a technique that makes it possible for people with arthritis and disabilities to knit.

The group currently has about seven participants who knit beautiful hats, scarves, and more. But they've also created something much deeper in the process. They've built lasting bonds and a joyful support network for each other.

"I really was inspired by the looming class because it taught me a new experience and it's so much fun and relaxing," says TC, a "Knitting Club" member.

Our members, like Marva, help make Samaritan a better place for all who come here. Thank you, Marva!



Members of our "Knitting Club" are all smiles showcasing the beautiful scarves, hats, and wraps they've made.

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SAMARITAN COMMUNITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SAVE THE DATE!
Monday, May 20
"Movie Gala" at The Charles
See Back Cover For Details

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Samaritan Needs Help with Food Donation Pickup & Delivery

DAYS:

Mondays

TIME:

Arrival time at Whole Foods is anytime between 7:45 - 9:15 am. Loading of donations at Whole Foods takes 20-30 minutes. Then, driving to Samaritan and bringing items to the pantry. Samaritan staff and volunteers are able to help with unloading the vehicle. Total time is usually around 1 hour.

REQUIREMENTS:

Volunteers need to be able to lift and carry roughly 30 lbs. Because of the large amount of food we receive, a relatively large SUV, mini-van, or pickup truck of any size is also needed.

Training will happily be provided.

Our food pantry is our most-utilized service and the most common reason people initially come to us. Last year alone, members accessed our pantry 1,900 times and we distributed about 8,245 bags full of healthy and fresh groceries. We are able to do this because of our long-standing relationship with Whole Foods Market Mt. Washington, which generously donates produce, breads, dairy, poultry, seafood, and more several days a week.

We are looking for volunteers to pick up food donations from Whole Foods Market Mt. Washington and bring them back to our pantry for distribution:

If you're interested or want to learn more, please contact Peter Dunn, Director of Community Relations, at 443-438-9286 or at pdunn@samaritancommunity.org.



We're looking for volunteers to help pick up food donations at Whole Foods Market Mt. Washington and bring them back to our pantry. Can you help?



Our new food pickup volunteer will be an important part of our food pantry.

Samaritan's "Brain Games" Group: Having Fun to Build Stronger Minds & Stronger Bonds



Two "Brain Games" members play a fun game of "Memory".

Board games, puzzles, brain teasers, and memory challenges. These are just some of the activities enjoyed by participants of Samaritan's weekly "Brain Games" group. Inspired after seeing a presentation on brain health, several Samaritan members were interested in starting a group that could help keep their minds sharp. After talking with Sharon, Program Director, "Brain Games" was born.

"It's small, but it's a hoot. There are usually six or so people on any given week, though it's not always the same people," says Dave, Assistant to the Director. "Participants gain knowledge, sharpen skills, and build friendships. Plus, it's really a lot of fun."

In addition to "Brain Games", Samaritan also offers other life enrichment clubs, all designed with the same goal in mind – to teach a new skill while forming strong social connections. Our other clubs focus on creative writing and poetry, healthy cooking on a budget, Shen Zhen, communication skills, and knitting.

In 2018 alone, there were nearly 800 visits across these clubs, which continue to grow in 2019.

Samaritan Elects Newest Board Member, Ben Hinceman



Our newest board member, Ben Hinceman

We are proud to announce Ben Hinceman as the newest member of Samaritan Community's Board of Directors. Ben Hinceman lived in Bolton Hill with his wife Nicole and children for many years.

"Having Ben with us is very exciting," says Myshala E. Middleton, Esq., Board President. "He brings impressive professional credentials, a local perspective of Bolton Hill, and true compassion for those who turn to Samaritan."

Ben first came to our attention about four years ago when Peter, Director of Community Relations, saw Ben's photographs on exhibit. Peter was so impressed with Ben's art that he purchased a piece for himself and asked Ben if he would donate one of his works to the silent auction at our annual "Movie Night" Gala at The Charles. A request to which Ben generously obliged. Ever since, Ben has donated a piece to the auction and has maintained a steadfast interest in our work.

"Over the years, I have seen the great work that Samaritan Community does and the lives they touch in a meaningful way," says Ben. "I appreciate how focused they are on the local area and am pleased they have asked me to join their organization."

New at Samaritan! Volunteer "Greeters" Give Warm Welcomes



Sister Jacinta and Barbara are our new "greeters". They welcome members, direct them to the correct service, and much more.

We are continuously looking for ways to improve our services and the ways in which we provide them. Over the last few years, we've opened a computer workroom, added evening hours to our pantry schedule, started new life enrichment groups, and much more. And now, we are thrilled to have Sister Jacinta and Barbara as our volunteer "greeters".

For the last few months, they have been warmly greeting members to Samaritan and guiding them to where they need to go - whether it's the food pantry, one of the staff offices, or the Clothing "Shop". They talk with members to better understand if there is an emergency or time-sensitive issue that needs to be addressed right away. They also sit and chat with members who want company or guide others who want solitude to a quiet space.

"They do a fantastic job," says Sharon, Program Director. "A big part of what we do is to help people feel safe, respected, and cared for. And that's exactly what Sister Jacinta and Barbara do every time they're here. They are already much-beloved by staff and members alike," Sharon continues.

The feeling is mutual. Both women love seeing how "people who come to Samaritan get what they need and are treated with love and respect by everyone here."

Thank you, Sister Jacinta and Barbara - and all of our wonderful volunteers - for giving your time and talents to others.

SAMARITAN BY THE NUMBERS!

In 2018,
Samaritan Community:

- Distributed roughly 8,250 bags filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, breads, poultry and more through an estimated 1,900 visits to our food pantry as well as deliveries of surplus food to other social service organizations in the city
- Gave members and their families gently-used clothing and household items, free-of-charge, through approximately 1,265 visits to our Clothing "Shop"
- Helped an estimated 127 members address serious personal challenges through roughly 1,164 sessions of individual empowerment counseling and helped them build a support system through almost 1,600 visits to our support group and life enrichment activities
- Provided an estimated 329 sessions of case management services, ranging from obtaining housing to navigating the legal system, and more
- Distributed more than \$31,000 in emergency financial assistance stipends, designed to help prevent crises related to housing, utilities, medical care, transportation, employment, legal help, and more

**And we couldn't
have done it without
the ONE person
who really makes a
difference -
YOU!**