



The Need for Respect, Hope, and Healing – Now More Than Ever

by Peter Dunn, Director of Community Relations

The Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club at Samaritan Community is a cherished time for all of us, staff and members alike, to come together to discuss issues affecting us as individuals and as a society. This type of open dialogue exemplifies the qualities of respect, hope, and healing proudly declared in our mission statement.

But, on Tuesday, April 28, the morning after violence broke out in our city, I woke up believing that our work would be particularly significant that day. Bolton Hill's

only neighborhood grocery store was looted, and many of our members would be without access to food. When I arrived at breakfast, Sharon, our Program Director, was frenetically preparing for breakfast and the day, yet she looked peaceful. And so, the tone for normalcy was set.

As members discussed their experiences and shared stories about destruction on their blocks and even to their own homes, it became



(Above) A typical Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club. Members come together to discuss personal issues and those affecting society.

immediately clear to me that Samaritan Community, our Breakfast Club, and the safety and sense of community provided here has never been stronger or more vital.

The level of gratitude and hope in the room was striking. Everyone was overjoyed to be with friends they loved and trusted, and all were hopeful that the healing would begin with us.

In all my years at Samaritan Community, Tuesday, April 28 is one that will stay with me. I was, and continue to be, so proud of everything we did that day and every other day. I can't imagine an organization that is better poised to heal a community and help build community than our Samaritan Community.

We Get Letters...

Recently, we were touched to receive twenty-eight \$1 bills in an envelope with the enclosed letter and drawing...

Greetings,

My son is 23 and autistic. He loves the Baltimore Ravens and the city of Baltimore and was saddened by the events last week. He asked, "Dad, what can I do for Baltimore?"

We went online and discovered your good works. My son earns a little money here and there and is paid in \$1 bills. He wanted to give some to you to help heal Baltimore.

Please receive this money from him as his way to give to your efforts to help Baltimore.

Blessings,

A supporter from Talbot County



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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.

Meet Pierre: Paying It Forward at Samaritan



Pierre uses his skills to fix a computer at Samaritan.

Little did Pierre know that when his daughter crashed their family's computer back in 2000, it was the start of his career in computer repair. He not only taught himself how to fix the computer, but quickly realized that he enjoyed the work.

"At first, it was a challenge and I liked that," he recalls. "Then it became easier."

Pierre took those self-taught skills and leveraged them to get a job at a local flea market, where he also received additional training. For the next two years, he installed programs, replaced motherboards, fixed hard drives, assessed memory issues, and more.

Then, upon facing some life challenges, Pierre became a part of the Samaritan Community in 2014. Shortly after arriving, he started helping fellow members with their various computer problems.

"Typically, I help by removing viruses, installing anti-virus software, and restoring their computers' operating systems," says Pierre. "I see how my knowledge can help other people."

His work ethic and knowledge were quickly noticed by Program Director, Sharon Krieger.

"Pierre helps our entire community, staff and members, with our computers. We have come to rely on him. Whenever a problem pops up, I know I can count on Pierre to help. And always with patience and a smile," says Krieger.

Ultimately, Pierre hopes to open his own computer repair business, through which he can give opportunities to others interested in the field.

"Pierre is a wonderful example of the expression, 'paying it forward', which is a big part of who we are at Samaritan", concludes Krieger. "We help each other."

New Board Leadership Looks to Future with Expertise, Experience, and Enthusiasm

As an organization with more volunteers than staff, we rely on those willing to give their time and talents, now and into the future. Fortunately, with the appointments of three key positions on our volunteer-based Board of Directors, Samaritan is well positioned to take on today's challenges and tomorrow's possibilities.

Leading the organization is our new Board President, Paul Silvestri. As a leader in the commercial contracting industry and a Bolton Hill local, Silvestri brings the knowledge of an executive with the heart of a neighbor.

"As a resident here, I've seen the positive effect Samaritan has had on individuals and our surrounding community overall. As Board President, I want that to continue well into the future," says Silvestri. "While we cannot serve every person in need, our goal is to have an even bigger impact on the lives of those we do serve, while maintaining our modest approach to service."

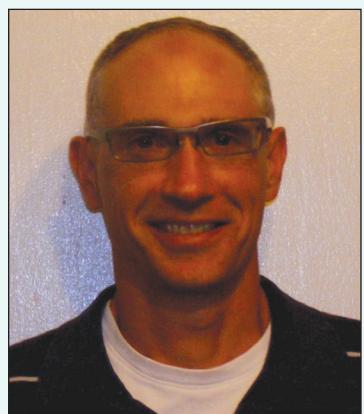
And it's this enhanced impact that is already being implemented. Our new adult literacy program and cooking classes are just two new ways members are gaining important life skills.

Joining Silvestri are Samaritan's new Vice-President, Marjorie Forster, and Treasurer, Jeffrey Quinn, CPA/ABV. They too, share Silvestri's vision of working within Samaritan's parameters to make a significant impact on Baltimore and the people who call it home.

"Through our individual and collective capabilities, we will continue to grow and expand our community support," says Forster, a retired global health executive. "Everybody here is an important piece of the larger Samaritan puzzle."

Quinn, a certified public account (CPA), echoes Forster, "It's exciting to apply my accounting knowledge in ways that will positively impact other people."

For more information on how you can contribute, visit www.samaritancommunity.org or call 443-438-9286.



Paul Silvestri, new Board President, looks to navigate Samaritan Community through obstacles and opportunities.

Farnham-Krieger Endowment Fund: We're Almost There!



Rev. Farnham carries food to the original pantry, which he founded, more than 30 years ago.

When The Rev. Barney Farnham asked his congregant, Sharon Krieger, to establish and run a counseling program for those who came to Memorial Episcopal's food cupboard, he founded an outreach that has grown to become **THE SAMARITAN COMMUNITY**.

To honor the memory of Rev. Farnham and Sharon's 30+ years of inspired service, Samaritan Community established the Farnham-Krieger Endowment Fund in 2013, to address the rising cost and number of requests for emergency assistance we receive on a daily basis.

We are happy to announce that with over \$50,000 in contributions in 2014 alone, the Farnham Krieger Fund now stands at \$120,000, very close to our \$150,000 goal. Soon, we will be able to use the interest from this fund to help families and individuals overcome obstacles that prevent them from achieving their full potential.

To be able to take on member challenges that might be resolved with a larger investment is an exciting step forward! For example, \$600 would enable a client to repair a vehicle used for employment, or \$1,200 might ensure a family's stability during a medical crisis. If you would like to help in our effort to make a lasting change in the lives of those we serve, please send your donation to Samaritan Community with "Farnham Krieger" written in the notation section. **For more information, please call 443-438-9286.**



Sharon also brings supplies to the pantry, shortly after it opened its doors. We now distribute more than \$100,000 in fresh and healthy groceries to our members annually.

We Love Our Volunteers!



(from left) Sylvia Rich, Manager of Talbot's Cross Keys; Carolyn, Fashion Show Model; Judith Cox of Talbot's; and Novella, Fashion Show Model are all smiles

On Valentine's Day, we held our first Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon & Fashion Show for our marvelous volunteers. Whole Foods Market Mt. Washington provided a delicious three-course meal. Our honored volunteers



Board President, Paul Silvestri (right) thanks Head Food Pantry Volunteer, Dale Balfour for being a dedicated volunteer.

and their guests were then treated to the first-ever Samaritan Community Fashion Show. Talbot's, Cross Keys styled and narrated a fashion show, which featured four Samaritan Community models wearing outfits straight from our Clothes Closet.

If you missed this fun event, be sure to see the pictures at www.samaritancommunity.org, or visit us to watch the DVD. Don't miss next year's festivities!

SAMARITAN BY THE NUMBERS!

In 2014, we proudly served 1,092 individuals, families, and children.

We also:

- Distributed more than \$100,000 in fresh groceries
- Provided crisis intervention and long-term counseling to 190 individuals
- Furnished quality used clothing and household items to 222 families in need
- Sustained 111 households facing crises through \$24,000 in emergency financial assistance.

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

Partnering with Whole Foods Market Gets Better & Better!

When the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and the Baltimore Business Journal (BBJ) announced their annual competition to recognize the local business community's philanthropic efforts, we immediately nominated **Whole Foods Market** Mt. Washington for the Mid-size Business Philanthropist of the Year Award. This award is a coveted one, with a healthy competition for the top honor.



Ilene Briskin, Samaritan's Director of Development (left) and Peter Dunn, Director of Community Relations (right) join Jodi Kielman, Whole Foods Markets Mt. Washington Marketing Team Leader at the AFP luncheon.

We were beyond thrilled when Whole Foods Market Mt. Washington won the award in the first year it was nominated. We enthusiastically applauded along with 500 guests, including local and state public officials, business leaders and the media, as Jodi Kielman, the Mt. Washington Marketing Team Leader, and her team accepted this honor at a luncheon sponsored by The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) on Fri., Nov. 14, 2014.

For the past five years, Whole Foods Market Mt. Washington has gone above and beyond to help Samaritan Community better serve our members. We gratefully receive three weekly donations of fresh produce, breads, and groceries. And because of the amount

and quality of the food provided by Whole Foods Market, our food pantry is now open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and every other Saturday. This enables us to serve many more individuals and families facing food insecurity than ever before.

Additionally, this past holiday season, the Mt. Washington and Harbor East stores collected bags of groceries donated by their customers for our food pantry, through its Feed4More Campaign. The result was 1,000 cases of healthy food delivered to our door. ABC Channel 2 was there to cover it all. To watch the segment, go to the News & Events section of our website, www.samaritancommunity.org.

For us, it's a joy to give high-quality and healthy food to those whom we proudly serve. Yet, for our members, it's transformative. We are now better able to focus on members' other areas of need, including clothing, financial assistance, and counseling. Jodi and her team are personally interested in learning about our members and their needs, and they are genuinely happy when they hear a success story. We, at Samaritan Community, have long been inspired by the power of community, and are now inspired by the Whole Foods Market Mt. Washington team and their love of community as well.



Kelly Stegman, from Whole Foods Market Harbor East, helps bring in some of the 1,000 cases of food to our pantry.

Week of June 15 – Savor A Meal, Support Samaritan

Take a night off from cooking...for a good cause. Samaritan friends, Pat and Qayum Karzai, are generously showing their support for us by donating 10% of your bill, during the week of June 15, to Samaritan Community.

How It Works

Call any of the restaurants listed below for a reservation on the designated night. When you arrive, tell the hostess and your server that you are there to support Samaritan Community. Then, just sit back and enjoy some of the best cuisine in Charm City.



b Bistro in Bolton Hill, one of four fabulous restaurants owned and managed by the Karzai family.

Mon., June 15: Pen and Quill Restaurant (call 410-601-3588)

Tues., June 16: The Helmand (call 410-752-0311)

Wed., June 17: Tapas Teatro (call 410-332-0110)

Thurs., June 18: b Bistro (call 410-383-8600)

Be a part of this delicious way to support Samaritan Community. Please call 443-438-9286 with any questions.



Taste of...will be here sooner than you know it. Because of the success of last year's event, we are moving to a new venue, the Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) beautiful Main Court. While we have always held the event on the Sunday before Halloween, this year it will be two Sundays before to accommodate a student function at MICA. This venue is handicapped accessible and will enable us to host many more supporters. SHH....Don't tell anyone, we will also unveil our new website!