



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.

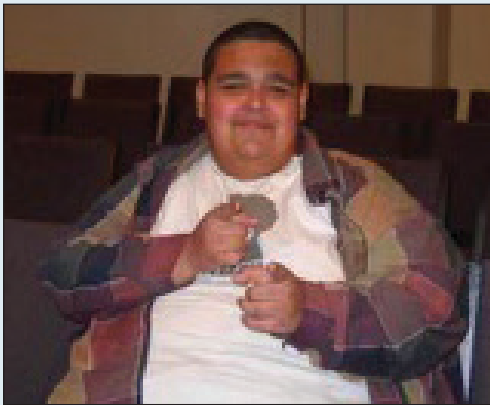
# The Samaritan Community Connection

Learn how Samaritan Community is helping  
Baltimore neighbors in need.





## Luis' Story of Determination During the Pandemic



*Luis has a strong employment record, but the pandemic has changed everything. He looks forward to finding work and volunteering at Samaritan.*

Luis came to Samaritan Community last May after losing his warehouse job due to the COVID19 pandemic. As a hard worker with a strong employment record, people like Luis tend to bounce back quickly. But this pandemic has changed everything. He soon became deeply-frustrated at not being able to find a job to support himself and his mother, who has asthma and lives with him.

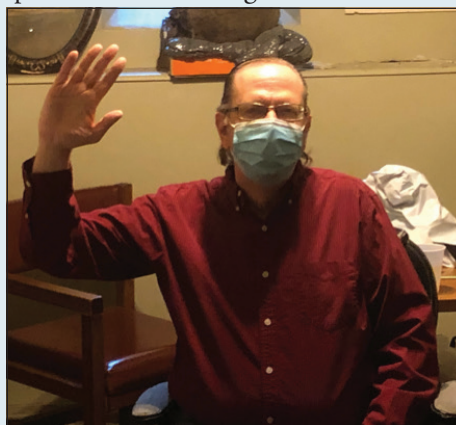
Working with Dave, our Assistant to the Director, Luis and his mother get nutritious food from our pantry as well as quality, gently-used clothes. And through our Coronavirus Response Fund, they also receive emergency housing and utility assistance during this extended crisis.

"I am so grateful to Dave and the loving people at Samaritan Community. If it were not for their amazing kindness, I know my mother and I would be homeless," says Luis, who has two goals for this year. "I want to get another job to support my mother and me, and be able to volunteer at Samaritan with my new friends. The more I can give back, the more I will know that this time of difficulty was actually kind of a blessing."

Everyone at Samaritan Community is proud of Luis' courage and determination, and are confident he will succeed.

"It's beyond rewarding helping Luis through this difficult time and to witness his hope and determination," says Dave.

Here, no member goes through their journey alone. We are, and always will be, a community. Not even a pandemic can stop that. We look forward to seeing Luis and all of our members as soon as we can!



*Dave, our Assistant to the Director, works closely with Luis and others who have been impacted by the results of the COVID pandemic.*

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### SAMARITAN COMMUNITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# Samaritan Community Mourns Guy Hollyday, Beloved Volunteer of Over 35 Years



*Guy, along with his beloved wife and former Samaritan board member, Pam. A terrific team.*

In January, all of us at Samaritan lost a dear friend, Guy Hollyday. He first came to us soon after marrying Pam Fleming, who was, herself, instrumental in forming Samaritan from the beginning and served as a board member for 25 years. Guy was active in our weekly Breakfast Club group, where he'd often take photographic portraits of other members that were greatly appreciated by all. He also helped in immeasurable ways to support our mission and staff. And he did it all with absolute kindness.

"I don't think Guy had

any idea of how extraordinary he was. His joy and enthusiasm for every day, every experience, and every person he encountered were contagious. His compassion was genuine and generous," says Program Director, Sharon Krieger. "His time with everyone at Samaritan was always inspirational and overflowing with his love and our love for him."

Guy truly cared about other people, in a very real and meaningful way. And people felt that whenever they were with him.

"Guy made everyone around him feel loved, honored, and part of the family," recalls one member, who initially learned about Breakfast Club through Guy.

"Every week he was there (at breakfast). He gave everyone a big hug. He lived and died in a way I hope we can all go about it."

While Guy and Pam often contributed to Samaritan in their own ways and at different times, we all loved occasions when we were able to spend time with Guy and Pam together, because they were such a beautiful and loving couple who radiated joy. We miss Guy greatly and are holding Pam in our hearts.



*Guy having great fun at our Brain Games group. He brought joy to everything he did.*

## SAMARITAN BY THE NUMBERS!

In 2020, we

- Helped roughly 300 households (610 people), of which 55 lost jobs/income as a result of the COVID19 pandemic
- Gave 5,000 bags of healthy groceries through deliveries to members and other organizations
- Provided 545 case management sessions to help with logistical challenges related to housing, utilities, medical care, legal help, employment, and more
- Held 510 counseling sessions to help members address and heal from challenges and traumas
- Distributed more than \$47,000 from our Coronavirus Response Fund to help people who lost jobs/income as a result of the pandemic. Also provided another \$17,000 for those whose needs were unrelated to the pandemic. All stipends were for necessities like rent, utilities, medications, employment expenses, and more.

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

**YOU!**

# Samaritan Community Elects Newest Board Member, Vabren Watts, PhD



*We enthusiastically welcome Vabren to our Board of Directors.*

The Samaritan Community Board of Directors is proud to announce the appointment of Vabren Watts, PhD as its newest member. Vabren is a science and health communicator and health equity strategist with a background in advocating for marginalized and minority populations. He has served as a spokesperson on these topics for the American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, and American Psychiatric Association. He now serves as the Director of Health Equity at the public health journal, Health Affairs.

“I was drawn to the fact that Samaritan had a mission of serving and improving the lives of the underserved,” says Vabren. “I really look forward to interacting with the people we serve.”

In fact, Vabren’s professional background is a natural fit for his board role.

“Samaritan is fortunate to add Vabren to our Board. He brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise from his previous positions in health care-related fields, and will be a great asset,” says Board Vice-President, Marjorie Forster, who first introduced him to Samaritan.

Vabren, who loves the city and people of Baltimore, enjoys reading in his spare time. Thank you, Vabren, and all of our other board and advisory members who donate their time and talents to helping others.

## Stronger Than Ever: Samaritan’s Response to COVID19 Pandemic Continues



*Margie, Samaritan volunteer and board member, works at the pantry filling orders.*

It’s hard to believe that the COVID19 pandemic hit only a year ago. For so many people, it’s been a long year full of uncertainty and hardships that continue today. When the crisis began, Samaritan responded quickly. Our incredible volunteers organized to deliver food directly to members and our programming staff started providing case management, counseling, financial assistance, and group support services primarily by phone, Zoom, or in an outdoor location using safety precautions.

Last year alone, we helped roughly 300 households, of which about 20% lost jobs/income as a result of the pandemic. This was in addition to regular members whose needs were unrelated to the crisis but nonetheless critical. We welcomed new members, some of whom never needed help until COVID19. We also started our Coronavirus Response Fund, which provides financial stipends to those directly impacted by the pandemic for necessities like rent, utilities, medicines, employment expenses, and more. Because of the

Fund, we were able to provide more than \$47,000 in assistance to help affected members avoid eviction, keep their power on, continue prescription medications, and more.

Samaritan began more than 40 years ago to help others through difficult times. We’re still here and we’re not going anywhere - pandemic or not. We work with members every day to help prevent crises from snowballing into life-changing traumas, navigate challenges, and ultimately reach their goals.



*Peter, Director of Community Relations, organizes clothes in our Clothing Shop.*