



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

Special Coronavirus Response Issue

Learn how Samaritan Community is responding to meet the needs of people in Baltimore during the coronavirus pandemic.





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

Special Coronavirus Response Issue

Coronavirus Crisis Won't Stop Samaritan



Dave, Assistant to the Program Director, waves as he continues to work with members using health and safety measures.

For many, the coronavirus crisis has stopped daily life as we've known it. What it hasn't stopped is unemployment, housing instability, hunger, abuse, health problems, and more. And therefore, the pandemic hasn't stopped Samaritan Community either. We are currently helping roughly 205 households, of which about 70 have lost jobs or income due to COVID19 and its economic ripple effects.

When COVID19 hit the US back in March, we responded quickly and efficiently. While we had to suspend in-person client visits within our space for health and safety reasons, our staff and volunteers swiftly mobilized to safely continue services. Within days, our food pantry began delivering food directly to members' homes – an intricate process – but one that greatly helps members get the food they need while avoiding crowded public transportation and potential exposure.

Our programming staff continues to provide financial assistance, case management, one-on-one counseling, and group support services – now primarily by phone, or Zoom, or at an outdoor location. And we launched our Coronavirus Response Fund, through which members directly impacted by the pandemic receive financial stipends for rent, utilities, employment expenses, personal supplies, medicines, and more. To date, we have provided more than \$26,000 in these stipends.

One of our core beliefs at Samaritan Community is the power of community. It's during dark times like this that our commitment to the community of Baltimore has never been stronger. We have been a proud part of the city for more than 40 years. Not even a pandemic will stop us.



Parrish works hard in the food pantry, the hub of our food delivery service.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Coronavirus Won't Stop Samaritan
- Paul's Story of Perseverance Amid COVID19
- Samaritan Volunteers Amaze Amid Pandemic
- By the Numbers: Samaritan's COVID19 Response
- Meet Board Member, Amy: Committed During COVID19
- Army Veteran, Samuel: A Symbol of Hope & Success

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BY THE NUMBERS: SAMARITAN'S CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Since the pandemic hit in March, Samaritan has proudly:

- Helped 205 households, of which roughly 70 lost jobs/income due the coronavirus pandemic.
- Distributed more than \$26,000 in financial stipends to help members directly impacted by coronavirus - through job/income loss - with rent, utilities, personal supplies, transportation, employment expenses, medicines, and more.

We are also continuing services to help all members, regardless of if they've been directly affected by the pandemic: So far in 2020, we have:

- Delivered 3,400 bags of groceries – full of fresh produce, breads, proteins, and more
- Held roughly 500 case management sessions to help with logistical challenges related to housing, employment, legal help, utilities, medical care, and more
- Provided about 465 counseling sessions to help members address and heal from tremendously-difficult situations
- Distributed more than \$9,000 in “regular” financial stipends to help members not directly impacted by the pandemic but whose needs are nonetheless critical
- Held 16 group activities to help prevent even greater isolation during this uncertain time

Paul's Story of Perseverance Amid COVID19



Paul, a proud father to his little girl, rebuilt his life. Then, the pandemic hit. Samaritan helped until his recent return to full-time employment.

Meet Paul, a family man whose young daughter is the center of his world. Having a criminal background, it was difficult for Paul to find work. Fortunately, about seven years ago, he was hired at a restaurant, where the chef took Paul under his wing. Paul embraced the opportunity, soaking up everything he needed to learn.

Fast forward and Paul's enthusiasm and dedication resulted in him becoming a valued and indispensable member of the restaurant's team. He carried his own key and ran the kitchen himself several nights each week. Unfortunately, when the restaurant closed in March due to coronavirus, Paul and his wife (already out of work) became worried about their family's future. Samaritan Community

helped Paul with every need, every step of the way.

Today, after seven months, Paul is working full-time and is getting back on his feet. Regaining stability, particularly at a time like this, is often a long process. That is why Samaritan Community is here! We are with our members for however long they need us, so that they have the support necessary to make a better life.

Samaritan Community Volunteers Continue to Amaze Amid Covid19



Coleen, food pantry manager and volunteer, has been leading Samaritan's food delivery efforts during the pandemic. Photo taken before the pandemic.

All of us at Samaritan Community are regularly amazed at the dedication of our volunteers. Then the pandemic hit and immediately, we saw their passionate commitment go into overdrive. Of all of our services, the food pantry is the most-utilized. Since March, 92% of households we serve have received food, which is now delivered directly to members from one of our amazing Samaritan volunteers. This is no easy feat!

Led by our volunteer food pantry manager, Coleen, pantry volunteers have already delivered more than 2,000 bags of groceries to nearly 190 households since the pandemic hit. And they aren't slowing down.

“Coleen is basically working full-time to keep these deliveries going. She maintains all product inventory, purchases all needed items, and works closely with volunteers and staff to ensure that members receive food that meets their specific dietary needs,” Sharon Krieger, Program Director at Samaritan Community. “This wouldn't be possible without Coleen and our other volunteers. That's a fact!

For Coleen, it's all about the team and how to help others.

“In addition to our regular members – the elderly, physically disabled, working poor – we have new clients who recently lost their jobs due to Covid. They are people who never needed help before...” says Coleen. “Food deliveries are a team effort that gives personalized service to each member, and everyone is eager to do their part to help.”



Barbara, one of the Samaritan pantry volunteers who works on food deliveries. She works closely with both members on their needs and with Coleen.

Meet Amy: 24 Years of Service As Board Member, Pantry Volunteer



As volunteers, Amy and her husband, Alastair, are both committed to translating Samaritan's mission into action.

Amy Krulak first came to Samaritan Community in 1996. Since then, she has served as Board President, Board Member, and Food Pantry Volunteer – including delivering food to members during the current pandemic. For Amy, giving back is a family affair. Her husband, Alastair, also volunteers alongside Amy – picking up food donations for our pantry and helping out at events.

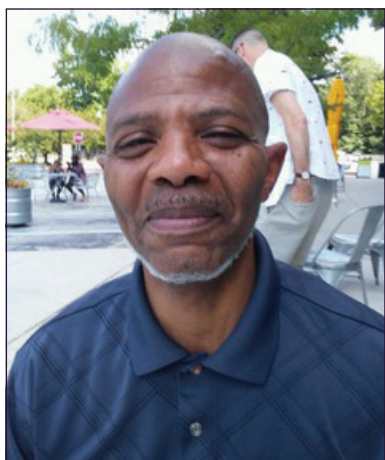
As a clinical social worker, Amy's expertise makes her an informed Board Member who can understand and support the needs of our programming staff.

“One of the rewards of my work with Samaritan Community is that I get to put my professional life into action and be part of a team of people who walk in life with purpose,” says Amy. “Working with Sharon (Samaritan Program Director), whose capacity for love and acceptance is boundless, has been one of the great joys of my life!”

The fact that Amy helps with passion and dedication on so many fronts is both remarkable and unremarkable. By any regular standard, 24 years of dedicated and steadfast service with no desire for recognition or praise would be considered most remarkable. But at Samaritan, where we have so many dedicated and passionate volunteers, it would be easy to miss highlighting all of her wonderful contributions. We are glad to have this opportunity to fix that.

Thank you, Amy, for your 24 years of enthusiastic help and tireless work!

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO INDEPENDENCE: ARMY VETERAN, SAMUEL, IS A SYMBOL OF HOPE & SUCCESS



Army veteran, Samuel, is now a living example of self-sufficiency and hope.

While Samaritan Community addresses the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, we are also continuing to provide our “regular” services to all members, whose needs may or may not be related to the crisis. Members like Samuel.

Before coming to Samaritan, Army veteran, Samuel, was homeless and finding shelter in an abandoned house. Around that same time, he stumbled upon Samaritan. He saw people going in through our red door and coming out with food, so he followed them in.

“They said ‘come on in’ and asked what they could do to make things better. They got some nourishment into me and got my weight up. I didn't tell them or anyone else that I was homeless. I was ashamed and didn't want anyone to discover how low I was down,” he recalls.

Samuel then began to attend the Breakfast Club and other Samaritan activities, keeping his homelessness a secret. He gained some employment but was unable to maintain it consistently due to a medical condition requiring surgery. After some time, Samuel became comfortable enough to reveal the true reason he

resisted surgery. Samuel would not be able to work, so how would he be able to support himself and how could he recover, alone, in a vacant building?

With all secrets out, the real work with Samuel began. He had been unaware of housing assistance through Veterans Affairs (VA). He applied, but without the proper documentation, he kept being told his was being investigated. Samaritan found him temporary housing and enlisted our volunteer lawyer to help him with his case with the VA. In less than three months, Samuel was recovering from surgery, in his new apartment, receiving benefits he earned through service to our country.

Today, Samuel works part-time and takes great pride in his work, and is looking forward to the future.

“Samaritan is the best thing that happened to me. They showed me compassion and gave me hope. They also gave me enough courage to change my life,” says Samuel. “No matter the pain or struggle, there is no limit to what I can do. I want the way I live to be an example, to show others compassion and understanding.”

Samaritan Community thanks Samuel and all the men and women of our military for their service!