

SAMARITAN INNS

COMBATting HOMELESSNESS & ADDICTIONS, REBUILDING LIVES.

SPRING
2009

A TIME OF TRANSITION: SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

Not many of us can escape the current impact of this historic economic downturn our country is grappling with. At the same time, many of us who are residents of "Main Street" understand the direct results of our nation's climatic economic state. As society's challenges continue to burden our human services, for those of us who work diligently to provide stable and effective programs to the very people in dire need of them now more than ever, are even more conflicted with just how to do it with less resources and without allowing any soul to slip through the cracks.

As the American economy has faltered, Samaritan Inns, like many nonprofit

agencies, has had to make tough decisions affecting staffing and programming. Given our funding challenges, we have come to the difficult decision to suspend the second phase of our three phase recovery program. This has meant releasing six of our thirty staff-members and closing three inns. We deeply regret needing to take this action, but the financial pressures were compelling.

Still, our clients' recovery and well-being remains our foremost priority. Thankfully, we were able to implement a plan to keep their recovery journey on track – by working to meet the individual challenges of every program participant. Further, as the need for our program has increased, we are even more motivated to examine just how we can serve

more effectively with less manpower and still improve results for our clients.

We are encouraged by the commitment of our staff and volunteers to help us command this uncharted territory as we launch ahead determined to be stronger, still providing our effective and high quality program to every man and woman desiring to live a drug and alcohol free life.



Larry Neff



THE DOOR WAS OPEN: LYNETTE DANIELS

I remember that day just like it was yesterday. I left Karrick Hall on the grounds of D.C. General Hospital and headed for my new home: 1422 Harvard

Street, N.W. I was headed to transitional living at Samaritan Inns. I remember being consumed with more fear than hope, but anything was better than where I'd been a month earlier. Little did I know I was headed to a new home that would allow me to embark upon a new life journey that would

eventually lead me back to the same door that was open for me. And just think -- that was almost 12 years ago!

Today as Program Coordinator of the Intensive Recovery Program (IRP) at Samaritan Inns, I am mindful of what God's calling is for me today: To make sure the same door that was open for me in 1997 is open today for the next person that knocks.

The IRP is the beginning of the recovery continuum journey, we strive to serve men and women who desire to learn how to live, one day at a time, without the use of drugs and alcohol. This phase entails 28 rigorous days of substance abuse prevention, relapse and recovery education;

during this intensive treatment phase, clients' address healthy and unhealthy emotions, allowing for the eventual resume of familial relationships, securing gainful employment, and tackling legal, medical, and/or physical issues which have not been addressed in the past.

As we look forward to celebrating 25 years of serving nearly 12,000 men and women homeless and addicted to drugs and alcohol, each day we work toward fulfilling our mission of "Combating Homelessness and Addictions; Rebuilding Lives." The ultimate goal of Samaritan Inns is to be faithful stewards of what God has made available to us so indeed THE DOOR WILL BE OPEN!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

25 & OVER CAMPAIGN

In celebration of Samaritan Inns' 25th year, we are pleased to announce the launch of our 25 and Over campaign. The campaign will offer resources and opportunities for Samaritan Inns alumni to engage and support current Samaritan Inns residents through volunteering, charitable giving, and meal preparation. Additionally, it will serve to unite Samaritan Inns alumni in community through collective action. Look for updates in the coming months!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DINNER FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Over the past few months, the following individuals and groups have given generously of their time and culinary talents to the men and women of Samaritan Inns' Intensive Recovery Program by preparing, serving and enjoying a meal with them. Thanks so much, everybody, you have truly blessed our staff and residents!

- Agape Mission Church
- Alegra Roundy & friends
- Alpha Phi Omega, Georgetown University
- Bearing Point
- Cherrydale Baptist Church
- Dana Kornfeld & daughter
- John Crocker
- Louise Wiggins & friends
- Matthews Memorial Baptist church
- Mover Moms
- Sanam Piramoun & family
- Sarah Scott & friends
- Sharon Sanders & friends
- Sidwell Friends Upper School
- Venable, LLP
- Zoila Chavez & friends

IN HER OWN WORDS: IVY SMITH, SAMARITAN INNS ALUM

Samaritan Inns changed my life. I heard about Samaritan Inns about five years ago after coming through detox – they suggested I go to a longer term spiritual program. Coming from detox to the 28-day recovery program at Samaritan Inns, on through the Transitional Living Program and finally through the Affordable Housing Communities, I've grown up so much. I really believe in this program, and I know if I didn't go through Samaritan Inns, I probably would have continued drinking.

When I began the 28-day program, Lynette (the Program Coordinator for the 28-day phase) told me that I didn't have to drink again – ever – even though I wanted to. During that time I really didn't want to hear anything that she had to say because "I didn't have a problem." My plan was to just keep in this program for a while

and then quit, and go back to my old way of life. But I ended up staying.

During that time I just did a lot of listening. Once I got started in the Transitional program, that's when stuff really started to change. They helped me to see that I had a disease, helped me to balance responsibility to see that it's not completely my fault because alcoholism is a disease, but still take full ownership over my addiction and recovery.

My life today is so different. I have a son, he's 9, and he's reunited with me now. It's just good being able to be a parent, to be really involved and get reacquainted with my family and friends that I had cut off, that I had shut off because I thought people didn't understand what I was going through. I thought I wasn't really worthy because I had sunk so low in life.

But now, I know I was blessed to be able to come through Samaritan Inns. I am an accountant. Life is just, good! I am still connected, I still go to meetings, I do step work; I use the tools Samaritan Inns gave me.

Samaritan Inns cares. It's not just their job. They really care. I'm very, very grateful. I came through the program and I am able to

have some sense of sanity in my life. Now I can deal with issues, life issues, without having to turn to a drink.



Monali Patel is a Samaritan Inns volunteer in our Affordable Housing/Single Residency Communities. She has been with us for approximately 6 months, meeting one-on-one with our clients on



a weekly basis, offering tutoring or financial management advice, depending on the individual needs of the resident. "They usually come to me with a problem and I try to understand their situation and how comfortable they are

in order to take the next steps to resolve their specific issue. With some, it could be as simple as giving them the information

to get help, like filing taxes. With others, it may be more complicated, like working on a resume," Monali says.

The clients in our Affordable Housing/Single Residency phase of recovery have been clean and sober for at least 6 months and are working toward establishing enriching career paths and relationships. Their professional, economic, and experiential backgrounds are diverse, lending to distinctive individual needs. Monali is one of six professional volunteers who offers much-needed career counseling services to the residents in our program.

Monali lives and works in Washington, D.C. as a financial consultant for the federal government. She came to Samaritan Inns because she recognizes the need for community involvement and giving back: "Growing up, I know what it's like to not have everything you need...whatever

opportunities I got, I was grateful for them. I wanted to give back in that same manner – pay it forward." Monali was drawn to Samaritan Inns because in her search for an organization that served D.C.'s homeless population, she wanted to find a program that made a difference in people's lives and primarily focused on people that wanted to help themselves. "I found Samaritan Inns to stand out with its three phase program, and there was an opportunity for me to help out with my resources in the third phase with career development counseling."

Of her experience so far at Samaritan Inns, Monali calls it "tremendous; rewarding, in the sense that even spending one on one time just talking to a client, it makes a difference to them and to me as well." Samaritan Inns is blessed to have volunteers such as Monali Patel. With her gifts and dedication, she is truly making an impact on the lives of our residents.

Samaritan Inns would like to acknowledge MDB Communications as well as Dewey & LeBoeuf, LLP, and Ballard Spahr Andrews

& Ingersoll, LLP for their generous gifts of their time, services, and finances on behalf of our residents this past holiday season.

Samaritan Inns is truly blessed to have the involvement of community leaders such as these!



DEWEY & LEBOEUF

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