



# 35 Years of Hope Realized

A few blocks away, there is a mural with a poem about the Columbia Heights neighborhood where Samaritan Inns is located. It says: "Out here, there's hope and dreams to achieve."

Many hopes and dreams have been achieved in our neighborhood since 1985, when Samaritan Inns was founded. One of our volunteers who lived in the neighborhood as a child was amazed at all the changes. Once dotted with abandoned buildings, the neighborhood is now known for its diversity, gleaming new condos amidst charming row houses, major retailers, and a thriving restaurant scene.

When Samaritan Inns was founded, the initial aim was to alleviate homelessness in our Nation's Capital. However, the founders soon realized that the needs that presented themselves were much more challenging than what a shelter program could provide. Homelessness was linked to other factors: unemployment and underemployment, lack of affordable housing, and mostly, the destructive path of addiction. That is how our unique multi-program continuum came to be.

We have grown significantly from our humble beginnings of nine men temporarily residing in one row house, to eight properties providing drug-and-alcohol-free housing, coupled with treatment and recovery programs, for nearly 600 men, women, and families annually in the District of Columbia.

A few milestones of the last few years:

- ☑ All of our programs are now certified by the DC Department of Behavioral Health as a Treatment and Recovery Services provider. We completely upgraded staff licensure and certifications.
- ☑ In October 2015, we launched the Women with Children Program, the only residential treatment program in the Nation's Capital for mothers with young children.
- ☑ In May 2019, we opened a new Transitional Living Program for Men, making Samaritan Inns the only agency in the District providing a full, residential continuum. [\(Continued on back\)](#)



# SAMARITAN INNS CONTINUES TO GROW



Renovations have begun on the Ontario Inn, the future site of our new Transitional Living Program for Women. The successful launch of the 6-month Transitional Living Program for Men at the Fairmont Inn last May convinced Samaritan Inns to fast-track a similar program for women.

Women suffering from Substance Use Disorder and mental illness have unique circumstances both in need of and access to care. There are currently few suitable options for those seeking treatment beyond post detox. Programs currently available are mainly outpatient, which is not ideal for establishing continuity of care. Most of the women we serve are homeless. They also tend to have higher levels of trauma from domestic violence, and other high risk behaviors and vulnerabilities. Therefore, they need a stable living situation, coupled with a high-intensity treatment regimen. We are re-purposing our Ontario property, which had been rented to the public, and securing program certification from the Department of Behavioral Health. Our intention is to open the program this summer, beginning with referrals from our own 28-Day Adult Treatment Program.

"Women need a longer-term program to treat trauma symptoms, to work on changing behavior, attitudes, and emotions that impact relationships and their ability to be productive members of the community," said Judy Ashburn, Samaritan Inns Director of Treatment Programs.

"Our hope is that, after this phase, the women will be ready to move to our Long-Term Recovery Program to continue to build a strong foundation for sobriety and improved mental and spiritual well-being.



## 6TH ANNUAL CLARK DAVIS BREAKFAST

December marked the Sixth Annual Clark Davis Breakfast benefitting Samaritan Inns.



Thank you Clark Construction Group, LLC and James G. Davis Construction (DAVIS) for your long time commitment and support!



# Welcoming Our Newest Good Samaritan!

Juanita DeShazor is the Clinical Director of the Women with Children Program



**JUANITA DESHAZIOR**

## **Where are you from?**

Miami, Florida. I've lived there all my life! I was in the Air Force and retired in the area.

## **What's your favorite memory from the Air Force?**

I was in the Air Force for 23 ½ years. I was in the Air Force Band and toured all over the world. My most memorable moment was on Veteran's Day at the memorial in DC and I was doing the Battle Hymn of the Republic and I looked out and all these men from these wars were crying like babies. I will never forget that moment. I've been all over the world, but that moment got me right there.

## **How did you get involved in SUD treatment?**

I've done this work for years, from re-entry, to mental health, and co-occurring in the forensic setting.

## **How did you come to be at SI?**

I wanted to be in DC, because that's where the biggest need is in this area, and I've always wanted to work with women and children. Especially working in the jail, I saw a lot of women who need treatment, and there's not a lot of places where they can have their children and get the treatment, and learn life skills. I've worked with men and women in the jails, and there has been a lot for the men, but not a lot [of resources] for the women.

## **Why do you work with this population?**

I just want to help people. My mom did this work. My mother said when I was a child instead of bringing stray dogs and cats home, I'd bring stray girls who needed help. It's always been in me.

## **What would you say to someone starting out in this work?**

Learn everything you can along the way. Get with people who have a passion for this work so that you can learn how they do it. I was fortunate, I had a very good supervisor, and we're friends to this day. Every now and then we bounce things off of each other, because you have to have that kind of support when you're doing this work. You also don't know everything, it's impossible so you need help. Don't be afraid to ask for it.

## **What future do you imagine for Clark Inn?**

My goal is to have a staff that everyone wants to be like. I want a top-notch A1 monitor staff. I'd also like to see us expand and reach more clients.

## **What have you found to be unique about Women With Children Program?**

That they are allowed to have their children, and in this environment it's easier to help them start learning skills that they're going to need, a lot of them don't have good parenting skills, they don't even have good self-care skills. So, if we can give that to them it helps them become the whole person they need to be before they walk out of that door.

## **What has been your most memorable moment here?**

The graduation. Seeing those ladies graduate was so memorable to me. I will never forget them. They had all their families and support there, showing them that they are there for them and that they will be there for them.

## **CELEBRATING CLARK GRADUATES**



On January 26th, a large number of family, friends, and Samaritan Inns staff gathered to celebrate the graduation of four women from our Women with Children Program. Since the beginning of our program, the profound need has been confirmed in Washington, DC, and we are proud to be able to serve these mothers and their children at Samaritan Inns.

# TASTE OF THE SOUTH CHOOSES SAMARITAN INNS

## TASTE OF THE SOUTH

WASHINGTON, D.C.

In April 1983, a small group of transplanted Southerners looking for a way to bring a little Southern hospitality to their adopted home of Washington, D.C., held the first official Taste of the South (TOTS) gathering. 38 years later, TOTS has grown into an established non-profit organization that has donated over six million dollars and supported over 230 charitable organizations. For 2020, TOTS is supporting organizations that focus on the recovery and empowerment of individuals battling substance abuse. Each year, the Committee chooses a Washington, D.C. charity to give back to, and this year TOTS is supporting Samaritan Inns! "As 2020 is our 35th Anniversary, we are ecstatic to be selected as Taste of the South's D.C. charity this year," said Larry Huff, President of Samaritan Inns.

To learn more about Taste of the South's 2020 supported organizations, visit [tasteofthesouth.org](http://tasteofthesouth.org).

### 35 Years of Hope Realized (CONT)

Many things have changed since our founding, and addiction itself is now more appropriately named "substance use disorder", and it is a disease frequently complicated by mental illness. But Samaritan Inns' talented and caring staff, generous donors, community partners, and volunteers continue to provide the foundation for realizing success. We have many former clients with stories of achieving their hopes and dreams, which we will be sharing with you throughout the year.

Killian Noe, one of our founders, recently reflected: Samaritan Inns was founded on the belief that we all need authentic community where we are deeply known and loved if we are to become all we were created to become. As addiction, depression and loneliness continue to rise in our larger culture the need for healing communities has never been greater. Congratulations to all who have nurtured and participated in the power of healing community at Samaritan Inns during its 35 fruitful years.

#### SAMARITAN INNS

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