



## Dedication of Huff House



The long-awaited Transitional Living Program for Women is one step closer to becoming reality. Last month, the ribbon was cut on the Ontario Inn—newly renamed Huff House, for our recently retired President Larry Huff, and his wife Lyn, who has dedicated hours upon hours of time as a volunteer.

The Chair of our Board of Directors, Mike Alto, said a few words to the limited number of spectators (due to the pandemic). Pastor Aaron Graham of The District Church said a prayer to bless the facility and the women whose lives the program will transform.

The Transitional Living Program for Women will address the critical need for extended residential SUD treatment for our female clients. The newly-renovated house can accommodate 50 women annually in a program which will closely integrate with the intensive treatment in the 28-day Adult Treatment Program. The women will be assigned a case manager, and begin their path to success through 20 hours of clinical counseling per week, trauma-informed groups, 12 step meetings, substance abuse relapse prevention and psychoeducation.

This regimen will be followed by lower intensity treatment, while also focusing more on life skills: nutrition, stress reduction, financial management, computer skills, GED tutoring, and job training in order to gain employment by the end of the 6-month program.

The program will begin welcoming clients this year.





## A Message From The CEO

Greetings and Happy New Year! Yes, HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR! I too, am excited to put 2020 to rest, and welcome all the hope and promise of 2021. We can all agree that 2020 was an unprecedented year, but with God's infinite grace and mercy, Samaritan Inns continues to provide structured housing and recovery services to homeless and at-risk men, women, and families suffering from addictions.

I joined the Samaritan Inns family a few months ago because of my deep passion for the organization's commitment to serving our city's most vulnerable. Each day, I'm awestruck by the passionate commitment and loving care provided to our clients by the staff here at Samaritan Inns.

Despite how difficult this work is—and how much more difficult it is during a pandemic, the team keeps showing up, working through the chaos and giving their ALL, each and every day. They work tirelessly to ensure the men, women and families we serve get the support and care that everyone deserves.



Like so many non-profits, Samaritan Inns has also been dramatically impacted by the pandemic. It has forced us to change how we conduct every aspect of our operations; and required us to reduce our capacity in order to keep our residents and our staff safe. But thankfully with God's help, we make it work and I'm pleased to report that all Samaritan Inns programs have remained open throughout the pandemic; and that the number of COVID cases amongst our residents and our staff has been minimal. We have certainly been blessed and we are excited to open the doors to our brand new Women's Transitional Living Program on Ontario Road later this month, making it the only program of its kind in DC.

Samaritan Inns has been providing exemplary services for more than 35 years, and we look to build on our legacy and increase the number of individuals we can serve. Over the years, Samaritan Inns has evolved to meet the changing needs of those we serve with innovative programs and services. What began as one transitional home in the heart of DC, has developed into a full treatment and recovery continuum with eight transitional homes and a proven formula in combatting homelessness and addictions. Over the next several years, we will build on the vision and strength of Samaritan Inns through the addition of an outpatient treatment center for men and women; and a long-term recovery program for families.

We have much to do in this fight to combat homelessness and addictions and rebuild lives. But Scripture tells us that "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

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## A Message From The CEO (Cont.)

On behalf of the men, women and families we serve, our staff and our Board of Directors, and everyone involved with Samaritan Inns, I thank you for your continued support and I wish you a blessed New Year filled with peace, abundance, and bright moments. Please stay safe.

With gratitude,



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## Victoria's Story of Hope

In today's world—and especially during the pandemic—it's commonplace for many to fall into the pattern of substance and alcohol abuse. Many learn quickly that it's easy to start, but harder to stop. Clients, residents, and staff at Samaritan Inns know this all too well.

We strive to be not only a place of healing, but a community that rebuilds those struggling with mental health and substance use disorder. We know that it takes multiple steps to help men and women battling addictions. One of those key steps is the transitional phase where residents leave the 28-Day Adult Treatment Program (ATP) and enter into the next phase of the process, lasting six months.

This continued support is a vital time in the Continuum where accountability is maintained and trusting relationships are formed.

One alumna reflects on such times as life-changing. Victoria Clayborne was one of the last graduates of the old transitional program here at Samaritan Inns back in 2016. "The support here is phenomenal. I am so grateful for this place. "

Now, years later, she is still sober and works at the Office of Tax and Revenue. Victoria's story reminds us that the very people that seem to be forgotten in DC can very well rise to be the best of us.



## Paying Kindness Forward



Meet Jerry St. Louis, a Case Manager here at Samaritan Inns. As such, it is his responsibility to connect our clients with the resources they need to heal and become productive citizens of their community again. Jerry started working with Samaritan Inns on August 17<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Jerry was inspired to come here after seeing a need in the community, "I'm a part of the LGBTQYA community. I started to see a rise in addiction amongst friends and family in the area on Crystal Meth, so I held a few of my friends' hands while they went through the process...I started to see that there was a need for LGBTQYA recovery people in the area." Acting on the need he sees, Jerry now works to connect our clients with essential services such as therapy, Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, and much more, "Pretty much whatever they need I try to make sure I meet their needs."

Sometimes meeting their needs can be challenging however, because every day brings its own challenges and Jerry never knows what the next day of recovery for his clients will bring, "The most difficult part of my job is I can't want sobriety more for the client than they want for themselves." However, Jerry doesn't let challenges hold him back and has many goals he strives for, including outside of his work.

Outside of Samaritan Inns, Jerry likes to read, cook, and is currently seeking his Doctorate from George Washington in Special Education. He also aims to visit all of the national parks in the United States by the time he is 40.

# TASTE OF THE SOUTH

WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Note: The Gala benefitting substance use treatment and recovery organizations including Samaritan Inns has been rescheduled for June 5th at 6:00pm at the Anthem*

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