



Shining the healing light of God's love into our community



Samaritan

www.samaritangulfcoast.com

News

Volume 2, 2010

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

from the desk of Rev. Rick Howell

Dear Samaritan Friends:

As the executive director of Samaritan I have the joy of receiving cards and letters from folks who have experienced healing and hope as a result of their work with our talented team of clinicians. This correspondence comes from people who want me to know how God has used Samaritan to make a significant difference in their lives. Sometimes, the letters come from pastors who are grateful that God has provided such a wonderful referral resource for them when people in their congregation or community are looking for counseling. I will, on occasion, receive a letter from a local business owner who referred an employee to Samaritan and he or she is expressing gratitude for how our services have benefited both the employee and the company. Recently, I received a beautifully affirming letter from Sherry Watts of The Renewal Point, a medical practice focusing on delivering comprehensive anti-aging services. Although I wish you could read the entire letter (you can if you go to our website), I want to share with you a couple of statements that are particularly important from my perspective:

...As you know, two years ago Dan and I approached you about establishing a program for the employees of our medical practice, The Renewal Point. During the 30 years we have been in business in Sarasota, we have always devoted resources to help our team members grow both personally and professionally. While we have promoted the importance of mental, emotional, and relational health, we realized that we needed to invest business dollars to make counseling more available to our staff. The rewards of our decision to offer financial assistance when counseling is needed have been amazing. Our team is more effective because our staff is stronger on both an individual and collective basis. I hope that Samaritan Counseling will encourage more businesses to offer this benefit to their staff. They will see a return on the bottom-line in their business and more importantly, in the lives of the people who make their businesses work.

At Samaritan we are all about building the kind of trusting relationships with the community that make these kinds of partnerships possible. We are grateful to The Renewal Point for the trust they place in us and would love to create additional partnerships with other businesses in our community. Please call me if you would like further information about how you or your employer could set up a similar program.

God Bless You!

Rich

Rick



MISSION STATEMENT

Strengthening individuals and families through Professional Christian Counseling Services.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mary Beth Bos, President
- Rev. John Cairns, Vice President
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- Brian D. Hall
- Rev. Bill Hild
- Ken M. Johns III
- Cherie Leetzow
- Laura Lowe
- Kim Merritt
- Gary Moore
- Angela Tobaygo, Esq.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE
October 30, 2010
Samaritan Golf Tournament
Heritage Oaks Country Club

STAFF MEMBERS

Rev. Rick Howell, Th.M., LMHC

Executive Director

Maria Gallo

Administrative Assistant

Mary Binswanger, Ed.D., LMHC

Diane Brantley, MSW, LCSW

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Melissa Miller, MSW, LCSW

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David Preston, MSW, LCSW

James L. Slocum, M.D.

Psychiatric Consultant

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

GARY MOORE

Mr. Moore has a degree in political science from the University of Kentucky. After serving as an artillery officer, he became a senior vice president of investments at Paine Webber during the 1980's. He then thought about attending seminary but soon discovered that seminaries no longer teach about the moral dimensions of managing this world's wealth, despite them being a favorite topic of Moses, Jesus and the church fathers. He began informal study of the subject and later founded The Financial Seminary, a non-profit ministry, to build bridges between the financial and moral communities. He also founded his own



New Board Members Gary Moore, Laura Lowe and Brian Hall

investment firm as "counsel to ethical and spiritual investors." Since then, he has advised some of America's well-known ministries, churches, banks, and individual investors, while authoring six books about integrating religion or spirituality and ethics with personal financial management and political-economy. Gary and his family are active members of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church.

BRIAN D. HALL

Mr. Hall received a BS degree in Finance from Indiana University and a MBA from the University of Cincinnati. He has been a leader and active in the Sarasota/Manatee community through his involvement as a Director for the Education Foundation for Sarasota County, Director and Campaign Chairman for the United Way for Sarasota County, an active member of Woodland the Community Church. Mr. Hall is President of Sabal Palm Bank. Mr. Hall started his 30 year banking career with Star Bank in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked for 16 years. Mr. Hall relocated to Florida to become the Senior Lender for SouthTrust Bank in the Sarasota/Manatee area. In 2003, he was promoted to CEO for SouthTrust's Sarasota/Manatee market, and in 2004 was named Market President for the merged Wachovia/SouthTrust markets. In 2005 he began the process of organizing a new Sarasota based community bank.

LAURA LOWE

Ms. Lowe graduated with Honors from Keiser University with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Business Administration. Ms. Lowe began her employment with Johns Eastern Company located in Sarasota in 1996. She currently serves as the Director of TPA Operations. She is responsible for the direction of the company's offices specializing in Third Party Administration for workers' compensation and liability claims servicing predominately churches, governmental entities and school boards. She is responsible for internal auditing, compliance for state/federal regulations, and developing internal policies, procedures, and performance measures. Ms. Lowe currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Florida Association of Self-Insureds (FASI) and is an Associate Member of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents (FAIA). She is also a member of the Workers' Compensation Claims Professionals (WCCP). She served as Vice President of the Sarasota/Bradenton Claims Association. She is involved with Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS), the Public Risk and Insurance Management Society (PRIMA) and the Florida Educational Risk Management Association (FERMA). She is the proud mother of two boys and an active member of First Baptist Church of Sarasota.

THE 4TH ANNUAL SAMARITAN GOLF TOURNAMENT AND CHURCH CHALLENGE —JOIN US!

Whether you are a weekly golfer or an infrequent hacker it is time once again to be gathering your team together to compete in the 4th Annual Samaritan Golf Tournament and Church Challenge. The defending champion team from Covenant Life Presbyterian will be taking on teams from other congregations in our community hoping to retain their title for another year. If you don't have a church team to play on, don't worry. You can set your sights on having the longest marshmallow drive or knocking your ball the closest to the pin. Samaritan needs your support and participation to help make this fund raising event a success. All funds raised are used for client assistance. Please call the office or check our website for details.

When: Saturday October 30, 2010
(Save the Date)

Who: Golfers and Friends of Samaritan

Where: Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN 7TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

On April 22, Michael's on East was host to the most successful luncheon in Samaritan history! More than 300 attended this year's event and \$63,015 was raised for Samaritan's fund to strengthen individuals and families through professional Christian counseling services. Auction items filled a large area of the dining room and many individuals were eager to make that last bid and take home great baskets, destination items and other fabulous prizes.

We thank the Buchanan Family Foundation for underwriting the luncheon costs. With the continued support of Sandy and Vern Buchanan, this event was a great success!

The luncheon committee was headed by Cherie Leetzow and Debbie Howell. Many thanks for all their hard work over the year. Assisting was

an amazing committee: Myrna Aaron, Mary Beth Bos, Anita Cupo, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Wendy Glasser, Jessica Gonzalez, Nicki Haun, Susan Hickman, Dana Lederer, Bonney Miller, Lisle Ogle and Roxanne Precopia.

Mark your calendars for next year's luncheon scheduled for April 21, 2011.



Wendy Glasser and Mary Beth Bos



Dana Lederer, JoAnn Johns and Jeanette Haber



Donna Dudash, Terri Costa, Shirley Ritchey, and Dorothy Stuart



Pam Cox and Jim Herrick from Covenant Life who sang at the luncheon



Dianne Brantley, LCSW, who welcomed all (photo courtesy of www.yourobserver.com)



Sharon Parisian, Tonya Gowan (owner of Gecko's), and Betty Gowan

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NEW TOOLS TO HELP ASSESS MENTAL HEALTH

Samaritan's new online free feedback for you...

Have you ever wanted to help someone you love realize that he or she needed to see a counselor? Have you ever had someone say to you, I think you could benefit from talking with a counselor? Or have you yourself ever wondered, do I need to talk with someone about these symptoms with which I am struggling? We have got the right tool for you. If you go to our website and on the left hand menu, click Self-Assessments, you will find anonymous online screenings for mood, anxiety, and alcohol abuse disorders. They are quick, easy, and completely anonymous....As soon as you complete the questions you will receive feedback regarding your answers. You and only you will then decide how you want to respond to the results.

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Merging Faith and Healing



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