

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the one who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

The lawyer answered, “The Samaritan who showed kindness.” Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.”

—LUKE 10:36–37

20th Anniversary Cathedral Service Soul and Purpose for the Journey Forward

“Millions have been stripped and robbed, beaten and left to die. As 21st century Samaritans we are confronted with the challenge to see beyond the present and look to the future. I would ask you to step out onto that broad platform of faith and do some imagining of how you can be a part of cleaning up that treacherous Jericho road.” **THE RIGHT REVEREND BARBARA C. HARRIS**



Inside this issue...

20th Anniversary Homeless Awareness Art and Poetry Contest Results

Across the city, schools, youth groups, churches and individuals responded to our call for submissions with over 130 entries in six categories in the visual arts and poetry. See a list of the winners on page 6.

In Step is a quarterly newsletter published by Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW), a non-profit partnership of over 40 Episcopal and other churches in the Washington area. Through the *Next Step Program*, Samaritan Ministry provides social services, job counseling, life skills workshops, and other support to people in need who want to improve their lives.

Writer/Editor Charles James
Executive Director David Downes

The story of the Good Samaritan tells of a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho—a journey of about 25 kilometers through hot and rocky desert country. Supporters of Samaritan Ministry were reminded during the 20th Anniversary Service of Celebration at the Washington National Cathedral, that this familiar story is about a far deeper journey.

Bishop Barbara Harris spoke about compassion as “the shock of the awareness of another’s pain.” She reminded the congregation that society’s actions make some people visible and others disappear. Bishop Harris invited us to love our neighbor as part of ourselves, because all with whom we interact are part of who we are—so, loving our neighbor as our self means taking to the road. It is a journey that liberates us from all small self-definitions and narrow assumptions about others. The story begs the questions—How can I become a neighbor to the wounded man? How can I discover myself with him and for him? For, as Bishop Harris reminded us, in the end, it is God who lies by the roadside, stripped and beaten, waiting for us.

Samaritan Ministry seeks to answer these questions through our help each day to the homeless and others in need. As a chart for our journey, it is once again useful to look at our Third Decade Goals (see page 4). Samaritan Ministry seeks to help those hurt on the side of the road back to the center.

Cathedral | continued on page 3



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Director of Development Diane Aten
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our 20th Anniversary year was a very good one for Samaritan Ministry due in large measure to the support of so many of you. We celebrated the Anniversary with a Spring Gala and a "Spamalot" benefit (that together raised more than \$63,000), a wonderful service and picnic at the Washington National Cathedral this fall for the entire Samaritan Ministry family, and a year-long Homelessness Art and Poetry Contest for young people that drew 130 entries. Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless Walkathon program this fall involved 20 church and school mini-walks for Samaritan Ministry, great public awareness for the Friends of Samaritan Ministry, and a record number of walkers and dollars raised.

Best of all, however, is the fact that the *Next Step* program is growing again. During 2006 we welcomed 450 new people into the *Next Step* program (one-third more than in 2005) and overall, 830 people received social and employment services (a 20% increase over 2005). We also provided HIV/AIDS services to more than 300 additional people. Program participants set 7,500 *Next Steps* for themselves in areas such as employment, housing and health and completed 69 percent of these *Next Steps*. A one-day job fair alone (co-sponsored by Samaritan Ministry in one of the most underserved areas of Washington) drew more than 400 job seekers. In all, the *Next Step* program touched the lives of over 20,000 volunteers, staff, program participants, members of Partner Parishes and other supporters.

For the first time in five years, we were able to expand our program staff, creating a new Program Coordinator position to support the growth of the *Next Step* program and, in response to our Third Decade Goals, a series of new program initiatives that are expanding collaboration and partnerships: training outreach volunteers for church meal programs; helping those in need to qualify for food assistance; providing legal help in civil matters; offering practice job interviews with volunteers at large companies; and, conducting computer training and off-site employment workshops.

All of this has only been possible because of our terrific staff and volunteers and the tremendous support we are receiving from so many churches, individuals, foundations and other organizations and partners. We are truly blessed by this outpouring of generous backing for our mission and ministry. It gives us the strength and encouragement we need to enter into our Third Decade confident that we will continue to grow in our ability to "bring together the homeless and others in need with volunteers and support from our partner parishes and others to improve the lives of everyone involved."

May God continue to bless us all and our work together as we begin this New Year and Samaritan Ministry's Third Decade!



David Downes
Executive Director

PARTNER PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

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20th Anniversary Cathedral Service and Picnic

A bright, clear day on October 14th brought out friends and supporters for a morning of inspiration at the Washington National Cathedral provided in large part to guest preacher, The Right Rev. Barbara C. Harris and celebrant The Right Rev. David Colin Jones. During the ceremony, both Bishops blessed the art and artists who were winners and attending as part of the Homeless Awareness Art and Poetry Contest. The service opened with a welcome by the Canon Missioner of the Cathedral William Barnwell followed by a procession of Samaritan Ministry's Partner Parish banners, art contest winners, service participants and clergy. Following the service was a festive picnic lunch in the Garden on the grounds of the Cathedral. The box lunch for the picnic was prepared by Fresh Start Catering, an outgrowth of the food rescue and job training missions of the DC Central Kitchen. As one attendee said of the day, "I was filled over and over again by every aspect of the day."

Special thanks for the day's success go to:

Picnic

Jane Newport
Doug Jerger
Gary Franklin
Terry Perry

Service

Richard Sellers
Marifran Bustion
The Rev. April Berends, Priest
Associate for Liturgy
Ellen Spencer, Worship Manager
Erik Wm. Suter, Organist

Readers

Annette Carver
Cyril Bullock
Carolyn Peirce

Logistics

Carla Durney
Mollie Barton
David Manning

Photography

Robert Graf



The Partnership

MARYLAND

- Bethesda** Church of the Redeemer
St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- Bowie** Church of the Holy Trinity
- Chevy Chase** All Saints' Episcopal Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
- College Park** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- Olney** St. John's Episcopal Church
- Potomac** St. Francis' Episcopal Church
St. James' Episcopal Church
- Rockville** Christ Episcopal Church
Episcopal Church of Our Saviour
- Silver Spring** Grace Episcopal Church

VIRGINIA

- Annapdale** St. Alban's Episcopal Church
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
- Arlington** St. Mary's Episcopal Church
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Trinity Episcopal Church
- Burke** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- Fairfax** Church of the Apostles
- Great Falls** St. Francis' Episcopal Church
- McLean** St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
- Middleburg** Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- Springfield** St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
- Vienna** Church of the Holy Comforter

WASHINGTON, DC

- All Souls' Episcopal Church
- Christ Episcopal Church, Georgetown
- Christ Lutheran Church
- Church of the Epiphany
- Church of the Holy Comforter
- Church of the Holy Communion
- Grace Episcopal Church
- St. Alban's Episcopal Church
- St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
- St. Columba's Episcopal Church
- St. David's Episcopal Church
- St. John's Episcopal Church,
Lafayette Square
- St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Rock Creek
- St. Philip the Evangelist
Episcopal Church
- St. Stephen & the Incarnation
Episcopal Church
- St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
- The Washington National Cathedral
- Young's Memorial Church

SAMARITAN MINISTRY SUPPORTERS STEP UP TO HELP THE HOMELESS



During the Fannie Mae Foundation's Help the Homeless (HTH) Program this fall, Partner Parishes, schools and other churches conducted 20 mini-walks in support of Samaritan Ministry. These walks raised over \$28,000 and included 1,600 walkers.

Special thanks is extended to Friends of Samaritan Ministry and other Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Partners who contributed over \$110,000 to the Help the Homeless Partners Program. Fannie Mae increases those donations by 20 percent.

Samaritan Ministry's Help the Homeless Program also includes significant educational outreach to area schools. In addition to educational presentations at 12 schools and over 20 churches, Samaritan Ministry has embarked on a new education initiative with The Kingsbury School and The SEED Public Charter School. In each case, Director of Communications and Volunteers, Chuck James, conducts classroom sessions on homelessness and supervises service experiences across the grade levels.

Statistical Highlights of Samaritan Ministry's Help The Homeless Program Youth Initiatives

Approximate number of youth engaged through HTH Education Presentations 2006: **3,252 (21% increase over 2005)**

Approximate number of youth engaged through volunteer efforts at Samaritan Ministry: **1,320 (24% increase over 2005)**

Total number of Educational Presentations: **91 (Increase of 16% over 2005)**

Total number of Mini-walks: **20**

Number of youth engaged through the Homeless Awareness Art and Poetry Contest: **132 entries, 28 winning entries, 4 exhibits with approximate viewing attendance of 1,225**



Samaritan Ministry's Third Decade Goals

1. Improved Service to Our Participants

Reaching out to more participants in underserved areas of the Washington metropolitan area, with special attention to the unmet needs of immigrants and others whom we do not currently serve.

Addressing changing participant needs more effectively, tapping new resources to help participants take next steps to better lives.

Providing more effective follow-up services to participants who have achieved some of their short-term goals, helping them maintain their success and continue working on longer-term goals.

Enhancing the effectiveness of our staff, including volunteers, through increased training and opportunities for professional development.

2. Enhanced Education, Outreach and Advocacy

Utilizing a broader range of volunteers in new and different ways.

Encouraging and supporting students and their families to make positive choices regarding service and advocacy, promoting service-learning experiences.

Developing more effective ways to be advocates for living-wage jobs, affordable housing and adequate services for the poor, the homeless, and the unemployed.

3. Expanded Partnerships

Developing partnerships with a broader range of public and private organizations.

Expanding partner parish involvement in support of the Next Step Program in ways that complement parish outreach objectives.

Working with partner parishes and others to develop a comprehensive approach to those who come us to in need of financial assistance.

4. Sustained Financial Stability

Increasing the long-term financial sustainability of our organization, including expanding and diversifying our funding sources.

Together We Can

BY MICHAEL PHILIPSEN

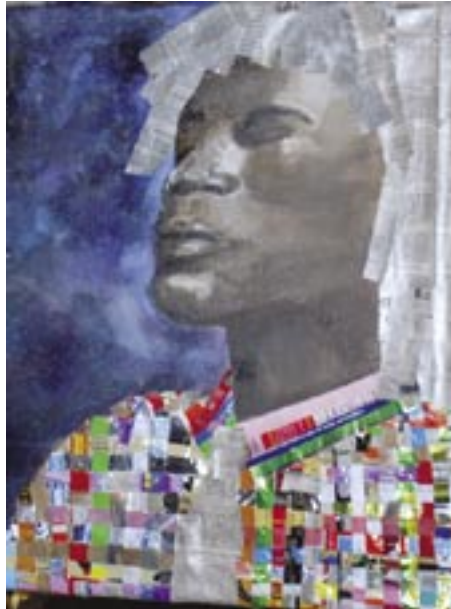
In the cold month of February, there was a car parked in front of a middle school in Arlington, Virginia. In the car were Zach and his mom. Zach lay asleep across his mother's lap. Tanya stayed awake for protection and from worry. At dawn, Zach would enter the doors of the middle school and merge his life as a homeless youth with that of a student and pursue his dreams of becoming a scientist or technologist.

Homeless, jobless, drug addicted, and no family support sum up the challenges of this Samaritan Ministry participant who, with her teenage son, first sought help at Samaritan Ministry's Northern Virginia office nearly a year ago. Her openness and honesty about her situation and the challenges she and her son face every day are compelling, but not unique. Regionally, similar stories are far too common. Here is glimpse of Tanya's sobering journey.

Tanya's exterior beauty and confidence belie the struggles that have occupied her life for years. In spite of her problems, Tanya has wisdom that is no longer born of desperation, but of an acceptance of her status and an unwillingness to continue to con herself. She is at a point in her journey where humility and truth have entered.

Tanya had frequent stints of unstable and temporary housing. In shelters and stays with other homeowners to escape homelessness, she often traded sanctuary for temptation as many around her smoked or dealt crack. While her life was lonely and cut off from family, Tanya was not alone. Tanya had a teenage son to care for. Their life together was madness, but together they saved one another. Zach faced things a teenager just shouldn't have to—he received threats to his life, he witnessed the humiliation of his mom and was repeatedly thrown into homelessness.

But in the face of homelessness, Zach found some of life's freshness to enjoy. He speaks fondly of his daily walks with his mom to their storage unit where they keep their worldly possessions. It is



"Dignity" by Jamine Niernberger, a first place winner in the Homelessness Awareness Art and Poetry Contest.

ironic, Tanya reflects, "It was easier to find a home for my stuff than it was to find shelter for Zach and me." For months, Tanya came to Samaritan Ministry where she relentlessly sent out resumes and searched for jobs.

She described clearly what her situation was like, "It was so tough, it was just real tough, but I had to be strong. I had to go to work. I don't know how I stayed off of drugs, but I knew if I didn't, it would only be downhill." Her son said, "I felt angry, I felt frustrated, but I knew I had to go to school and get good grades." She viewed staying off drugs as necessary to set the correct example for her son. As she said, "I see too many kids in the wrong element out here." Zach says, "If there were a best mother award, she would get it." Together they faced trials, and together, they refused to give up. Tanya says that Samaritan Ministry helped motivate her in spite of her bitter discouragement. She says, "My caseworker helped me find a job, but it didn't end there. When I came in the office, I felt good. Even when I came and accomplished nothing I felt appreciated and encouraged." Tanya is working

and is a single mom. Zach stays close to his mom, drawing, visiting the library, or going to the public swimming pool.

Last month, Tanya and Zach traded their nomadic life for permanent housing. Their circumstances told them to give up, and Tanya admits that it was very hard not to give up. She and her son are taking the steps toward a life that they deserve. Taking these steps was hard, and she says it couldn't have been done it without Samaritan Ministry. She says, "Keyana (Lead Caseworker in Samaritan Ministry's Arlington office) was the key (get it! she smiles) to getting housing, and getting all the help I needed." She recommends to other people in need, "Find a Samaritan Ministry."

Tanya and Zach are survivors. Tanya has made changes and embraced the humility that one must face to be clean and claim sobriety day in and day out. Tanya and Zach have made family when their own family shunned them. Their bond gives Tanya a well-deserved dignity. Independent of all the failures and bad decisions and reasons that her family or society may hold up as reasons for her condemnation, Tanya entered the Next Step Program wanting to change her life. She has. Zach says that his mom getting help was her biggest accomplishment. She is employed and now has housing, but she knows her challenges are far from over. Samaritan Ministry will be there to celebrate Tanya's victories, and support her when she finds herself running on empty.

The support Samaritan Ministry provided Tanya has a second dimension. As Tanya and Zach left our interview, she reminded us that Samaritan Ministry is more than caseworkers and supportive services, she reminded me who we really are—family—a family of friends who understand the most important element of care for the poor, homeless and jobless. Tanya's gift to us teaches us about the possibilities that grow from family, compassion and faithfulness.

SAMARITAN MINISTRY'S HOMELESS AWARENESS

Art and Poetry Contest

In the months leading up to Samaritan Ministry's 20th Anniversary, and the advent of our third decade, we sponsored a Homeless Awareness Arts Contest for the youth of the Washington, DC metropolitan community. The effort was designed to raise awareness for the issues central to Samaritan Ministry's mission, and support our ongoing education and outreach work with local public and independent schools. But why an arts contest?

The arts are humankind's universal language. Art favors no race, and it acknowledges no class. Art speaks to the need to heal, and our joy. It expresses our pain and our transformation. Art depicts ordinary life and the skill in doing so, transcends the ordinary to inspire awareness, empathy, hope, fulfillment or happiness. As the meeting ground between our inner world of emotions and our outer world of observations and reality, art is a powerful means to foster awareness. Art often expresses what words inadequately express.

Across the city, schools, youth groups, churches and individuals responded to our call for submissions with over 130 entries in six categories in the visual arts and poetry. Artists were challenged to either capture the essence of Samaritan Ministry's mission and the biblical story of the Good Samaritan or center their work around the theme of homelessness, poverty and hunger.

The winning entries have been exhibited at the following locations:

- The Washington National Cathedral: Awards Ceremony
- St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Potomac, Maryland
- Fannie Mae Inc.: Help the Homeless Auction
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Arlington, Virginia

Beginning in February, the artwork will be displayed in a show created by the artists' themselves at 87 FLORIDA, a gallery and presentation space in Washington, D.C.

Arts Contest | continued on page 7

Painting

Sarah Malawista	1st Place
Robert Jeffrey	2nd Place
William Train	3rd Place
Amanuel Gebremarian	Honorable Mention

Poetry

Camille Kellogg	1st Place
Maghan Lusk	2nd Place
Sharon Gleaton	3rd Place
Satowa Kinoshita	Honorable Mention
Elliot Hirshon	Honorable Mention

Digital

Anthony Douglas	1st Place
Charlotte Morris	2nd Place
Hannah Irby	3rd Place

Photography

Emma Irby

Honorable Mention

Sculpture

Cedric Spicer
Angela Johnson
Tyrone Cooper
Sheri Hall
Kevin Young
Grayson Irby
Katya Gobush
Juillian Wiedenmayer
Cyril Bullock

1st Place
1st Place
1st Place
1st Place
1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place
Honorable Mention
Honorable Mention

Mixed Media

Jsamine Niernberger	1st Place
Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff	2nd Place
Grey Korhonen	3rd Place
Marisa Rheem	Honorable Mention
Francis Ford	Honorable Mention

Drawing

Hannah Irby	1st Place
Henry Arrowood	2nd Place
Hadley Sharp	3rd Place
David Kinnaird	Honorable Mention
Grace Marra	Honorable Mention
Dan Younger	Honorable Mention



Stacey D. Stewart, President and CEO of the Fannie Mae Foundation, stands with artwork from the Homeless Awareness Art and Poetry Contest exhibited as part of Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless Auction.



Daniel Mudd, CEO of Fannie Mae, holds the table commissioned by Samaritan Ministry and Fannie Mae for the Help the Homeless Auction. The table was auctioned for \$7,000. The original table, created by youth at Covenant House, won first place in the Homeless Awareness Art and Poetry Contest.

An extraordinary group of judges/ advisors for this contest looked for both the artistic skill and the strength of the resulting message. Their contacts, advice, and most importantly, their evaluation of the submissions, guided every aspect of the contest.

- Melissa Glasser Bruzera
- Andrew Christenberry
- Adriana Echavarria-Eisenhower
- Michael Gibbs
- Martha Johnson
- Barbara Lewis
- Ceci Cole McInturff,
- Stephen Mead
- Reuben Musgrave
- Drake Sorey
- Christa Watters
- Antoinette Wysocki
- Afaf Zurayk

Prizes for the Homeless Awareness Arts Contest were generously sponsored by:

- Katherine and David Bradley
- Charles and Sally Brodhead
- The Kellogg Collection
- Robert and Mary Haft
- Ceci Cole-McInturff /87FLORIDA Gallery
- Public Opinion Strategies
- GRC Direct



Alone

*As my brother and mother walk away,
The house is too quiet
This is what I call
ALONE*

Satowa Kinoshita

Cedric Spicer (top) holds a table created for the Homeless Awareness Art and Poetry Contest. The engraved table won first place in the contest. The poem, "Alone," by Satowa Kinoshita, won Honorable Mention in the contest.

A Friend

*I've never seen you before
but you look cold*

*I've never seen you before
but you look hungry*

*I've never seen you before
but you look lost*

*Come on home with me
you can take my bath
eat my dinner and
take a nap in my bed*

*We can play catch in my yard
and take turns riding my bike
sleeping in the top bunk
and going down the slide at the park*

*We can read my books
hug my stuffed animals
and draw pictures with my crayons*

*Come on home with me
We can be friends*

Camille Kellogg
Age 10

The poem, "A Friend," won first place in the Homeless Awareness Art and Poetry Contest.

Experience is the Best Teacher

We all know that experience is the best teacher and exposure is the best guide to learning for students to learn about regional needs and act to fill those needs. That is why Samaritan Ministry provides students with so many hands-on volunteer opportunities, such as internships and co-curricular activities, as well as special clothing, food and toiletry drives. Our vision is simple: we want to foster an environment where students who want to help others can do so; where opportunities for action and collaboration are encouraged, and where service is an extension of learning.

Samaritan Ministry's collaboration with local schools grows each year. Here are a few of the schools that we work with and the extraordinary gifts each school offered to us this past year. We extend a heartfelt thanks to them all.

St. Andrew's Episcopal School—Identity and Service Learning Course for 9th Graders, Senior Interns, Student Volunteers, Annual Food and Toiletry Drives, Homecoming and Help the Homeless Mini-walk

SEED Public Charter School—Student Volunteers and Help the Homeless Mini-walk

Washington Episcopal School—Annual Holiday Food Drive

Clara Muhammad School—Toiletry Drive and Help the Homeless Mini-walk

The Washington Waldorf School—Annual Holiday Food and Toiletry Drive, and Hand-Knitted Scarves

St. Patrick's Episcopal School—Help the Homeless Mini-walk

Episcopal High School—Holiday Food Drive and Student Volunteers

The Kingsbury School—Homelessness Awareness Curriculum, Student Volunteers, and Help the Homeless Mini-walk

Christ Episcopal School—Help the Homeless Mini-walk, Community Service Projects, Gift Cards for the homeless and Toiletry Items

The Hamilton Center—Help the Homeless Mini-walk

Holy Trinity Episcopal School—Gloves, Hats and Scarves and Toiletry Items

A Day Blessed by the Spirit of Christmas

On December 3, 2006 a wonderful celebration took place at St. Timothy's in SE, DC. With generous donations and outstanding volunteer assistance from partner parishes, families from Partner Arms I and II and the Next Step Program families had the opportunity to share food, fun and fellowship. Over 140 children from 54 families decorated gingerbread cookies, decorated Christmas cards, posed for their pictures with Santa and created festive ornaments.

While the children were busy making crafts, parents were able to visit the Santa Shop and select presents for their children. Generous donations and volunteers from Partner Parishes: St. Thomas (McLean), St. Albans (DC), St. Thomas (DC), St. Patrick's (DC), Church of the Redeemer, Trinity (Arlington), St. Columba's (DC), St. John's (Chevy Chase), St. David's (DC), Church of the Holy Comforter (Vienna), St. Luke's (Bethesda), and GRC Direct made the Santa Shop possible. A big thank you to St. Francis' Episcopal Church (Great Falls) for providing food for the event. We extend a big thanks to Ed Sobansky for being such a great Santa. We thank St. Mary's

(Arlington), Church of the Holy Comforter (Vienna), St. Thomas (McLean), and St. Peter's (Arlington), for providing festive craft activities and volunteers.

This extraordinary Christmas party was organized and managed by Catherine Rodman with support from Kathy Doxsee and Annette Carver. Tosin Akinagbe, Cleveland Bennet, Kate Dorrell, Willa Downes, Robert Graf (the enormously talented photographer for the event), Cornell Jackson, Doug Jerger, Carolyn Peirce, Mary Smith, Trelease and Tayshawn Williams all provided generous volunteer power for the day.



Hopeless Mirror Me

*I'm all alone in a room that's dark,
fighting another mark.
My tears are flowing, my thoughts collide,
and the end result, I'll have to hide.*

*I'm battered, bruised, and all alone,
unable to fight this on my own.
Friends use to help me through the day,
but they saw my pain, and ran away.*

*Maybe I should end it all, so many ways to die.
I lean up against the wall, and suddenly begin to cry.*

*I'm growing weaker as the days pass,
afraid today might be my last.*

*My tears run down my face, as I begin to say good bye.
Good bye sunshine, good bye mom, can't say I didn't try.*

*Then I look into the mirror, and see me stand there,
a troubled, lost, and lonely, hopeless child
with tear stained cheeks and matted hair.*

*I know the next move is up to me,
asking for help is the only key.*

*But the mirror I stare in has two faces,
one of truth, reality.
The other is what others see,
my made up fantasy.*

*Well, mirror, thanks for being there,
but it's time I step away.
It's time my mask came off for good,
the real me is here to stay.*

Sheron Gleaton

Sheron's poem, "Hopeless Mirror Me," won third place in the Homeless Awareness Art and Poetry Contest.

New Employment Initiatives at Samaritan Ministry

It would be wonderful for our *Next Step Program* participants... if the perfect resume... led to a great job interview... that resulted in a terrific job offer... that landed the perfect job, all in one seamless process.

For our program participants, few job searches follow a predictable path. The process begins with the creation of a resume, which a participant then submits to a position that (hopefully) closely matches his or her abilities and ambitions. If the resume is successful in capturing an employer's interest and it establishes the participant as a qualified candidate, he or she is invited to interview.

But what if our resume fails to secure an interview? What if the interview fails to lead to a job offer? During a typical month, 226 program participants come to Samaritan Ministry

seeking employment related services. In each office, trained volunteers help program participants identify personal employment and career goals, identify and research employers of interest, write resumes and cover letters, initiate contact through networking, apply to advertised positions, and secure interviews.

Seems simple enough, right? Just follow the yellow brick road to job search success. Unfortunately, the path is anything but a linear one. Many aspects of the job search process are repeated over and over again. There are challenges along the way.

Over the past several months, Samaritan Ministry created and launched several initiatives to help program participants meet their employment goals. Two initiatives are highlights below.

Deloitte & Touche Offers Mock Interviews

The interview is the "close" of the job search process. Success doesn't occur by accident. Recently, Samaritan Ministry and Deloitte & Touche USA, partnered to offer a new opportunity for program participants to hone their interview skills. Deloitte & Touche employees offered Samaritan Ministry's program participants mock job interviews. These interviews take place over the phone or at Deloitte's downtown Washington, DC offices.

Each applicant gets feedback on communication skills, technical abilities, motivation, teamwork, and company knowledge. The interviewer records written comments capturing key elements of the interview. For example, in a recent session, interviewer David Nejang provided insightful comments about his applicant's sometimes impulsive initial responses. In several cases during the interview, the applicant gave initial answers that suggested that he was, perhaps, difficult to work with, but upon further questioning actually revealed a very reflective personality. Such feedback helped the participant realize that phrasing answers differently may make him a stronger candidate for a position.

David Pye, a Federal Practice Manager at Deloitte helped create the interview template and protocol with Samaritan Ministry's Lead Caseworker Adrian Vaughn and Program Director Kathy

Doxsee. Pye says that his motivation for involvement came from his early experiences in urban New Jersey. He says, "there were always helping hand programs. These programs helped me and now I want to help others... This type of program never touches just a single person, the results are exponential as one person helps another who in turn helps others."

SE, DC Job Fair

In September, Samaritan Ministry partnered with So Others Might Eat, Bread for the City, The Salvation Army, ARCH Training Center and DC Learns to host a SE, DC Job Fair. Over 400 people attended the event at Matthews Memorial Baptist Church in SE, DC, along with over a dozen employers (featuring Verizon, Payless Shoes, and CVS) that were offering specific job opportunities.

The purpose of the SE, DC Job Fair was simple: to provide an opportunity for community-wide access to regional education, employment and training resources. Attending employers were provided the opportunity to interview on the spot "job-ready" applicants for available positions and to market their employment opportunities. As a result of the fair, Samaritan Ministry received 10 new Next Step Program participants. Aside from a wonderful community building event, SE residents were able to connect

with skill training, education and employment opportunities. Samaritan Ministry volunteers and staff greeted visitors and described the Next Step Program.

Next Step Program Participant Wish List

- **Walking Food** Participants are provided a daily selection of foods that can be eaten on the "go." These foods (including tuna, easy open meals that are ready to eat, nuts, and crackers) are especially useful for those participants who live in shelters where only two daily meals are provided.
- **New or gently Used Desktop and Laptop Computers** for participant computer lab
- **Gift Cards** to food, Target or clothing Stores
- **Toiletry Items**
- **New or gently used children's, youth and adult Inspirational or Educational Books**
- **Soft-sided canvas bags** with straps for carrying papers

If you have any of these items, please contact Chuck James at 202-722-2280 or cjames@samaritanministry.org.

Samaritan Ministry Interns: Living the Samaritan Ministry Mission

Samaritan Ministry offers many summer and full-year intern positions. These roles never fail to touch the lives of both the participants and the interns. Here are some reflections from our recent volunteers.

Recruited from the Fund for American Studies: Institute on Philanthropy and Volunteer Service, interns Ish Aberion and Michael Philippsen speak of their eight-week summer experience working, learning, and living the SMGW mission.



Interns and supervisors (L. to R.) Diane Aten, Ish Aberion, Chuck James and Michael Philippsen

Q: What were your roles and responsibilities?

Ish: As a finance major in college, I was interested in learning how to merge my education with service. Samaritan Ministry matched me well with Diane Aten, Director of Development, as my supervisor and mentor. I assisted with many projects like the Spamalot fundraising event at the National Theatre, grant and proposal writing, and the SMGW Next Step Experiences. I was able to help out in direct service as a Front Office Coordinator and in promotion of our services as a meal program volunteer at Loaves and Fishes. I did a lot of filing, database updating, researching, and communicating with donors and other not-for-profit organizations.

Michael: Assisting the Director of Volunteers and Communications involved revising communication documents, helping plan the Homeless Awareness Art and Poetry contest, attending special events, interviewing program participants for Samaritan Ministry's newsletter, collaborating and working with volunteers, event promotion and planning, and filling in as a Front Office Coordinator.

Q: What are your biggest realizations?

Ish: Fundraising and development is not just about developing ideas to raise money to fund programs. Its main objective is to develop relationships. Every task that we do here at Samaritan Ministry ultimately touches people and brings them closer together. Whether it is a phone call inviting a community member to a Next Step Experience, an inquiry to a grant giver, or a smile I give a participant or a fellow staffer, it all comes down to forming a bond that makes us a part of God's family. This is my biggest realization. It has been a privilege and pleasure to be part of an organization that works together towards a better, happier, and more fulfilling life for each one (one step at a time!).

Michael: As a nonprofit management major at Indiana University, my experience at SMGW gave me a real-life experience in the nonprofit world, and I learned that it is a competitive, challenging, and extremely rewarding sector to work in. There is a lot of work that has to be done because Samaritan Ministry is celebrating the Next Steps Program's 20th Anniversary and

continues to grow and serve more participants. Each day it is essential to stay focused on the mission of service and compassion, which is characteristic of many nonprofits in DC, and especially Samaritan Ministry. The mission of Samaritan Ministry is ultimately to help people improve their lives, and there is a dire need and excellent opportunity to do just that in the Greater Washington area.

Q: How has SMGW helped you grow as an individual?

Ish: Born and raised in the Philippines, I thought that poverty and homelessness only occurred in third-world countries. Learning that this was not the case, it is very inspiring to learn from an organization like Samaritan Ministry that it is possible to combat the problem. My internship experience has strengthened my desire to help those in need. It has also given me the confidence that I can make a difference. Now that the US and the Philippines have both become a home to me, I do want to be a good neighbor, a Good Samaritan. I have been very blessed and I wish to use my talents, my time, my education and my experiences now, and in the future, to help others.

Michael: Samaritan Ministry and my entire experience in DC pushed me beyond my current horizon as a young man growing up and spending all my life in Indiana. I learned that every single person is unique in hundreds of aspects—from their background, personality, life experiences, beliefs, and much more. Oddly enough, it's not so much recognizing the diversity human beings have at Samaritan Ministry and all of DC, but the sameness and common ties we all share. I have witnessed that every one desires to love and be loved; that each and every human being deserves dignity. This experience will always remind me that no matter how different we are, we all share the same core need for love, service, and human dignity.

From Tony Douglas (Gethsemane Mission Year Intern)—

The one thing that I have learned during my time at Samaritan Ministry is that you cannot truly serve until you have humbled your heart. One must open one's eyes to the fact that humanity is interdependent, and every human has a gift that is unique. The environment here at Samaritan Ministry exudes this truth. Samaritan Ministry thrives on the equality of all who are involved with the organization. Every person, from the Executive Director to the program participant is treated as a valuable contribution to the community. Every person has a voice. Every voice is heard. I thank everyone at Samaritan Ministry for his or her gifts that contributed to my discovery of this truth.

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Musings from Samaritan Ministry – August 2006

BY DAVID MANNING

I took a walk through my neighborhood today. It's a residential neighborhood and feels safe despite the lack of visible police presence. I passed a lot of men and women on their way to work who said "good morning" or, still a little sleepy, just nodded their greetings. Children laden with backpacks and lunch sacks on their way to school emerged from one of the many old, elegant framed homes or a more modern-looking apartment building or house. We all pass by the 100-year-old, single-story church—quiet and unassuming during the week, but rollicking on Sunday mornings.

There have been a lot of changes on 14th Street. The wide, grassy median holds a farmers' market on Wednesday afternoons, but drug dealers the rest of the week. Where grand old homes, churches, schools, and shopping areas once stood, I find clinics, transitional and halfway houses and small businesses such as dry cleaners, hair salons, and greasy take-out joints.

Like a lot of neighborhoods in the area, this one is expected to gentrify rapidly. Changes are coming in the economy of this place, but hopefully the local identity will be preserved through these old frame homes.

This is my neighborhood in Anacostia. Not the neighborhood I live in, but the neighborhood where I volunteer several days a week at Samaritan Ministry.

The SE office of Samaritan Ministry is located just down the road from the famous big chair that has been a landmark in Anacostia for 46 years. I've lived in

the DC area for over 36 years and had never come to Anacostia before, just like a lot of the people I work with, play golf with, and sit in the pew with on Sunday morning. We have been dissuaded by the crime, the drug scene, the dilapidated structures, and the trash.

Maybe it is no surprise that the men and women from this part of the city who come to Samaritan Ministry often find themselves at the bottom of the social structure. Myriad complicated and diverse circumstances and decisions led to this. Those higher up in the structure might assume that these people simply lack the personal integrity, responsibility, or skills to succeed in this country where upward mobility is possible. But more likely, most of them simply did not have a lot of the opportunities others expect: decent education, proper health care, drug-free home and school, life skills, safe neighborhood, stable family environment, etc.

They are looking for change. Some of them have made serious mistakes—and paid for those through years in the justice system or simply the punishment of the streets. Many have physical and/or mental disabilities. Low literacy levels are common.

Not surprisingly, the people who come to Samaritan Ministry for help are just looking for the basic settling components of a good life: family/support, a job to provide for their children and themselves, a safe place to live. And they are looking for a friendly face and a little bit of encouragement along the way.

My work as a Front Office Coordinator varies from day to day. I might help one of our participants with poor literacy complete a job application. Maybe I'll find professional clothes or conduct a mock interview for someone looking for work. I always use the computer, answer phones and inquiries about the *Next Step Program* and greet with a smile the people that come through the door.

The *Next Step Program* is a unique self-help program that promotes change, dignity, and self-reliance for people who are in need. Participants set personal goals and then break them down so that they can be pursued, one step at a time. Participant goals often involve employment, housing, family life, medical, or addiction issues.

Being involved with our participants has caused me to change my attitude. Now I understand that it isn't always that someone didn't take advantage of an opportunity, but that maybe they were never given an opportunity to begin with. I find that I'm less judgemental when I watch our participants working hard to find a job or to secure a safe place to live or to obtain their GED. I realize that they can succeed and they will succeed with a little bit of help and encouragement along the way. And that is what the case-workers and volunteers at Samaritan Ministry are here for!

I'd like to invite you to take a walk in my neighborhood. It's okay if you come with preconceived notions and tales of crime and violence. A few smiles, a few conversations, a few stories will change all that. Come and see.

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From Anyu Fang (Truman Scholars Program)—

I did not accept the internship because I wanted to be transformed as a person—I did not want to derive pleasure from someone else's pain—but I cannot help but realize that the participants taught me much more than I could ever "teach" them.

I am postponing law school for a while and will be doing a one-year fellowship with the Congressional Hunger Center (CHC), a nonprofit leadership training center. My own Next Step is going to my placement (through CHC) in Sacramento, California, with their Sacramento Hunger Commission, special-

izing in Food Stamps Outreach. My position through the CHC is mostly research and policy oriented. After all that I have experienced this summer, I have no doubt that I can take on what is asked of me in California. This internship was thought-provoking. That is at the heart of any serious researcher: to constantly question oneself, in the hopes of contributing something new. Thank you for allowing me to interview and for hiring me for this job. It was an unforgettable journey.

Thank You

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Come Share a Samaritan Ministry Next Step Experience

PLEASE HELP US GET THE WORD OUT about Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (www.samaritanministry.org) by attending and inviting others to share a Next Step Experience. Through a complimentary one-hour session, attendees learn more about the Next Step Program and hear from David Downes, Executive Director, and others involved with the Next Step Program. A Next Step Experience is a complimentary one hour event.

Next Step Experience at our Arlington Office

2207 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204

Tuesday, January 23rd

(Doors open at 7:45am for refreshments;
Program from 8am–9am)

Next Step Experience at our N.W. Office

1516 Hamilton Street, NW

Washington, DC 20011

Tuesday, February 27th

(Doors open at 1:45am for refreshments;
Program from 2pm–3pm)

RSVP to Diane Aten, Director of Development, 202-722-2280 (x304).



The end of a great Anniversary year.

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