



Samaritan Center

Interfaith Agency

The Light

SPECIAL EDITION

REPLACING MARCH AND APRIL 2004

SPECIAL DENTAL
CLING INSERT INSIDE

Doing a Good Turn

Boy Scout Food Drive Helps to Fill the Need

The Boy Scout Slogan is "Do a good turn daily" Several Boy Scouts did a tremendous good turn on March 6 and the annual Boy Scout Food Drive was an outstanding success. Sizable amounts of food supplies were collected,

Along with the increased food volume came increased volunteer efforts. A record number of helping hands descended on the Samaritan Center to assist with all phases of the food drive. The assistance came from many places, including but reaching beyond the Boy Scouts. Volunteer groups included youth groups from The Church of God in Christ and Immanuel Baptist Church.

Mother Nature did her part supplying a tremendous day keeping forecast rain out of the picture. The Samaritan Center provided lunch for the busy hands. Volunteer chefs Ron

Schuler, Joe Forck, and Frank Schmitz manned the barbecue to prepare bratwursts and hot dogs. Rob McCurren and 7up provided beverages. Dolores Schuler



delivered, sorted, weighed, and shelved with the help of dozens of Boy Scouts, volunteers, and the community.

Total food brought in by the Scouts to the Samaritan Center was consistent with last year's intake. That there was not a noticeable increase to the center is misleading. While the numbers were roughly consistent with last year for the Center, the total intake for all agencies was up from last year. Due to the fact that more charities drew from the supply pool than have in the past, the most notable newcomer being the Central Missouri Food Bank the total intake was dispersed more than in years past. The Samaritan Center received over 16,000 lbs this year. The total intake city wide was 29,000 lbs. The Jefferson City community continues to respond to great needs with great generosity.

surprised all parties with two large batches of cookies.

Thank you to all who helped make this drive such a great success. It is through the extraordinary efforts of ordinary people that such great things are made possible.

Letter Carriers' Food Drive Delivering an All Important Package

The largest, most important annual food drive for the Samaritan Center is quickly approaching. Last year the Letter Carriers' Food Drive brought in an excess of 27,000 lbs of food to the Center. This is a drastically important supply that helps to sustain the Center's food pantry for 6 months. Without the generosity of the community and the letter carriers the Samaritan Center would be forced to purchase the food raised through the drive, which would be a catastrophic hit to its operating budget.

The Letter Carrier's Food Drive will take place Saturday May 8. Please place non-perishable food items in a bag by your mailbox and the postal employees will pick it up.

Thank you in advance for all your donations, it is through your generosity that the Samaritan Center is able to function and bring comfort to so many people in need.



Rotary Art Auction

For the second year in a row the Samaritan Center was a beneficiary of the Jefferson City Rotary West art auction. Total of funds raised were not available at time of press, but the attendance was outstanding. Thank you to the Rotary, donors and guests who help make this important event a success. Those who took advantage of tremendous deals on the high quality artwork were able to help us while gaining something tangible for themselves.

Get Back to the Garden

This July 22 is the date for the second annual Samaritan Center Dinner and Auction to benefit the Samaritan Center Foundation. Please plan to join us for an evening on excitement in the garden of giving. Many quality items will await you in the silent and live auctions, catered dinner and live entertainment will also highlight the evening. More information will follow in the immediate future. For questions or comments, please contact the Samaritan Center staff. We look forward to welcoming you back to the garden.

Marylyn's Message

Every day at the Samaritan Center, I am able to look into the face of poverty. Poverty wears many masks and travels without prejudice. Sometimes one faces strikes you more the others. I had such an experience recently.

We had a little girl about five years old come up and pull on my pants leg a few weeks ago and asked me juice. It was a Thursday night and the lobby was full of people. I said we probably do have some juice and I will make sure you get some in your mommy's grocery order. She looked at me with big eyes and said "I thirst". So I went and got her a juice pouch. She then said do you have any donuts? I said I'm sure we do and you will get them with your food. I asked her didn't she have lunch? She said "all we gots in our fridge is pickles". Her mother was in the medical clinic seeing Dr. Miller and came out fussing at her for bothering us. I asked if she really was out of all of her food. She said she is right we had fried bread this morning and that's all I had in the house. Thinking she meant French toast I asked her for the recipe and was stunned. Bread dipped in leftover grease and fried. Not dipped in egg just grease. I am sure it was filling but definitely not nutritious. I have been reading the four gospels of the passion and have been haunted by this little ones plea for drink and food.

God loves us all no matter what skin we wear. He does hear the cry of the distressed for help and transmits those needs to us who are able to help those in need. You are the ministering angels that bring to the Center your gifts of volunteerism and treasure that enables us to say "Yes" to so many diverse needs. God bless you all for all your support and prayers. Please know you are in our daily prayers. Have a wonderful Easter!

Praise from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Normally, the Boy Scout Food drive is an exciting event for Samaritan Center staff and volunteers on its own merits. This year however, an unexpected bonus dropped in. In the middle of the organized chaos surrounding the arrival of trucks full of food and their unloading, an unimposing brown envelope arrived via the United States post.

The simple parcel bore the mark of an exclusive sender noted by a return address reading "The White House, Washington DC." When Volunteer Executive Director Marylyn DeFeo spied the envelope protruding from the mailbox she thought perhaps it contained an early arriving item for the July auction. It was to her pleasant surprise to find upon opening the package the contents were of another nature. Nestled with a cardboard support lay a sheet of plain white stationary, on it was the following hand-signed message:

Dear Ms. DeFeo,

I recently learned about your contribution to the Jefferson City Community through your outstanding work at the Samaritan Center. You are an inspiration!

A great strength of our country lies in the energetic spirit of those who see a need and step forward to fill it. By igniting the passion of so many friends and colleagues, you are multiplying your good work and setting a great example for all those around you. The help and hope stemming from your organization reach far beyond East McCarty Street.

President Bush joins me in sending best wishes to you and to all those who are blessed by their association with the Samaritan Center.

Sincerely,

Laura Bush

Marylyn's excitement to receive the letter was overshadowed only by her desire to share the praise with her fellow volunteers. "Without the tireless effort all of (the volunteers) put in day after day, nothing we accomplish here would be possible" Marylyn shared "This letter is as much praise for all of you as it is for me."

The Heart of a Hero

Don Schnieders was recently awarded the Adult Good Samaritan Heart of a Hero Award by the Red Cross and KRCCG. At the Samaritan Center, when God is asked to, "give us this day our daily bread," it is said that one of the ways God answers that prayer is through Don Schnieders. Picking up donated bread from area grocery stores is just one of the many ways Don helps build the kingdom of God at the Samaritan Center.

After his retirement from full time work in 1994, Don became very involved in the building of the existing Samaritan Center. He volunteered his time, skills, and equipment to dig the foundation for the current building. He also was very successful in getting financial donations and numerous in-kind donations from suppliers for the building. This work helped build a place that was safe, clean and would facilitate providing food, clothing, medical care, dental care, and a whole host of other services to people in need.

After the building was completed, he went to work, and continues to work, on building the agency. In addition to picking up bread, Don currently supports the day-to-day work of the Center in many ways. He serves on the Advisory Board, plays Santa Claus every year for visiting children, and lends his talents for the Center's Dinner and Auction. Also through his work as Master Gardener, he teaches clients how to provide healthy food for their family by growing their own food.

The Samaritan Center is just one of the organizations which he works to build. Don also the President of the Board of Capital Region Medical Center, and is a founding organizer of the Vitae Society Dinner. Congratulations Don!



Don Schnieders and Marylyn DeFeo embrace as Marylyn presents the Heart of a Hero Adult Good Samaritan Award

Tax Credit Program Puts Power in the Hands of the Needy

As part of the continuing mission to help people to learn to help themselves, the Samaritan Center has begun a tax credit assistance program. Through volunteer efforts of Bill Anthony, Allison Cafer, Mark Aulbur, Rod Veit, Clarence Veit, and Lou DeFeo 116 persons had been seen at the time of this article with new persons registering every day. One focus of the plan is the Earned Income Credit; this is the most frequently qualified for and has brought refunds to clients in amounts ranging from \$50.00 to \$2,950.00.

The IRS defines the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) as a refundable Federal tax credit for eligible individuals and families who work and have earned income under \$33,692 (\$34,692 for married filing jointly). Many persons who do qualify have no idea the tax credit exists.

In addition to the EITC property tax credits and child tax credit are filed for some individuals.

Research into tax history has found incorrect filing on past taxes where refunds were not awarded. One individual received \$455.00 for 2003, \$324.00 for 2002, and \$304.00 for 2001. All of that individual's refunds were property tax credits.

The tax credit program empowers those in need to help themselves. It is an application of the old saying: give a man a fish you feed him for a day, teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. By being able to retrieve their own funds rather than taking from charity they increase their positive feelings and allow the limited resources of the center to go where they are most needed.

Clients coming to the Samaritan Center in search of funds are required to apply for tax refunds though the tax credit program or to show proof of having filed elsewhere.

.....**Dates to Remember**.....

April

15 Cooking Class
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

May

08 Letter Carrier Food Drive

21 Book Buddies Tom Henke Guest Speaker
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Samaritan Center • (573) 634-7776 • Fax (573) 761-5948 • samaritan@socket.net
<http://www.samaritanamdg.org>

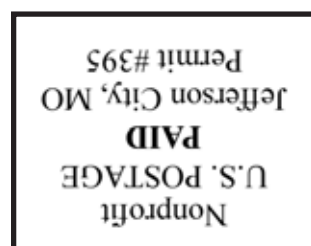
Hours of Operation

Open to Public: 9:00am-11:30am Monday-Thursday
4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday

Medical Clinic: 4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday

Dental Clinic: by appointment Only,
call (573)761-3473 for information

Staff Office Hours 8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday



Jefferson City, MO 65102-1687

Samaritan Center
P.O. Box 1687

