



Samaritan Center
Interfaith Agency

The Light

Vol. V No. V

JUNE 2004

Returning to an Evening in the Garden

Along with usual busy nature of the Samaritan Center, May, June, and July also bring preparations for the second annual Samaritan Center Dinner and Auction. After the success of last year's auction which planted the seeds for the Samaritan Center Foundation with \$68,000, we are returning to the garden hoping to out-do the success of last year. It won't be easy, but we have a few new and exciting elements that we hope will make the evening even more exciting this year.

On the evening of July 22, 2004, in the Undercroft at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, auction goers will begin their night with cocktail hour and silent auction bidding. During a fabulous meal catered by Capital Plaza, auction attendees will be entertained by Mike Michaelson followed by the comedic auctioneering trio of Bill Gratz, Warren Krech, and Don Schnieders in our live auction. The night's events will culminate in raffle drawings including the big moment when one lucky ticket purchaser will win a Dream Maker X-spa. And in our "Do Something Sweet for the Samaritan Center" candy bar raffle, a lucky winner will walk away with a gemstone and certificate for a one-of-a-kind ring designed especially for the winner by Kas Mahfood of Kas-A Designs. A second place drawing will be for a Brighton watch donated by Judy Howard of Saffee's

Auction items are still pouring in and thus far include various dinners including private catering by a professional chef, a special meet, greet and eat with the Missouri Football Tigers, a fabulous Past, Present, Future Diamond Ring from the Blue Diamond, a year of vegetable bounty from Master Gardner Don Schnieders, the legendary Cheryl Boessen Cinnamon Rolls for a year, and many, many more. Everyday we are adding fun and exciting new items and we can't wait to see them leave with the high bidders.

The decorating committee helmed by Bob Fennewald and Barb Schmitz promises that guests' breath will be taken away once more. Last year's decorations were incredible but this year's will be every bit as striking!

Wondering how you can be a part of this great night? It is simple. A few tickets are still available by calling the Samaritan Center. Tickets are \$50.00 a piece or a table of 10 for \$500.00. Can't attend and still want to be in on the fun? Call or stop by the Samaritan Center and purchase a raffle ticket for the Dream Maker X-spa. Tickets are \$20.00 a piece and are going fast there are only 500 tickets for this drawing.

Thank you in advance for stepping up to ensure the continued growth and prosperity of our garden, it is through your love and charity that we are able to do the good we can.

Kids These Days

The volunteers at the Samaritan Center are numerous. They come at different times, with different regularity, doing different tasks. Each of them contributes in their own way to ensure our success. In their labors some volunteers catch the eyes and notice of those around them. It may be their demeanor, the intensity for their task or in some cases their age. Free time during summer vacation for teenagers is normally filled with sleeping late, trips to the pool, and countless hours of video games. What would possess one to spend their afternoons, five days a week working at the Samaritan Center. This question was posed to Tim Hronick, who assists in the warehouse and pantry during the school year when he can and all summer long in afternoons. Here is what he has to say:

There are so many reason that I go to the Samaritan Center, and first and foremost is to do my part. I had no idea until I came for the first time just how many people are in need in Mid-Missouri, but after just one visit I knew that I wanted to be a part of the effort to give those people help. I come to the Samaritan Center because of the feeling I get knowing that something that I am doing is having a positive effect on the lives of others. A few weeks ago we filled an order for a woman, and helped her load it into her van. When she showed her children a cake, they looked so happy you would have thought it was Christmas Day. Seeing them so excited gave me the best feeling I have ever had. One of the best things about volunteering at the Samaritan Center is the people. I enjoy talking with the other volunteers and feel so at home there with everyone. There isn't any other place that I have found where you can meet such great people, help out in the community and have fun in one trip.

Marylyn's Message

Amazement is the best way we can describe our Samaritan Center Volunteers. We like to call them our "SCV's". They are over 650 strong and they come with a smile and a joke whenever they are scheduled to work. They know they need not sign up for work in Africa or other far flung spots on the globe to do God's work. They come to my office to ask off if they want to take a trip or go to the dentist. We have to chuckle as they are retired from their money making job but take their commitment here just as seriously as they did when they were employed.

Over the seventeen years that I have been volunteer director I have observed that those who volunteer as less likely to be ill for long periods of time, less likely to be grouchy, less likely to be judgmental of those friends who come to us in need. I also observe that those young students and children that come with their parents are so happy when they get into the program and eager to come back. We have some young people that started when they were ten years old. Now they are in college and come back whenever they are in town and have some time to share.

The kindness that they share with others really is an extension of the plan laid out in the Sermon on the Mount for us to use as a guidepost. Our SCV's know when they go home that they have given their best in trying to help someone else who needs their kindness desperately. The clients respond to the positive and gracious treatment that they receive with smiles and words of praise so the glow of happiness goes full circle.

If you have not volunteered for us or if you have taken a leave of absence for some reason and you would like to give it a whirl just come in and sign up with Anne and we will put you to work in the SCV Corp.

To our faithful SCV's thank you from the bottom of our heart for all you do to help those in need and to give honor to our God with your work. God loves all of us and holds His hand steadily over our roof helping us all in this venture.

Healthy Bones Start Young

There is a pair of unique visitors who are appearing this summer at the Samaritan Center. Boney Girl and Muscle Girl are coming as part of the *Strong Bones, Strong Girls* program put on by the Heart of Missouri Council Girl Scouts.

Tina Spillers and her team will be providing information regarding building and maintaining strong bones to girls ages nine through twelve. This age group, while very young, is at a critical time for determining bone health for the rest of their lives.

Girls in the program will learn about major bones and muscles and how to keep them healthy. Bone nomenclature and structure are only part of the information. The girls will learn how to read food labels for food nutrition and what they should pursue and avoid in their diets. They will also spend some time in the kitchen, making "calcium-cool cuisine".

Exercise also plays a large part in the program as girls learn how to build strong bones and strength through simple exercises, such as jumping rope and sports.

The program's three unique sessions run from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on June 14, 21, and 28.

Twenty to thirty girls will participate in the program which is put on nationally by the Girl Scouts. This is the first year the program has been offered at the Samaritan Center.

Summertime Needs

Summertime brings children home from school and a host of new needs to the Samaritan Center. Here are some "cool" suggestions of ways to help beat the heat!

Cereal: Nutritious and easy to fix, Cereal is a meal children home alone over the summer can fix for themselves.

Fans: Always a summer need, fans or fans to purchase them are always welcome.

Entertainment Passes: Underprivileged children do not get to go to the movies or the swimming pool like their peers, the donations of gift certificates can make a world of difference to children. Passes to the area pools or theatres are a great way to start.

Diapers: Always a need, but one that seems to grow in the summer. Sizes most often needed are medium and large.

Just the Facts

Often donors ask us, "Where does my money go?" "What services am I paying for?" Unless specified to go to a certain need, funds are divided through various needs. The information presented below reflects the period of January 1, 2004 through May 31, 2004.

Funds directed at children's needs are common requests. In this period \$200.00 was spent on new car seats, \$1,700.00 on cribs, and \$1,567.00 on daycare.

In today's society, transportation is a need we all encounter and some take for granted. Persons who cannot afford a reliable vehicle often find themselves coming to us to get to the doctor or to go visit a sick or dying relative. Automotive repairs came in at \$280.75, local bus passes totaled to \$40.00, bus tickets for out of town transportation cost \$177.00, and gasoline \$1,420.00.

Additionally, 78 cab rides were purchased for clients.

We all know the ever-growing cost of health care. In these five months our prescription medicine bill, \$11,402.84. Optical health totaled \$207.00 eye exams and corrective lenses are figured into this amount.

A need not many think of is the identification we all require to "exist" in the government's eyes. \$44.00 went to the purchase of Missouri State ID's and \$50.00 to birth certificates.

Everyone needs shelter and with this need comes need for funds for the shelter itself and the utilities within it. Rent cost a whopping \$18,872.00 which seems large until the gas and electric total of \$63,472.41 is considered. Miscellaneous lodging which is mainly hotel cost was \$164.76 and water \$1,087.39.

Other figures from this time period: 550 dental patients were registered, 255 for medical, and 102 for legal care. 4,462 households totaling 12,304 persons received food. Of those 4,462 households, 1,959 receive food stamps and 225 are on welfare. 587 new clients were seen.

The United Way of Central Missouri has allocated \$12,000.00 to the Energy Assistance Program for the fiscal Year of 2005. The Samaritan Center administers these funds for the United Way, helping to alleviate the constant need for energy assistance in Mid-Missouri.

Summer is Here but School is Close at Hand!

Imagine the smell of a new box of crayons. This smell and that box of crayons sometimes are not a reality for the children whose parents are caught between paying the rent or readying a child for back to school. The Samaritan Center hopes that with your help that every child whose family receives help from the Samaritan Center will return to school with confidence and a backpack full of supplies. Led by volunteer Janet Branson, the Samaritan Center assembled 600 school supply packs in 2003 and foresees assembling 700 to meet demand for this year. Items such as backpacks for kindergarteners, binders, notebook paper, pencils, crayons, spiral notebooks, and colored pencils are just few of the items supplied to students and will gladly be accepted by the Center for distribution. If you want to help through item donation or a monetary donation contact the Staff during normal business hours.

Dates to Remember

July

22 - Annual Dinner Auction.

August

6 - School supply distribution begins.

Samaritan Center • (573) 634-7776 • Fax (573) 761-5948 • samaritan@socket.net
www.midmosamaritan.org

Hours of Operation

Open to Public: 9:30am-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

