

SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER ON THE RIDGE

THE SCC CONNECTION

Volume 1, Issue 1
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THE MISSION CONTINUES

The Samaritan program began in Elkhart, Indiana in 1972 when a physician, two parish pastors, and a seminary professor observed that by working together, ministers, therapists, and physicians were very effective in helping people with stress-related problems. This team approach became the foundation of the Samaritan program. Samaritan counselors believe that there is a close relationship of mind, body, spirit, and community, and that optimal health care involves consideration of all

four. Today, the Samaritan program is one of the largest providers of professional counseling. There are 500 Samaritan Center offices in 355 cities in the United States and Japan. Samaritan Counseling Center has experienced some difficult times along its journey. There have been times of uncertainty and change, but never a loss of the vision that inspired the Samaritan program. The Samaritan Center on

the Ridge has undergone director, staff, and program changes in the last year. However, these adjustments are being used to promote growth and strength as the mission carries on. The past is being assessed to chart the course of the future. There is a renewed excitement in the air. The torch has been passed and the mission continues - to offer help and hope to hurting people.



WEBSITE RE-VAMPED

Samaritan Counseling Center launched a re-vamped website in December 2009. In this day and age of technology, many people seek out information online. An updated presentation of the ministries and offerings of Samaritan Center on the web was a vital necessity to continue to service those seeking counseling services. The new look is appealing to the eye, informative and easy to navigate. It is helpful to new clients. The new

format allows clients to download and complete paperwork prior to their initial visit. More time can be spent in clinical time, rather than filling out paperwork. The programs and assistance offered by SCC are available for prospective clients to peruse at their leisure.



www.samaritancenter-nwi.com

There are links to the congregations who have partnered with Samaritan Center. This aids prospective clients in continuity of care and spirituality. We are grateful to Denny Rogers for his efforts in taking the website to the next level.

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Board Members

Dian Reyome, President
Gail Larson, Treasurer
Jeanne Alexander
Rev. Bill Hudson
Carolyn Meinbresse
Rev. Joan Meir
Bob Shoemaker

INTERN PROGRAM

Our intern training program began in 1992 with a therapist intern from Purdue Calumet. Our intern program has since expanded to include students from Adler University, Capella, and Purdue Calumet.

The experience of counseling under the close supervision of an experienced clinician is the critical component of training. The therapist interns extend our capacity to serve low-income clients.

The uniqueness of the Samaritan ministry is our ability to integrate spirituality into our counseling with clients. We believe that faith can provide resources that aid the process of healing. Since most training programs ignore spirituality, the internship year at SCC often is an intern's only opportunity to integrate faith. It has become part of our mission.

Each intern completes the discipline of spiritual autobiography, which seeks to understand the role of faith in one's per-

sonal history and in his/her call to a counseling ministry. Through supervision, interns are taught to address the faith issues through the use of spiritual dialogues with clients. The intern also learns how the use of spiritual practices with clients can aid in their treatment. Finally, instructive sessions connecting key spiritual concepts, such as forgiveness, to the counseling process.

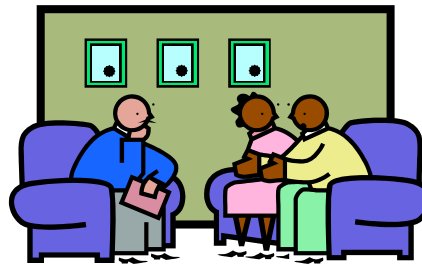
Currently, there are three interns in the program: Cyndi Anderson, Katie Mackoul, and Kathryn Jones.

Katie Mackoul is working toward a Mas-

ter's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at the Adler School of Psychology in Chicago, IL. She is currently seeing clients at the Spring Valley Center in Valparaiso, IN and works with families, couples, and individuals.

Cyndi Anderson is working on a degree at Capella. She takes a Narrative/Solution approach. She is working with individuals, couples, and families at Spring Valley. She is also seeing low-income clients at the Munster and Crown Point sites.

Kathryn Jones is seeking a master's degree at Purdue Calumet. She has experience with individuals, couples, and families, as well as play therapy with children and group therapy for substance abuse issues. She currently sees clients at Spring Valley Center. She is seeing low-income clients in the Munster office.



MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR

Richard Bowers, M.A. the new Executive Director of Samaritan Counseling Center comes to the Center with a diverse background in psychology and business. Dick has a master's degree in clinical psychology from St.

"My vision for Samaritan Center is continued growth both in services and community involvement."

John University in New York. For eight years he was Director of Porter-Starke Services Portage office. During the past 25 years, he has been a custom home builder in Porter

County. He served two terms as the president of P.C.B.A. Prior to coming to SCC, he served as the president of Christian Community Action, which operates the Spring Valley Homeless Shelter. Dick states, *"My vision for Samaritan Center is continued growth both in services and community involvement. I look forward to being a contributing part of that progress."*

STAFF THERAPIST ADDITIONS

Samaritan Center is excited to announce the addition of three new staff therapists - Erma (Bunny) Schlotman, Anthony Dillon, and Kathy Little. These additions allow the Center to offer counseling to clients who do not have insurance or are self-paying clients.

Bunny Schlotman has been a part of Samaritan Center as a past board member. She is a registered nurse in Indiana

and has a master's degree in adult mental health.

Tony Dillon has 13 years of



Erma (Bunny) Schlotman, MSN, Anthony Dillon, MA, CADC, and Kathy Little, MSW, ACSW, LCSW

counseling experience with adults, couples and families with expertise in areas of mental health and chemical dependency.

Kathy Little is a licensed clinical social worker. She has 25 years experience working with individuals, groups, and families. She has focused on specialty areas of crisis intervention, grief/bereavement, trauma and loss.

COVENANT CONGREGATIONS

The local church is essential to the Samaritan Counseling Center's ministry. Through this special relationship, each covenant church extends their healing ministry to people in distress. Congregations have entered into an agreement with Samaritan Center so that the two organizations can share a common mission of healing, hope and growth for the community. They represent our partners in mission and ministry. Some allow the Center to use the space within their buildings free of charge so that we can offer "satellite offices" where clients can meet with their therapist in a location more convenient to where they work or live.

Covenant Congregations partner with Samaritan Center by promoting the

Center's services and referring parishioners to the Center as a resource of help. They endorse SCC as an extension of the church's counseling ministry. They contribute to the ministry of Samaritan Center by making financial contributions and praying for the work of SCC.

If you would like to join the current roster of covenant congregations, please contact us to become a partner in the Samaritan ministry.

Current Covenant Congregations are: Westminster Presbyterian -Munster, First United Methodist Church-Griffith, St. John's United Church of Christ-Crown Point, First United Methodist Church-Crown Point, First Presbyterian Church-Merrillville, and Peace United

Church of Christ-Merrillville.

Come partner with us in



CONGREGATION RE-CONNECTION

The Samaritan Counseling Center is planning a covenant congregation re-connection. On April 22, 2010, the center will be hosting a meet-and-greet to re-acquaint the covenant pastors or congregation representatives with the staff, therapists, and board members of SCC. This will be a time of recasting the vision of Samaritan Center and re-establishing the relationships with those congregations who have supported

us for many years.

All covenant congregations are encouraged to join us for this re-connection. We would like for each church to have

a representative participate, bringing any questions, suggestions, or ideas to strengthen these partnerships.

Samaritan Center realizes the effectiveness of our ministry is dependent upon the support of our covenant congregations. We are looking forward to a time of fellowship, re-connection, and a renewal of the relationships to insure the progress and success of this ministry.

Please make plans to attend on April 22, 2010 at 10:30 am. We will be meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Munster.

April 22, 2010
10:30 am
Westminster Presbyterian

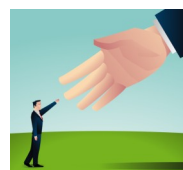
FUNDRAISER/DONATION UPDATE

In November of last year the Samaritan Center held its annual fund raising campaign. A letter inviting friends of the Center to partner with us in "shining a light in these dark times" was sent.

In response to that invitation, \$5,979 was raised to enable the Samaritan Center mission to continue. Your donations enables those who have lost hope to find help in a service offering reassur-

ance and a path to recovery.

The Center received the gift of the Anderson Grant. This generous donation contributes to the ongoing ministry of Samaritan Counseling Center offering help and hope to those in need.



In February, SCC participated in Community Day 2010. Coupon books were sold profiting the Center \$500. We are looking forward to again participating in the Community Day coupon sale in October.

For anyone wishing to partner with SCC by contributing to this mission, send your tax-deductible gift to The Samaritan Center 8955 Columbia Avenue Munster, IN 46321



MISSION STATEMENT

The **Samaritan Ministry** is an inter-denominational expression of the love of God through pastoral care and counseling in partnership with individuals and churches throughout Northwest Indiana.

The three-fold **Samaritan Mission** provides:

Psychotherapy and pastoral counseling for individuals, couples and families of all economic backgrounds. Accredited therapists possess expertise in spiritual issues.

Support for pastors and other professionals through education and consultation in pastoral counseling.

Education, spiritual growth and prevention through programs for congregations and the community.

The Samaritan Center has a strong commitment to serving all persons regardless of their ability to pay for the full cost of counseling. Our state-licensed therapists have the expertise to integrate spiritual resources into therapy. In 2000, a Gallup Poll found that 83% of those surveyed want their faith included in counseling. Recent scientific research has shown a strong connection between faith and physical, psychological and relational health. We are pleased to have brought God's healing presence to a hurting world for over two decades!

SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER

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We're on the Web!

www.samaritancenter-nwi.com

Offering Help & Hope