



### Soup Kitchen Year-Round Needs

- meat protein (chicken, beef, pork)
- sugar
- seasonings
- coffee
- pasta
- steel wool soap pads
- marinara/spaghetti sauce

### Seasonal: Spring 2020

- garden veggies
- condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise)

We also accept prepared foods leftover from special events, corporate gatherings, etc. Drop off donations 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Shelter Year-Round Needs

- deodorant
- shaving cream
- rain ponchos
- razors
- lotion
- soap bars

### Seasonal: Spring 2020

- WSTA bus passes
- laundry pods (HE)

Check out our year-round Amazon wish list to send items with just one click. Visit [www.samaritanforsyth.org/in-kind-gifts](http://www.samaritanforsyth.org/in-kind-gifts) for more information.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Winston-Salem, NC  
Permit No. 395

### Volunteer Opportunities



#### Immediate Needs: Dinner Leaders & Weekend Soup Kitchen Team Members

##### Dinner Leaders

Each night a dinner leader oversees shelter volunteers in the kitchen. Dinner leaders serve from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The dinner leader begins dinner and supervises the serving and clean-up of dinner, as well as preparation for breakfast the next morning.

##### Weekend Soup Kitchen

Lunch shifts run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Volunteers may join a recurring team or sign up as their schedules allow.

##### Overnight volunteers

As an overnight shelter volunteer, you help prepare and serve dinner and breakfast for up to 80 homeless men.

During the night, volunteers watch the security monitors in two-hour shifts. Dinner, breakfast and separate sleeping quarters are provided. Overnight shelter volunteers work from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. the following day.

Volunteering overnight is a great way for church groups to serve our community! Contact Vania Elliott to schedule a speaker or a tour of our facility.

##### Computer Lab Volunteers

The computer lab is only open when volunteers are willing to take a shift. We need one to two volunteers at night to supervise and help guests with basic computer skills. We provide one on one training at your convenience. Shifts are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Vania Elliott, volunteer coordinator, at 336-748-1962, or [vania.elliott@samaritanforsyth.org](mailto:vania.elliott@samaritanforsyth.org).

**Be sure to visit [www.samaritanforsyth.org/volunteerreg](http://www.samaritanforsyth.org/volunteerreg) to sign up for your next volunteer shift!**



## TOUR DE LLAMA

Saturday, June 20, 2020  
Presented by:



21, 38 & 61-mile rides begin at 8:30 a.m.

Divine Llama Vineyards:  
4126 Divine Llama Lane,  
East Bend, NC

Riders and sponsors register at [samaritanforsyth.org](http://samaritanforsyth.org)



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Sunday, April 26, 2020  
2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Knollwood Baptist Church  
330 Knollwood St,  
Winston-Salem, NC

## COOKOUT FOR CORNERSTONE

Saturday, May 30, 2020  
3 p.m.-6 p.m. at Samaritan Ministries

Join us as we celebrate Sonjia's legacy and the 25th anniversary of Project Cornerstone.



## Sonjia Kurosky Retiring After 27 Years of Service



**It is with a mix of honor and sadness that we announce Samaritan Ministries' long-time executive director, Sonjia Kurosky, will retire in June of 2020.**

Sonjia has nurtured a culture that was created in 1981 when Samaritan was established. Samaritan's foundation is rooted in the words of Christ in Matthew 25:35: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. . . I was a stranger and you invited me in . . ." Samaritan is Christ-centered and guest-focused in all that we do. She embodies a servant's heart and has devoted her life to helping those in need.

Sonjia has served as the executive director of Samaritan Ministries since 1993. Under her leadership, the Ministry has grown from a budget of \$258,000 in 1994 with a projected deficit to a budget of \$1.3 million in 2019 with endowed funds and operating reserves. She completed multiple renovations to the original Patterson Avenue building and led a \$4.2 million capital campaign to create a modern building providing all services under one roof.

In 2019, Samaritan Ministries was recognized as the recipient of the Joel and Claudette Weston Award for Excellence in Non-Profit Management. The award recognizes Sonjia's leadership, management team and volunteers who all work together 365 days and nights a year to fulfill our mission.

Project Cornerstone, which will celebrate 25 years in 2020, is one of Sonjia's most important accomplishments. Founded in 1995 with input from our guests, the program removes barriers to housing and employment for homeless men with substance abuse disorders. Over 200 men have gone through the program, and it features a unique weekly aftercare class for any of those men. Cornerstone is a lifelong commitment from Samaritan to the men it serves.



## Celebrating Cornerstone and Honoring Sonjia

**She has a humble heart and her desire is to give credit to Christ and recognize the journey of our guests. We hope you'll consider ways to honor Sonjia prior to her retirement on June 30.**

Sonjia will share her memories of volunteers at Volunteer Appreciation on April 26. Volunteers have been a significant part of her journey at Samaritan and will continue to be a vital part of Samaritan Ministries.

Join our Young Samaritans on Saturday, May 30 at Samaritan between 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. for the Cookout for Cornerstone. Volunteers, Cornerstone men, board and past board members and the entire community will celebrate Sonjia's legacy and the 25th anniversary of Project Cornerstone.

Sonjia is a well-respected leader in Winston-Salem and has developed multiple collaborative projects during her tenure. They include:

- HOT Project (2009 - 2015) – Innovative, shelter-based mental health clinic in partnership with the psychiatry department at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.
- Empowerment Project (2015 - present) – Outgrowth of the HOT Project and a partnership with Wake Forest Baptist's Division of Faith & Health Ministries. Case managers focus guests on mental health, substance abuse, housing, healthcare, employment, benefits and basic needs.
- ESR Housing Specialist (2016 - present) – With this collaboration, 97 guests were placed into permanent housing in 2019.
- United Health Centers (2018 - present) – On-site medical clinic every Thursday with an emphasis on the homeless population and Samaritan's Soup Kitchen guests. In 2019, they met with 272 local residents.

The Ministry has taken significant time to prepare for a thoughtful and meaningful transition without interruption of guest services. A search committee has been at work since September.

The committee anticipates that final interviews will take place the end of April and looks forward to an announcement of a new leader sometime in May. This will allow ample opportunity for Sonjia and the new executive director to collaborate and for Sonjia to assist in presenting our choice to the community. We expect the new Executive Director to build on our firm foundation, retain our culture of dignity and respect for guests, and create new opportunities to serve those in need.

The Board has established the Sonjia Kurosky Project Cornerstone Endowed Fund at The Winston-Salem Foundation. In 1995, Sonjia and her team created the program in response to shelter guests struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. They needed long-term treatment in a safe and supportive environment. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 so that income from the fund could be used to support one Cornerstone man's journey through the program each year. Donations should be made directly to The Winston-Salem Foundation, attn: Kurosky Cornerstone Fund, 751 W 4th St #200, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. For more information, please contact [jan.kelly@samaritanforsyth.org](mailto:jan.kelly@samaritanforsyth.org) or call 336-448-2665. An anonymous donor has agreed to give \$50,000 to the endowed fund if we can raise \$50,000 in contributions, so your donation can be doubled.



*For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat ... I was a stranger and you invited me in ...*

*Matthew 25:35*

## Samaritan Ministries BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

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## Good News & Gratitude

Nobody prepares you for the emotion that comes with writing the last message as Samaritan's executive director in our newsletter to supporters, donors, advocates, volunteers, staff, board members and community partners. This section titled Good News & Gratitude has long featured stories of hope at Samaritan and an attempt to showcase how prevalent God's work is in our lives.

I reflect on the last 27 years at Samaritan and am flooded with memories of love. I can remember a night in the early 90s, preparing to serve our guests during a terrible snowstorm. It was nearly impossible for volunteers to get to the Ministry, so a few of us staff members prepared to stay for several days and provide a place for those with nowhere else to go.

On that snowy night, we were exhaustively preparing and serving dinner to the shelter residents. Then came a knock at the back door, to which I opened with uncertainty of who was standing on the other side. A man stood there getting pummeled with snowflakes. He explained that he was just sitting on his couch watching TV, when it dawned on him that Samaritan likely needed some helping hands. He had a vehicle that could traverse through the conditions. He came in and quickly got to work helping to wash the dishes so they would be ready to re-use the next morning. I'll always remember that man as an angel here on earth.

I've encountered so many angels during my time at Samaritan. Angels among our guests that opened my eyes to the struggles of hunger, homelessness and addiction. Angels among our volunteers that have devoted hour after hour serving those in need. Angels among our staff members, who have a love for our guests that is unconditional. Angels among our current and past board members, who are part of the hardest working board I have ever known. Angels among our donors and supporters, who are the reason the light is always on at Samaritan.

I have no doubt that God places every person that walks through our doors here for a reason. Whether to serve or be served, His work fulfills the call of John 3:16. I am incredibly thankful for your love of Samaritan. My best wishes to you and your family this Spring. Thank you for your continued support of our work and I do hope our paths will cross again.

Grace and peace,

Sonjia Kurosky, Executive Director

## Penny Campaign Raises Record Amount

The success of Samaritan's 2019 Penny Campaign is an incredible testament to the support of our community! The campaign raised **\$132,337!** BB&T, now Truist, the presenting sponsor of the Penny Campaign, contributed a gift of **\$78,318** to help Samaritan fulfill our mission of providing food, shelter and hope through Christian love.

Sonjia Kurosky, executive director, said "47,095 hot meals or 4,771 nights of shelter can be provided with the amount of money raised. Every dollar donated helps someone in need."

Collection Day sites were held on December 7 at Samaritan's building and 110 Oakwood, across from Thruway shopping center. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., car after car drove through to drop off their collected change.

At the Oakwood location, honorary chairwoman Lanie Pope from WXII was on site and could be found chatting with attendees, dancing with volunteers, getting pictures with Santa, and greeting tons of cars coming through to give. We would like to extend a special thanks to our other sponsors for their support: Deuteran Law Group, WXII & the Winston Salem Journal.



Groups from schools came to drop off their collections. One by one, students dumped their collections from jars, bags and other creative containers. The Penny Campaign is such a special fundraiser as it truly brings the entire community together to make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

The 2020 Collection Day will be held on Saturday, December 5th! Start saving your pennies and change now! Just 281 pennies provide a hot meal for a hungry neighbor. Every collection makes a difference.

If you are interested in being part of the 2020 Penny Campaign Committee, we would love some additional help! Please email Jan.Kelly@samaritanforsyth.org for more information.

## Programs & Partnerships Update

At Samaritan Ministries, we are most known for our Soup Kitchen and men's shelter, but our services extend far beyond this with the help of several programs and partnerships that help our guests become self-sufficient and gain independence. These additional resources enable permanent housing, income and improved health.

This year, Project Cornerstone is celebrating 25 years of helping homeless men recover from substance abuse. Marcus first came to Samaritan Ministries in 2017, in tears and begging for help. He was working through the early months of his recovery when his amputated leg started to give him issues. The best course of action for Marcus was to continue his life in a wheelchair without a prosthetic leg igniting infection, discomfort and hip issues. Although a major adjustment, Marcus always held his head high and his attitude even higher. He had a renewed relationship with God and had faith in the journey he was on, despite this life altering setback.

Marcus stuck with the program, stuck with God, stuck with his peers and mentors, and found joy and fulfillment in life of sobriety from pain killers. Following the completion of Project Cornerstone, Marcus continued his involvement at Samaritan by serving as a mentor to the next wave of participants in the program. Marcus is now living in his own place, going into his third year



Marcus



Wake Forest University Law Students

of sobriety and is working as the part-time shelter counselor at Samaritan! He is truly a testament to how the Cornerstone program can change someone's life.

The Empowerment Project has been housed at Samaritan since July of 2017. Their team operates as a street outreach group that connects homeless adults experiencing mental health or substance abuse disorders with resources enabling them to work on goals to improve their health and be able to live independently. Their partnership with the Wake Forest Baptist's Division of Faith and Health Ministries has been instrumental in serving those in need. In 2019, The Empowerment Project reached 470 individuals and families, assisting them with permanent housing, health and income.

The Wake Forest University School of Law holds monthly expungement clinics, bringing law students together with people in the community to learn if they have any expungable charges and assist them through the process. Those that qualified will be contacted regarding the next steps to get the charge expunged.

Since 2018, United Health Centers has offered a free medical clinic every Thursday at Samaritan for people in the community that don't have access to a primary care physician. The services include family medicine, physical exams, immunizations, blood work, dental and more. Last year, they

met with 272 residents to provide the health care they needed.

With the support of our donors, volunteers, staff and advocates, Samaritan can execute a variety of services. These programs and partnerships help us to further fulfill our mission and help the most vulnerable people in our community.



United Health Centers