

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Volume 27, Issue 1

Spring 2020



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

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

*dates to be announced due
to impacts of COVID-19*



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Thank you to all of our
volunteers for what you do!

COOKOUT FOR CORNERSTONE

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



Sonja 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, Sonja Kurosky, will retire in June of 2020.

Sonja 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.

Sonja 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 Sonja'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 Sonja'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 Sonja

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 Sonja prior to her retirement on June 30.

Sonja will share her memories of volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. 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 for our Cookout for Cornerstone. The event is currently scheduled for May 30. Be on the lookout for changes due to COVID-19. Volunteers, Cornerstone men, board and past board members and the entire community will celebrate Sonja's legacy and the 25th anniversary of Project Cornerstone.

Sonja 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 Sonja and the new executive director to collaborate and for Sonja 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 Sonja Kurosky Project Cornerstone Endowed Fund at The Winston-Salem Foundation. In 1995, Sonja 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 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.