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THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Volume 28, Issue 2

Summer 2021


Tour de Llama Fundraiser Surpasses Goal with Community Support

199 REGISTERED CYCLISTS 3 DAYS 2 LOCATIONS	53 SPONSORS DOZENS OF VOLUNTEERS
\$40,407 RAISED (& COUNTING)	= 13,076 MEALS OR 715 NIGHTS OF SHELTER



right here in our community helping our neighbors in need of assistance,” said Bill Hollan. “Arbor is proud to support the efforts of Samaritan and the fulfillment of their powerful mission.”

Samaritan Ministries would like to thank Matt Canter with Ken’s Bike Shop, who gives his expertise each year to make the day a success, as well as Michael and Patricia West. The Wests, owners of Divine Llama Vineyards, are so gracious to host the event at their beautiful venue and helped start the event eight years ago to raise awareness about Samaritan’s mission in the community. Last, Samaritan would like to recognize and thank the dozens of volunteers that helped with parking, check-in, rest stops, set up, break down, and more. Samaritan looks forward to the event returning in a larger capacity in the summer of 2022.

Sponsored by: 

Look for more information on our website as plans unfold for our annual SAM & Eggs Breakfast in September and Penny Campaign on December 4, 2021.

Over the course of three warm summer days in June, Samaritan hosted its annual Tour de Llama fundraising event, returning to Divine Llama Vineyards after the event was cancelled in 2020.

Cyclists arrived at Divine Llama as the sun rose all three days to enjoy 21-mile and 61-mile routes through the beautiful Yadkin County. The Ministry had a limited number of cyclists each day to create the safest environment for participants, staff, and volunteers. Many cyclists remained on-site following the ride to enjoy food, fun, and fellowship at the beautiful venue.

dozens of volunteers served, and Samaritan staff and board members worked hard, which resulted in a hugely successful event. To date, Tour de Llama has raised over \$40,000, exceeding the \$35,000 goal. “We weren’t sure how cyclists would respond to the temporarily revised format of the ride,” said Jan Kelly, executive director. “We are grateful that cyclists and sponsors alike supported our efforts this year so that we can continue serving our guests.”

Arbor Investment Advisors served as the presenting sponsor for the fourth year in a row. “The funds raised truly have an impact

On Saturday, June 26, across town, Samaritan hosted its first-ever family ride at Salem Lake Greenway. Dozens of participants rode the beautiful seven-mile route around the lake, looking for seven llama that were hidden as part of the selfie scavenger hunt. Kids were able to be part of this special event and learned more about Samaritan during their rides. Dozens of other cyclists created their own routes and rode for Samaritan. The success of this event is a true testament to the support from our community for Samaritan’s guests.

In total, 199 cyclists registered to ride, 53 sponsors supported Samaritan’s efforts,

Volunteer Opportunities

Samaritan Ministries needs volunteers, particularly to help with lunch and dinner. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and under the guidance of local and state health officials, all lunches are being served to go. Shelter guests, who undergo careful daily screening, continue to eat meals in the dining room. Samaritan has implemented strict COVID-19 protocols to help ensure the safety of volunteers.



Soup Kitchen Volunteers

9 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Mon–Sat and
10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. on Sun. Help prepare and serve to-go lunches to hundreds of hungry neighbors.

Dinner Helper Every night: 4–7 p.m. Help the Soup Kitchen staff prepare dinner.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Shirelle Stewart-Riddick, volunteer coordinator, at 336-748-1962 or shirelle.stewart-riddick@samaritanforsyth.org

Hunger doesn’t stop for COVID-19.
Volunteer today at samaritanforsyth.org/volunteerreg/



Soup Kitchen Year-Round Needs	Soup Kitchen Immediate and Seasonal Needs	Shelter Year-Round Needs
meat, protein coffee sugar pasta marinara/spaghetti sauce seasonings steel wool soap pads case (6 cans) of #10 cans of soup <i>(found at Costco and Sam’s Club)</i>	frying oil Kool-Aid powder mix/ Gatorade powder mix to-go bags to-go containers disposable compartment plates disposable cutlery disposable 16 oz cups with lids condiment packs salad dressing individual chip bags	WSTA bus passes soap bars deodorant travel size lotion rain ponchos laundry pods

Cornerstone during COVID-19

Project Cornerstone has looked different since early 2020 due to COVID-19. During the journey to sobriety, these changes, particularly the hold on group outings, have not been easy for our residents. While the pandemic certainly has had its impacts, Samaritan is thrilled to celebrate the continued success of our Cornerstone men.

James arrived at Samaritan homeless and in need of help to break his addiction in

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James pictured with his daughter and granddaughter

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

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Good News & Gratitude



Randy and his father, long-time lunch guests, recently returned to the Soup Kitchen. We had not seen them through most of the pandemic. Both have a place to live but struggle with a number of health issues and have been avoiding crowds. Randy was first in line for lunch on that Tuesday, and he happily delayed eating so that he could get a COVID-19 vaccine. He patiently waited while medical providers asked all the pertinent questions and provided his vaccination card. We're so appreciative to Novant Health and Mobile Integrated Health for providing vaccine clinics at the Soup Kitchen this summer.

One reason the clinics have worked is that Samaritan is a safe and trusted place for guests. For 40 years, Samaritan volunteers have been greeting guests with a smile and encouraging word. As we invest in the lives of our guests, they can sense our compassion and willingness to help.

Randy and his dad sat down in the dining room with their boxed lunches to wait the required 15 minutes after the vaccine. He had no reaction to the shot, but he definitely enjoyed his lunch. He asked for seconds.

This is one of the things we have missed most during the pandemic—opportunities to talk with our guests and check in on their lives. I noticed that several volunteers and staff stopped by to chat with Randy and his dad during lunch. They may have even stayed longer than 15 minutes.

Samaritan creates community for our guests and lets them know they are valued. Whether it is through a warm meal, a safe place to stay or a shared devotional time, Samaritan guests leave knowing they are loved. Thank you for helping us create this special community by providing food, shelter, and hope through Christian love.

Sincerely,

Jan Kelly, Executive Director

Samaritan Ministries Recognizes Two Special Recipients of 4th Annual Volunteer Award



Samaritan Ministries is pleased to announce Irma Jackson and Minnie Blakely as the two 2021 recipients of the Myrtie Davis Lifetime Volunteer Servant Leadership Award.

The award was established in 2017 to honor a long-time volunteer(s) for selfless commitment to Samaritan Ministries and its guests. The award is meant to be an encouragement to all to act on the words of Jesus in Matthew 25. The award should inspire others to give of their time, talents, and resources to help the hungry and homeless of our community.

Irma Jackson started volunteering in 1982, just months after the Soup Kitchen first opened its doors 40 years ago. A few years later in 1989, Minnie Blakely joined the team and the two became friends and have bonded through their service of our neighbors in need. Both have served regularly every second Sunday since.

Cornerstone during COVID-19

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November of 2019. James says God put Samaritan in his life and that his desire for change was met with more love from Samaritan staff members that he could have imagined. During the program, he learned success comes from being open and honest about recovery on the good days and the bad. He says he paid attention to everything Mr. Koontz, the Cornerstone counselor, said and prayed every single day for the strength to overcome the addiction. The program taught him to avoid suppressing his feelings, a trigger for James.

Their fellow volunteers would say the pair complement each other well when it comes to their leadership of the second Sunday team. Both are incredibly dependable and have a motherly nature that makes the team feel like one big family. Minnie and Irma are passionate about Samaritan's mission and have a strong Christian faith they put into practice every day.

Minnie prides herself in washing the dishes the right way—and was the first to make sure all volunteers cleaned and sanitized the dishes to the highest standard. She never misses an opportunity to eat lunch with guests when the shift winds down a bit. Minnie often shares memories and personal stories with guests. When (she thinks) nobody is looking, Minnie often slips extra desserts and bread onto lunch trays for guests. Samaritan's Sunday staff member Barbara says that Minnie has a huge heart. She recalls traveling years ago and finding Minnie had put a prayer on the wall for Barbara and gave her a special gift upon her return. Minnie has always found meaningful ways to make a big impact in the lives of others.

Irma always ensures the correct processes and procedures are being followed in the Soup Kitchen. If operations get hectic throughout the day at the Ministry, Irma has a unique ability to bring calm to any situation. As a skilled massage therapist, Irma is always willing to use her healing

hands to alleviate any stress from her fellow team members. Over the years, Irma has brought her daughter and granddaughter to volunteer many times—three generations of women that have the hearts of servants and a love for others. Irma is very involved with her family and considers Samaritan's guests an extension to her family as well.

Every second Sunday, from the moment the volunteer shift starts until the last dish is cleaned, Irma and Minnie truly are the hands and feet of Jesus at Samaritan both in service to the guests, and by making everyone they engage with know they are valued and respected. They keep things fun by bringing special treats for holidays and celebrating Christian love every day.

Through their countless hours over 30+ years of service, Irma and Minnie have developed lasting relationships with guests, Cornerstone men, staff, and fellow volunteers. While their service was put on hold in 2020 during the pandemic, both Irma and Minnie have returned to serving in the Soup Kitchen again and the Ministry could not be more grateful.

“Volunteers are the heartbeat of Samaritan, with 3,000+ people annually serving those in need in our community” said Jan Kelly, executive director. “Samaritan is always in need of volunteers in various shifts and it's important to note how big of an impact your service has on our guests.”

included in. We are proud of his dedication to recovery and his continued commitment to the program.

James is one of the many miracles Samaritan has been a part of in recent months. Samaritan collaborates with other local agencies to assist residents with housing, employment, and more as they end the in-house residency segment of the program. With the support of our community, we continue to give these men another chance at life.

James is now celebrating 20 months of sobriety. Since James completed the in-house portion of the Project Cornerstone program, his life has been completely transformed. He keeps busy now living with his daughter, son-in-law to-be, and four grandchildren—three girls and a boy. James talks weekly to his sponsor and other Cornerstone participants that were in the program when he was. James recently witnessed the proposal of his future son-in-law to his daughter at the beach and told Samaritan, holding back tears, he could not believe he was a part of that special event—something the old James would have never been