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## Salemtowne Volunteer Spotlight: Student Samaritans Making a Difference in Their Community

One of the greatest lessons to learn is the importance of giving back. As Ephesians 2:10 says “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” When we support one another, we fulfill one of God’s most fundamental desires for our lives. Here at Samaritan Ministries, volunteers support our guests by providing warm, nutritious meals. Also, the volunteers experience the world of cooking and hospitality as they prepare and serve delicious meals to our hungry neighbors in Winston-Salem.

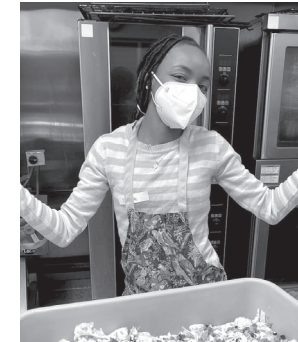
We are thankful for the many student volunteers who connected with our mission and found ways to encourage the future generation of good Samaritans. For these three students, volunteering at Samaritan Ministries has further ignited their passion for supporting and serving those in need.



“I chose Samaritan because I wanted to make a positive and nutritious difference in the community. I wanted to help people who may have health issues or pre-existing health conditions here because I know they will get a nutritious meal every day.”  
—*Jennifer, Wake Forest University School of Medicine Student*



“I chose Samaritan because I wanted to give back to the community. I am not originally from Winston-Salem, so it was important for me to learn about the need here and to help as much as I can. Plus, I enjoy cooking.”  
—*Ketsia, Winston-Salem State University Nursing Student*



“I chose to volunteer at Samaritan Ministries because we get to serve different people and nourish their bodies.”  
—*Shauntie, Forsyth Technical Community College Nursing Student*

We are so thankful to our student Samaritans for their service and for bringing awareness to our mission in hopes to inspire student involvement from all levels of education.



Samaritan Ministries’ Volunteer Program in 2022–23 is sponsored by Salemtowne, a nonprofit life plan community offering an environment of belonging and support where lives flourish.

## Samaritan Ministries’ Annual Penny Campaign Raises More Than \$103,173



*From left: Jan Kelly (Samaritan Ministries), Maureen Olsen (Deuterman Law Group), Todd Williams (First Horizon Bank), Lanie Pope (WXII 12 News), Jeff McDowell (First Horizon Bank), and Zachary Marquand (Deuterman Law Group). Not pictured: Sponsors David and Kathy Murray and representatives from the Winston-Salem Journal.*

Thanks to your incredible love and support, our 2022 Penny Campaign reached new heights! Last month, our generous sponsors gathered at Samaritan Ministries to rejoice and celebrate our community for coming together to support our neighbors in need.

Thanks to your efforts and generosity, you helped us surpass our goal of \$70,000 by raising \$103,173 and still counting! We appreciate everyone who spread the word, campaigned as a team, or contributed individually. Your donations will help provide 26,053 meals or 1,588 days of 24-hour shelter.

**Thank you all for making sure  
Every Cent Counts!**



PRESENTING SPONSOR **Arbor**  
INVESTMENT ADVISORS

Your favorite cycling event is back! Be sure to mark your calendars for June 24, 2023 so you don’t miss the fun. To receive updates, visit our website at [samaritanforsyth.org](http://samaritanforsyth.org) or check us out on Facebook or Instagram.

## Samaritan Wish List

Soup Kitchen Year-Round Needs	Soup Kitchen Immediate Needs	Shelter Year-Round Needs
Meat/Protein: Chicken, Ground Beef/Turkey, or Canned Tuna	#10 Large Cans of Tuna and Chicken—106 to 109 oz	Men’s Deodorant
Milk—Gallon	Condiment Packets: Ketchup, Mayo, Relish, Tartar Sauce, and Hot Sauce	Travel Size Men’s Shampoo
Sugar	Hot Dogs and Buns	Bars of Soap
Pasta Noodles	Frozen Hamburger Patties and Buns	Travel Size Lotion
Marinara or Spaghetti Sauce	Kool-Aid	Shaving Cream
Seasonings: Garlic Powder, Onion Powder, Poultry, Taco, Paprika	Salad Dressing	Rain Ponchos
Fruit and Vegetables: Fresh Produce or #10 Large Cans 106 to 109 oz	Individual Chip Bags: Variety Pack	Winston-Salem Transit Authority Bus Passes
	Seasonings: Old Bay, Lemon Pepper, Poultry, and Dill	

**To purchase WSTA bus passes in bulk, please follow the following steps:**  
Bus Passes (one-ride or ten-ride)

- Call 336-727-2648 to place a bulk order (more than 5).
- Allow 24 hours for WSTA to fill your order.
- Pick up location is 1060 N. Trade St.
- The payment method is by check or money order only to WSTA.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Samaritan Ministries needs 12 volunteers daily to help prepare lunch for our hungry neighbors and two volunteers to help serve dinner to our shelter guests. To create a safe environment for staff, volunteers, and guests, we will continue to wear N95 or KN95 masks indoors. Opportunities are available to volunteers 13 and up (under 16 must be with an adult).

### Lunchtime Volunteers:

9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday  
10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on Sunday

### Dinnertime Volunteers:

4 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Monday through Sunday

### Grocery Store Pickup Volunteers:

9 a.m. until 11 a.m., Monday through Friday

### Volunteer Navigators

This is a new volunteer opportunity for seasoned volunteers to help guide new volunteers and organize the work during each lunch shift. Dates and times depend on shift availability.

**For more information on volunteer opportunities,** contact Shirelle Stewart-Riddick, volunteer coordinator, at 336-748-1962 or [shirelle.stewart-riddick@samaritanforsyth.org](mailto:shirelle.stewart-riddick@samaritanforsyth.org)



*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...I was a stranger and you invited me in..."*  
*Matthew 25:35*

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## Good News & Gratitude

Shelter guests watching Super Bowl LVII at Samaritan Ministries.

On Super Bowl Sunday, we gathered with our friends from Hanesbrands to celebrate one of America’s favorite pastimes. Guests, volunteers, and staff enjoyed football, chili, and chicken wings in a festive atmosphere. On most nights, guests eat dinner and head upstairs for showers and sleep. On this particular Sunday night, however, nearly every seat was taken in the dining room and hospitality room to cheer on favorite teams and watch a few commercials.

“We’re all on the same team” was the theme for our party, courtesy of Super Soul, a national group that reaches out to people experiencing homelessness to provide hope and hospitality during a night of community and togetherness.

As I watched the coin toss, I was moved to think about the experiences of our guests. There was one from Philadelphia who was cheering for, believe it or not, the Chiefs. There were Cowboy fans disappointed about the season. We had guests who talked of their medical appointments coming up for the week and others who just checked in with only the clothes on their backs.

Our guests are not unlike you and me. We all have our struggles, and we all need a little help sometimes. When we understand that we’re all on the same team and that we’re all part of the Kingdom of God, then we help each other. As our Soup Kitchen staff says, “Teamwork makes the dream work.”

Our ultimate dream is for our guests to not have to rely on emergency shelter but to have their own housing. As they work on their housing plans, Samaritan Ministries fills an important role by giving our guests a safe space and by providing for their very basic needs. Thank you for being part of our dream team as a donor, volunteer, and advocate.

Sincerely,

Jean Kelly, Executive Director

## Meet Jose Perez Jr.

From left: Current photo of Jose Perez Jr. at Samaritan Ministries and young Jose Perez Jr. in 2003.

Jose Perez Jr. is a former Project Cornerstone guest who describes his life as a true reflection of the power of second chances. Throughout his teenage years, Jose faced an internal battle surrounding the cultural complications he encountered as a person of both African American and Puerto Rican descent during a time of racial tension within his community. While both of his parents were instrumental in his life, Jose felt the pressure to fit in with his peers and soon turned to drugs and alcohol to cope with his uphill battle with self-identity.

In 2003, standing at 150 pounds from his substance abuse, Jose walked through the doors of Samaritan Ministries looking for a change after transitioning out of prison. After speaking with several guests, he heard about Project Cornerstone and thought that while he didn’t think he was an addict, he needed a drastic change in his life.

## 2022 Gratitude Report

Winston-Salem Fellows at Samaritan Ministries

As the saying goes—*The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.* As we at Samaritan Ministries reflect on the amazing efforts made by the community, our hearts are filled with much gratitude. Thanks to our dedicated staff, committed volunteers, generous donors, and our many supporters, Samaritan Ministries was able to be a beacon of light to our guests during their time of need.

In 2022, the Soup Kitchen moved away from takeaway meals and returned to greeting guests daily for in-person dining. Last year, Samaritan Ministries served 101,603 meals to men, women, and families. The Samaritan Inn continued to offer 24 hours of care to any homeless man in need of a safe place to rest. The Inn provided 13,285 nights of shelter to 333 different homeless men. Each 24-hour period of shelter cost \$64.97 and included three nutritious meals, a bed, well-kept showers, and access to a guest laundry room.

Samaritan Ministries is thankful for the passion and commitment of our community partners and volunteers for helping our Soup Kitchen

“I didn’t fully understand the disease of addiction is much more than just drugs and alcohol—that was just the outcome. It was my way of thinking, attitude, perception, and behavior that I needed to change but I didn’t know that until I came to Samaritan,” said Jose.

Jose describes Project Cornerstone as a time of spiritual awakening. Throughout the program, he grew closer to God and learned how to rebuild his mind, body, and spirit through faith, consistency, and relationships. Jose began to trust himself and set boundaries. He regained a relationship with his family and formed new friendships without the fear of losing himself.

As Jose approaches 20 years of being sober, he gives honor to God and chooses himself every day. In the spirit of being a voice for the voiceless, Jose has led many homelessness initiatives as he serves as the chairman of the Winston-Salem Homelessness Caucus, where he advocates for the homeless and provides resources and services to those in need. For more than 10 years, he has worked as a Peer Support Specialist with the Forsyth County government, helping people in need of second chances to have a place to talk and gather resources to live a self-sufficient life.

“I turned to advocacy because I’ve been there. I know what it feels like to feel hopeless and useless from being turned down due to my background and circumstances,” he said.

Jose is one of the many miracles that allowed Samaritan Ministries to be a stepping-stone in his healing and a place of transformation for others in their journey.

provide warm meals to our guests. Between the Soup Kitchen’s daytime and dinnertime operations, almost 1,100 volunteers invested 13,622 hours of service.

Experiment in Self-Reliance (ESR) has partnered with Samaritan Ministries and helped place 34 guests into permanent housing in 2022. Since 2018, United Health Centers has given access to free health care and an opportunity to develop a primary care physician relationship to people experiencing homelessness. The clinic provided 133 office visits at Samaritan in 2022, serving 74 different individuals. In 2022, Samaritan Ministries partnered with Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist for the Empowerment Project to meet guests at their point of need, whether in shelters or on the streets, to connect them to services relating to mental health, substance use, health care, and income.

Project Cornerstone is a long-term residential recovery program serving men with a history of addiction who are also experiencing homelessness. It follows a disease model of addiction, incorporating the 12-step recovery model to create a holistic, collective approach to recovery. Aftercare is an essential part of the program, and former Cornerstone guests have returned to class on Tuesday nights since the program began in 1995. To date, more than 200 men have been served by the program, which has an 80% success rate. We are honored to be a part of the men’s healing process and inspired by their determination to live a life filled with hope.