



THE SAMARITAN

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR WINTER 2010

A Season of Giving - For All Ages!

Neighbor helping Neighbor, the Samaritan House motto, is especially true each holiday season. So many members of our community want to be holiday volunteers that they start signing up in October! Then, in November and December, donors become increasingly eager to spread holiday cheer – spontaneously arriving at Samaritan House to contribute food, toys, and cash donations.

One of the most exciting sights of the Holiday Program is children helping children. Each month of the school year, elementary students donate to our Wee Care program, but at the holidays there is even greater youthful generosity. Children visit our Toy Shoppe to donate new toys they have purchased with their allowances. Some even give up a few of their own holiday gifts to share with less fortunate children. Others donate cash that grandparents or aunts and uncles have given them for the holidays.

As for child volunteers – scout groups and school classes pitch in on Club Days, sorting toys and creating gift tags and holiday cards. On Family Days, even more children sort and distribute food and toys.

We can't forget the amazing teenagers who conduct food drives, especially the San Mateo High students who have beaten world records with their collection and fundraising abilities. Each year they put in long hours outside supermarkets requesting donations. The resulting food and cash help feed our clients far beyond the holidays.

Together, neighbors of all ages enable Samaritan House to create miraculous amounts of holiday cheer. The 2009 Holiday Program gave bags of toys to more than 2,000 children, gift cards to almost 1,000 teens, and holiday food to more than 5,000 low-income seniors, adults, and children.

This year, we need to do even more! So you, too, can show your community spirit. Donate! Volunteer! Whether you are a child just starting a life of sharing or someone who has spent years helping others, we invite you to be a holiday helper. The true joy of the season is to be a Neighbor helping Neighbor!



This brother and sister are already practicing generosity. They donated toys to the 2009 Holiday Program.

How and Where to Donate

Your contribution will create happy holiday memories for a family in need. To donate your time as a holiday volunteer, follow the instructions on our website, www.samaritanhouse.com or contact our Holiday Program Coordinator at (650) 523-0831, HolidayVolunteers@samaritanhouse.com. To donate toys, food, or holiday funds, do the following:

Toys: Bring new, unwrapped toys to the Samaritan House Administrative Office, Third Floor at 4031 Pacific Blvd., San Mateo (Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.)

Food: Place nonperishable food items in our collection barrels throughout the community, or bring nonperishable food to our Administrative Office, Third Floor at 4031 Pacific Blvd., San Mateo. (Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.)

Cash or checks: Mail or deliver to the Samaritan House Administration Office, Third Floor, 4031 Pacific Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94403. (Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.) Credit card donation: Call (650) 341-4081 or donate online at www.samaritanhouse.com.

THE SAMARITAN

WINTER 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

COVER STORY

1 A SEASON OF GIVING - FOR ALL AGES
One of the most exciting sights of the Holiday Program is children helping children.

2 OUR OWN TODAY SHOW HONOREE
Samaritan House volunteer Irene Hudson's birthday will soon be acknowledged on NBC TV.

3 FROM SHELTER TO UNIVERSITY - A LESSON IN COURAGE
Following brain surgery, a musician regroups at Safe Harbor before going on to a full university scholarship.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Tish Busselle, President | Moude N. Breznicki | J. Frank McCabe |
| Patricia Hsu, Vice President | Lucerinda J. Broussard | Allison Nuschy-Land |
| Betsy Till, Secretary | Joan Cassman | Timothy K. Roodie |
| John C. Boyle, Treasurer | Surendu Choudhuri | Carl A. Serrato |
| Jody Buckley, Past President | Richard L. Davis | Don Shoecraft |
| | Kerita Diawara | Jason C. Ting |
| | Jennifer Fishner | James Whitehead |
| | Robert Grassilli | Sheila Wolfson |
| | Sharon Hofstedt | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evelyn Taylor - A Legacy of Caring

Former Samaritan House Board President Evelyn Taylor, who died October 23rd, deserves extensive recognition for helping to shape the Samaritan House mission. Year after year, programs sparked by Evelyn's compassion will continue to uplift the lives of our neighbors in need. To learn more about the legacy of Evelyn Taylor, visit our website at www.samaritanhouse.com.



Evelyn Taylor 1923 - 2010

San Mateo High School Students Go for Another Record!

Through the first week of December, the amazing students of San Mateo High School were at local supermarkets collecting food for Samaritan House, so we hope everyone gave generously. The former Guinness World Record holders would like to win again!

Redwood City Has New Transition Programs

In collaboration with the Sequoia Hospital Homecoming Program, the Samaritan House Free Medical Clinic of Redwood City has initiated a care transitions intervention program. Through this program, a coach guides patients in making successful transitions between care settings, such as from hospital to home. The coach makes one home visit and three follow-up phone calls.

Show the world that you are a proud supporter of Samaritan House! To get your free bumper sticker, contact Nancy Carothers, nancy@samaritanhouse.com, or drop by our 3rd floor Administrative Office at 4031 Pacific Blvd., San Mateo.



Save the Date! Dinner Dance Main Event May 7th

Spring gowns will be in season for the exciting dinner dance Main Event May 7th at the Sofitel San Francisco Bay. For more information contact Annual Giving Manager Lynn Engel at (650) 523-0817, lynnengel@samaritanhouse.com.

Golden Gate Harley Owners Group (HOG) Rides for Samaritan House

When Peninsula Harley Davidson closed its doors, it looked as though its Ladies of Harley group would have to cancel their annual Thanksgiving food drive for Samaritan House. But the Ladies were determined not to let us down, and they found a new home for the collection barrels at Dudley Perkins Co. Harley-Davidson in South San Francisco. On November 20th, the donations were escorted to us by the Golden Gate Harley Owners Group comprising the former San Mateo HOG, the San Francisco HOG, and Golden Gate HOG-Marin County.



Karen Schacht (left) of the Golden Gate HOG Ladies of Harley, worked hard to make this year's food collection happen. With Karen at Dudley Perkins Co. Harley Davidson are (l-r) Curtis Day, Vernall Duhon, Kliff Latu, and Terry McGill.

AND THE DIRECTOR SAYS...



Dear Friends,

We dedicate this issue of The Samaritan to our former Board President and friend, Evelyn Taylor. Evelyn passed away on October 23, 2010 at 87 years of age. Her long-standing career as an educator with the San Mateo/Foster City School District and as a dedicated humanitarian has shaped the lives of students, teachers, community members, and Samaritan House.

Evelyn was the driving force more than 35 years ago behind several agency programs. Her desire to make sure students had nutritious food each day has become the Samaritan House Food Program, serving nearly 125,000 meals this past year in San Mateo and in neighboring cities in the county, and the Food Pantry, delivering nearly 14,000 bags of groceries a year to families. The clothes and holiday toys she kept in a school gymnasium have become the Samaritan House Kids Closet, distributing clothes to children and teens at our Pacific Boulevard headquarters, and the annual Holiday Program, serving toys and food to 1,300 families each year. These services have grown, unfortunately, because the need has grown; families who need help are right here in our own community every day.

In this newsletter you will also read about Samaritan House's other programs: the Breast Care Clinic; Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter, and our Holiday Program. Success stories come from the individuals and families we help and the hundreds of volunteers who donate their time and resources to ensure that needed services and support get to people who need them.

We are especially proud to feature a story about a longtime volunteer who will celebrate her 100th birthday with us on December 1st. Each week, Irene Hudson brings her joyful and hard working energy to our office; she is truly an inspiration to all of us at Samaritan House on how to live a long and meaningful life.

It is this spirit of contribution that is at the heart of the agency and of our dear friend Evelyn Taylor's legacy. Whether you are a student in a classroom, a grocery store clerk, or a 100-year-old volunteer, you have gifts and resources beyond measure to grow and succeed in life and to share with others. This is the vision of Samaritan House: to create a caring community helping our neighbors in need. As we embark on this holiday season, we remember Evelyn Taylor for helping to get Samaritan House started. We thank the community for keeping us going through generous contributions, volunteering, resources, and hard work. And we encourage all of you to contribute who you are and what you have joyously to others.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Kitty

Kitty Lopez, Executive Director

FABULOUS DONATIONS COME IN ALL SIZES



Jackie Guitierrez of our Redwood City Dental Clinic (left) was thrilled at the donation of a camera to snap "before" and "after" pictures of patients.

Recently, Samaritan House has been blessed with a surprising variety of donations. One of the largest is a new truck to replace the cargo van that after more than 200,000 miles needed costly repairs. On September 30th, Bill Somerville, President of the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, sent a check for more than \$32,000 to cover the purchase. The truck will be used for food donation pick ups and meal deliveries. It is especially needed now. The Food Pantry has given out 70% more bags of groceries; the kitchen has produced 10% more meals this year.

Another wonderful donation came from Mollie Stone's Markets, which regularly contributes to our Food Program. In August, Mollie Stone's owner, Dave Bennett, donated more than \$4,300 through participation in the Food For All campaign.

One of our most unusual donations was a turkey from 12-year-old Raymond Juballa of Foster City. Raymond raised the turkey as a 4-H Club project and donated it to feed people in need. Another special donation was the installation of DISH network at Safe Harbor shelter. *San Mateo County Times* columnist Carolyn Livengood asked Shelter Director Maryam Bhimji for a wish list, and learned that she would like to show cable programs such as "The Dr. Oz Show" to residents. Carolyn contacted Don Bowcutt of the Rotary Club of South San Francisco, and before long club president Norm Miller made a wish become a reality.

Another longtime wish was quickly granted when an anonymous donor, a Neighbor helping Neighbor, contacted Annual Giving Manager Lynn Engel for ideas on how he could help. Lynn told him that the Free Dental Clinic needed a camera to photograph patients "before" and "after" treatment. Immediately, Don purchased a camera and equipment, and the Dental Clinic is now happily snapping pictures.

It will be hard to top this variety of special gifts, but Samaritan House is sure community members are even now thinking of new ways to contribute. We are always amazed at and grateful for the generosity of our neighbors!

NBC TODAY SHOW TO HONOR IRENE HUDSON

Samaritan House volunteer Irene Hudson is scheduled to be honored by Willard Scott of the NBC Today Show on her 100th birthday December 2nd. If things go as planned, he will show her photo and honor her life accomplishments between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.

Irene has been a Development Department volunteer for more than 10 years, and in 2007 Samaritan House presented her with its highest honor, the Kelly Award. Irene is still working as hard for Samaritan House as when she won the award. She is so speedy that staff knows to store up as much work as possible for her to do. That is because she is always disappointed that there isn't more.

Whatever the task, Irene sits down at her desk and zips through it in a flash. She puts stamps on envelopes, addresses envelopes, fills information packets, or puts ribbons on bookmarks. As she reaches the end, she looks up and says, "You got anything else for me to do?"

In her spare time, Irene is creative. She writes special poems for many Samaritan House occasions, crochets afghans for staff members, and has been known to create beautiful feathered hats. As for sports, she completely shares the Administrative Office's Giants mania.

Samaritan House is proud that Irene chose to join our volunteer force and plans a celebration for her birthday. But of course, Irene would rather be working. As she is quoted saying, "What I do is a little bit, but if it helps, that's what's important. Every drop of water is what makes the ocean grow!"

As Willard Scott will say, "Happy birthday, Irene!"



Volunteer Irene Hudson (right) is shown with Accounting Specialist Carmelita Wood at one of her past birthday celebrations. On December 2nd, Irene's 100th birthday will be honored by the Today Show.

From Shelter to University: A LESSON IN COURAGE

Safe Harbor residents are often courageous, but for sheer fortitude and determination, none surpasses recent client Freddie Navas. A talented professional musician, Freddie began suffering facial spasms in 2003. By 2009, the increasing severity of the symptoms was threatening a career that had included playing with Celia Cruz and Tito Puente, and performing in the orchestras of mega churches, including Joel Osteen's.

Freddie needed surgery, but had little money and no insurance. Taking a risk, Freddie sold his belongings to travel to Pittsburgh to meet with Dr. Peter Jannetta, the neurosurgeon who had pioneered the surgery he needed. Dr. Jannetta agreed to supervise Freddie's surgery and help him get waivers to pay for the procedure.

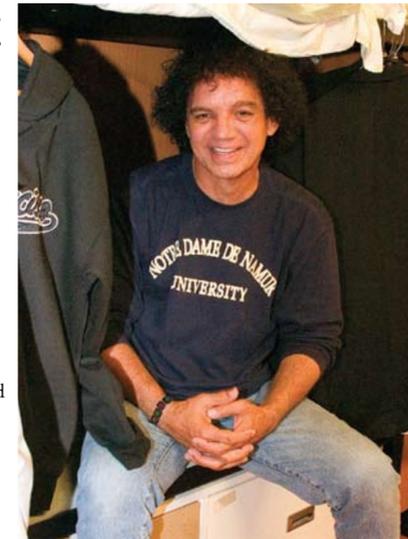
The operation on July 2, 2009 and the six-month recovery period were successful. Then Freddie was able to plan a new life. A native of Puerto Rico, Freddie had long wanted to come to the Bay Area, home of many Latin musicians. So when the doctors released him in December, Freddie headed this way.

Lacking funds for housing, Freddie arrived at Safe Harbor on Christmas Eve. He says, "I woke up Christmas morning, and the staff had left me gifts on my pillow, including music CDs. I was so excited." At Safe Harbor, Freddy received a safe refuge and counseling on how to best complete his plan to get back to self-sufficiency. He already had two years of college credits toward a degree in fine arts, so while at Safe Harbor he completed a semester at the College of San Mateo (CSM).



A few days after leaving Safe Harbor Shelter, Freddie Navas (left), performed at opening Convocation at Notre Dame de Namur. Shown with Freddie following the ceremony are Debra Lambert, Chair, Department of Music and Vocal Arts; and Dr. Michael Schmitz, Professor of Music. Photo by Claire Karoly; courtesy of Notre Dame de Namur University.

When budget cuts cancelled Freddie's funding at CSM, he literally found a new home at Notre Dame de Namur University. Recognizing his talents, the university provided Freddie with scholarships, loans, and grants, plus a place in a residence suite. As the school year began September 1st, Freddie performed at Convocation accompanying an opera singer on "The Impossible Dream." But Freddie's dream had proved possible, with courage, determination, and a little help from Safe Harbor.



On August 25th, musician Freddie Navas posed at his Safe Harbor bunk. The next day he moved to a residence suite at Notre Dame de Namur University.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Breast Care Clinic Receives Important Funding

Thanks to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, funding is now in place for a part-time Coordinator for the Samaritan House Breast Care Clinic. For the past five years, this critical position has been filled by Eileen Lopez-Guerra, a volunteer who believes so strongly in the program that she continued to volunteer and manage the program for five years after the funding for her position ended.

Through the Breast Care Clinic, patients receive clinical breast exams, and one-on-one education regarding the importance of screening procedures and the correct method for doing a breast self-exam. Through Eileen's efforts, patients receive continuity of services, including outreach, education and follow-up reminders.



Eileen Lopez-Guerra coordinates the Breast Care Clinic

The program was started in 1999 by a group of female physicians concerned that low-income women, without access to healthcare, were not aware of the importance of routine breast screenings. Joined by Dr. Mary Twieg in 2000, and Dr. Lynn Rosenstock in 2004, the clinic provides more than 400 patient visits annually.

Through the generosity of Mills-Peninsula Health Services, patients referred by the Samaritan House Clinic receive free mammograms and breast ultrasounds. San Mateo Medical Center and the Gabriella Patser Program provide no-cost biopsies.

The Samaritan House Breast Care Clinic has provided more than 3,800 patient visits to low income women since its inception in 1999, thanks to people like Eileen.

Sobrato Challenge Grant Matches Your Donation

Thanks to a generous donation from the Sobrato Family Foundation, you can leverage your gift to Samaritan House two to one. The agency recently received a \$100,000 Sobrato Challenge Grant, which matches any new dollars raised. So if you donated last year, any increase in your gift this year will be doubled. For new donors, the entire amount will be matched.

The grant challenges Samaritan House to raise an additional \$100,000 with new or increased donations by June 30, 2011. If the challenge is met, the Foundation will donate another \$100,000 next fiscal year, which would result in a total of \$300,000 for Samaritan House clients.

The Challenge Grant provides much-needed unrestricted funding, which gives Samaritan House the flexibility to use the dollars where they are most needed. These funds will enable Samaritan House to help more people in our community get the services they need.

The Sobrato Family Foundation supports strong community-based nonprofits that promote self-reliance and economic independence. It is dedicated to creating a community where all residents have equal opportunity to live, work, and be enriched.