

THE SAMARITAN



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends,

Our 50th year has already been one to remember. While our team of staff and volunteers serve record numbers of clients through our pantry each day, our community of dedicated supporters – like you! – stepped up to make this year's *Cheers to 50 Years* gala the most successful in our history.

In just one evening, we raised more than one million dollars, a record-breaking night! To those who gave, those who attended, those who volunteered, and those who supported in a myriad of ways, thank you. It's community members like you that have kept Samaritan House going these past 50 years.

We still have so much more ahead to celebrate and do in the second half of our golden anniversary year! Here are just a few spring and summer highlights from our dedicated program staff:

- Our clinic team has been busy seeing clients, expanding our nutrition education program offerings, and hosting special informational workshops during Mental Health Awareness Month this spring. This summer, we look forward to fully reopening our San Mateo Clinic after a beautiful and needed renovation. And thanks to our partners at the Special Interest Lions Club, we look forward to hosting another special vision clinic to provide access to needed eye care and glasses for many in need in our community.
- Inspired by the vision of a longtime Samaritan House supporter, Kids Closet volunteers and staff have set up a beautiful reading corner in Kids Closet! Now while parents shop for clothing, kids can settle in to read a story and even take a book with them to read together at home!
- Lastly, our staff is thrilled to once again reinstate behind-the-scenes tours of our headquarters for neighbors like you! If you're curious about what is happening at Samaritan House and how your support is making a difference in the community, I invite you to come join us for a tour. It's a great way to meet the team and see what it takes to continue to meet the need in our community all year long.

We know the summer will fly by, so keep an eye out for our annual back-to-school event in August. We expect to collect more than 3,000 backpacks, full of school supplies for students in our community. To learn more about the backpack drive and ways to support our littlest clients during summer and fall, turn to page 3.

I am proud to lead Samaritan House during this golden year. We are the safe place where people turn for help when crises big and small happen, and we'll continue to be here, working in partnership with you - our community - to lead the fight against poverty in San Mateo County. Thank you for being with us.

Be well,



Laura E. Bent
Chief Executive Officer



Scan to schedule
your tour!

KIDS' CLOSET: CLOTHING, CARE, AND COMMUNITY

As any parent knows, keeping your children supplied with clothes that fit is no easy task. Children grow so fast that a favorite shirt that fits at the beginning of the year is out-of-commission by year's end. Factor in the high prices of all basic needs these days, and it's no surprise that making sure a child has a closet full of clothing is a challenge for parents who come to Samaritan House. That's where Kids' Closet comes in.

At Kids' Closet, parents and their children can come get clothes every month. For parents living on a tight budget, this means they are able to keep their kids clothed without having to make difficult choices between clothing and paying the bills. But Kids' Closet is more than just a place to get clothes. Mary, who has been a volunteer at Samaritan House for 10 years, speaks with clients regularly to schedule their visits. For our clients, Mary is not just a connection to much-needed clothing, she's also a steady confidant to talk to about what's going on in their lives.

One client recently confided in Mary about her cancer journey as a single mother. "When we talk, she tells me how she's doing. It helps her to have someone to tell that to because she can't talk about it to her kids," Mary explains. Mary has heard it all from parents calling in. Some even share photos of their children in their new favorite outfits. For Mary, it feels good to know that her conversations with them go beyond just scheduling an appointment. To these parents, Mary represents the larger caring community that is Samaritan House, always ready to listen and to help.

For children, too, the clothes they get from Samaritan House are more than just clothes, Mary shares. "Clothing is essential, but it's also about how it makes them feel." It's about having clothing that fits well and helps them feel just like all the other kids in their classrooms. "We want the kids to experience a sense of dignity." Having access to these clothes, along with school supplies in August, means our littlest clients are able to go into the world with confidence and dignity. For many, that's as important as the clothes themselves.

If you want to support Kids' Closet, there are many ways to get involved. Donations of new and gently used clothing are always accepted, and monetary donations to our Kids' Closet Essentials Fund ensures we have the resources to purchase socks, underwear, and other essentials in every size needed, all year long. To learn more about Kids' Closet's current needs, and how to donate or volunteer, email donationdrives@samaritanhousesanmateo.org.



You can support the annual backpack drive by volunteering August 3rd at our distribution day! To sign up, email volunteering@samaritanhousesanmateo.org.

LOOKING BACK

This year marks 50 years of Samaritan House. Like any milestone year, it's an opportunity for our community to look back on all the stories from our years of service. Whether you've been with us for decades or just joined our community this year, your stories of giving, volunteering, and supporting are a part of our history.

Earlier this year, a group of long-time supporters gathered at Byrd's Filling Station to talk about their memories of Samaritan House. Many recalled the early days, when our offices were in portables and our team was much smaller. Hearing these memories is a reminder of how far we've come and how many more people we serve today! It also serves as a reminder of how the San Mateo County community comes together time and time again, whenever our neighbors need our help.

One person shared a remarkable story of community over Thanksgiving in 2001. After a burglary left Samaritan House with no turkeys to distribute to our clients, the community came together. For one moment, it seemed Thanksgiving at Samaritan House might be canceled. But as the news of the break-in spread, donations and support poured in. Neighbors from far and wide arrived with turkeys and monetary contributions, all to keep our clients fed through the holiday. A long-time supporter even recalled one car arriving, trunk packed to the brim with turkeys. Once they'd been unloaded, the community member opened their car's back door, revealing even more turkeys waiting to be donated.

This is just one example pulled from our organization's cherished archives, but such a staggering act of generosity is something we've seen time and time again over the last 50 years. You – our supporters, partners, and volunteers – continue to inspire our community through your dedication and care. Samaritan House only exists because of that care and compassion. Thank you.

Do you have memories of Samaritan House you want to share? Old photos that you've taken at our offices or while volunteering? We'd love to see them! Share your stories and photos with us by emailing cashier@samaritanhousesanmateo.org, and we may share them this year in celebration of our past and as inspiration for the work we will continue to do, together.





FIFTY *Cheers to* YEARS

Samaritan House would like to thank everyone who attended our 50th anniversary gala, Cheers to 50 Years! Together, we celebrated half a century of community compassion, determination, innovation, and progress. In particular, we'd like to recognize our volunteer Co-chairs and generous sponsors, without whom this milestone event would not have been possible.

Co-Chairs

Sonja Tappan
Jason Ting

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A generous supporter of Samaritan House in honor of 50 years and countless hours of dedicated volunteers

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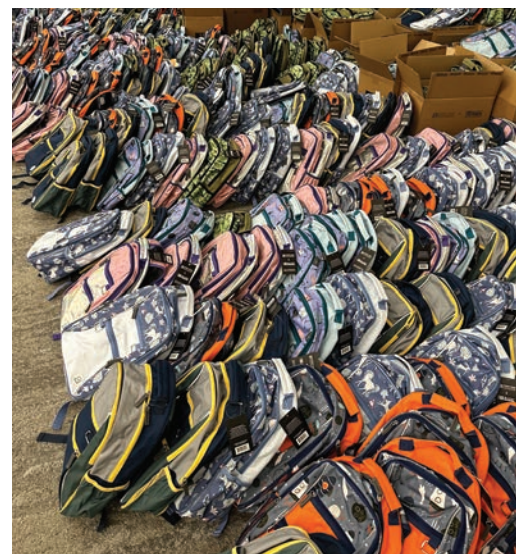
PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

In the past year, Samaritan House has served 26,000 clients. It's no small task to serve so many of our neighbors in need. But we don't do this work alone. It's thanks to a robust network of supporters and partners that we're able to continue to meet the need in our community. In this newsletter, we're highlighting a few of these extraordinary partners who make a difference. Whether through volunteering at our offices, generous donations, or providing food for hungry clients, these partners play an essential role in our Samaritan House community. We extend our deepest gratitude to them and the countless others who make our work possible, illustrating that together, we can effect meaningful change!

GILEAD | Foundation

The Gilead Foundation is one of Samaritan House's transformational partners. Amid the challenges brought by COVID-19, Gilead generously provided \$1.55M in unrestricted funding, amplifying Samaritan House's poverty alleviation efforts through significant expansions in our safety net services. Beyond financial contributions, Gilead employees have invested countless volunteer hours with Samaritan House, actively engaging in a variety of projects such as assembling thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies for our annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway, creating hygiene kits for our shelter clients, crafting children's birthday boxes and snack kits, and organizing holiday toy and food drives. Their involvement extends to assisting our Food Services Program by lending hands-on support in our kitchen and pantry, and generously donating holiday meals and turkeys for our clients. The Gilead Foundation's remarkable generosity has catalyzed profound transformative change within our local community, enriching the lives of thousands. Their commitment to uplifting our neighbors in need embodies the true spirit of community and compassion. We are deeply grateful for Gilead's partnership and the enduring impact they continue to make on the lives of so many.

"Gilead and the Gilead Foundation are proud to partner with Samaritan House, who has uplifted the lives of so many of our neighbors in need for over 50 years," says Kate Wilson, Executive Director of Public Affairs and President of the Gilead Foundation. "Their decades-long leadership and compassion in fighting poverty serve as a pillar of hope in the community, and a premier example of how together we can build a healthy and prosperous San Mateo County for all."



PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS CONTINUED



The Peninsula Special Interest Lions Club is a critical partner to Samaritan House's Free Clinics of San Mateo and Redwood City! Their Lions' Global Initiative for Health and Wellness exemplifies the dedication of its volunteers, who work tirelessly to provide healthcare for our medically underserved neighbors. Every quarter, the Lions Club hosts vision clinics at Samaritan House clinic locations, providing complimentary eye screenings, prescriptions, and glasses to hundreds of Samaritan House clients and community members. This vital eye care service is essential for those without health insurance. The Lions Club also hosts vaccine clinics for COVID and the flu, another important service to keep our clients protected and healthy all year round. Samaritan House is proud to partner with the Peninsula Special Interest Lions Club. Together, we ensure that our San Mateo County neighbors stay healthy and access care whenever needed.



Sequoia Healthcare District (SHD) is another cornerstone partner, whose support has been foundational in advancing Samaritan House's healthcare initiatives. In 2001, the Free Clinic of Redwood City opened its doors with seed funding from SHD. Today, SHD remains the largest benefactor of the clinic, with an average annual investment of \$1.8 million. The year 2016 marked another significant milestone in our partnership, as with SHD's support, Samaritan House proudly unveiled California's first Food Pharmacy—a groundbreaking initiative aimed at addressing food insecurity among our patients and their families. This innovative program has since become a model for similar initiatives across the state, underscoring the transformative impact of our partnership with SHD. We are thankful for their support over these many years and look forward to the continued impact of our partnership as we forge ahead together, driving positive change and advancing the well-being of our community.





SAMARITAN HOUSE

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WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE?

"There are several reasons why I decided to add Samaritan House to my Estate Plan. The need is great and becoming greater. Samaritan House is all about neighbors helping neighbors; something our family is passionate about. Through volunteering, my daughter understands the importance of giving back to the community. By giving my final gift to Samaritan House, this idea of giving back will stick with her over her lifetime. Also, it's a very tax efficient way to give if you simply reallocate a percent of your 401K. Login – click, and submit!"

– Jason Ting, Board Member