



S.M.I.L.E. Samaritan Ministries Imparting Letters of Encouragement

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MISSION POSSIBLE

Samaritan Ministries walks beside abused, homeless and impoverished women, providing spiritual, social, economic, and vocational support ... "Helping women to change their lives for a better today and tomorrow."

Samaritan Ministries Flagler lives by these words, and, this month, January 2016, Samaritan Ministries celebrates fifteen years of dedicated service to women in Flagler County. Specifically, during our fifteen-year tenure, we have served and nurtured over 350 single women and women-in-crisis, together with their children. Often, our clients are homeless, hungry, under-educated, abused, and stripped of their self-esteem.

We assist them by locating housing, providing donated automobiles (when available), basic car repair and maintenance, and gas cards. We also provide food, sundries, and emergency legal, medical, and therapeutic care. Samaritan Ministries distributes food to women to fill the gap when food stamps or food banks are not enough. However, more importantly, we strive to empower the women to better their lives and those of their children. To that end, we provide counseling and educational opportunities, together with vocational training such as *Café Barnabas*, which was created by, and operates under the auspices of, Samaritan Ministries. *Café Barnabas* was established to provide single women and mothers with training and certification in food handling. This prepares them for gainful employment in the food services industry by providing experience in food preparation and catering. The women gain experience as we provide catering services to social, religious, and business entities in our community.

Samaritan Ministries also offers mentorship, financial literacy training, counseling, and vocational school support. This all costs money—lots of it. Throughout its existence, Samaritan Ministries has subsisted on an austerity budget provided through donations from compassionate benefactors. However, the money received is far from sufficient to answer the needs of the growing number of homeless and abused women and their children in our community.

Our biggest and growing need is housing, and it is an issue that we intend to address this year. Presently, we are exploring options to obtain a building wherein we can house the women and their children while they, with our guidance, take positive steps toward improving their FUTURES. Meanwhile, the everyday needs of our clients still must be met. As of this writing, there is a single mother with 5 children, 3 of whom are special needs, in desperate need of rental housing. PLEASE CONTACT THIS MINISTRY IMMEDIATELY IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO HAS RENTAL PROPERTY OF 3 OR 4 BEDROOMS THAT WOULD GIVE THIS FAMILY THE CHANCE TO START OVER. Clients such as this must be cared for physically, emotionally, and vocationally, and it is for that reason that we need caring and benevolent partners such as you, our fellow Samaritans.

Needless to say, we have severe limits on our spending, because our coffers are being stretched beyond our means by the enormity of the demand for services. If we are to be a friend, a Good Samaritan to our neighbors, we need you to partner with us. We need you to become a financial supporter of Samaritan Ministries. Won't you be a friend to the friendless, a haven to the homeless, a ray of hope to the hopeless? In so doing, you will ensure that, going forward, we will not have to turn away any hurting woman or child.

So come meet us, get to know us, your fellow Samaritans. Join us at our birthday celebration on Sunday, February 28, at the Palm Coast Community Center, 305 Palm Coast Parkway, N.E., from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Kindly call our office at 386-437-4372, as space is limited.

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"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. When did we see you hungry and fed you, thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these {sisters} of mine, you did for me."

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“Home, Sweet-NONE”

As I sit in my warm clothes on my warm bed drinking hot coffee while basking in the peace of my home, I feel a sinking feeling as I begin to think of those to whom God has entrusted this ministry to love, support, and represent His grace.

Where IS the woman who had so many children someone called renting to her a “fire hazard”? As I thought of her bouncing 3-year old running up to me for her Sunday hug, I wonder where they are. Our funds had begun to feel the strain of over \$600 per week spent to ensure two families had shelter, and at least breakfast at a local hotel. Since October we have helped shelter 3 single-women families.

I remember a precious mature woman from another country with an earnest desire to work and help others – even if it takes her to the United Nations. Today I found out that while my family was out of town, this woman spent Thanksgiving alone eating Ramen noodles and drinking coffee.....

Then there was a “co-rescue” mission to extract a young first-time expectant mom from an intimidating (almost hostage) situation in the middle of nowhere. She is now back with her family thanks to the love, support and relationship of trust built with the Executive Director of our local pregnancy center. This Director took her from the motel Samaritan Ministries had provided for her, and drove her to the airport the next day.

These are just 3 examples of how our supporters help make a difference. However, there are LOTS of other situations. Can you put a price on safety? Yet, we must be good stewards as well as accountable for how we use what God provides. Samaritan Ministries prayerfully considers when to help, how much to help and *what are the realistic goals and objectives* desired? Together, we ARE seeing lives changed. Will you join us?

RANDOM BLESSINGS

Volunteering can come in many forms. For instance, it may be picking up some groceries and taking them to a woman who is ill. It could also be picking up a woman who is without a car and taking her to the doctor, or to the DMV. It doesn't have to be a weekly commitment. Another example might be setting up for an event, such as a dinner or luncheon, which may take a couple of hours of your time. When we have garage sales, donations are great and much needed, but we appreciate the help of the volunteers who assist during the sale, such as setting up the garage sale.

Another way of volunteering is helping in the office, which may be more your cup of tea. That may entail answering the phone or giving clients food from the Rotary who donate usually once a week. It could also be labeling envelopes and helping with the bulk mail. A pleasant smile and a good attitude are also very important.

Sometimes there is a call from a woman who has just moved into a place and she has almost nothing. So that is when a volunteer may possibly go through their kitchen cabinets to find dishes, glasses, cutlery, pots and pans. One could also go through their linen closet and find extra sheets, blankets and towels, etc.

Would you consider having a shower for Samaritan Ministries? Also needed are toilet paper, Kleenex, dish soap, as well as other cleaning products. Personal items, such as shampoo, soap, body lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes are also an essential need for the women.

However you choose to volunteer, I can assure you that, for every blessing given, the blessings you receive will be in abundance.

John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends."



This car is a tax write-off for the donor and can mean the difference to a single mom or woman alone having reliable transportation to employment and toward self-sufficiency.

