

I learned about Samaritan Ministries back in 2005 through a friend of mine that had been helped out by the ministry. She needed living room furniture and that need was met through the ministry. She told me about how this ministry helps women in many different ways. My friend gave me the phone number for the ministry and I called this lady, Lorraine to make an appointment to come in the see what could be done for me.

I came into the office a little nervous. In the past when I asked for help I would get the third degree and sometimes a cold shoulder. None of that here. When I met Lorraine I felt a connection and knew we would become friends somewhere down the line.

When all the forms were filled out and the list was made on the things that I had to have done on my car it seemed pretty grim. I did need a lot of repairs. Having a low income status can keep a lot of important things that need attention on the back burner resulting in more things that need to be fixed.

Lorraine began telling me (with a smile) the things that they could help me with, including the exhaust system which was a little pricey. No cold shoulder. No judgment, Just a helping hand. I was so surprised and ecstatic. I thanked her a thousand times and left feeling on top of the world instead of feeling like a worm. Plus, Lorraine gave me this really neat star fish with a deep meaning that we may not be able to save all the star fish that washed up on the shore, but maybe we can help out this one. I was that one that day.

Samaritan Inn is kind of like the stone soup story. If everyone would contribute something whether it be time, talents, paper products, or a financial donation it would lighten the burden of those who faithfully bring their portion in double amounts in order to help another star fish make it in life with a new start and attitude. It's such a blessing to see someone go through a transformation and leave the Samaritan Inn better then when they first arrived. No longer down trodden but confident about themselves because of God's love.

The residents have opportunities to go to school to upgrade their financial status so they can better care for themselves and many times their children also. They obtain their drivers license and get free cars. Counseling is offered as well at no cost to the residents. They learn many helpful things that will continue to help them throughout their lives.

When I met Lorraine and learned about the ministry I wanted to be a part of it. I have been a volunteer for about two years now. It is so fulfilling to me to be able to add my portion to that pot of stone soup, even though it's a small portion, it lightens the load all the way around.

If you would like to experience real joy I encourage you to step out in faith and bring your portion to Samaritan Ministries. You will have the best tasting soup you've ever eaten.

My name is Sherry Ames and I approve of this message!