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THE SAMARITAN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Samaritan House's Volunteer Recognition Event — Save the date!

Mark your calendars for May 25, between 4 and 6 p.m. We hope all volunteers will join us at the Crowne Plaza in Foster City for a celebration in their honor. For more information, please contact Volunteer Director Michele Canning at 650-341-4081, ext. 33, or michele@samaritanhouse.com.

"Gutter Bowling Event" will aid Samaritan House

The San Mateo County Trial Lawyers Association will again donate monies raised at its annual Gutter Bowling Event to Samaritan House. The event will be May 25, 2006 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Bel Mateo Bowl at 4332 Olympic Avenue, San Mateo. For tickets or more information, contact Nancy Carothers at 650-341-4081, ext. 25.



At last year's Gutter Bowling Event, Niall McCarthy (left) and Amanda Riddle (right) present a check for the proceeds to Marsha Eddleman, our Director of Development.



Volunteers such as Louisa Rodgers (right) help Clothes Closet Manager Jorge Chavez create and distribute Easter baskets.

Samaritan House helps the Easter Bunny

Throughout Samaritan House history, we've helped the Easter Bunny find our clients' children. This year was no exception. Two weeks before Easter, Clothes Closet Manager Jorge Chavez gathered hundreds of donated baskets, stuffed animals, and pieces of candy while a team of volunteers helped put them together. Children received the baskets through Client Services and the Clothes Closet.

We are seeking volunteer dentists and medical professionals

In March, Samaritan House medical services, in partnership with the Sequoia Healthcare District, reached another milestone by adding dental and eye services at our Redwood City Clinic. This expands treatment capabilities and will eventually eliminate the need for our dental and eye patients from Redwood City to travel to the San Mateo Clinic. This goal will require more volunteer staff. Dr. Jason

Wong, Medical Director, says: "The demand is already great. The eye clinic has a waiting list of about 150, and the dental clinic has a waiting list of about 200. We're looking for more volunteer ophthalmologists, optometrists, and dentists.

We encourage all specialties to volunteer. Dr. Shirin Salehinia, a seasoned Samaritan House volunteer

at both clinics, finds it easy to explain why she lends us her dentistry skills. "People in my profession are blessed — most of us can find a day or two a month to give back." If you can lend a hand for a few hours a month, or even a few hours a week, please contact Michele Canning at 650-341-4081, ext. 33, or michele@samaritanhouse.com.



Save the date for our Main Event Fundraising Gala — September 30, 2006

Samaritan House's 15th annual Main Event fundraiser will be Saturday, September 30, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame. This exciting event will feature wonderful food, thrilling auctions, great music and more! For more information about the Main Event, please contact Theresa Stoye at 650-341-4081, ext. 24, or theresa@samaritanhouse.com.

Sloat Garden Center dedicates sales percentage to Samaritan House

On April 1 and 2, the new Sloat Garden Center in San Bruno dedicated 10 percent of its opening sales to Samaritan House. The company's flier said it was proud to support our effort as they joined the neighborhood. We appreciate their generosity, and commend them for using their inaugural weekend to become a "neighbor helping neighbor."



Volunteer dentist Dr. Shirin Salehinia (right) treats the Redwood City dental clinic's inaugural patient with the assistance of Alex Vilchez.

THE SAMARITAN

SPRING 2006

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT SAMARITAN HOUSE



BERTHA LEADS HER CHILDREN ON THE PATH to a BETTER LIFE

Viridiana, 11, beams with pride as she watches her mother, Bertha Gonzalez, read a newsletter in English. One of Viridiana's three brothers, 4-year old Gustavo, sleeps in his stroller after the walk from home to Samaritan House Client Services. They've taken this walk many times since Bertha began her path to literacy.

When Bertha first visited Samaritan House, Case Manager Cindy Antezana helped her set up plans and goals that included learning English. Bertha took to the plans whole-heartedly. Her first step was to persuade her entire family to take part in the "Project Read" and "Mother Goose" literacy programs of the San Mateo Library. Leticia Smiell of Samaritan House, who co-managed the "Mother Goose" program, says, "Bertha was very dedicated — she had a perfect score for attendance."

"I want to get a job, and I want to set a good example for my children."

While Bertha was pro-active in such free-of-charge Samaritan House programs as support groups, parenting classes, and sewing classes — she was most pro-active in advancing her English literacy. With the encouragement of Cindy, Leticia, and the staff at Client Services, she advanced to the San Mateo Adult School ("Smart Center"), where she now takes classes five days a week, three hours a day.

Why does she study so hard? Explains Bertha, "I want to get a job, and I want to set a good example for my children." Apparently, the example has already been set. When asked about her plans for the future, Bertha's daughter looks up from the newsletter to smile and says — with simple conviction — "I will go to school and become a doctor."



Bertha Gonzalez reads to her daughter Viridiana (right) and Case Manager Cindy Antezana (center).

AND THE DIRECTOR SAYS...



Dear Friends,

As we celebrate spring finally coming to San Mateo, we at Samaritan House also celebrate new programs and new accomplishments for our clients. Within our newsletter this month you will read about new dental and eye services now available at our Redwood City Free Clinic through our volunteer doctors and dentists. You will also learn that some of our clients are learning to read on their own and to their children for the very first time, with the oldest being 86 years of age! Literacy is an amazing gift we can bring to our clients to help strengthen and improve their families while encouraging future educational goals and aspirations.

All our programs operate with the community in hand. Samaritan House could not provide free supportive services in seven different programs to 12,000 people each year without the dedication and hard work of its volunteers. The agency was founded on the principle of community involvement 31 years ago and it thrives on that same concept today. Our volunteers help prepare meals; sort clothes and household goods; answer phones and help in the offices; teach English, budgeting, writing, and self-esteem classes; and see patients who are ill and need medical and dental attention. Samaritan House not only provides services to people who need them, we have become a home for people wanting to use their talents and skills. When I asked Irene, one of our long-time volunteers, what keeps her a youthful 95 years of age, she simply says, "I just keep busy."

April celebrates volunteerism... something that has made Samaritan House strong and able to help people in need in our community for 31 years. Maya Angelou reminds us: "Take full responsibility for yourself... for the time you take up and the space you occupy. If you don't know what you're here to do, then just do some good.... Good done anywhere is good done everywhere. As long as you're breathing, it's never too late to do some good." There's a lot of good going around at Samaritan House these days. Join us... in any way you can!

With warmest wishes,

Kitty Lopez
Executive Director
Samaritan House

FIRST FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS EMPHASIZES THEIR VALUE

Samaritan House is pleased to announce that we have our first full-time Director of Volunteers. Michele Canning came to us in March with a strong career history of working with nonprofits and volunteers, including serving as Director of the all-volunteer City Guides of San Francisco.

After only a short time on the job, she's impressed by the great value Samaritan House places on the



Michele Canning, Director of Volunteers, says "It's the perfect job for me!"

more than 2,000 community-minded citizens who donate time to our many programs. Michele says, "Luck brought me to Samaritan House. It's the perfect job for me because it has an important mission, great people and a lot of dimensions." To start, Michele says she's been "getting systems in place, learning who the volunteers are, and looking for new and creative ways to engage volunteers."

"I've already seen that Samaritan House volunteers are extraordinarily dedicated. Among other things, they're helping in the kitchen, distributing and delivering food, doing clerical work, teaching ESL to clients at the Worker Resource Center, and assisting at the shelter. Our clinics have many volunteers, including the medical personnel. Except for the two medical directors, a dental director, and a dental and medical assistant, all of the medical personnel are volunteers."

Michele has already launched efforts to honor long-time volunteers with the Volunteer Recognition Event to be held May 25, and to bring in new volunteers, especially more doctors and dentists to staff the clinics. Among 34 new volunteer assignments in March, Michele has signed up a retired doctor, two nurses, two medical assistants, and two clinic interpreters. "There's been a theme of volunteerism in all my jobs," she says. "I'm in my element at Samaritan House."

MOTHER GOOSE LITERACY PROGRAM DOUBLES IN SIZE

The joint San Mateo Library-Samaritan House family literacy program, "Mother Goose," saw its participation double this spring. Fifteen families braved many rainy evenings sloshing to our Client Services Center in order to promote adult and child English literacy in their homes — and they did it enthusiastically.

Now in its 5th year, three of which have been at Samaritan House, the program uses two sets of children's books, in English and Spanish. The goal is to help parents read to their children, and to help children read to their parents. This accomplishes many things — the parents act as role models and both parents and children sharpen their English and reading skills.

Leticia Smiell, director of the Samaritan House Spanish Literacy Program, and Christine Gamba of the San Mateo Library coordinated the program with a special emphasis on encouraging fathers to participate. They were especially successful this time, with three fathers joining the group.

All the families turned out in force for the final meeting on March 27, which combined a potluck dinner, a ceremony, reading in unison, and a book giveaway. Before the event, Obermar Salazar, 7, sat down to look at a book with his brother Anthony, 5, and parents Joel and Olimpia. Obermar said his favorite stories were "Where is the Green Sheep?" and "The Brown Bear." To his father, the most important program benefit was that "I learned to read and write with him."

Another father, Rene Villaverde, felt that "Mother Goose was good for the children because they learned to speak English." Rene's wife Ana mentioned more advantages. "It was a good time for my husband and me to learn to read," she said, "and I also made new friends."

Steve Hargis-Bullen, Director of Client Services, plans to continue to strongly support the program. "The bottom line," he says, "is that lack of education, specifically reading, is what holds our clients back. We want our clients not to need us, and this [reading] helps probably more than anything else."

The next Mother Goose program will be at the new San Mateo Library after it opens in the fall.



The Salazar family enjoys reading at the Mother Goose program. From left to right, Obermar, Joel, Olimpia, and Anthony.

SAMARITAN HOUSE EXTENDS A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE FOR 2005

We wish to thank all of our donors who so generously supported Samaritan House this year. Due to space limitations, we are able to print only those who have donated \$1,000 or more in 2005.

Donors who have contributed in honor or memory of family or friends are very much appreciated. We also want to acknowledge our many in-kind donors who contributed so many wonderful things to our clients as well as those who gave their time volunteering in our many programs. Thank you to everyone who helped our neighbors in need.

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