

Parents As Teachers

"With Parents as Teachers we learn how to teach her," say Mike and his wife, Heidi. They meet with Meredith from Second Reformed Church and together they work with their youngest child, Alexandria, who is now 20 months old.

Each month Meredith, a Parents as Teachers (PAT) educator brings information and demonstrates activities parents can do with their children, up to age three. "Meredith brings over toys and plays for an hour," says Heidi of the visits. "We try to figure out what Alex is doing and help her do more. We've seen her grow in her motor and social skills."



Mike and Heidi say that the whole family, not just the baby, benefit from the program. They can talk to Meredith about their older son, Billy, as well and will soon begin prenatal visits for the newest member of their family, due next year.

Good Samaritan Ministries offers Parents as Teachers in partnership with Life Services Parent Center and area churches under the Ready for School Initiative.

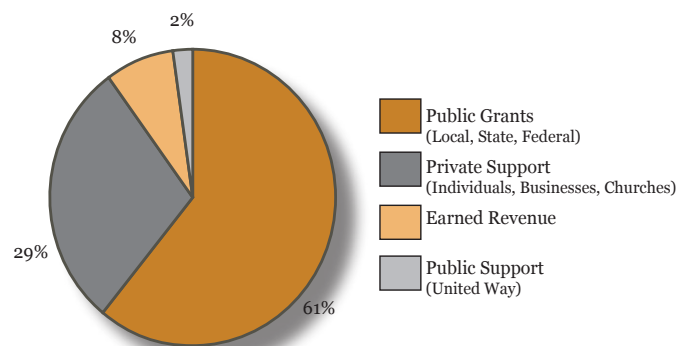
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Financial Summary

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

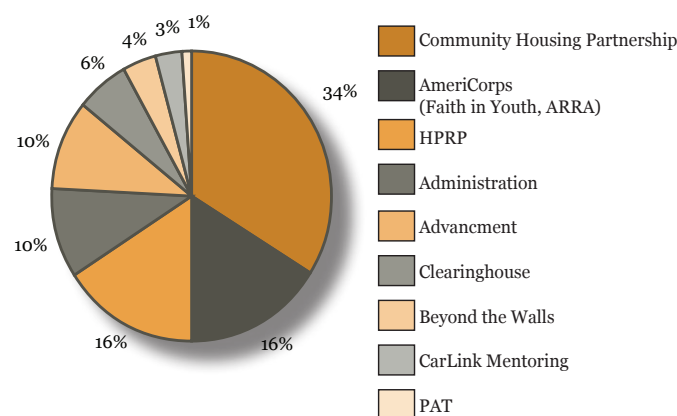
Good Samaritan Ministries impacted the community with over a \$1 million dollar budget for FY 2009-10. Revenue sources include government and public grants (61%), private support (29%), fees and earned income (8%).

Allocation of Revenue



Total Revenue: \$1,259,934

Allocation of Expense



Total Expenses: \$1,259,934

Local private support was received from individuals, businesses, churches and foundations. Private donations are critical for Good Samaritan Ministries to support the general fund as well as to access and leverage public funding to benefit families and our community. Public funding is received to support housing and youth programs in addition to matching funds from local government, individuals and businesses. Fees and earned income were received from transitional housing rents and sale of donated vehicles.

Audit available upon request.

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GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES Annual Report 2009-2010

Celebrating over 40 years
of Impacting the Community

Letter from Leadership

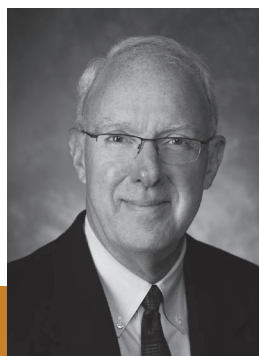
December 2010

During the last year our community received welcomed notoriety as the second happiest place in the nation as well as the somber news that the number of families living in poverty is increasing weekly.

Despite the difficult circumstances – we’re reminded what a difference our being here makes. Dads leave here crying after being given the opportunity to improve their living situation for their families. Moms pray they can do their best with the resources Good Sam provides in order to ‘make us proud.’ Parents tell us when they look at themselves in the mirror they can’t even recognize who they once were and how much better life is now.

Throughout these stories you see the threads of perseverance and hope. Perseverance to do the hard things – find a job, pay the bills, parent your children, ask for help and hope that a better day is coming because a mentor believes in you and knows you have what it takes.

For these families and those who help, Good Samaritan Ministries remains a constant – helping the poor, building relationships and strengthening our community. Read the stories and be blessed.



Blessings,

Linda Jacobs

Linda Jacobs
Executive Director

John Query

John Query
Board President

Affordable Housing Connections



“For the first time in a very long time I had a place for my grandkids to visit,” said Latecia, who was first connected with Good Samaritan Ministries through Center for Women in Transition. She was fleeing domestic violence and was estranged from her loved ones. She came to Holland with nothing and didn’t know how to start picking up the pieces.

She was connected with the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program (HPRP) which was the best fit to quickly get her back into housing and on her feet again. She began working diligently with the program, successfully found an apartment and made good use of all the support offered her. After a couple weeks she came in for her first meeting and said with tears in her eyes, **“My son visited my apartment and told me he was proud of me . . . I can’t express how much that meant to me.”**

Latecia is setting new goals to increase her income and further her education. She enrolled as a cosmetology student and will begin classes shortly.

Affordable Housing Connections includes housing search assistance, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing and the Community Housing Partnership (CHP). All programs are provided in partnership with local organizations and churches.

Neighborhood Connections

Beyond the Walls began in 2007 as a development initiative helping churches work with their neighborhoods to solve and prevent community problems. It has evolved as churches began learning a new approach – Asset Based Community Development. This approach focuses on the strengths, gifts and passions already present in a neighborhood. Nine churches and two nonprofit organizations have partnered with Good Samaritan Ministries to deepen the work through the efforts of AmeriCorps members and Community Connectors. Block parties, neighborhood improvement projects, and neighborhood gardens are a few examples of the community building activities that neighbors planned together. People are coming together to work, play and dream.

This past year, Good Samaritan Ministries and other church partners brought Dr. Brian Fikkert, co-author of the book, *When Helping Hurts* to Holland to learn more about how to help people help themselves. The 400 people who attended are now asking the questions, **“How can we help people reach their full potential? How can we help in a more developmental way? How can I get involved?”**

Good Samaritan Ministries recognizes the importance of development work and is responding to this growing interest with the expansion of our community based initiative, Neighborhood Connections.



The Clearinghouse

“I’ve been blessed and want to share with others,” is a sentiment both Don and Tom share. As volunteer drivers for the Clearinghouse Rides ministry, both men agree it’s important to give back.

Ken is one of the many individuals who rely on a personal connection and monthly ride to the VA hospital in Grand Rapids. **“It’s great to have the medical care, but it’s so hard to get there and see the doctor.”** Drivers Don and Tom have spent mornings and afternoons waiting with the patients as they take their turn for medical care. Both agree being able to serve veterans makes their effort even more worthwhile. Rides to the VA Clinic have been made available by a generous grant received from the Disabled American Veterans Post 14.

The Clearinghouse remains committed to connecting with the local church to recruit volunteer drivers. Don was recruited through Overisel Reformed and Tom from First Presbyterian Church. **“I had recently moved to this community and wanted to reach out and get to know others. The opportunity to provide rides through our church was a good fit,”** remembers Tom.

Each year drivers provide over 600 rides to individuals and families who need to travel to medical, social service and legal appointments.

The Clearinghouse connects families and individuals facing emergency needs with resources from churches, agencies, and individuals.



Faith in Youth Partnership



“Mentoring victories are as simple as the finished homework assignment, 20 minutes of reading every day or playing Candyland at a local coffee shop . . . these victories get us through the day,” say Mark and Seth, who are AmeriCorps members through the Faith in Youth Partnership.

Each day brings a different challenge as they begin their day with Randy, a student who will be with them in their Alternative Suspension Program for most of this school year. Mark and Seth try to give him the freedom to complete his assignments in any order he wants. They also make sure they have time for recreation. Randy says, **“I wish we did projects instead of homework . . . I love projects and I really like playing in the gym with Mark and Seth every morning.”**

Good Samaritan Ministries partners with area churches, faith-based organizations, local school districts, and AmeriCorps in the Faith In Youth Partnership. Partners provide middle-school youth with safe after-school programs, tutoring, and mentoring at sites throughout Holland and Zeeland.