



**GOOD SAMARITAN
MINISTRIES**
MOBILIZING CHURCHES TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS
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COMPASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Rides Ministry



The Rides Ministry is a ministry on the go! Last year over 600 people in the Holland-Zeeland area were helped with transportation to routine medical appointments and area social services agencies. To provide these rides we need drivers who view their vehicle and their time as tools for ministry. The importance of the Rides Ministry to our clients cannot be overstated. For a number of reasons individuals are not able to independently get to their appointments and rely on others to help them. The Ride Ministry Drivers are the answer to their prayers. If you have an interest in providing rides please contact us.

Front Desk



The Clearinghouse responds to over 4000 calls a year from people who have needs. Sometimes the need is urgent and sometimes the need is just to have a listening ear on the other end of the phone. These voices would not be heard if not for the help from the volunteers who faithfully serve at the front desk. These faithful and committed volunteers answer the phone, direct the calls and receive visitors. If you feel called to share of your time and talents in this area please contact us for more information. We look forward to talking with you.

YOU CAN HELP INVEST TODAY!

"Our community is one that is eager to help those in their time of need. Agencies and churches alike have a heart to help, however, it's not always easy to ask for help," Kathryn, AmeriCorps Member & Clearinghouse Specialist.

In our community, the Clearinghouse connects families in need with the people and places who can meet that need. A phone call from a hurting family to a Clearinghouse volunteer is the first step in true compassionate care. Partner with us by financially

supporting the Clearinghouse. Become a FaithWorks partner for as little as \$15/month and help a family.

Your assistance is needed now more than ever. Every day families call for the first time. Giving options include online www.goodsamministries.com or electronic funds transfer (EFT). Your gift makes multiple acts of kindness possible.



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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Clearinghouse connects struggling families to the faith community through caring, compassionate individuals. Individuals serve on the part of Good Sam and on the part of the local church. Churches tell us, **“Our church’s experience has been seeing Good Sam as our partner when people come to our church with needs and requests. Thank you for helping us to love our neighbors as Jesus said Good Samaritans should.”** We are committed to our vision now and always – helping the poor, building relationships and strengthening the community.

Linda Jacobs

Executive Director

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When I first heard of AmeriCorps I knew this was the opportunity for me. After working many years in long term care, serving the elderly, I was ready to take on something new. An AmeriCorps position with Good Samaritan’s Clearinghouse fit the bill.

At first, I wasn’t sure what a Clearinghouse entailed. I thought it was a warehouse where people could come to get things. I soon realized it was much more. In the Clearinghouse, I have the opportunity to meet people, listen to their stories and help direct them to community resources to meet their needs. Families ask for help with utility shut-offs, medical issues or even requests for a mentor to encourage them through a life transition.

I have learned our community is one that is eager to help those in their time of need. It can be easy to stereotype people who have needs; however, I am finding those people look a lot like me.

One of the things I enjoy most is the Employment Support Services program. We support those looking for employment by providing them a listening ear, helpful resources, and resume review.

I wouldn’t trade my time as an AmeriCorps member for anything. I am giving and I am receiving. I am making a difference in the lives of others and a difference is being made in me. I often tell clients, life is a great big circle, sometimes we’re on the receiving end and sometimes we are the ones who give.

Contributed by Kathryn White, AmeriCorps Volunteer, Good Samaritan Ministries, Clearinghouse

Thanks to the Holland Zeeland Community Foundation for matching grant support for AmeriCorps Members serving in the Clearinghouse.



(L to R) Robyn Afrik (Good Sam/AmeriCorps), Elizabeth Kidd (Holland Zeeland Community Foundation), and Kathryn White .

4TH ANNUAL GIVING FOR GOOD APRIL 11 - 23

Good Samaritan Ministries is hosting our online auction to raise support for the Clearinghouse – our goal of \$10,000 is within reach!

There are four ways to support this effort:

1. **Donate** items such as travel, recreation, personal services, home furnishings, gift cards, electronics, jewelry, etc.
2. **Bid** generously on items in the auction to benefit families in this community. (There is no cost in signing up to bid!)
3. **Sponsor** to underwrite the cost of this event with recognition online and in print (all levels available).
4. **Attend** our “Thank You” event after the auction is closed to meet other bidders, auction volunteers and staff.

Mark your calendars for April 28.

The ease of an online auction is the ability to participate anytime - from your home, office, laptop or phone. Visit www.goodsamministries.com to view the auction catalog!

