

# A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Clearinghouse connects needy 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 **"We very much appreciate what Good Sam has done for our church . . . we've been reaching out to families with financial needs and have found your input valuable to decide how and when to provide financial assistance. The recommendations you make are sound and helpful."** We are committed to our vision now and always – helping the poor, building relationships and strengthening the community.



*Linda Jacobs*

Executive Director



## GIVING FOR GOOD

Good Samaritan Ministries is organizing our third annual online auction to support the Clearinghouse. **April 12 – 25, 2010**

There are three ways to support this effort:

1. **Donate** items such as travel, recreation, personal services, home furnishings, electronics, jewelry, etc.
2. **Be a bidder** who believes in doing good by purchasing items to benefit families in this community. (There is no cost in signing up to bid!)
3. **Be a sponsor** to underwrite the cost of this event.

The ease of an online auction is the ability to participate anytime - from your home, office or laptop.

Visit [www.goodsamministries.com](http://www.goodsamministries.com) to view the auction catalog!



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## CLEARINGHOUSE RIDES MINISTRY

**"I know giving someone a ride doesn't sound as important or glamorous as some other ways of giving back to your community, but having a Rides Ministry is really filling a gap that no one else is. Good Sam's Rides Ministry is really providing a service to a group of people that otherwise would be forgotten."**  
– Lawrence, rides recipient

Thanks to Harley and Phyllis Brown, Lawrence has a chance to improve his life. As drivers through the Clearinghouse Rides Ministry, they drive Lawrence and others like him to and from doctor's appointments and other important activities.

(continued inside)



# CLEARINGHOUSE RIDES MINISTRY CONT.

Harley and Phyllis learned about the Rides Ministry through their church several years ago. They decided to participate because it's **"a really great program . . . We wanted to be part of this unique service . . . It's amazing to find out what a need this is filling,"** says Harley.



Lawrence heard about the service at Michigan Pain Consultants where he receives pain shots for nerve damage because of an accident four years ago. Without the shots, Lawrence says, **"The pain is so unbearable that I can't move, get out of bed or even eat."**

Side effects from his pain shots keep Lawrence from being able to get himself home after receiving them. The doctors won't treat him without someone to drive him home and taking the bus isn't an option. **"Having the Rides Ministry gives me back my life and ability to interact with my son,"** he says.

Harley says of Lawrence, **"It's always a pleasure to give him a ride and just talk about life. He's got a son he really adores and the shots help him to better participate in his son's life."**

Of the program, Phyllis says, **"The most rewarding thing about driving is the bond you create with people. Something as basic as transportation can really be a hindrance in someone's life. This is especially true if they can't afford a bus ride every time or pay for a taxi."**



If you would like to volunteer as a driver, please contact Marjorie at ☎ 616.392.7159 or ✉ [mrosario@goodsamministries.com](mailto:mrosario@goodsamministries.com)

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**"I think the Clearinghouse makes a big difference . . . it gives people hope that there's help for them. The Clearinghouse does a great job of helping people problem-solve for themselves."** Jessica, Hope College student & Clearinghouse Intern

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. Each \$45 gift allows volunteers to help three families – listening and directing them to solutions for their crisis.

Your assistance is needed now more than ever. Every day new families call for the first time. Send your gift today or donate online by visiting [www.goodsamministries.com](http://www.goodsamministries.com).

Your gift makes multiple acts of kindness possible.

## BY THE NUMBERS

In 2009, the Clearinghouse . . .

- ☑ Received over 3,500 requests for help
- ☑ Served over 3,100 adults and over 3,000 children
- ☑ Recruited drivers to give over 600 rides to medical appointments
- ☑ Screened and recommended 1,600 families for assistance with cleaning and personal products that they couldn't buy with food stamps

Most families helped by the Clearinghouse were . . .

- ☑ Single parent households (almost 45%)
- ☑ Female-headed households (almost 65%)
- ☑ Small families with 4 or fewer members (almost 65%)

This newsletter was designed by Rosemarie Daly, AmeriCorps Member, serving Good Samaritan Ministries utilizing Adobe InDesign software purchased through Tech Soup.

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