



SAMARITAN
COUNSELING
CENTER

1101 MEDICAL ARTS AVENUE NE, BUILDING 3
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CALLED BACK TO THE WELL &
SAMARITAN CENTER FOR CHANGING FAMILIES
First Presbyterian Church
217 Locust NE

THE BERTHA & ELDON GUHL CENTER FOR
CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS
HEALTHY MARRIAGES
1101 Medical Arts Avenue NE, Building 3

ST. JOSEPH CENTER FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
La Mesa Presbyterian Church
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SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER
NEWS

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Better System of Care



Do we really think it is acceptable to consign mentally ill people to homelessness on the streets and incarceration in jails without adequate care? Can we live with the fact that New Mexico ranks 51st among states (including the District of Columbia) in per capita spending on mental health care for our citizens? Do we intend to keep on accepting the suicide deaths of so many teens? Are we content to have thousands of our neighbors be unable to find adequate treatment for their crippling depression or addiction? Will we keep sending young men and women off to fight a war, but not providing care when they return home with terrible trauma from that service? How many more violent episodes by the tiny minority of dangerously ill will we permit before we say "Enough!"

In the first few months of this year here in central New Mexico, five more mental health care programs and agencies have closed their doors or drastically reduced services—that makes 13 closings and cutbacks in the past three years. In the first quarter of 2007, Samaritan received 568 calls requesting help, but our resources allowed us to serve only 291 of those callers. We've doubled our services in the past two years and we try to help the others find care elsewhere, but options are dwindling.

It's time that all of us—health care providers and business people and government leaders and insurance companies—join together to create a better mental health care system. Recently the Journal of the American

Medical Association reported that untreated depression alone costs American businesses \$31 billion in lost productivity at work. What if we invested a fraction of the losses caused by behavioral health problems into effective treatment?

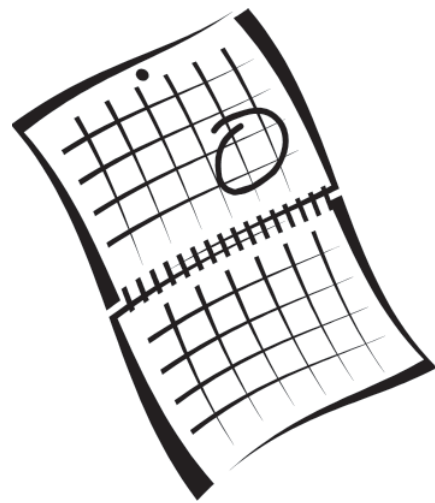
Here are some minimum requirements of a satisfactory system in an ethical and compassionate society:

- Everyone should have ready access to needed mental health care.
- Many administrative costs of our current wasteful profit-driven system, especially those that create barriers to treatment, should be re-directed into providing quality care.
- Insurance reimbursement rates for care must approximate the true cost of providing care.
- Mandated treatment for some seriously ill people may be necessary as envisioned in Kendra's Law, but there must be sufficient resources to provide that care.
- Restrictions on confidentiality must be adjusted to ensure that family members and caregivers can assist seriously ill patients and ensure their safety.
- We must acknowledge that there are limits to our resources and our knowledge.

I hold fast to a Christian faith whose founder spent his earthly life teaching and healing, including some who were mentally ill. Caring for the poor and healing the sick have always been central priorities for believers from most religious traditions. The time has come to move beyond expressions of concern to fruitful action. Faith without works is dead. We must provide better resources for those among us who are suffering.

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Save the Date!

What: 2007 Silent Samaritan Luncheon
 When: Wednesday, September 12, 2007
 11:30 to 1:00
 Where: Hyatt Regency Albuquerque

Keynote Speaker: Jimmy Santiago Baca
 Tables of 10 are \$350, Individual tickets \$35
 sponsorships are available



2008 Ethics Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 2008 New Mexico Ethics in Business Awards are currently being accepted. The nomination form, with detailed instructions and criteria for all three awards can be obtained at www.EthicsInBusinessNM.com or by contacting the Samaritan Counseling Center at 842-5300.

Nominations for the 2008 awards will be accepted by the Center until Friday August 3, 2007 at 5:00 pm. A maximum of 30 nominees will be forwarded to UNM Anderson Schools of Management after careful analysis of all nominations by a volunteer screening committee.

Following the screening process, business ethics students, led by Professor John Ackerman, will research each nominee during UNM's fall semester. A selection committee made up of a group of New Mexico business people will meet to choose the recipients. A dinner banquet honoring the recipients will be held in April of 2008

2007 Event a Success

The 2007 New Mexico Ethics in Business Awards were held April 18, 2007 at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town.

Business recipients were **Los Alamos National Bank** and **Vanessie of Santa Fe. Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico** was honored in the non-profit organization category and the PNM Award for Individual Excellence in Ethical Business Practice, in honor of John Ackerman, was presented to **Victor J. Chavez**.

Attendees heard an inspirational talk from Eric Pillmore, Vice President of Corporate Governance for Tyco International and a graduate of UNM's Anderson Schools of Management.

Gold sponsors were **Albuquerque Journal, French Mortuary, KOB-TV, New Mexico Bank & Trust, PNM, Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation, Samaritan Counseling Center, SUMMIT Electric Supply and UNM Anderson Schools of Management.**

The event raised funds for the Center's Good Samaritan Fund and for scholarships for UNM business students.

Samaritan "Boxing Team" Helps Roadrunner Food Bank

A team of six Samaritan staffers--Arlene Harmon, Laura Cawthon, Tamara Theideman, Velinda Pearson, Sue Joiner and Kathleen Ras-kob--are competing in Roadrunner Food Bank's "Food Boxing Olympics 2007" on June 5th.

A total of 35 teams will compete to see which team can pack the most Senior Helpings food boxes within 10 minutes. Senior Helpings is a Roadrunner initiative to provide one of New Mexico's most vulnerable populations with home delivered supplemental and nutritious food boxes.

Two years ago the Samaritan staff was considering how to respond to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The staff used half a day that was set aside for a staff retreat to volunteer at Roadrunner Food Bank. For two years in a row now, the staff has packaged food and helped in the warehouse. Paul Hopkins says "I just think it is cool that Samaritan's staff wants to give back to the community as well, considering how much we receive from the community to support our work."

Speaking of giving back to the community: 100% of the Samaritan staff has contributed to the United Way campaign for the past two years. The Center has received several awards for giving from the United Way of Central New Mexico. The plaques are displayed prominently at the Center.

Workplace Services Program On A Roll

Workplace Services has been up and running for seven months now. The team has offered a few trainings to clients and the community. Additionally, the staff has expanded to meet the current need.

The staff now includes five clinicians and an assistant: Dr. Tim Strongin, Program Director; Norma Tejada, EAP coordinator; Dr. Mary O'Leary, moving over from the counseling center with particular interest in training for Motivational Inter-

viewing, a technique for treating addictions; Kathy Jackson, LPCC, who is working with churches and non-profits; Joan Levine, LISW, who has extensive experience as an EAP counselor working with adolescents, adults, and families; and administrative assistant Katrina Piazzese.

The Alamo office growth means an expansion is in the works with three new offices and a conference room allowing the Team to be housed together and serve more people more effectively

Welcome to these new staff

Hope Krasner-Kuehn, Psy.D. has been hired as a Therapist in the Guhl Center. She is completing a post-doctoral internship specializing in child and adolescent therapy.
Joan Levine, LISW joins the Workplace Services team as a Therapist. She specializes in adults, adolescents and families, and has extensive experience in Employee Assistance work.
Larry Green has joined the staff as the Director of Business & Finance.
Sandra Smith has been hired in as a billing specialist.
Katrina Piazzese joins the Workplace Services team as their Administrative Assistant.
Ina Simmons joins the Center part-time to assist with an upcoming fund-raising campaign.