



SAMARITAN  
COUNSELING  
CENTER

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

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THE BERTHA & ELDON GUHL CENTER  
FOR CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS  
SAMARITAN CENTER FOR CHANGING FAMILIES  
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SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER  
NEWS

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Making Hope Real



Every once in a while I am reminded why I hang in there. Recently, for instance, a few days before the sixth anniversary of the terrible attacks of 9/11, my son and I stared out the 25th floor window of the Trinity Church offices in lower Manhattan, looking into the pit where the World Trade Towers once stood. The horrible wreckage we all saw too many times following that tragic day has been cleared away, of course. It's a construction site now, the foundation being prepared for a stunning new building to rise from the long gone rubble of broken buildings and shattered lives.

My friend Stuart is a priest at Trinity Church, and as we looked out the window he pointed to where he was standing when the second plane flew into the building and he agreed with the woman next to him when she conjectured they must be on a movie set. Later that same day the parish secretary was found curled into a fetal position under a table after witnessing people, neighbors really, jump from the 86th floor to avoid the flames and smoke. Stuart himself wonders if the cancer he experienced later was not somehow connected to the pollutants that hung in the air for months.

Lately I seem to have been drawn to holy places of death and destruction—last year a visit to Auschwitz; this year Ground Zero. Maybe I'm reminding myself that things could be worse. After all, these monstrous tragedies make the challenges we face at the Samaritan Counseling Center, and the stories of suffering and despair that walk through our doors, seem more manageable somehow.

But the pain we embrace daily is no more bearable to our neighbors who suffer it than these other, more magnificent

horrors. The wrenching betrayal of covenant, the unrelenting darkness of depression, the terror born of violent trauma, the frightened confusion of disordered thought—these personal horrors are no less significant just because they are born in private.

This Samaritan ministry we perform through our gentle hospitality and respectful care binds up the wounds of the world, one sufferer at a time. We can't repair the shared insanity that sends those who are different to a gas chamber or hurtles airplanes into unsuspecting lives. But we can comfort those who suffer such terrible losses. We can offer alternatives to raging madness that may divert impending violence. We can provide a place of peaceful beauty in the midst of storms without and within. We can bring healing to the distress of depression and anxiety. Most of all, we can offer hope.

Our ministry is a little insecure right now. Financial pressures are great because we have dared to expand our services even as other mental health agencies—14 of them in the past three years—close or cut back. That's why we have launched a major gifts campaign to make the hope of care and cure real for our neighbors in central New Mexico. In the Spirit of the Samaritan, our Campaign for Hope aims to raise \$2.2 million by the end of 2008 to fund Samaritan's growth and to sustain its healing work into the future.

Divine providence entrusts to us our mission, and grants us opportunity and resources to heal the world that begins in our offices. We take seriously the charge to be good stewards of this gracious providence, sharing in the awesome challenge of healing and re-creation. Please help us meet this pressing community need through your generous giving.

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## Silent Samaritan Breaks Records

Samaritan Counseling Center's 14th annual Silent Samaritan luncheon was held on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency raising just under \$25,000 which is a record amount for the Silent Samaritan fund. 350 supporters (another record) were captivated by guest speaker **Jimmy Santiago Baca**, a local author, poet, screenwriter and filmmaker. Jimmy spoke of the unspeakable hardships he faced growing up and how an agency like Samaritan Counseling Center could have been an invaluable resource for his entire family. Jimmy's memoir, *A Place to Stand*, is a compelling account of his early years.

A special thank you goes to **Archbishop Michael Sheehan** for attending and providing the opening prayer, and to **Diane Ogawa** of PNM Foundation for once again emceeing and setting a wonderful tone for the event.

Silent Samaritan would not be successful without our wonderful sponsors. A huge thank you to our Benefactor sponsor, **The Limited Brands**, and to our two Patron sponsors, **Bank of the West** and **Lockheed Martin/Sandia National Labs**. We are also most grateful to **Judy Young** of the **Flower Gallery** for her beautiful centerpieces.

And last but not least, thank you to the Silent Samaritan committee who organized this year's event: Co-chairs – **Erin Young** and **Barbara Schwyzer**, **Alex Beach**, **Jeanne Brummell**, **Robin Otten**, **Vicki Macaulay**, **Patience Skarsgard**, **Francilla Whiteskunk-Lucero** and **Jean Ann DeLayo**.

## 2008 Ethics Nominees Announced

The Samaritan Counseling Center's 2008 New Mexico Ethics in Business Awards Nomination Committee, led by **Jim Culpepper**, has announced the nominees for next year's awards. The committee took in 40 nominations for the annual recognition of businesses, not-for-profit organizations and individuals whose present or past work in New Mexico demonstrates the highest ethical conduct and social responsibility.

An independent Screening Committee, made up of community volunteers and led by **Kathy Yarbrough**, reviewed the 40 nominations and narrowed the nominee pool to 28. These nominees were selected based on the criteria listed in the 2008 nominations process for the Awards.

Business Nominees are: **ACC Consultants**, **B & G Transportation** (Hobbs), **Carniceria La Especial**, **Comet Cleaners** (Las Cruces), **Dr. J's Auto Clinic**, **Enterprise Electrical Services**, **New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union**, **New Mexico Mutual Group**, **Premier Home Healthcare**, **REDW The Rogoff Firm**, **ServiceMaster by Brown**, **Smokey's Auto Sales**, **Stewart Brothers Drilling Co.** (Milan), and **Topline Maintenance & Repair** (Los Lunas).



Not-for-Profit Organizations are: **Albuquerque Community Foundation**, **Albuquerque Rescue Mission**, **Animal Humane Association of NM**, **Assistance League of Albuquerque**, **Hildalgo Medical Services** (Lordsburg), **Palmer Drug Abuse Program** (Hobbs), **Quality New Mexico**, **Susan's Legacy and The Storehouse, Inc.**

Individual Nominations are: **DJ Heckes**, **Joe Puckett**, **Arlene Sanchez**, **Bill Walters** and **Alan Wesson**.

Students from the UNM Anderson Schools of Management, under the direction of Professor John Ackerman, are in the process of interviewing nominees to make recommendations to the **Selection Committee**, led by **Duffy Swan**, a former recipient of the individual award and the President/COO of French Mortuary.

The 2008 event, chaired by **Don Power**, President and CEO of Jaynes Corporation, is scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2008 at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, please visit the website, [www.EthicsInBusinessNM.com](http://www.EthicsInBusinessNM.com).

## Workplace Services Completes First Year

We're pleased to celebrate the first anniversary of Workplace Services! Growing out of ideas generated in the Pathfinder process, the program was founded after more than a year of careful planning and now offers professional services, based in the Samaritan tradition, to businesses.

Workplace Services assists businesses and supports the operation of Samaritan Counseling Center by generating enough income to cover the cost of operating the program and additional income to support other aspects of the Center's mission.

Workplace Services has quickly established a reputation for excellence as the EAP (employee assistance program) of choice for many small-to-medium sized businesses. Over the last year, we have expanded the number of EAP relationships from 13 to 18. And, we are developing an expanded series of educational programs for the business community in addition to consultation services including key personnel selection, fitness for duty, safe and respectful workplaces, stress management, substance abuse avoidance, healthy workplaces and several other topics. Workplace services personnel are skilled in facilitating strategic planning meetings, conflict resolution and leadership development.

Tim Strongin, PhD, is the Director of the Workplace Services program. Norma Tejada, LPCC, LMFT, directs the Employee Assistance Program. Joan Levine, LISW, Mary O'Leary and Kathy Jackson, LPCC, round



*Hal Simmons and Art Schreiber share a laugh at the Center's recent \$2.2 Million fundraising campaign kickoff event.*

out the clinical staff. **Katrina Piazzese** is the program's Administrative Assistant.

Traditional clinical services comprise a large part of the staff's effort and Workplace Services has focused on offering Samaritan's model of high quality, collaborative treatment to the insured population of Albuquerque. All of the Workplace Services staff are experienced in EAP and occupational services. In addition to the Workplace Services staff, all of our clients have access to the resources of the larger Center and professional staff who can assist in any capacity a client might need.

## Welcome to these new staff

**Clara Sanchez**, Billing Supervisor  
**Margaret Kimball**, Billing Specialist  
**Katrina Piazzese**, Administrative Assistant, Workplace Services  
**Helen Purser**, Billing Specialist  
**Jackie Perez**, Social Worker, St. Joseph Center for Children and Families

## Location Changes

The Healthy Marriages team has moved to the Locust office to share space with the Called Back to the Well program there. The Samaritan Center for Changing Families has moved to the Medical Arts location in order to better coordinate clinical services.

**HAVE YOU INCLUDED  
SAMARITAN  
COUNSELING CENTER  
IN YOUR ESTATE  
PLANS?**