

SAMARITAN'S CHRONICLE



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Wonders of Wonders, Miracles of Miracles

God has worked wonders in the hearts of supporters of Samaritan's Carriage and brought forth a miracle. In the five months since announcing the Carriage Campaign we have reached our goal of \$85,000, and a new bus has been ordered. We are overwhelmed! We hoped that by the end of this year we would be able to start looking for a new vehicle, but with the help of all of you and an anonymous donor, a new bus has been ordered. We hope to have it for the 2025 season.

Excitement and enthusiasm surrounded the Carriage Campaign. Ideas were shared; stories were told to friends and family; and an abundance of prayers were said on behalf of Samaritan's Carriage. God answered our prayers. Samaritan's Carriage is so grateful for your support. We not only are able to purchase a new vehicle, but we also met our budget again in 2023. We added 47 new donors and 7 new volunteers.

In 2024 we are adding a new home to our schedule – Georgetown Cambridge in Grandville. We've also added some fun new locations to visit which will enhance the lives of our guests and volunteers. Any ideas, you think might be interesting to our guests, please send them my way.

Now it has been a few months since the last outing in December, the bus has been empty; our guests are lonely; and our volunteers miss their friends. But not for long! The first outing is Tuesday, March 26. The team from Stonebridge Yorkshire will pick up their friends and head to Meijer Gardens to see the butterflies. I love those outings. Everyone is so excited to see each other and be outside. Hopefully we'll experience some sunshine on our faces. The warmth of the sun can have such a healing effect on our emotions. It feels like being hugged by God when we are warmed by his sunshine.

Please continue your prayer support and financial support of Samaritan's Carriage. We are looking forward to another fantastic year of outings.

Article written by Sara Buchholz

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** – if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** – think about such things.
Philippians 4:8

Mission

As an expression of God's love, Samaritan's Carriage tailors experiences and personal encounters that affirm, bless, and bring joy into the lives of persons having limited mobility.



Board Members

Bill Botts – President
Abbie Holt
Barry Meerman – Secretary
Ruth Schoon
Doug Sieplinga – Treasurer
Mary VanWingerden
Karen Weaver
Sara Buchholz – Executive Director
616-633-9548
sarabuchholz50@gmail.com
2431 Paris Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49507

Samaritan's Carriage Vision Statement

Samaritan's Carriage creates experiences that enable guests with limited mobility and their volunteer hosts to be fully present with each other. We celebrate life through stories, laughter and a sense of wonder, understanding that Christian caring and fellowship can heal, encourage and ease the effects of loneliness. We believe this ministry blesses individuals and the community.



Prayer Requests:

- **Carriage Campaign** – Prayers of Thanksgiving for the campaign and the new bus that has been ordered.
- **Safety** – Prayers for a great year using the original bus, that every outing goes smooth.
- **Volunteers** – Prayers for all the volunteers. We are excited to have new volunteers join in the fun.
- **Outings** – Prayers for enjoyment and the alleviation of loneliness for our guests.
- **Guests of Samaritan's Carriage** – Prayers for their health and that our outings will not be canceled due to illness at the Homes.



Donors who have cheerfully supported Samaritan's Carriage and the Carriage Campaign in 2023.
Thank you so much! The picture is of the current bus, empty and lonely this winter.



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Donna Adams | First Christian Reformed Church of Hudsonville | David and Jane Lautenbach | Nancy Spiering |
| Henry and Marlys Admiraal | Jill Frazee-Eitman | Jim and Diane Lautenbach | Jim and Esther Stoel |
| Dwight and Marlene Anderson | Kenneth and Winnebeth Frieswyk | Patrick and Jean Leikert | Don and Marilyn Strobel |
| Anonymous | Harvis and Eunice Gemmen | Ken Lobbes | Bill and Sue Sweetman |
| Applebees | Sid and Marie Greidanus | Stand and Pauline Luben | Don and Mary Swierenga |
| Dan and Jo Bajema | Elizabeth Greidanus | Barb and Dan Makowski | Jack and Jan Sytsma |
| Henry and Ruth Baron | Nelson and Nancy Greidanus | Burland and Peg Margessen | Pat and Jim Talen |
| Bill and Anita Beem | David and Marianne Grooters | Barry and Judi Meerman | Larry and Marianne Tanis |
| Lloyd Bekkering | Holly and Stan Haan | Larry and Ruth Meringa | Bud and Judi Terpstra |
| Liz Oppewal and Bear Berends | Rick and Ellen Hamilton | Tony and Dorothy Meyers | John and Drenda Thoen |
| Henry and Mary Lou Bierling | James and Lois Hatfield | Judy Montgomery | Doug and Lee Tubergen |
| Paul Blacken | Dan and Kate Hawkins | Marianne and Don Morell | James Tuinstra |
| Len and Carrie Blauwkamp | Pat Hazenberg | James and Carolyn Morse | Nick and Nancy Tuit |
| William and LaVerne Blickley | Paul Heule | Neland Ave CRC | Klasien Vaalburg |
| Warren Boer | Sharon and Sharol Hiemstra | James and Christine Nicolette | Bill and Sherry Vaarberg |
| Rod and Lois Boerman | Joanne and Thomas Holman | Tom and Marcia Nobel | David and Jodi VanWingerden |
| Janet Borgdorff | DDS | Douglas and Elizabeth Notman | Ruth and Duke VanDenBerg |
| Bill and Catherine Botts | Abbie and Bill Holt | Cornelia Olson | Michael and Loni VanDenend |
| James and Marysue Brassler | Robert and Betty Hough | Charles and Mary Oostindie | Harry and Shirley VanderBrug |
| Justin and Sarah Bratt | Marti and Beryl Hugen | Don and Marcia Osterink | Orrie VanderMeiden |
| Norma Bratt | Jerry and Judy Huizinga | Ralph and Nancy Overzet | Dan and Beth VanderPloeg |
| Raymond and Geraldine Breen | William and Linda Huizinga | Ann Peters | Dorothy VanderTil |
| Lois Brink | Gerald and Mary Hunsburger | Marlow Pranger | Kay and Mike VanderWeele |
| Steve and Rhonda Brink | Wilma and Marv Ilbrink | Kim and Jim Primus | Pat VanderWeide |
| Don and Sara Buchholz | Ivanrest CRC | Donald and Marilyn Prince | Randy and Gloria VanDragt |
| Buist Electric Inc. | David and Lois Jacobs | Todd Pryor | Scott and Sue vanDyken |
| Randall and Debra Buursma | Herbert and Barbara Jager | Railside Living Center | Mark VanEizenga |
| Anne Carey | Mike Jennings | Suzne and Dennis Reenders | Lewis and Norma VanKuiken |
| Marlene and Richard Corey | Dan and Bernie Jonker | Scott and Julie Reenders | Phil and Betty VanNoord |
| Jon and Wanda Cowan | Duane and Jeannette Kelderman | James and Kelly Richards | Jim and Mary VanWingerden |
| Roberta Deaton | Harvey Kiekover | Gary Rider | Nancy VanWoerkom |
| Mary DeBoer | Donald and Bonnie Klop | Ridgewood CrC | Arthur Veltman |
| Mike and Carole DeJong | Dave and Marla Koetje | Gary Ruiter | Craig and Sarah VerHulst |
| Dan and Patty Dekker | Jay and Evelyn Koets | Joel and Kathy Ruiter | Eric VerHulst |
| Dave Dekker | Andries and Barb Koning | Sue Saucier | Sarah and Joseph Wagner |
| Lee and Jean DeVries | Lois Konyndyk | Judy Schierbeek | Karen and Tom Weaver |
| Phil and Gayle DeVries | David and Donna Kooiman | Ruth Schoon | Nancy Westra |
| James and Roxanne DeWeerd | Rachel Kooiman | Carrie Schultz | Gladys Wierenga |
| Robert and Mary Lou DeYoung | Jack and Debbie Kooyman | Annette Shaver | Ruth Wierenga |
| Morrie and Mary Dieleman | Stephen and Janet Kremers | Sheldon Meadows Living Center | David and Susan Wilkins |
| Nettie Dykhouse | Mary and John Lambers | Daryl and Marie Sieplinga | Johannes and Lynda Witte |
| William Egan | Charles Langeland | Doug and Donna Sieplinga | Phyllis Witte |
| Donald Ekdome | Pete and Jan Lanser | Kristi and Steve Slotsema | Henry and Thressa Witte |
| John and Elaine Ekdome | Tammy and Ryan LaRue | Ron and Carla Smith | Herm and Laurie Witte |
| Charlene Ezinga | Dan and Helen Lautenbach | Edward and Sharon Start | Tina Woltil |
| Ruth Posthumus and Marlin Feyen | | Dave and Jan Stek | Bob and Annette Yff |
| | | Dwight and Dawn Sneden | |

Donations given to Samaritan's Carriage in Memory of Gary Ruiter.



- Henry and Marlys Admiraal
Anonymous
Kristen Leigh Balderrama
Rod and Lois Boerman
Scott and Diane Brownell
Don and Sara Buchholz
Randall and Debra Buursma
Kayla and Pat Carroll
Mary DeBoer
John and Elaine Ekdome
Audrey Gezon
Roberta Gilligan
David and Linda Hoeksema
Stephen and Janet Kremers
Charles Langeland
Mark and Kathy Oostindie
Rob and Lucinda Poel
Joel and Kathy Ruiter
Doug and Donna Sieplinga
Alida Terpstra
John and Drenda Thoen
Gretta Vaandrager
David and Jodi Van Wingerden
Herm and Laurie Witte

Donations to Samaritan's Carriage Annual Fund can be mailed to:
Samaritan's Carriage C/O Sara Buchholz
2431 Paris Ave SE,
Grand Rapids MI 494507
or you may give via the website at www.samaritanscarriage.org
Monthly donors and Legacy gifts are deeply appreciated.
Charitable Giving Number: 30-0065870

Are you looking for an opportunity to bring joy and experience joy yourself? Please call Sara Buchholz, 616-633-9548.

Gary Ruiter Tribute

Gary, was a servant of the Lord who had a vision of bringing God's love and joy to people with limited mobility. Two years ago, in the March 2022 Samaritan's Chronicle, I talked about the future of Samaritan's Carriage post-Covid. We were wondering if there was a future for Samaritan's Carriage after two years of no visits and the loss of numerous volunteers. We are grateful that Gary's inspiration has carried on! There are now over 70 volunteers. We've added a new home, and a new bus is ordered. Our mission is alive and flourishing. Praise be to God.

Bringing JOY during the lonely months of winter

A few of the teams pulled their volunteers together to visit their home and see the guests they have learned to love and enjoy on their outings. The volunteers of Railside were invited to a heart healthy lunch. While we were there a guest at the luncheon heard about Samaritan's Carriage and asked to be a volunteer! We are happy to have Elaine join the Railside team. We saw some of our friends while we were there. We had a great time finding them in their rooms where they showed off pictures of their families.



The Rest Haven team was invited for an afternoon ice cream social. They were thrilled to be able to connect again with their friends.



What fun the Mission Point team had when they visited their friends living along the Grand River in Lamont. The team brought delicious homemade baked goods that the people loved. We enjoyed catching up on their lives over the last few months and we saw the puppies that bring joy to their days.

