

SAMARITAN'S CHRONICLE



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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.



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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

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.



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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.

