

SAMARITAN'S CHRONICLE



Mission

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



Greatest Generation couple,
Joan and Jerry Smith married 73 Years!

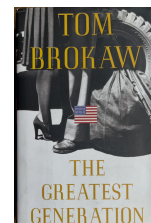
"There on the beaches of Normandy, I began to reflect on the wonders of these ordinary people whose lives are laced with the markings of greatness. At every stage of their lives, they were part of historic challenges and achievements of a magnitude the world had never before witnessed."

Tom Brokaw, *The Greatest Generation* (New York: Random House, 1998), XXI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Greatest Generation

Tom Brokaw wrote a book, *The Greatest Generation*. **Many of our Samaritan's Carriage guests are from the greatest generation.** A recent visit to the Ford Museum resonates with our Samaritan's Carriage guests; they share their experiences of serving in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. They remember life being hard but that didn't deter them from getting things done. **Just contemplate all the milestones they have lived through. It's mind blowing.** From the development of the crank start Model T to Formula One race cars, bi-planes to jets and rockets, phones that hung on walls with party lines to cell phones where you can call someone a continent away while driving down the street. From the Great Depression, Wall Street crash, Dust Bowl, food lines, wars, there has been SO much that they have lived through and endured. And it's not just Americans; it's people from across the globe who have come here for freedom.



I listened to a guest tell of her family's escape from Latvia in the 1930's. They fled to a refugee camp in Germany before coming to America, she was only 10 years old when they arrived. The stories are endless.

Today, many of the greatest generation live in residential senior housing or assisted living homes. **They are often dependent on others for inspiration or the ability to get out and see the world.** We owe these people our respect and care and at Samaritan's Carriage we are determined to give them wonderful adventures to stimulate laughter and memories of days gone by. We help them remember family times driving to visit relatives in the summer heat. I personally remember hot car rides with the windows down and no seatbelts. So, a trip to see horses on a farm, experience old Grand Rapids at the museum, or a stroll along Lake Michigan stopping to watch a fisherman reel in a fish, are simple pleasures that can bring an extraordinary amount of joy to our guests.

You can honor the greatest generation and help support Samaritan's Carriage. We are dedicated to bringing joy into the lives of persons having limited mobility, that is our mission.

Sara Buchholz
Executive Director

www.samaritanscarriage.org



Samaritan's Carriage Outings Live On, Reflections by Jeff Wellman
Life Enrichment Coordinator at Stonebridge Yorkshire, Walker, MI

One of our monthly activities that I love adding to our activity calendar at Yorkshire and Stonebridge in Walker, MI is our monthly outing provided for us by an amazing bunch of caring folks. I am referring to Samaritan's Carriage.

Samaritan's Carriage offers a group of our residents a unique opportunity to get out and discover some things they may never have had the opportunity to see in their lifetime, or to revisit a place that brings back special memories of their past.

These outings offer more than just a change of scenery for our residents. Each time we board their bus it makes me smile. As I watch the residents ride the lift up, I see the smiles and the excitement on their faces. Each resident is filled with anticipation and eager to embark on another grand adventure. Yes, I actually see these outings as grand adventures for our seniors. I see each trip as a new open door to meaningful connections and new experiences not only for our residents but, for myself and each volunteer that is along to ensure the best experience possible for the residents they are assigned to.

Every outing introduces our residents to something new. Whether they're experiencing, a picnic at a park, a Friesian Horse Farm, or listening to a musical performance at an historic downtown church. These experiences help to expand their knowledge and bring a sense of discovery each time.

These outings serve as a key part of a fulfilling lifestyle, encouraging social interaction, mental stimulation and physical activity. One thing I have noticed is that I have made better connections with the residents that attend. Through these connections I have been able to encourage better participation in our own activities at the Manor. The social impact of these group outings is something so neat to see. **If you have ever had the privilege of working with the elderly you understand that isolation and loneliness are significant challenges faced by many, especially those facing limited mobility. The group outings provided by Samaritan's Carriage really help to combat these feelings by fostering meaningful social interactions. These events create opportunities for residents to bond over shared experiences.**

When they get back to the Manor, I hear them talking with each other and with their table mates at meal times about the good time they had. Several friendships have been formed amongst the residents that attend the outings. I have noticed that the friendships formed during these outings have really become a vital part of their emotional well-being. These connections not only reduce loneliness, but also provide our residents with a renewed sense of belonging and support, both vital for maintaining mental health.

I could go on but I will stop here.

Great job to the Samaritan's Carriage team!

Jeff



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Bill Botts – President

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Karen Weaver

Sara Buchholz – Executive Director

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Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury; pardon: where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

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.



If you are a former volunteer or are interested in volunteering for Samaritan's Carriage and would like to join us, PLEASE COME. We would love to share with you what is currently happening with Samaritan's Carriage. RSVP via text 616-633-9548

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

Why Volunteer?

Samaritan's Carriage was unknown to me, until my sister, who is a resident at Bishop Hills in Rockford, MI was a guest on an excursion to the Anema Family Friesian Horse Farm.

The photos of Susan feeding carrots to horses, holding a dog in her lap and the joy on her face as she recounted her adventure to me placed an interest in my heart and a warm hand on my shoulder to learn more about Samaritan's Carriage and if I could be of service to them.



The volunteers reflect their faith and God's love in kind ways with guests by being genuinely interested in them. They listen to their stories, their life journeys. They keep them safe and share in the laughter and camaraderie. And not only with guests, but with fellow volunteers as well!

Being present with the guests, giving and receiving joy from them and one another through faith, shines as a bright purpose with Samaritan's Carriage. I am blessed to volunteer with them.



Volunteer at Georgetown,
Pam Wilkie



Georgetown at Holland Beach

"Sara and team, thank you for your continued passion to serve and validate seniors with limited mobility. Our seniors have so much to offer and teach us when we are willing to listen. Blessings, Nancy VanWoerkom"

Nancy is the former Life Enrichment Coordinator at Sheldon Meadows.

First Last
Address
City State Zip



Prayer Requests:

- **Volunteers and their families** – Thank you for your prayers. Pauline from the Laurels is back volunteering! Please continue to pray for all volunteers
- **Safety** – Continue to pray for our drivers to be confident and careful driving our precious guests. Other drivers on the highways are not always careful.
- **Outings** – Prayers for the health of our guests, Some of our friends are no longer able to enjoy the outings due to increased health situations. Prayers for the spreading of joy and love and the alleviation of loneliness for our guests.
- **Do you know of an indoor location where the Samaritan's Carriage bus could be parked for three months during the winter? Call 616-633-9548**