

SAMARITAN'S CHRONICLE



**SAMARITAN'S
CARRIAGE**



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Bill Botts – President
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 Karen Weaver – new member
 Sara Buchholz – Executive Director
 616-633-9548
sarabuchholz50@gmail.com
 2431 Paris Ave SE
 Grand Rapids MI 49507

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome, Karen Weaver, as the newest member of the board. Karen is a long-time educator from the Grand Rapids area in both Christian and public schools. She is also a firm advocate for those who have limited mobility. She currently is part of the Neland Ave team that coordinates Samaritan's Carriage trips with Bishop Hills. We are excited to see what gifts Karen will bring to our organization.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Summer time adventures with Samaritan's Carriage are rich with memories and stories. Imagine how your memories of past experiences are triggered by sights and sounds; a trip to the farmer's market or a picnic lunch along the Rogue River. Specific smells signal a memory of a previous very special time and place. Our senses seem to be one of God's greatest creations. The sights, sounds and smells present during our outings often remind our guests of their childhood. Their senses trigger lovely reminders of years gone by. Memories of adventures during summer vacations, the joys of grandchildren and great grandchildren, and even the times of walking in the city or catching a few rays at the park.

Samaritan's Carriage outings provide our guests a space away from the daily rhythm, sights and smells of the home they reside in, and in just a few hours, they receive the gift of friendship, renewal and happiness.

It fills my soul, and I believe those of our guests, to be 'out and about' in our Father's world. Let the words below resound musically in your head; and if so inspired, join us, spend time with our guests, and if that's not possible, consider a financial gift that brightens even a few hours for your neighbor or someone you know and love.

*This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings,
 and 'round me rings the music of the spheres.*

*This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees,
 of skies and seas - His hand the wonders wrought.*

Article written by Sara Buchholz



St Ann's Team

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



Donors---Samaritan's Carriage is fully funded by you. Your gifts are what make our ministry possible and your generous donations allowed us to finish the 2022 season in the black. This is the first time we have been able to do that in several years. I encourage all of you to continue to help us make outings for our homes successful and enjoyable. Please feel free to tell your friends and families about Samaritan's Carriage.

Sincerely,
William Botts, President

Fundraiser Event

You read that right! A fundraiser without an event seems a perfect way to seek your support without expecting your presence.

With summer upon us and the many wonderful opportunities we all enjoy like being outside spending time with family and friends, it seems a good time to introduce a fundraiser you don't have to attend.

Consider the invitation you make to spend time with your group of friends out to a lovely dinner in the city. You prep yourself well, arrive on time and choose a spot on the patio overlooking the green space or around the firepit. You welcome your guests well and quickly order beverages and appetizers. The laughter begins! Soon you move to the main course and tell stories of family and travels. The conversation acknowledges how blessed you are to be together, even supporting each other with empathy and understanding. The dessert menu arrives too quickly and after a bit of refusal, the Tiramisu or Gelato arrive. The joy of the evening warms your heart.

Your plan for the evening was to pay the bill for all, but it is rejected because – **someone beat you to it.**

This fundraiser is an opportunity to 'pay the bill' to Samaritan's Carriage. Whether you get 'outsmarted' at dinner or determine to host in your yard instead, or not gather together at all, this **Fundraiser Event** is the opportunity to support Samaritan's Carriage and enjoy your summertime activities. Have a great summer, celebrate life and participate in this fundraiser; you will enhance the lives of our guests abundantly. *Sara Buchholz*



Donations 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 greatly appreciated.
Charitable Giving Number: 30-0065870

Who is a Samaritan's Carriage Guest?

Who goes on the adventures that Samaritan's Carriage provides? Older people who no longer can walk and are confined to a wheelchair? While, that may be partially true it barely scratches the surface.

Meet Cynthia, **at 54 years old, Cynthia had a triple hemorrhagic stroke**, followed a few years later by a series of seizures. She is completely paralyzed on her left side and has some control of her right side. She is now 73 years old, lives at Bishop Hills and gets around using a motorized wheelchair.

But Cynthia is so much more.



Cynthia grew up on the east side of the state. She had a thirst for adventure. After an attempt at college, she was bored and wanted more. She moved to New York City, found an apartment and a job, attended Fordham University fulltime at night and worked during the day. **She landed a job on Wall Street working for Salomon Brothers.** She eventually married a gentleman from the firm. **Life was exciting. They traveled to Europe**

numerous times, visiting Rome and Paris, walking down the Champs Elysees, sightseeing at the Notre Dame (before it burned). At 43 she had a baby and they took him to Paris too!

I asked about her life now. It's very different. She is no longer married, her relationship with her son is not close. **We talked about the importance of memories.** It was fun to share traveling stories with her. Everyone has their own story. Some of our guests are world travelers, some have never left Michigan, there are business owners, farmers, musicians, artists and factory workers. Samaritan's Carriage provides adventures for all the guests we encounter. **We create precious memories for them to hold on to.**



Cynthia lives at Bishop Hills, and like many of the homes we support they don't own a bus. They are dependent on organizations like Samaritan's Carriage to provide outings for their residents. Each of the homes has a specific team of volunteers that supports them. Cynthia told me the Bishop Hills team from Neland Church is a lot of fun. They all get along with each other and she can tell that they are close friends. **She loves singing with the volunteers while on the Carriage, that brings her joy, and that is the mission of Samaritan's Carriage, to bring JOY!**

So, who goes on the adventures with Samaritan's Carriage?

Someday it might be you or me!

Article written by Sara Buchholz,

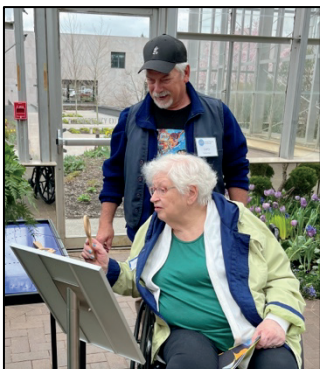
Thank You Cynthia for sharing some of your life story with me.



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Samaritan's Carriage 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.

Thank You---to all the wonderful 70+

Samaritan's Carriage volunteers, you are a valued part of the organization. Your genuine friendships and dedicated attention to the guests and the time you commit to the outings are what makes Samaritan's Carriage a fantastic ministry in the West Michigan area.

The board is so appreciative of your efforts and we want you to know you are remembered and prayed for by the board and those who support this ministry.

Bill Botts and Samaritan's Carriage Board