

SAMARITAN'S CHRONICLE



**SAMARITAN'S
CARRIAGE**



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Prayer requests:

- Finding new volunteers
- Drivers and safety on outings
- Generous Donors
- Health of guests & volunteers
- Wisdom for Sara Buchholz

Our 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.

Samaritan's Carriage is **20** years old!

Samaritan's Carriage was created 20 years ago by Gary and Eileen Ruiter, members of First CRC in GR. Gary was searching for a way to be a vital servant of God in his retirement. He wondered, *what does "go and do likewise" require of me?* An organization in Chicago called Life on Wheels sparked an idea. And with the help of his wife and children, Gary followed God's lead. He was inspired by the familiar story of the Good Samaritan in the Bible. Who was it that offered assistance to the man beaten along the road? The Samaritan and his donkey stepped into the situation. The Samaritan felt compassion for the beaten man, and his donkey provided the transportation. As Gary wrote in the very first Samaritan's Carriage newsletter, "Samaritan's Carriage is the combination of the caring heart of the Samaritan and the versatile transportation he possessed."

I sat with Gary recently and we reminisced about the early days of Samaritan's Carriage. He shared with me a picture of he and Eileen from their tenth anniversary dinner. He's happy that we are looking to start the outings again. What will the future hold? We will only know once we can look back and see how God has moved Samaritan's Carriage forward. Where will Samaritan's Carriage be in another ten years? With the help of volunteers and donors, there is no telling how many more people will experience the joy of companionship and God's creation.

For 18 years, Samaritan's Carriage has provided outings for mobility-challenged people living in assisted living homes. In 2019, the cumulative number of outings was over 1,600. That means 8,000 individuals were able to leave their four walls, go to a place of interest, and be treated to a buffet lunch where they selected what food they desired. All the while, being individually served by a volunteer, one-on-one. All done in the name of Jesus!

Fast forward to 2022, and we find that the "Carriage" has been sitting idle for two years. When Covid hit in March of 2020, all outings ceased. The blessings of those outings, both for the guests and the volunteers, ended. It is now time to bring the "Carriage" out of storage and begin the ministry once again. But how? Where are the volunteers? Many of them are once again ready and willing to get back on the Carriage. However, about a third of the 100-plus volunteers will not be able to enjoy the blessings of interacting with the guests anymore. This means we'll need new volunteers. After reading all of that, I'm sure you are asking, how do I volunteer?

Please give me a call, Sara Buchholz, 616-633-9548. The outings are once a month, 9:30 am -2:30 pm. This year, the outings will begin in April. You can also visit the Samaritan's Carriage [website](http://samaritanscarriage.org) (samaritanscarriage.org) and complete the initial volunteer form. We'd love to have you join us!

Article written by Sara Buchholz

Save the Date

Eat barbeque and support Samaritan's Carriage

Giving back never tasted so good!

DATE OF FUNDRAISER: Tuesday, March 29, 2022


11:00 am – 8:00 pm

LOCATION: City Barbeque Kentwood, 3050 28TH St. SE
Kentwood, MI 49512

On Tuesday, March 29, at City Barbeque Kentwood, we'll get 20% of the proceeds from every order we bring in!

Ordering in person? Show this flyer to the cashier at checkout or on your phone from an email or via Facebook.

Ordering online or in the app? Use code **FundA** at checkout at <https://www.citybbq.com/order> for pickup on **Tuesday, March 29** Once you enter the code, **you must click the red**

ADD COUPON  **+ button to apply the fundraiser code to your order.** **Ordering over the phone?** Ask to apply code **FundA** when you provide your payment information. **Remember:** all orders must be picked up on **Tuesday, March 29**, from **City Barbeque Kentwood** for it to count toward our fundraiser. Thanks for your support!

CITY BARBEQUE KENTWOOD
3050 28th St SE



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CASHIER: FUNDRAISER A

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THANK YOU to our 2021 donors! Without your generosity, Samaritan's Carriage would not be able to begin again to bring JOY into the lives of those with limited mobility.

2021 Memorial Tributes:

Mark & Linda VanTubergen in memory of **Joyce VanTubergen**

William Egan and Michael & Joyce Markaity in memory of **Harv Gerrits**

Diane Koster in memory of **Johanna VanderKooi**

Donna Adams	Stan & Pauline Luben
Sarah & Alex Baas	Michael & Joyce Markaity
Dan & Jo Bajema	Barry & Judi Meerman
Beckwith Hills CRC	Larry & Ruth Meringa
Henry & Mary Lou Bierling	National Christian Foundation
Jeff & Ruth Blahnik	On the Border
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Bill & Catherine Botts	Ralph & Nancy Overzet
Len & Carrie Blauwkamp	Marlowe Pranger
Marlene & Joe Brannon	Don & Marilyn Prince
Steve & Rhonda Brink	Friends of Ridgewood CRC
Bruce & Bernice Brummel	Joel & Kathy Ruiter
Sara & Don Buchholz	Ruth Schoon
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Morrie & Mary Dieleman	James & Eunice VanderLaan
Nettie Dykhous	Nelson & Carol Van Elderen
William Egan	Mark & Linda Van Tubergen
Don Ekdome	Jim & Mary Van Wingerden
John & Elaine Ekdome	Anonymous
Charles & Char Ezinga	Dorothy VanderTil
Fetzer Institute	Patricia & Richard VanderWeide
Friends of First CRC GR	Lewis & Norma VanKuiken
Ken & Betty Frieswyk	Arthur Veltman
Deborah Haak-Frost	Gladys Verhulst
Eunice Gemmen	Craig & Sarah VerHulst
Alice Greidanus	Marilyn Waanders
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David & Diane Husted	Wilson Parker Connelly Stephenson
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Mike & Pat Jennings	Johannes & Lynda Witte
Don and Bonnie Klop	Phyllis Witte
Andy & Barb Koning	Bob & Annette Yff
Pat & Jean Leikert	Marilyn Zoodsma
Ken & Ruth Lobbes	Jeff & Renee Zylstra

Samaritan's Carriage is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization funded by donors.

Donations can be mailed to:

Samaritan's Carriage c/o Sara Buchholz
2431 Paris Ave SE, Grand Rapids MI 49507