

SAMARITAN'S CHRONICLE



SAMARITAN'S
CARRIAGE



Board Members

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

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.

Executive Director's Note:

Summer 2022 will be remembered for its challenges and stories. There were beautiful and exciting outings in spite of Michigan's quickly changing weather patterns. In June, three outings canceled because of excessive heat but July and August have been just gorgeous! Our trips to Kollen Park, John Ball Park Zoo, Meijer Gardens, Chinook Pier in Grand Haven, the Farmer's Market in Holland were all fabulous places to spend a morning and those are just the outdoor outings. We also went bowling, we visited Van Andel Museum and Gerald R. Ford Museum. At the Ford one group was able to take in the Sistine Chapel exhibit. They loved seeing the huge pictures that Michelangelo painted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. At the zoo we saw lots of animals and some teams watched as fish were being cleaned on the pier. We even saw some former volunteers on a walk along the Grand Haven pier. It has been a fabulous summer!

I was along on an outing to Grand Haven and I was listening to one of our guests as we walked along the pier. I was asking her about swimming in Lake Michigan, taking it for granted that everyone knows how to swim. She told me she had numerous experiences as a child in the water where she almost drowned. She explained to me how she almost drowned her brother in an attempt to reach a raft at a summer camp. She continued talking and I realized her younger years were so vastly different from mine. While I came from a very stable home her situation was not the same. It made me realize that the people we take on our outings have such a diversity of life experiences. We cannot make assumptions of who we are talking with. **The value in personal conversation with our guests is key to what Samaritan's Carriage is all about.** Hebrews 13, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." When I go with on the outings I feel a sense of being surrounded by angels from both the guests and the volunteers. The blessings that come from giving of yourself is overwhelming!



St. Ann's group was walking Grand Haven Pier when we met 2 former volunteers strolling the pier.

As we now move into the cooler weather I am hoping to see some beautiful leaves on our color tour outings. Maybe a stroll through Millennium Park while visiting with angels.

Article written by Sara Buchholz

WOW!!!

What a journey the last few years has been for Samaritan's Carriage. For 18 years we were rolling along serving many people in Kent and Ottawa Counties that have limited mobility. Our schedule was set; we had a great number of wonderful volunteers and supporting friends. Then Covid hit and we were shut down for two years. There was even a point as president of the board that I was wondering if we would get back to providing this wonderful ministry to so many people.

But here we are bigger and better than ever. Our volunteer list has grown, we have a new executive director, and things are rolling along in such a wonderful way. We made it through the tough times and after twenty years of service; we are looking to the future with eager anticipation of what God has planned for Samaritan's Carriage in the next phase of this journey.

The key to making a ministry like Samaritan's Carriage work is people and we have volunteers who are genuine, thoughtful, tender and caring. It is so wonderful to meet all the fine folks who give of their time to provide a blessing to folks who are mobility challenged. I have had the privilege to meet with many of our fabulous helpers and I must say that their enthusiasm for Samaritan's Carriage is infectious. Thank you to all who give of their time to be a companion for a few hours.

So what is going to be the future of Samaritan's Carriage? My hope and prayer is that it will continue to grow and flourish in the years to come. The board is looking at ways to increase our funding and expand our programming. We can always use your help, especially through financial contributions. Samaritan's Carriage is completely funded by donors. Our goal is to increase our database of donors in order to make sure we are a viable entity in the years to come.

We thank all of you for your generous support and prayers and continue to ask that you keep Samaritan's Carriage in mind now and/or in your yearend giving.

Article written by Bill Botts, President



A group from the Laurels of Hudsonville enjoying a trip to Grand Haven to stroll the boardwalk and see boats.



Bear Berends is a volunteer with the Westend team and also a member of the Blue Water Ramblers who put on a concert in the Allendale Community Park. Samaritan's Carriage took guests from Mission Point to hear the Ramblers. They loved the outing!



Look closely and you can see one of the guests floating a boat in the Great Lakes. They loved interacting with children while in the Children's Garden during one of our trips to Meijer Gardens.

Prayer requests:

- **Gary Ruiter – healing and strength**
- **Volunteers need flexibility, energy, strength, patience, and happiness**
- **Calm spirits and joy for our guests**
- **Praise for the gorgeous weather experienced this summer**
- **Volunteers who are experiencing health issues and miss being on the carriage.**

What is it like to be both a Samaritan's Carriage board member and Life Enrichment Coordinator at one of the homes that benefit from Samaritan's Carriage?

I have proudly served on the board of Samaritan's Carriage since late 2018, not only am I a board member but, I am also a Life Enrichment Coordinator at one of the nine homes that Samaritan's Carriage engages with on their monthly outings!

I have seen firsthand what a difference Samaritan's Carriage has made to the seniors in our assisted living community. Most of the seniors I work with have a hard time with mobility and would be unable to go out without the one-on-one help from the volunteers.

Every time our residents return from an outing adventure, they are so thankful that they were able to go out and have a personal interaction with the volunteers, enjoy each of the fun destinations that Samaritan's Carriage planned and then have lunch where they can decide for themselves what they want to eat!

From the perspective of a Life Enrichment Coordinator: to have an entire outing planned and paid for is just amazing! I don't have to worry about any of the details but, just enjoy the adventure with our residents and watch the moments of joy happen all day long!

The residents at Railside Assisted Living Center would like to say thank you to the volunteers and the board members both past and present, who have worked really hard to make Samaritan's Carriage what it is today!

*Article written by Abbie Holt,
Samaritan's Carriage Board member and Railside Assisted
Living Center, Life Enrichment Coordinator*

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

I can't image being in the position of running Samaritan's Carriage without all the support I receive from the board, volunteers and donors.

When I go along on the adventures each month, I see the costs of the outings and I realize every penny we spend is totally worth it. We have so much fun. Most of the places we go are free or we have paid for a membership to keep the costs down. We go to restaurants willing to work with our organization or have picnics in the parks. There is no control over the cost of gas, it is what it is. So be confident that we are using your gifts wisely.

The 20-year-old bus has needed some minor repairs since I started. As the board thinks through the future of Samaritan's Carriage we need to decide when and how to acquire a new carriage. Is this something you can help us with? There is a fund already designated for this project

How else can you support Samaritan's Carriage into the future?

- Be a monthly donor to the general fund.
- **Leave a Legacy Gift!** Invest in the future of Samaritan's Carriage by designating Samaritan's Carriage in your will or estate plan.

A legacy gift will provide adventures and happiness for our guests for years to come.

Contact your financial advisor for assistance setting up a legacy gift. Our charitable registration number is 30-0065870. Thank you for considering leaving a legacy to share God's love with persons with limited mobility.

Samaritan's Carriage is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization funded solely by donors.

Donations can be mailed to:

**Samaritan's Carriage c/o Sara Buchholz
2431 Paris Ave SE, Grand Rapids MI 49507
or you may give via the website at
www.samaritanscarriage.org**

Thank you!



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Each and every outing brings happiness and a sense of freedom for our guests. We try to bring culture and just plain fun into all our lives as we walk and talk our way through the adventure of the day.

