



# Samaritan House Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2009 - 2010

[www.thesamaritanhouse.org](http://www.thesamaritanhouse.org)

## The Meeting

Sunday, June 6, 2010

A couple of weeks ago I visited Samaritan House and met a woman named Margaret. She was a guest at the house last year to recover from her breast cancer surgery, then for several more weeks during her chemotherapy. I listened to her tell her story and all I could think was what would I have done if I had been in her shoes? She told me that her biggest fear prior to her surgery was where she would go and what she would do while she was

trying to heal. We've all known somebody who has had this kind of surgery. It means drains and pain and not being able to lift anything for several weeks, a hard enough recovery when you can sit on your own sofa, in your jammies, with friends or family there to bring you tea or soup and help you get up and down.

Imagine having to go through that at the shelter, or worse yet, on the street. It's not surprising that a person who is sick and homeless often winds up rebounding back into the hospital instead of getting better the first time.

Her doctors told her not to worry, there was a place that she could go. That place was Samaritan House. Margaret looked me in the eye and told me that Samaritan House saved her life. She had a safe place to stay where she was treated with kindness and respect, like a person who matters, not just another name on a list in an institution. She told me how much it meant to her to have access to simple things, like a telephone so that she could keep in touch with her family. Volunteers were there to drive her to her follow up appointments, and the caring staff made sure she was comfortable and had what she needed, and then helped her to find resources so that she could get into a better situation. After her chemotherapy, she had to go back to the shelter for a while, but now she's in a transitional housing program, getting training and working towards finding a permanent place and a job.

It's easy to write a check to a homeless charity in the dead of winter when you wouldn't want to see a dog sleep outside, much less a person. Sure, winter's tough, but the mission of Samaritan House is year round since there's no season for getting sick or hurt. There are ongoing expenses to keep food on the table, purchase medications for the patients, pay the staff, keep the rent paid and the lights turned on.



I'm so glad I met Margaret. As we sat there talking, we reminisced about Sunday nights watching Ed Sullivan and traded memories of funny skits from the Carol Burnett show. We laughed and laughed. I can't say that she and I are BFF's now because I don't know if our paths are likely to cross again, but I'm so glad that Samaritan House was there for Margaret and that it will be there in the future for the next person who needs a safe place to land. Please consider making a donation this summer, or volunteering so that this remarkable place will be there when the next person like Margaret needs help.

Mary Fluke, DVM  
Samaritan House Board Member

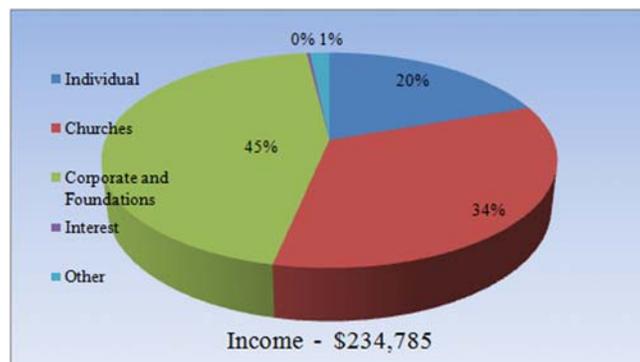


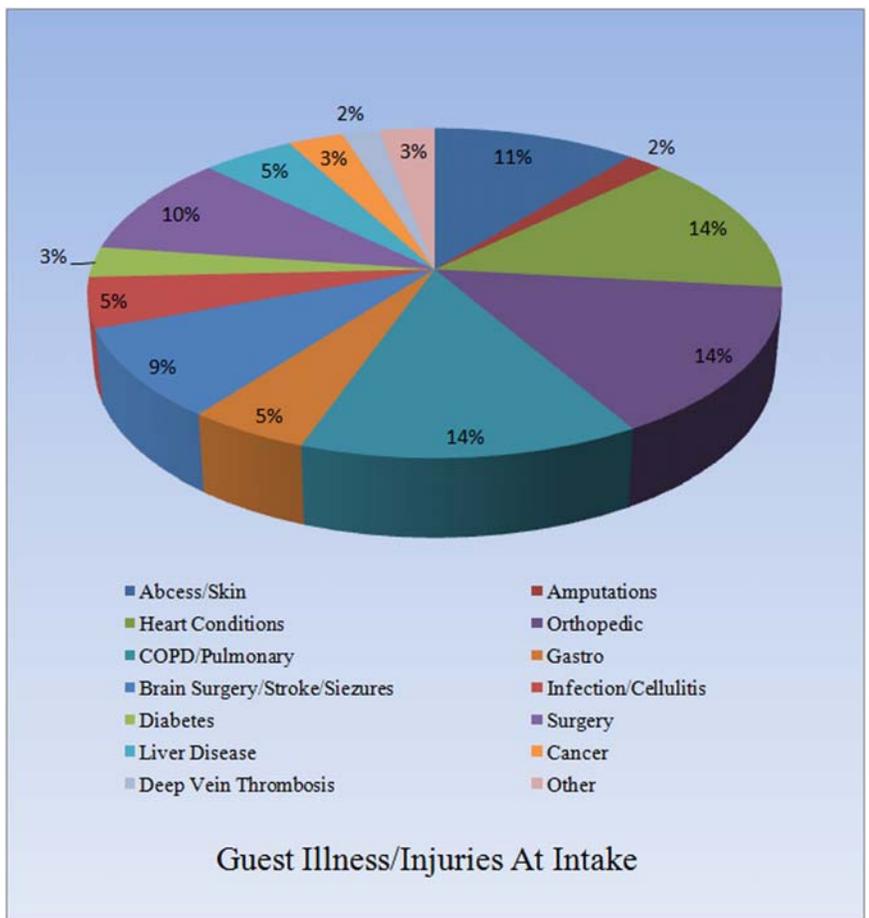
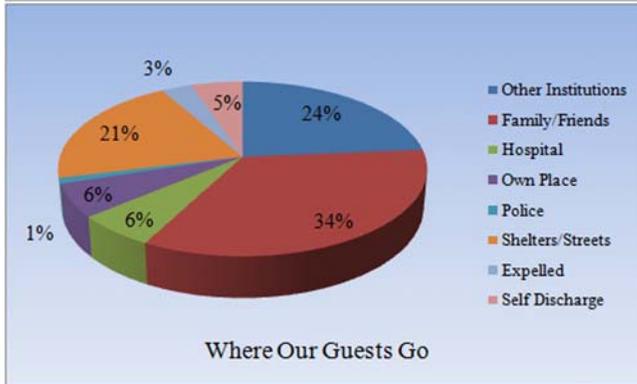
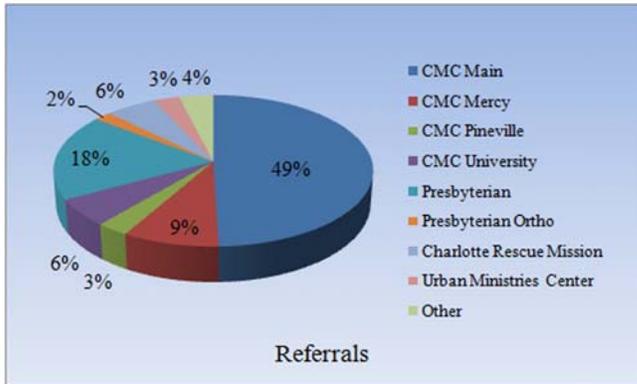
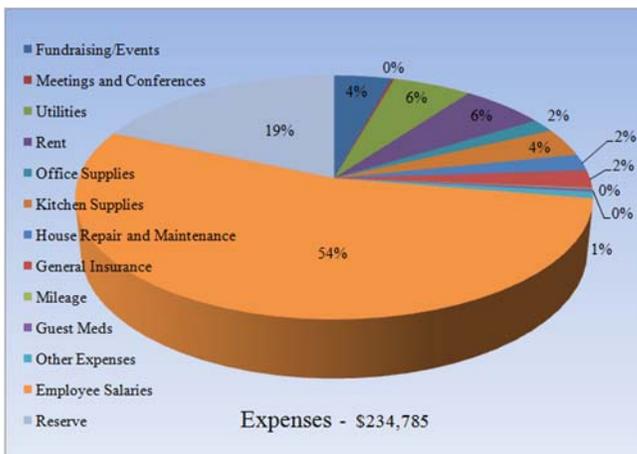
## Annual Report 2010

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 was a good one for Samaritan House. We took in 103 people over the year with illnesses ranging from pneumonia to cancer. Of all those, only six percent returned to the hospital for the same illness or injury after leaving Samaritan House. Also of note, only 21 percent returned to the streets or shelters. The rest found some sort of housing or exited the program before completion.

Samaritan House also completed the year in good financial status, with income exceeding \$234,000. Although we were forced to make some cutbacks, Samaritan House is in much better financial shape now than we were the previous year. Our staff continues to provide high quality service to our guests with the help of our volunteers and donors.

Below are a series of graphs outlining our progress last year. As you can see, we have worked very hard to make sure all donations go where they are needed most - the guests we serve every day. Thank you for your continued support!





Our guests continue to be referred through all the hospitals in Mecklenburg County with a wide variety of illnesses and injuries. They are leaving us for a variety of places. Most are either going to other institutions for additional treatments or back with family and friends. Those expelled or self discharged made the decision to leave prior to fully convalescing.

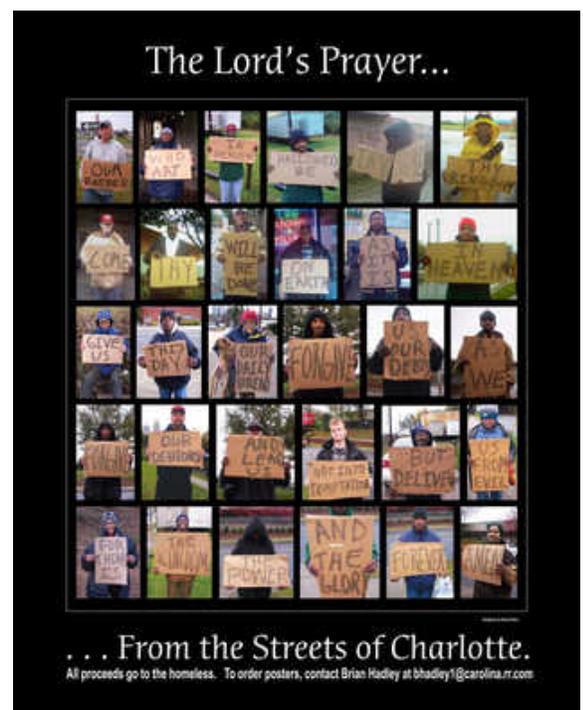
## Brian Hadley and the Lord's Prayer Poster

In a recent interview Brian Hadley, creator of the Lord's Prayer poster, talked about what inspired him to make the poster.

"This is a prayer for every body—you don't have to be someone special to say it. At the time, only certain religious leaders said the most holy of prayers. Here Jesus is, with his greatest prayer, and it is for everyone. It is applicable to all. Especially the debts and debtors part. Jesus is giving us the obligation to forgive each other so that we can be forgiven. Who can't relate to that? And the daily bread - recognition that we are physical as well as spiritual. Lead us away from temptation. Deliver us from evil. Jesus knows that we will need to be delivered from evil At the same time we ask that we not be lead into temptation, Jesus recognizes that we will probably end up there anyway."

"Look at the different expressions on each person's face. It reflects the differences of humanity to me...of any person you may pass on the street, whether homeless or wealthy."

"The first day the article appeared (in the Charlotte Observer) over 200 emails were sent to me by noon. Over \$6500 has been raised for the Samaritan House. There is now a greeting card, and another version of the poster available. Truly, I have no business having this idea. It was inspired through me, not by me."



Check it out at [www.charlotteposters.org](http://www.charlotteposters.org).

# Remembering 2009 - 2010 at Samaritan House



Our 5th Anniversary Luncheon



The Halloween Party



The Elder Gallery Event



St. Patrick's Day Parade



The Intervention



The Intervention in Uptown Charlotte



Volunteer Groups



Our Guests



Losing one of our shade trees



The CPCC team who gave us our new logo!

**A special thanks to everyone who made this our best year ever!**

Find more at [www.thesamaritanhouse.org](http://www.thesamaritanhouse.org),  
or on our Facebook page, [samaritanhouse nc](https://www.facebook.com/samaritanhouse.nc)

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## The Samaritan House Board

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### President

**Ruth Woodend**

### Vice President

**Michael O'Hara**

### Treasurer

**Gene Schlaman**

### Secretary

**Mary Fluke, DVM**

**Brent Blizewski**

**Walter Bowers**

**Roberta Farman**

**Bette Jacobs**

**Freda Schlaman**

**Logan Smith**

**David Sanders**

**John Barringer**

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## The Samaritan House Staff

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**Brad Goforth**

**Executive Director**

**Carrie Graves**

**Al Platt**

**Creola Sanders**

**Plus over 170 dedicated volunteers throughout the Charlotte area.**

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## Our Mission

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Samaritan House is a not-for-profit recuperative care place for people who are homeless and in need of short term care following a hospital or emergency room stay.

We emphasize the Gospel values of love, dignity, respect, and welcoming inclusion, accepting people as they are without demand for change. While we are established out of our faith as Christians, it is intended to be a place of healing and hospitality for all persons.

# The Samaritan House Difference

By Brad Goforth

Five years is a great milestone in any nonprofit. Most never make it that far. The fact Samaritan House is here is a tribute to the inspiration of the people who founded our organization and the compelling need in our community for what we do.

There are some who doubt what we do makes any real difference, but I disagree. I have had the privilege of seeing the look on a guest's face when the light suddenly comes on within them. I have seen them regain the hope that all is not lost and they can do better.

When seemingly everything was stacked against them, along came an organization that didn't just give them a cot to lay in, but offered something like a real home. They no longer had to worry about where they would sleep or where they would eat. Someone listened to their problems and offered a little help. By taking away their worries, each was given the time to actually make changes in their lives. What came to us was broken and hurt. What leaves is a new human being.

That's what happens at Samaritan House every day. True, it doesn't happen to everyone; but when you see that spark and witness a person come alive, it makes everything we do worth while.

I remember several people who came to life:

- Marcelino nearly died from an allergic reaction. While he was here he found

himself a job and a place to live.

- Frank has cancer, but he got his life back together and with his disability found a place to live and is doing well.
- Sam had broken his leg, but was able to eventually find a place to live and now has a good job.
- Scott had pancreatitis and chest pain but he was able to get into a center to help in his recovery. He is still drug free and doing well.
- Lee was a veteran with a chronic heart condition. We got him back into the VA system and now he has a place to live and a job.
- Fred was bleeding internally, but by the time he left had a job and a new place to live.
- Margaret's story is on the front page.
- Valerie had open heart surgery, yet she eventually moved into her own apartment. She was featured in our last newsletter.

All these people needed was a short time to recover from their illness or injury and not have the worries common to those on the street. With that and some kindness, a new life began.

I invite anyone to come to Samaritan House to see what we do. Talk to our guests. Listen to their stories. In many cases, you will find a person not much different from the rest of us who became the victim of bad choices or circumstances. Take the time and you too will be able to see someone spark to life before your eyes.

## Make a Difference

Samaritan House operates solely from the generosity of our donors. We take no government dollars nor do we seek them. Our funding comes from a number of churches, grants, a few corporate gifts and the support of people like you.

Please take the time to visit our

website and look at what we do. Then we ask your support to help the homeless men and women of Charlotte recover from an illness or injury. Help us cut back on repeated hospital visits and ease the pain and suffering.

Make a difference in our community. It will be the most rewarding thing you ever did.