



Summer-Fall
Newsletter
2020

Good Samaritan Ministries, motivated by Catholic social teaching, works in our community to advance family life, human dignity and the common good. We provide services to meet the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families of all faiths, especially those most in need.

A Letter From The Board Treasurer

Since joining the Good Samaritan Board as Treasurer in 2014, I have watched the agency endure the highs and lows of the economy, weather storms, and world events including COVID-19. The Thrift Store has endured so much and both the board and staff have always adjusted accordingly, developing new solutions in order to keep up with the ever-changing world of retail, online sales, and non-profit operations.

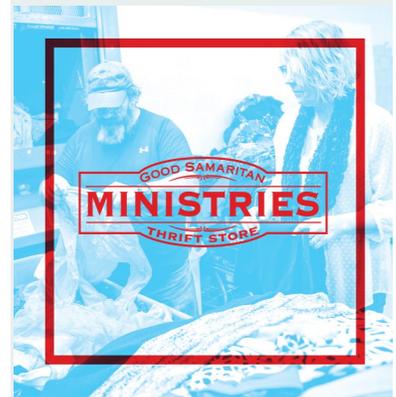
Most importantly, we are a faith-based organization following the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and all other faiths.

Through the ups and downs, Good Samaritan has never stopped providing assistance to those who are in need in our community. How? Our staff! They've come to us from various backgrounds and all walks of life, each with their own individual purposes, wanting to be part of Good Samaritan. They exhibit commitment, passion, and desire to live their lives in service to others and they do so with integrity and heart. My time as the treasurer of Good Samaritan Ministries, a faith-based nonprofit, has been and continues to be a labor of love.

Over the last two years, the board has implemented policies, financial systems, and a strong budgeting process. We have demonstrated accountability and reliable tracking of the diverse services we offer. As a nonprofit, we must run as a business and take our fiduciary responsibilities as seriously as all of our other services.

We do wear our hearts on our sleeves following social justice teachings while adhering to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) at the local, state, and federal levels. We do so in order to uphold best practices as well as client and employee success whilst successfully building a strong foundation for Good Samaritan's future. Thank you to you, our donors, for your monetary and material donations. Without them, we would not be able to meet the demands of those in need in the Helena community; their community, our community.

Jack Berry
Board Treasurer



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Letter From The Board	
A Donor Thank You	1
Fiscal Year Ending	2
CoVID-19 and GSM Services.....	3
New Programs	4
Our Place	
Housing Navigator	
Successes and Challenges	5
My Story.....	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- How COVID-19 affected us
- New programs
- Fiscal year successes
- What's to come in the future

A Thank You to Our Donors

Good Samaritan staff and Board would like to express our gratitude to all of our donors, it is because of all of **YOU** that 2019 was such an amazing year. As such, we were able to continue to do the important work of helping those in need even during critical changes, additional programming and fundraising for building needs. Good Samaritan and our Assistance Ministries will continue to help those in crisis gain stability in their lives while the addition of Our Place and the Housing Navigator Programs will expand our reach and allow us to help that many more people. what's new with our programs, and what is to come, so the following newsletter will let you know what's going on with us here at Good Sam's.



“Integrity is what we do and what we say we do”

Fiscal Year Ending

Fiscal year 2019-2020 was a big year for programing and overall growth of Good Samaritan Ministries. Like any organization we faced challenges but many successes as well. Together the administrative staff with the City of Helena and Lewis & Clark County took on two new programs, created a solid reserve account (the funds were designated to our roof replacement but unfortunately the funds helped carry us through the COVID-19 pandemic), maintaining a consistent store income basis, managed needed repairs for the building, expanded our administrative staff to include a Marketing Manager, while improving position based training and decreasing our turnover rate and turn over within all program areas. All in all our budget year finished off in the black with an amazing team effort, to include our Board, staff, donors and customers.

From 2018-2019:

Total Revenue increased: \$231,538

Net income increased \$208,210

In 2019 our Assistance Ministry helped support 1,1440 individuals and families giving back \$254,941 to our Helena neighbors

Thank you!!!!

COVID-19 and GSM Services, how our Staff and Board Have Managed and the Effects on Services

COVID-19 has caused significant challenges to both our store and ministries. In March, during the first pandemic shut down, the thrift store was closed with support being provided via email, phone, text, and in person with safety equipment. Initially we went from 41 employees, to 17 and finally down to 5, retaining assistance and admin staff. Staff, board and our stakeholders were unsure how we were going to be able to maintain the much needed Assistance services and to support the increasing needs exacerbated with COVID-19. Our new Marketing Manager stepped up to the plate to run a store sustainability campaign and YOU our donors helped us keep our ministry running while our store was closed. On April 20th the store was able to re-open allowing us to bring back all our employees and a few volunteers as well.

Thank you again to those of you who responded to our COVID-19 campaign!!!



New Programs – Our Place

In December of 2019 Our Place drop-in center became an entity of Good Samaritan. Our Place is a safe, physical space for men and women to create new beginnings. Our Place is a peer run support program specializing in behavioral challenges and those recovering from addiction. Since December the program has doubled the number of individuals served (averaging 600-800 people per month -prior COVID-19) as well as increased services provided by 85%. Our

Place provides individual meals, emergency food packets, housing and eligible documents, when necessary emergency shelter, treatment and mental health referrals as well as other daily needs.



New Programs Housing Navigator

Also an entity of Good Samaritan, The Housing Navigator program is a pilot the Housing Navigator Program is an entity of Good Samaritan, The Housing Navigator program is a pilot program for the City of Helena, Lewis and Clark County and the United way. .This service is to connect and engage housing insecure community members, landlords, property managers, and housing partners in Lewis and Clark County to housing services and resources. Some of the help provided to clients is connecting them with property management companies, open rentals, low income housing, and shelters in the area for those in need. Some other of the services the Housing Navigator program provides are Renters Insurance, Housing Application fees, Deposit or Rental insurance to get into housing, and GAP Emergency shelter. All of these services require documentation that needs to be brought to a pre-scheduled appointment in order for the Housing Navigator be able to help the client.



Successes and Challenges

- ◆ A **thank you** to our loyal donors
- ◆ A strong Board of Directors
- ◆ Dedicated Staff of which 90% returned after shut down
- ◆ Our dedicated volunteers
- ◆ The continuation of community churches and their donations
- ◆ Ability to re-open our thrift store
- ◆ Our loyal shoppers merchandise donors
- ◆ The community support for our two new programs
 - Our Place
 - Housing Navigator
- ◆ The reopening of Placer Pantry

- ◆ COVID-19 is still one of our greatest challenges
- ◆ Inability to fundraise in large groups
- ◆ Hiring staff has been challenging



My Story

I moved to Montana from Charlotte, North Carolina in November of 2019 as I have family out here. I love meeting new people and building connections. In my free time I love swimming laps, hiking, and making jewelry.

I came to Good Samaritan in March. In my interview I immediately felt at ease and comfortable talking with the Human Resources Director and the Executive Director. The position I was originally hired for was Outreach Coordinator but I quickly fell into more of a marketing role. I started communicating with donors via thank you letters and reaching out to some on the phone. I also ran my first email campaign for Good Samaritan for our St. Francis Dinner that we have every year but we had to put online this year due to COVID-19.

As circumstances started to get bad with COVID-19 we had to cut our staff down to just our assistance staff. Good Samaritan was in a tough situation and we were unsure how we were going to pay bills and payroll. I ran a Store Sustainability campaign and because of **YOU, our donors** we were able to raise nearly \$7,000. Due to **your** contributions and other entities we were able to breathe again. While the thrift store was closed I also started selling store merchandise such as furniture, vintage items, and other miscellaneous items on Craigslist and clothing on a selling platform called Poshmark where users buy and sell new and used clothing. I was able to bring in more revenue into the store with both of those sites having successful sales. As I continue in my position here I have transitioned into the Marketing Manager at Good Samaritan almost seamlessly and I love it, marketing is what I've always wanted to do. I've been in the field about 2 years now. I went to school at College of Charleston and got my bachelors degree in Marketing from there.

Working at Good Samaritan has given me a purpose again to do my part to help those most in need and feel good about the work I do.



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Please Visit Our New Website www.goodsamhelena.org

- Read about our Ministry and who we are
- Meet our Leadership Team
- Read our Mission Moments and how our assistance staff has helped people regain their lives
- Read about how Good Samaritan has been in the news
- Find out about all of our services we provide and how we can help those in need
- Learn more about our thrift store and what we do including truck pick ups for donations, opportunities for job and vocational training, recycling, and volunteering.
- Learn more about our volunteer program and how our volunteers give back to the community
- Find out about ways you can donate to Good Samaritan and the different programs you can donate to and what each of them do to help our Helena community

