



Samaritan House Newsletter

June 2011

Volume 3 Issue 3

Special Issue!

In This Issue:

- New House Update
- Donations Needed!

Samaritan House's new home is taking shape!

We closed on the new house in early May thanks to generous grants from the Carolinas Healthcare Foundation and the Leon Levine Foundation. Now it is undergoing a facelift and will be clean and bright when the guests move in this June. The good news is that no major structural renovations were required. Volunteers are coming in to clean and paint and the whole place is looking fresh and new.

We've been so lucky to have the help of generous vendors like Morris Jenkins Heating and Air Conditioning, Harris

Communications, and Halls Flooring. The water leaks are all repaired thanks to All About the Pipes Plumbing. We needed a wall built to create a conference room so one



of the wonderful members of the Dilworth Rotary, Nick Bowman, got his tools and the needed materials and (with the help of our treasurer Gene Schlaman) had the wall built in no time flat!

A team from Carolinas Healthcare System will be volunteering at the house just before we open to pressure wash the building and the decks, clean the yard and paint the outbuildings. They want to make sure the outside is as nice as the inside.

I've only been able to help out on Wednesdays since that's my day off of work. Last week I worked with Bob Teague and Lori Haase painting the offices. Bob and Lori are members at Newell Presbyterian Church which is not too far away from where I live. It makes me realize that although Charlotte is a big city, in some ways it's still a small town, with people coming from many different neighborhoods to help out on this project. Lori and I are strict amateurs but Bob's a pro! He made "cutting in" look easy and painted so

neatly. Once the rooms were done, they looked just great.

I painted one of the bathrooms that day as well. Other volunteers had already been in there, taping off the woodwork and wall hardware and repairing the holes in the walls. Somebody does the prep, then somebody else paints, then yet another person does the second coat...all these people coming on different days, at different times, working separately and yet together to finish a dining room, a bedroom, a whole house. It's good to be part of an effort like this.

Today I met a woman named Dana Woodward. I saw her briefly last week and I noticed that her name appears almost daily in the volunteer sign in book. She was cleaning up the leaves and sticks in the back yard parking area so I went out to chat a bit. Dana told me that she's new in Charlotte and found out about Samaritan House through St. Peter's Episcopal Church. When I asked her, "Why here? Why this organization?" she told me that she wanted to find something that would be a bit of a stretch for her, a challenge. She wants to work with the guests one on one, to learn how to give each person what's needed in that moment, whether it's a meal or a ride or a willing ear to listen. This isn't



something she's done before so it takes some courage. She's making a long term commitment to Samaritan House, not quite sure what she's getting into, but willing to step

out of her comfort zone and do her best.

A new volunteer, a new house, a new floor, a new wall, a new paintjob...and a safe place for ill and injured people who are homeless. It really is a new beginning!

--Mary Fluke, DVM

Samaritan House Board Member

Samaritan House
3424 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

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www.thesamaritanhouse.org

Buddy, Can You Spare A Dime?

Samaritan House has been incredibly fortunate to receive generous grant support from the Levine Foundation and the Carolinas Healthcare Foundation to help with the purchase of the new home for Samaritan House, as well as continued support from the faith community here in Charlotte. The capital costs are covered, but we still have the day to day costs for food and medications, utilities, staff, etc. We've also encountered the unexpected expenses that everybody comes up against when they move. The long term picture is rosy, but in the short term, we need the continued support of the community to provide care for the guests at the old location, and soon the new house. Bottomline, if you can spare some cash, now would be a really great time to make a donation to Samaritan House. You can donate by check with the enclosed envelope, or by credit card using the "donate" button on the website (www.thesamaritanhouse.org). Thank you for your generous support now and in the past!

...and along those same lines, grateful thanks to Blue Restaurant

...& Bar, 206 North College St., particularly Deborah Armstrong and her staff, for hosting a wine and cheese tasting in March, with live music and a silent auction. Over 50 people attended and had a wonderful time while raising \$2500 to benefit Samaritan House. Cheers to one and all!

Would you like to help us save money to pay for guests' needs rather than paper, ink, and postage? Contact us at bgoforth@thesamaritanhouse.org so we can update your contact information including e-mail address and we'll start sending your newsletter electronically and save a few trees!
