

# Samaritan House Newsletter

June 1, 2008

Issue 1, Volume 1

## Message from the Executive Director

## Volunteers Work to Spruce Up Samaritan House

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I have been at Samaritan House nearly six months and I cannot begin to tell you how much of a difference this ministry is making in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Each day we are able to work with our guests to make lives better. Not only are people getting well, but they are also finding it within themselves to begin the long and arduous process of getting their lives back in order.

In just the few short months since I have been here, we have been able to help 47 people recuperate from their illnesses and injuries. Of those, only five returned to the streets or the shelters. That means Samaritan House is much more than just a place to "get well." The recuperation is extending beyond health and reaching to encompass entire lives. That alone makes this job exciting.

I hope you are as excited about this as I am. Everyone here - from staff to our volunteers - should be extremely proud of the part they have played to help each of our guests. We are all truly making a difference.

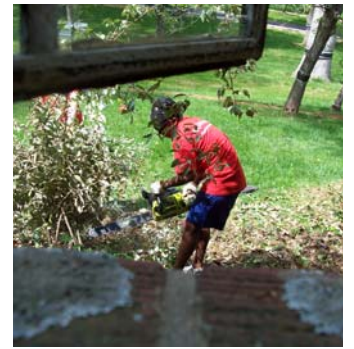
Thank you all for making this the most rewarding job I have had!

Brad



Volunteers from Hands On Charlotte, Bank of America and Duke Energy came to Samaritan House over the past month and helped landscape and clean out the flower beds around the house. Over several weeks they cleaned out the old shrubs down to bare ground, pulled up ivy and planted new plants including gardenias, azaleas, Japanese maple trees, and hostas. Hardwood Tree Service donated a truck full of

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## Did you know?

A family of 4 in Mecklenburg County needs \$44,064 a year to have a Living Income

Of the people who fall below this standard:

- \* 61% of adults work, most hold down 2 jobs 42% are children
- \* Most are paying 50% or more of their income for housing
- \* The top 3 most pressing needs are child care, health care, and housing

- \* Most earn less than \$9.12 per hour and have no benefits
- \* 48% of adults in NC only have a high school diploma
- \* There are 55,580 renter households in Charlotte paying more than 30% of their income for housing
- \* 29,000 are paying more than 50% of their income for rent
- \* 90 people a month ask Crisis Assistance for help each month to avoid eviction or utility turn off
- \* Charlotte needs 9300 housing units for families making less than \$16,000 a year.

*Information from North Carolina Justice Center and the Charlotte Observer.*



## Carrie's Corner

On a hot day there's nothing better than having something cool during a meal. This is a recipe that combines two great cool tastes into a summer soup.

### Cold Two Melon Soup

Ingredients: 2 ripe cantelope, and 2 honeydew melons, rind removed, seeded and diced; 4 T. fresh lemon juice; 4 T. fresh lime juice; 3 T. fresh mint, chopped and divided, plus more for garnish.

Place cantelope and lemon juice in a food processor, blend until smooth. Add 1/2 of mint. Place in an airtight container and refrigerate at least three hours. Clean the processor and repeat with the honeydew, lime juice and remaining mint. To serve, keep cantelope and honeydew purees separate. Place in two pouring cups. Pour simultaneously into soup bowls. Garnish with mint leaf. Soup should be a swirl of green and orange. Enjoy!

You can find this and other Samaritan House recipes in our cookbook "Sharing Our Bread."

*Samaritan House*

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hardwood mulch. As a result, Samaritan House has a whole new outdoor look. In a few years the house should look like a garden! Special thanks to our board members for donating the azaleas and other plants.

In addition, a local Boy Scout began work on a memorial garden outside the fence. When complete it will be a restful spot with a bench and a landscaped garden.

Drop by and see how fresh Samaritan House looks and feels.

