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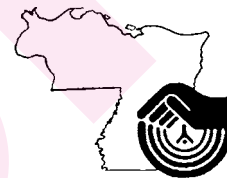
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*The Mission of the Samaritan Center is to provide support and counseling in a professional, faith-based setting. While our services are available to people of all income levels, we are committed to providing help to those who have limited financial resources.*



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1526 STEPHENS • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101  
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# Samaritan Spirit

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER

FALL 2009

## From the Director's Desk



Paige Metzgar  
Executive Director

With our Samaritan Award Banquet approaching, I am reminded of the Samaritan story recorded in the gospel according to Luke 10:30-37. The story is about a man who was robbed, beaten and left for dead. He was saved by a compassionate Samaritan who came to him, bandaged his wounds;

and put him on his beast while he walked. The Samaritan brought him to safety, cared for him, asked another to care for him, and even paid for that care.

The Samaritan showed mercy, love and loyalty. This is such a powerful story and one that we have the opportunity to live out in our daily lives.

Look around you. Do you see wounded people who need care? They may not be physically wounded like the

man in the Luke passage, but they may be emotionally or spiritually wounded. Do you show compassion and mercy to these individuals? Do you care for them, bring them to safety, introduce them to others who can care for them, and pay for those services?

These are the questions that make me squirm. My answer is, "yes, sometimes." I squirm because I know the passage is directed toward people like me, commanding me to love and care for my sisters and brothers in our community.

The Samaritan Award Banquet gives you the opportunity to learn about an individual being honored for his Samaritan attributes. You also have an opportunity to make a donation to our subsidy program, which helps provide counseling services to those who cannot afford it. This program helps many people receive counseling and changes their lives for the better. I hope I see you at the Banquet!



## Dr. G.E. Ghali 2009 Samaritan of the Year

Dr. G. E. Ghali will be honored as Samaritan of the Year at the 2009 Samaritan Award Banquet to be held Thursday, October 22, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at East Ridge Country Club. He is married

to Hope Laura Ghali and has four children: Gregor Elias, Grace Everett, Gabrielle Elyse, and Garrisyn Ember. Dr. Ghali has arguably the widest scope of any oral and maxillofacial surgery practice in the country, spanning from cleft lip and palate repair to cosmetic surgery to head and neck cancer.

Dr. Ghali has dedicated his life to helping those in need. He has volunteered countless hours and conducted many

life saving facial surgeries. In 2005, Dr. Ghali was contacted by a mission group asking him to treat a young girl from the Dominican Republic. She had a large bony tumor on her face that was very unsightly. The local mission's clinic did not have the equipment or expertise to treat her medical needs. The tumor would continue to grow and, without surgery, cut off her air supply. Due to extenuating circumstances she was unable to travel to the United States until she was 18. Dr. Ghali donated his services to make this miracle happen. With the help of several people, including his Assistant Professor, Dr. David Kim, the trip was arranged and he began the first of several procedures. These lasted for a period of approximately two years which included removal of the tumor, jaw reconstruction, implants and facial reconstruction. At 20 years old, she was able to eat foods that she never could before, and also began to regain her self confidence. Not only did she look beautiful but she felt beautiful.

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**STAFF****Executive Director**

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Rev. Todd Mallory, Ex-Officio**E-mail Newsletter & Updates**

Please help us save the environment and cutback on expenses. Register to receive the newsletter and Samaritan Updates by e-mail. Log-on to [www.samaritanshreveport.org](http://www.samaritanshreveport.org) and sign-up today.

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Who are we at the Samaritan Counseling Center and why is that important to you and to our Community?*

The mission of Samaritan Counseling Center is to provide support and counseling to individuals, families, and the community in a professional, faith-based setting. While our services are appropriate for people of all income levels, we are committed to providing help to those who have limited financial resources.

And just what does that mean?

It means that in the beautiful house on Stephens Street and in satellite offices a group of highly trained, compassionate, and caring therapists gather to offer help to those in our society who are struggling. Struggling with addictions, struggling with marriages, struggling with grief, struggling with children, struggling with relationships, struggling in many different areas of their lives. They offer this help in a way which enables the clients to explore their relationship with their higher power if they wish. They offer this help to people who may not be able to afford the cost of therapy.

And how do we do this? For 23 years the Center has grown by carefully hiring and then encouraging therapists who support our mission.

Last year our staff provided 3,178 hours of counseling to over 600 clients. Over 70% of these individuals were not able to pay the full fee and were subsidized by funds received from contributions, grants and fundraising efforts.

In order to be able to offer help on a sliding scale to people in pain we must find a way to attract the funds to supplement the costs of running a facility with such high standards.

In these challenging economic times this task has become even more difficult. We ask you to support our efforts in any way which is possible for you...if you are struggling, give us a call, if you know someone who could benefit from our services, give them our number. If you have time, talent, or treasure to share, please do consider assisting the Samaritan Counseling Center to enable us to help others.

**Jane Snyder**  
Board President

## Thank You!!!

The Center, located at 1525 Stephens Street in Shreveport, is a wonderful facility provided by Noel United Methodist Church—rent free. Through the generosity of the church, the Center is able to help people make changes in their lives that bring hope, help and healing.

Noel also provides the meeting room for the monthly board meeting and the seminars that are conducted by the Samaritan Counseling Center.

We are most appreciative of their generosity.



**UPCOMING SEMINAR.**

**Reducing Family Stress During the Upcoming Holidays**  
Guest Speaker Jean Baldwin, M.A., LMFT

Holidays conjure up feelings of your childhood home, Mom's pumpkin pie, family gatherings. And, these thoughts may have you turning the car around and speeding back to the safety of your own house!! In this seminar, guest speaker Jean Baldwin will offer tips on avoiding family conflicts and reducing holiday dinner stress.

Friday, October 9, 2009  
12 noon – 1 p.m.  
Samaritan Counseling Center  
1525 Stephens St.  
Shreveport, LA 71101

These seminars are free of charge. To reserve your seat today, call (318) 221-6121.

## Samaritan of the Year

*Continued from Page 1*

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina left thousands of people homeless. Dr. Ghali and his wife provided a family of seven a house to stay in, paid the rent for six months, and provided many of the family necessities.

Dr. Ghali displays his love of teaching in the residency program which he has built over the past 11 years at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. Since being appointed over the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Department, the program has grown from six residents and two interns to fourteen residents, two interns, and a fellow. Oral surgeons mentored by him are now practicing in every area of the United States. His love of teaching is also displayed in his travels to countries such as India, Taiwan, Thailand and China where he volunteers his services to demonstrate and teach innovative techniques to their surgical staff.

He received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Louisiana

State University in Shreveport, his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, Texas and a Bachelors of Science degree from Dallas Baptist University in Dallas, Texas.

The Samaritan of the Year award is presented annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to human health and growth, demonstrated religious sensibility in their work, and personally exemplifies the ideals of the Samaritan ministry. The proceeds from the banquet will enable the Center to continue to help those who come for counseling, regardless of their ability to pay standard fees.

The Samaritan Counseling Center's Board of Directors is especially proud to honor Dr. G.E. Ghali for his dedication to local and world-wide humanity in addition to his years of Samaritan-like service.

Do not expect therapy during mediation, and it is not a means to obtain legal advice. Mediation is not the mediator's process; it is the parties' process.

Typically, parties can expect two to four one-hour sessions facilitated by the mediator. All parties in attendance work toward a goal and an agreement to reach a settlement outside of the court system. The process relies upon the abilities of the parties to reach a voluntary agreement, with an expectation of impartiality from the mediator and confidence in the process.

A Memorandum of Agreement (or Understanding) is executed by the mediator at the end of the mediation process outlining the agreements reached by the parties involved. All parties receive a copy to present to their attorneys (and judge if mediation is court-ordered) for legal review.

Excluding cases that involve physical abuse, the mediation process can work and is worth a try, even in the most difficult of situations.

Sources:

How to Set Up a Juvenile Court Mediation Program, 25th National Conference on Juvenile Justice, March 22, 1998. Presented by National District Attorneys Association and National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

The Fundamentals of Family Mediation by John Haynes, 1994.

*"Friends are an aid to the young, to guard them from error; to the elderly, to attend to their wants and to supplement their failing power of action; to those in the prime of life, to assist them to noble deeds."*

*- Aristotle*

*"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness or abilities that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."*

*- William Penn*



----- Please detach and return to 1525 Stephens, Shreveport, LA 71101 -----

**2009 Samaritan Award Banquet & Silent Auction Reply Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St., Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations
- We are unable to attend but have enclosed a tax deductible contribution.

*Please reserve a place at this table for:*

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
8. \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR LEVELS AVAILABLE:**

- Title Sponsor - \$2,000**  
Title Sponsor Banner Acknowledgement  
Lobby Signage Acknowledgement  
:15 Video Business Showcase  
Video Acknowledgement  
Table Acknowledgement  
Preferred seating  
Program Acknowledgement  
8 Dinner Tickets for you and your guests  
*Your Support will change the lives of 66 families for the better!*
- Gold - \$1,200**  
Video Acknowledgement  
Table Acknowledgement  
Program Acknowledgement  
8 Dinner Tickets for you and your guests  
*Your Support will change the lives of 40 families for the better!*
- Table Sponsor - \$800**  
Program Acknowledgement  
8 Dinner Tickets for you and your guests  
*Your Support will change the lives of 26 families for the better!*
- Dinner Reservations - \$100**

## 2008-2009 Donors

### Congregations

Broadmoor Baptist Church  
Central Assembly of God Church  
First Baptist Church Shreveport  
First Lutheran Church  
First United Methodist Church/Shreveport  
Noel Couples Class  
Noels Men's Sunday School Class  
Noel United Methodist Church  
St. Luke's UMC (Pumpkin Patch)  
St. Mark's Cathedral  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church

### Corporate, Foundations/Grants & Individuals & Clubs

Altrusa Club  
Baynham, Bailey & Lori  
Belk's Charity Day  
Bolin, Mary & Jim  
Breux, Countice  
Bright, Frank & Suzanne  
Cunningham, Wavely & Bill  
First United Methodist Church - Grant 1st Qtr.  
JPMorgan Chase (Grant Mating; Tim Hart)  
Johnston Chiropractic Clinic  
Snyder, Enterprises  
Snyder, Jane  
Tatum, Maurice & Dorothy  
United Way SE Pennsylvania  
Wernitz, David & Katherine  
W/K Bossier Medical Staff

### Board

Blewer, Julia	Pugh, Ben
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Johnson, Susan	Wren, Regina
Johnston, Paul	Young, Mary
Jones-Joseph, Keisha	
Mallory, Todd	
McCrocklin, Mark	
Perry, Mitzi	

### Rock'N Art Auction

AEP SWEPCO  
Benefit Consultants  
Benjamin, Jr., Cloyd  
Blewer, Julia  
Bowman Systems  
Braswell, Shelly  
Colquitt, CJ  
Cunningham, Wavely & Bill  
Delgado, Maria T.  
Fire Tech Systems  
Fisher, Dennis  
Fleming, Carolyn  
Folsom, Mr. & Mrs. Charles  
Greenleaf, Jay & April  
Hand, Stacey  
Holsapple, Brad  
Jackson, Sue  
Johnston Chiropractic Clinic  
Jones-Joseph, Keisha  
Kendig, William F.  
McElroy, Maggie  
Metro Aviation, Inc  
Morgan, Roy  
Nelson & Hammons  
Rockin Art Auction  
Rockin Art Auction  
Salley, Charles W.  
Snyder Enterprises  
Snyder, Jane  
Storer, H.E.  
Thornton, Dixey  
Updegraff, Donald R.  
Watkins, Dr. & Mrs. Juan  
Yarbrough Interiors  
Yokem Toyota



## Gifts of Healing, Gifts of Hope

Throughout the year, children, families, couples and individuals come to the Samaritan Counseling Center for professional, faith-based counseling. Donations to the Samaritan Holiday Greeting Card Program allow you to honor your friends, loved ones and business associates, and at the same time, help provide healing and hope to people in crisis and need.

The Center will send each recipient on your list a beautiful Samaritan Holiday Greeting Card with a poem composed by one of our clients. A donation of \$10 or more per card is requested. Please contact the Center, (318) 221-6121, for further information. **Donations to the Samaritan Counseling Center are tax-deductible.**

## Mission Partners

Thank you for supporting the Samaritan Counseling Center. Your generous contributions and client referrals help provide healthy healing to hurting people in a professional, faith-based counseling environment, regardless of their ability to pay.

Airline Baptist  
Bethlehem Baptist  
Broadmoor Assembly of God  
Broadmoor Baptist \*  
Brookwood Baptist  
Calvary Baptist  
Cedar Grove 7th Day Adventist  
Centenary College  
Central Assembly of God \*  
Central Christian  
Christ Fellowship  
Christ United Methodist Church @ Red River  
Doyline UMC  
Eastwood Baptist  
Fellowship United Methodist  
First Baptist Shreveport \*  
First Lutheran \*  
First Presbyterian  
First United Methodist Shreveport \*  
Galilee Baptist, Shreveport  
Grace Community

Heflin UMC  
International Mission Board  
Keithville UMC  
Mary Queen of Peace  
Mt. Olive Baptist  
Noel United Methodist \*  
Open Door Bible  
Red River  
River Valley  
SDA Philadelphia  
Southern Hills  
St. Luke's United Methodist \*  
St. Luke's CME  
St. Mark's Episcopal  
St. Matthew AME  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church\*  
Summer Grove UMC  
Temple Baptist #2  
Word of Life

\* Financial/ In-Kind Supporter

## Divorce and Custody Mediation Offered at Samaritan Counseling Center

By Wavely R. Cunningham, MA, LPC, NCC  
Divorce and Custody Mediator

My experience as a therapist on an inpatient adolescent unit afforded me the opportunity to conduct over 2000 family sessions over several years time frame. Some common characteristics of these family sessions were disputes surrounding divorce and custody issues. What I witnessed was disturbing. The number of parents of adolescents who were divorced ranked in the majority, and on-going, costly court battles were more common than not.

In the worst case scenario, lives were literally consumed in a vicious cycle of taking ex-spouses to court. In many other cases, the parties were not on common ground with residency, visitations, schedule changes, and education to name a few. At times, this stressful existence negatively impacted the health and well-being of the parents and most importantly, the health and well-being of their children they brought into this world together.

My exploration of options to the traditional court system and in what settings these options might exist, set me on a journey that landed me at Loyola University, College of Law in New Orleans, LA studying to become a Divorce and Custody Mediator.

Mediation is a viable, flexible and less costly option to the traditional court system. And the setting? Samaritan Counseling Center. A therapist as a divorce and custody mediator, you might ask? Yes! A therapist trained as a mediator.

In a mediation setting, I am a neutral third party, assisting parties in resolving their dispute. Settlement is the goal, with each party bearing equal responsibility, giving way for all parties to find a win-win solution. Other critical issues including holidays, school vacations, extended family provisions, geographic relocation, child care, health insurance and future mediation can also be resolved in this setting. In addition, parties may agree to mediate property and financial issues.

What makes it work? Equal responsibility and ownership in the dispute and the solution, results in a higher degree of compliance from both parties.

*"Believe, when you are most unhappy, that there is something for you to do in the world. So long as you can sweeten another's pain, life is not in vain."*

*- Helen Keller*

## Memorials and Honorariums

Burford, Porter & Suzanne  
Memory of: Ed Blewer

Chance, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon  
Memorial: Ed Blewer

Cosse, Dr. & Mrs. Spiro G.  
Memorial: Ed Blewer

Hooper, Roger  
Memorial: Ed Blewer

Murray, Cindy & Jon David  
Honor of: Stacie Hildebrand

Palmer, John T.  
Memory of: Bill Ward

Perry, Mitzi  
Memorial: Ed Blewer

Revere, Mary Ann & Mike  
Memorial: Bill Ward

Richards, Leigh Ann  
(Network for Good)  
Honor of: Wavely Cunningham

Scheib, Louis M.  
Memory of: Bill Ward

Shreve Frame & Clock  
Memorial: Ed Blewer

Ward, Jeannie W.  
Honor of: Bill Ward