

# SAMARITAN MINISTRY

A MINISTRY TO PERSONS WITH HIV AND AIDS IN THE KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY

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## AIDS Striking Women, South

It is widely held that HIV and AIDS has a much greater impact on communities in urban areas, particularly those in the Northeast and far West. The opposite is true.

Rural communities and small cities are feeling the impact of this disease as the numbers of new infections in the U.S. continue to grow at the rate of 44,000 per year. The impact of many new infections, with death rates dropping, means that our communities are seeing increases in the numbers of our neighbors who are LIVING with HIV.

Increases in numbers of new infections are affecting women in large numbers, especially young women. While Southern women represent about 29% of the women in the U.S., they represent 76% of new HIV infections in this country. <sup>1</sup>

Poverty and lack of access to healthcare continue to be main contributors to new infection, yet the best friend of this virus is silence. Silence has helped HIV gain a foothold in small cities like Knoxville and the surrounding, mostly rural counties. Between 1999 and 2003 the number of people living with HIV/AIDS jumped more than 36% in the 16 counties surrounding Knoxville. The South has lost more than 200,000 people to the epidemic - more than any other region of the country. <sup>2</sup>

It still seems, however, that talking about AIDS is still taboo in many places. Talking about AIDS means talking about sex and sexuality... and drug abuse. But silence about the issues related to HIV continues to be a great stumbling block. An effective attack on this virus, one that can really make a difference, will involve courage and action.

### TennCare Changes Impact Real People

Over the past several weeks we have seen the effects of TennCare changes on the people we serve. These changes do impact people differently, depending on income and individual circumstances, but there has been an impact. Most notably, Samaritan Ministry clients are feeling a pinch because Ryan White funds are being used to provide for medical appointments and medication, and not for some traditional Ryan White "items" such as dental care, vision services, and transportation. Many patients are also impacted by new co-pays and drug limitations, which will mean that some needed medications are not covered at all.



We have seen an increase in the number of calls that we receive from our partners (Knox County Health Dept., Hope Center, Parkridge Harbor) who seek our assistance with these needs. Because of donations from individuals and a grant from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, we are fortunate to have funds available to meet most of these needs as they arise. This will continue to challenge Samaritan Ministry and all of the organizations that serve people who are living with HIV.

## Conference Activities

Samaritan Ministry was present at two national conferences this summer, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) national assembly in Dallas, and the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit (HPLS) in San Francisco.

The CBF conference allowed us the opportunity to share our ministry and mission with a large number of Christians from all over the United States. We are a unique local church-sponsored ministry and we do receive a bit of attention! Wayne presented on the topic, "Breaking the Silence: HIV, AIDS, and the Church" and we were present in the exhibit hall for the duration of the conference. AIDS, recognized mostly as a worldwide problem, was on the minds of many at this year's conference, and we were excited to see the leader of CBF, Dr. Daniel Vestal, sporting an AIDS ribbon on his lapel as he addressed the gathering. CBF is a long-standing financial partner with Samaritan Ministry.

## Prison and Jail Ministry

Over the past few months, Samaritan Ministry has begun to have a presence in four East Tennessee prisons and in the two Knox County Jail facilities. Inmates in these facilities who are HIV positive are in need of support and advocacy that requires a knowledge of the issues related to HIV. Working in partnership with FOCUS Prison Ministries, we are able to meet and support a number of inmates, and to establish a relationship with medical personal in these facilities.

Also in partnership with FOCUS, we have developed an orientation video, *Locked and Loaded*, which deals with the risk of Hepatitis C and HIV for inmates. Officials in the prison system have given this video a good review, and we hope that it will be viewed in prisons statewide.

### References

- 1 USA Today, June 15, 2005
- 2 The Nashville *Tennessean* September 11, 2005
- 3 The Daily Beacon *Online*, October 16, 2005

## Information & Educational Sessions

Educational efforts continue to be an important part of our ministry's focus. Working with volunteer educator, Stacey Bristow, we are able to offer informational sessions in schools, churches, colleges, and universities. As of the end of the third quarter, we have been responsible for 79 presentations reaching 3,900 people.

## Until There's A Cure offers financial support to Samaritan Ministry

The organization that most people know as UNTIL, has given a grant award to Samaritan Ministry to assist with educational projects. UNTIL is the organization that produces the wonderful bracelets, pictured below, that are sold to provide funds to organizations like Samaritan Ministry that serve on the front lines with those living with HIV.

To find out more about Until There's a Cure or to buy a bracelet, log on to [www.until.org](http://www.until.org).

Remember, an UNTIL bracelet makes a great Christmas gift!



# 10 Years

# Our Volunteer Team

In February 1996, a small group of Central Baptist Church of Bearden members organized an HIV & AIDS educational program in Sunday School classes and pastor Larry Fields preached a sermon about compassion. It was then that the committee, known as the "Infectious Disease" committee, first recorded our policies and the words that make up our mission statement. Wayne Smith and Steve Humphreys visited Danny Montgomery (Danny died of AIDS in March, 1999) and Samaritan Ministry was born. These first steps made by a Baptist church were the inspiration of now retired Minister of Education, Mack Bingham who was inspired into action after reading "Burden of a Secret", the powerful story of Baptist minister, Dr. Jimmy Allen.

## Our MISSION STATEMENT

"Our church should be a beacon of light and hope, by way of Christ, to anyone who suffers from or has family or friends who suffer from this disease."

## AIDS Global Fund on the Edge

With Bill Frist on the forefront as Senate Majority Leader, Congress is dickering with the U.S. response to funding of the Global AIDS Fund, a worldwide nonprofit fund devoted to raising political and financial capital to combat the global AIDS pandemic. David Bryden, communications director for Global AIDS Alliance, said the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is in jeopardy because of a lack of funding from the United States. "(In 2005) all other donors have done their part, and now we're waiting on the United States," he said.<sup>3</sup> The U.S. of \$840 million commitment to the Fund has been a long-standing goal, but the U.S. seems to be begging off the promise it has made. Congress needs to step up to the plate and save lives.

Singles 4 Sunday School Class  
Adult 3A Sunday School Class  
Adult 4B (Hadley/Bennett)  
Young Married S.S. Class  
Central Baptist Youth Department  
Central Baptist Children's Department  
West Hills Baptist Church  
Faith Promise Church  
Mission Friends  
Girl Scout Troop 262

Annie & Ryan Acree	Todd Acree
Carol Bardill	Stacey Bristow
Bud Brooks	Jerry Bryant
Jeff Burnette	Todd Butler
Neil Chivers	Amy Clark
Jim Copeland	LaVerne Craig
Sam Croft	Lee Cross
Frank & Nancy Dunn	Sean Gangaware
Michael Grant	Joe & Betty Gross
Rosalie Hadley	Billy Hargrove
Genie Hargrove	Larry Helton
Shirley Hembree	Allen Hildreath
Steve & Deborah Hill	Matt Howell
Sandi Irons	Elaine Kirby
Steve, Glenda, Malory & Kayla Johnson	
Kristi & David Korda	Rita Layman
Bill McConnell	Carol-Ann McMillan
Betty Mirts	Ron & Gloria Murff
Lee Ann Mynatt	Kathryn Nunley
Brendan O'Farrell	Gerry O'Farrell
Carole Overholt	Jacque Prince
Jeff Simmons	David Smith
Laura Smith	Ted & Mary Katherine Stryk
Jo Sweet	Don Taylor
Terry Weber	Debbie Wilkerson
Sim Willis	Stephen & Courtney Willis

## Samaritan Ministry Advisory Board

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## Our Partners

FOCUS Prison Ministries  
Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church  
West Knoxville Cooperative FISH Pantry  
Quick Print & Copy, Lenoir City, TN  
Friendship Class @ Cumberland Baptist  
Knox County Health Department  
Centers of Excellence  
Hope Center @ Ft. Sanders Hospital  
Parkridge Harbor  
Helen Ross McNabb Center

## Funding Partners



Tennessee Department  
of Health



Central Baptist Church  
of Bearden  
Knoxville, Tennessee

## M-A-C AIDS Fund

Global AIDS Foundation

*Tennessee*

*Partners in Missions*

*Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*



**Beulah**

Beulah Baptist Church  
Devereux, Georgia

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Roy & Joyce Wyatt  
Mr. & Mrs. O. N. Page  
(to honor Rev. Genie Hargrove)

## Samaritan Ministry

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