

# Samaritan

## Ministry



### In this Issue:

#### SAMARITAN BEGINNINGS

Now in our 28th Year, Samaritan Ministry continues our work fighting against HIV and the stigma that drives the epidemic.

Page 2

#### TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

Great strides are being made in both Prevention and Treatment of HIV.

Page 3

#### 2024 REPORT CARD

Our year in review, by the numbers.

Page 4

## The United States Conference on HIV/AIDS

We started attending this conference, the largest gathering of professionals and those affected by HIV/AIDS, in 2004. Our presence there was noteworthy, as we were the only faith-based group represented in the very large exhibit hall.



We got a lot of attention.

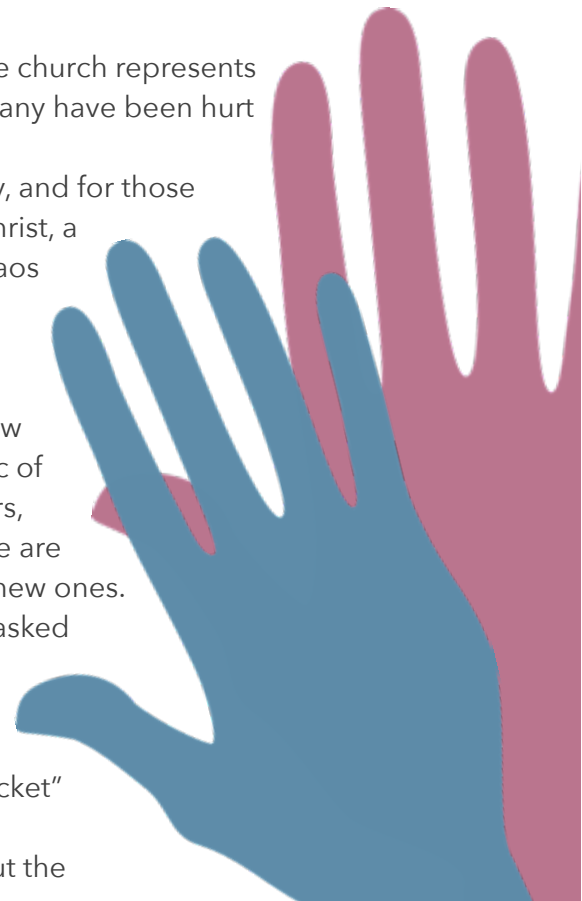
Some challenged us, as for some the church represents the source of stigma, pain, and hate. Many have been hurt by the church and by Christians.

For many, we were a God-send, literally, and for those visitors, we represented the hope of Christ, a welcome presence in the middle of chaos and uncertainty. Many welcomed us as representing the God who loved them and loves them still.

Twenty years later (September in New Orleans) we are now a part of the fabric of USCHA, one of the most loyal exhibitors, and still, the only faith-based group. We are greeted by old friends, and also meet new ones. We hear success stories and are often asked about how we started and if we have faced obstacles. We share our history and strategy, and many are interested in our Hope for the Holidays "Hope Bucket" project.

This year we taught our visitors about the

**See USCHA on page 2**



# Samaritan Ministry

## Our Beginnings in 1996

Jimmy Allen's 1995 "Burden of a Secret" opened the wounds of a community of believers who would be shunned and shut out of the church they called home. In the face of AIDS, a family struck down by this virus, Dr. Allen revealed a painful truth... Christians often fail in their desire to follow Christ.

Our path began with one of our ministers reading Dr. Allen's book and asking this question. "What would our church do if a young woman came to us asking for her sons to be a part of Bible study and worship and revealed to us that they both had HIV." It was 1996, and fear and misinformation about HIV was still very much a part of the public view.



Out of this discussion began an effort to learn about HIV/AIDS and then present the facts [to our congregation. Soon, Samaritan Ministry was born.

Soon we were delivering food and getting to know people living with HIV. We have met hundreds of men and women who are navigating this illness, which has become a chronic manageable disease for most people. Yet, since our beginnings, we have lost 90 friends. Our mission drives us to love our neighbor who has HIV and work to prevent new cases.

### Our Mission:

Our church should be a beacon of light, hope, and Christian support to anyone who is living with, or has family or friends who are living with HIV/AIDS.

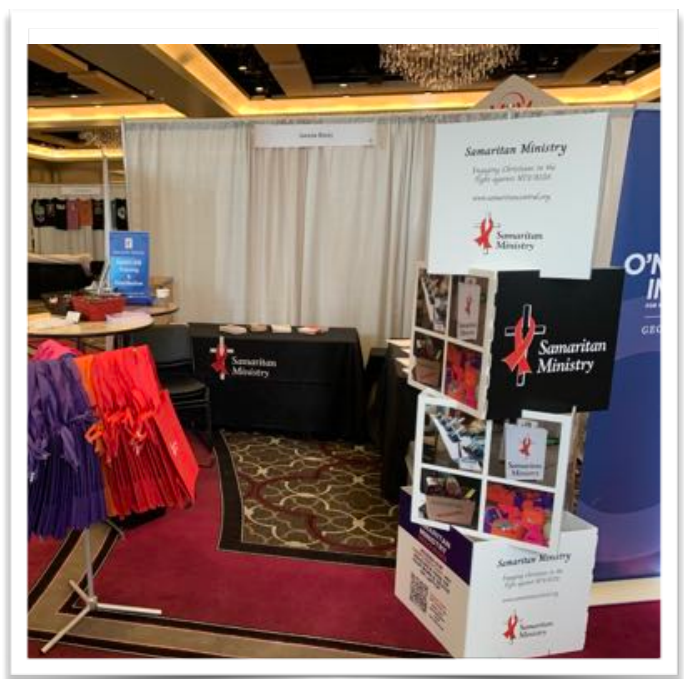
Through Christ, we are also working to bring an end to this epidemic with HIV testing and prevention education. We recognize the importance of our engagement with the concurrent epidemics of Hepatitis C and the Opioid Crisis as they negatively impact the ongoing efforts to eliminate new HIV cases in our community.

### USCHA – From page 1

science of HIV injectable treatment and prevention (read about this on page 3), distributed NARCAN kits, New Testaments, and literature for churches. We can document more than 300 visits with people from all over the U.S.

Our resources are always available on our website at [www.samaritancentral.org/resources](http://www.samaritancentral.org/resources).

This conference represents one of the largest annual financial commitments of Samaritan Ministry, and your support helps to make this happen.



# Samaritan Ministry

## Treatment and Prevention Update

Care and Prevention of HIV continue to improve but new cases of HIV still happen every day, with 32,000 new cases per year in the U.S. There is still work to do.

**T**reatment for HIV continues to improve. With each passing year it seems that advances in treatment continue to make living with HIV a more robust experience, one that provides a full living experience where HIV is not a daily dread. Living with HIV has become truly a chronic manageable disease. We still need to remember that homophobia and fear of AIDS still contribute to stigma which makes HIV different from other chronic conditions, such as diabetes.

### Treatment highlights include:

1. Better and better daily oral medications that control HIV with few, if any, side-effects.
2. The addition of new injectable HIV treatments that provide an alternative for those who may have trouble taking pills every day. Today these shots are once every two months with terrific results.
3. Effective treatment for HIV, resulting in controlled or suppressed virus (viral load), makes it impossible to transmit HIV to another person with sexual contact. In this case treatment is prevention.

**P**revention against HIV, often called PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis has also made great strides in recent months. From

the original prevention strategy, the condom, HIV prevention has advanced to daily oral medications that prevent HIV.

### Prevention highlights include:

1. Two daily oral medications that prevent HIV at 99% levels for sexual transmission and 75% for injection drug transmission.
2. Every-other-month injections with the same protection against HIV transmission.
3. Clinical trials with a new PrEP injectable, lenacapavir, are providing superior results. This may be available in

mid-2025. Lenacapavir is a twice-a-year injection.

4. There is still no vaccine for HIV, but the knowledge we have today is enough to bring HIV to an END.

### Education matters:

Advances in HIV care and prevention alone cannot truly work until everyone with HIV knows their status and gets treatment. This is why we continue to provide educational programs and testing in our communities and why we offer comprehensive resources regarding HIV. Samaritan

Ministry has provided hundreds of educational programs on HIV, viral hepatitis, and syphilis.

### What is an HIV Cure?

Although we've gone 40 years without a cure for HIV, scientists believe one is possible. They're researching several ways to make that happen.

Treatment-free remission means the virus is controlled without the need for anti viral drugs, which you now must take every day for life.

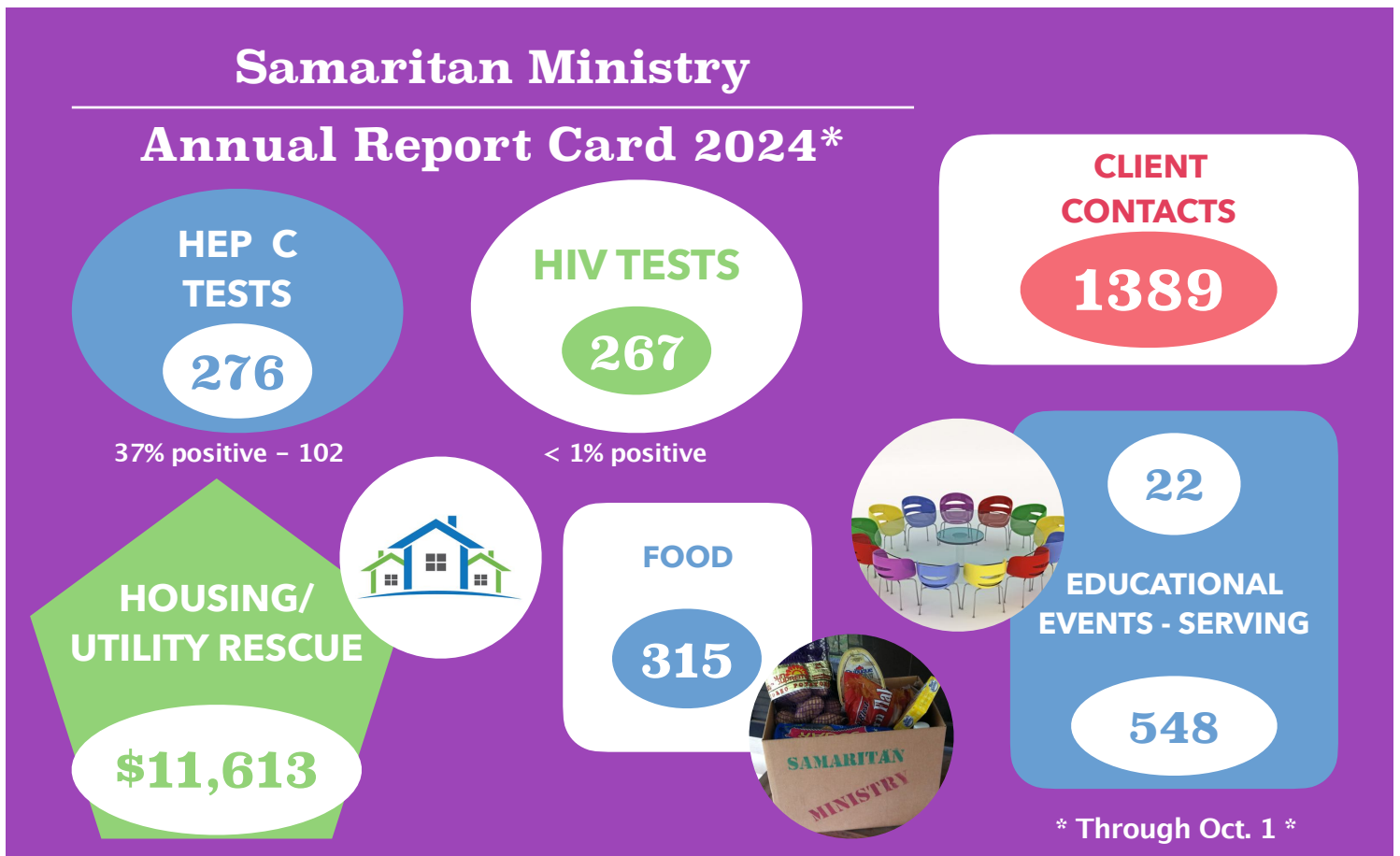
Viral eradication, or eliminating all HIV in the body, is another way of looking at a potential cure. It's also known as a sterilizing cure or complete cure.

Curing HIV at an early stage. In a handful of cases, people who started anti viral drugs within a few weeks after infection but later stopped treatment ended up with undetectable levels of HIV.

# Samaritan Ministry

## 2024 Report Card

2024 has been busy and we have accomplished much.



## Just facts

1. Today, HIV is considered a manageable chronic disease, much like diabetes. The difference is the stigma that still exists for those living with HIV.
2. While there still is no cure for HIV, science gives us all we need to end this pandemic. We know how to prevent transmission and how to keep people healthy.
3. About 10% of those living with HIV are unaware that they are HIV+. Education and testing are still vital parts of ALL HIV programming



# Samaritan Ministry

## USCHA Photo Gallery



# Samaritan Ministry

## Support

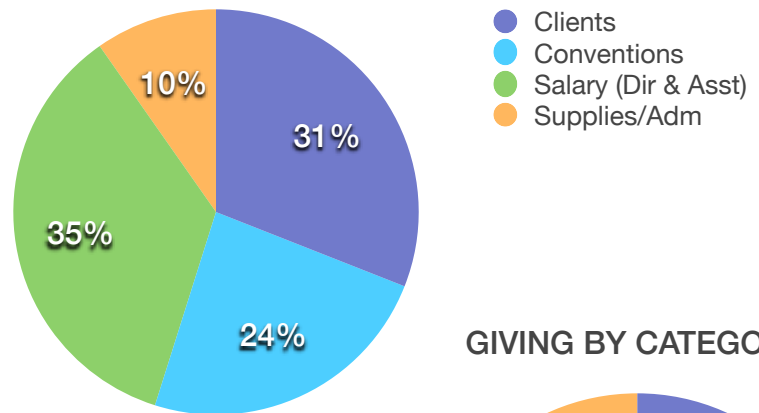
Samaritan Ministry runs on a budget of \$89,600. These funds are raised to run our ministry as a self-supporting entity of Central Baptist Church of Bearden.

Our support comes from a variety of churches and church organizations, several foundations, some government support and many, many individual donors. Individual donations for people like you represent 32% of our total budget.

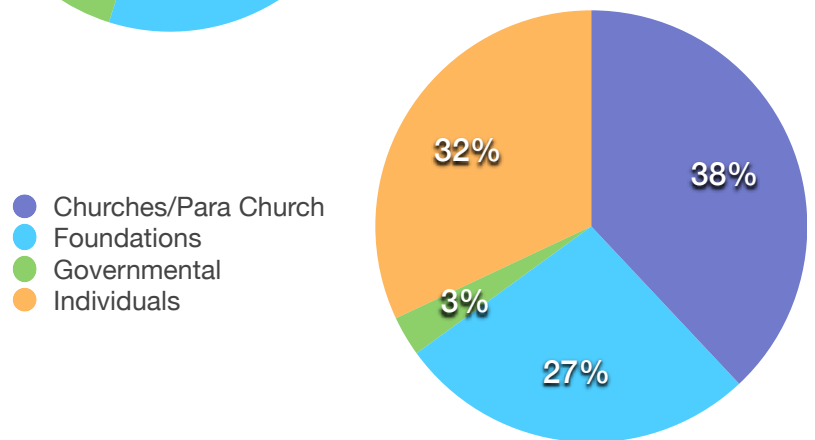
Our faith partners, the backbone of our budget, include:

- Central Baptist Bearden
- Cedar Springs Presbyterian
- Central Baptist Fountain City
- Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

EXPENSE BY CATEGORY



GIVING BY CATEGORY



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

# Samaritan Ministry

6300 Deane Hill Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37919



Your support enables Samaritan Ministry to continue to serve our neighbors who are living with HIV.

Give easily with this link.

<https://centralbearden.org/give/>