

SAMARITAN MINISTRY

A Ministry of Central Baptist Bearden

Why Samaritan Ministry?

It is a model set for us by Jesus Christ... to care for the sick, visit those in prison, clothe the naked, and feed the hungry.

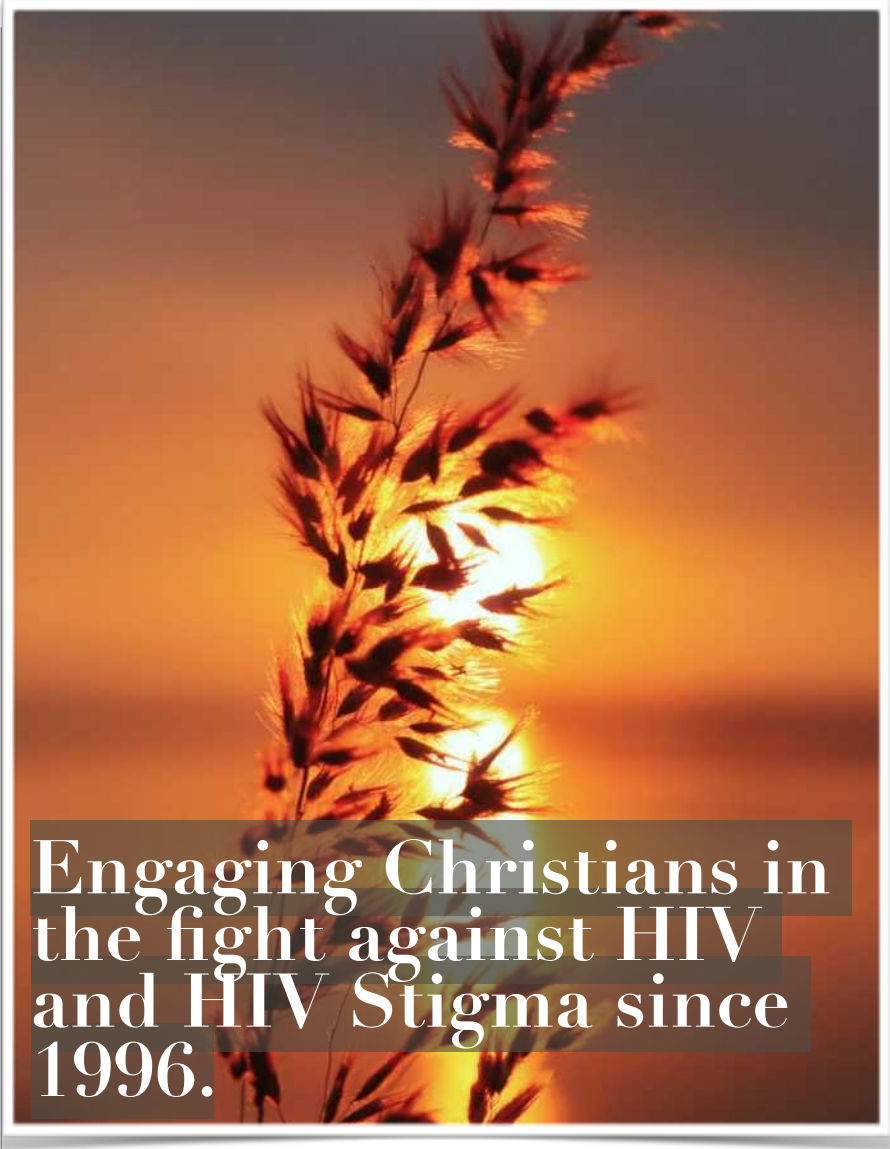
Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus leads and we follow his commands. We care for His people.

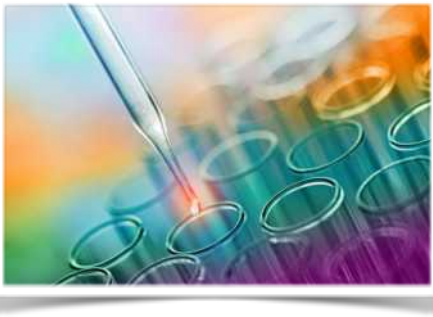
For 25 years Central Bearden has been a leader and supporter in this fight against HIV, and against stigma, homophobia, and discrimination. We are not finished!

God is love.

Thank you for being part of our ministry work.



Engaging Christians in
the fight against HIV
and HIV Stigma since
1996.



Treatment Recommended at time of Diagnosis

As HIV treatment medications have improved over the years, the evidence has been mounting that HIV treatment should be initiated at the time of diagnosis. There were barriers to treatment in the days when meds were hard to come by, and when they caused debilitating side-effects. Doctors often waited for an AIDS diagnosis before starting treatment.

Today’s antiretroviral treatments are more powerful, cause fewer and milder side effects, and are most often delivered in a one pill, once-a-day format.

Many HIV clinics are initiating “Rapid Start “ programs, where newly diagnosed patients leave the clinic with medication in hand on their first clinic visit.

Vaccinations

HIV patients need to ask their medical providers about common vaccines, such as flu shots (usually recommended). Depending on immune system status, several vaccines should be considered, including pneumonia,

meningitis and Tdap. Hepatitis A and B vaccines are always recommended for people living with HIV.

Antiretroviral Therapy

Antiretroviral Therapy, also called ART or HAART, is a combination of medications designed to prevent HIV from multiplying in the body. The goal of therapy is to suppress the virus to a low level, often called ‘undetectable’. Drugs that people take for HIV treatment are sometimes called a “drug cocktail”, but many people take one pill a day.

Undetectable equals Untransmittable U=U

We now know from scientific research that a person living with HIV, with controlled virus (undetectable), sustained over time, will be unable to transmit HIV to another person, even without condom use. This is fact, not conjecture.

Adherence

Although meds for HIV treatment are better and more forgiving, it is still important for HIV patients to take their medicine regularly, as prescribed by their medical provider. This “adherence” will give maximum benefit to the patient, and ultimately prevent transmission.

HIV TREATMENT AND CARE BASICS

Family Planning

People living with HIV can safely have children. If mom is undetectable, there is no risk to the baby. Men wishing to have children should have an undetectable status so that they will not transmit to a partner. Recent research findings (see U=U above) have changed the world for HIV positive men and women wishing to have families.

Pregnancy Warning

There is currently a safety warning for an HIV drug known as Dolutegravir. This medication is in brand named medicines Tivicay, Triumeq, and Dovato. Women of child bearing age should not use this medication.

Oral Health and Vision Care

Good oral health and regular vision check-ups are a vital part of good HIV health. We know that programs to address these issues for the person living with HIV are not always available (so true in Tennessee). This needs to be an area of advocacy for every HIV patient and the community of supporters.

Quit Smoking

Smoking is more likely to kill than HIV. Really.



**FAITH
COALITION
SPONSORING
EVENT FOR
YOUTH IN MARCH**

FAITH Coalition has been a partner organization with Samaritan Ministry for many years. This is a coalition of churches focusing on reducing the impact of HIV and HIV stigma in the African American Community. We are in the process of planning events in March 2020 to commemorate the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.



**MISSION
FRIENDS LEND
HELPING HAND**

Mission Friends is a group of children at Central Bearden between the ages of 3-5 years old. The Children's Department at Central creates opportunities to train these young ones about the heart of Jesus for the poor, sick, and disenfranchised.

Mission Friends always helps provide placemats for our guests at the Thanksgiving Banquet (11/21 - this month).

We are grateful for the opportunity to involve the children in the work of Samaritan Ministry.

**A LITTLE HELP
FROM A
(LAWYER)
FRIEND**

When illness occurs, especially serious illness, the importance of Advance Directive documentation cannot be overstated. Several of our friends have recently been in situations where decisions needed to be made, yet there was not written documentation expressing the wishes of the person involved. We have been very fortunate that a local law firm has stepped in to make a number of these legal documents (Living Will, Power of Attorney, Healthcare Power of Attorney, and Wills) available at no cost for a large number of our Support Group friends. Thank you, thank you.



**Our Friends at
OUR DAILY BREAD**

Each quarter, Miss Louise, our office volunteer, sends out more than 80 "Our Daily Bread" booklets to Samaritan Ministry friends around the country. These booklets are provided free by Our Daily Bread Ministries.

We have found this to be an important part of our ministry work as we often get calls if we are late sending, or if someone moves.

Thanks, Louise, and thanks ODBM!

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE ON AIDS



Our USCA Crew

This September in Washington DC, Samaritan was again able to make their presence known in the exhibit hall. One of over 200 exhibitors, we were the only faith-based group, certainly the only local church, and the only Baptist congregation represented. We had a great team, as you can see, above right, Emily, Mike, Laura, Val, and Wayne. At lower left are our testing partners, Kim and Melodie, from Helen Ross McNabb Center, and Chooson Byambaa, from HBI-DC. We offered hepatitis C tests at our booth on Saturday.



US Conference on AIDS - Washington DC

Traveling to USCA with a team of five for 4 days in DC is not an inexpensive endeavor. Adding hotel, travel, food, and conference exhibitor expenses is a daunting prospect for a small organization like Samaritan Ministry. We were able to pull it off, however, largely because of one VERY generous donation from one of our church families.

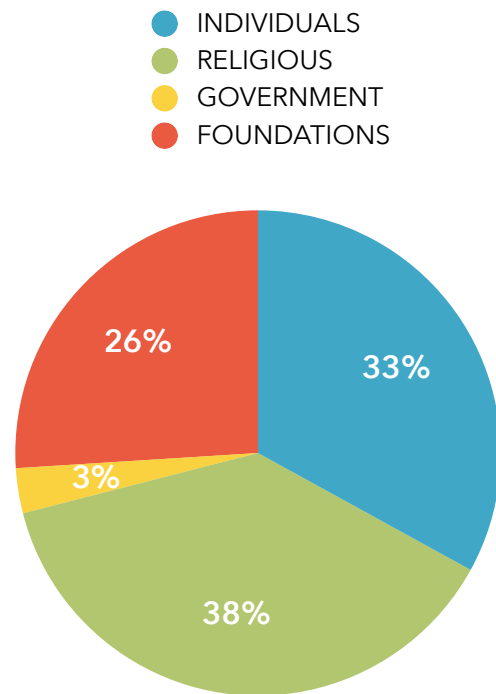
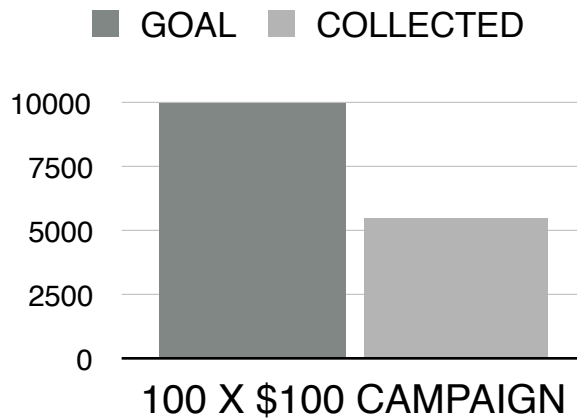
2019-2020 Budget

Our 100 X 100 Giving Campaign was successful, netting \$5500 in contributions, going a long way toward meeting our budget needs for the fiscal year.

We appreciate all of the many, many supporters and their contributions.

As you can see in the chart to the right, our projected annual budget (\$75,000) is made up of a healthy variety of donors, religious and secular. This balance is needed to maintain a healthy future.

Budget and Financial Information



FALL NEEDS AND DONATIONS

Please be aware that your contributions are ALWAYS needed. You can give with a check, made out to Central Bearden, with an online donation, through the Central Bearden website - [HERE](#). Choose SAMARITAN.

HIV and Hepatitis C Testing

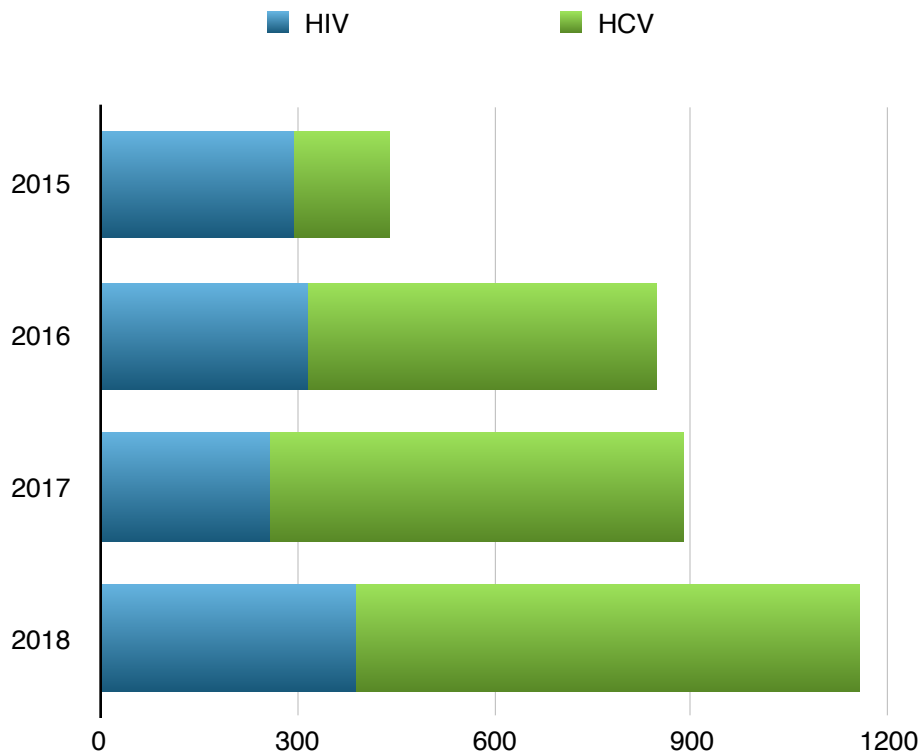
GET TESTED!

Check [HERE](#) for places to get tested near you.

While our HIV positivity rate remains low (less than 1%) our Hepatitis C (HCV) positivity rate is quite high (35%). This high rate of HCV positive tests has been consistent since we started testing for HCV in 2013.

Our testing program runs in cooperation with Helen Ross McNabb Center, our testing partner. Below is a graph depicting the number of HIV and HCV tests conducted during the 2016-2018 period.

The reason our HCV testing has increased while our HIV testing numbers have remained stable is because there are several agencies providing HIV testing in the Knoxville community, while the majority of HCV testing is provided by the Samaritan Ministry/Helen Ross McNabb partnership. These are the numbers reported here.



Our Mission

“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.”



FALL/WINTER EVENT SCHEDULE

11/21 Annual Thanksgiving Banquet at Central Bearden - 6:30 p.m.

11/25 - Thanksgiving Basket Delivery

12/10 - Christmas Box Delivery

12/12 Hope for the Holidays Party at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church - 11:30 a.m.

SAMARITAN MINISTRY

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