

Good Samaritan Home

New Beginnings

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We're on the web

With all the changes going on with our ministry, we knew it was important to let people know more about us. And what better way to do that than through an Internet website.

But it can easily cost thousands of dollars to design a site—that is, unless you know Ben Hunt.

Ben is a local pastor and a website wizard who volunteered to get us on the web for FREE.

So now if you want to know more details about what is going on at Good Samaritan Home, then click on www.goodsamaritanhome.org, and read all our past newsletters, newspaper articles about us, as well as the columns John Graham writes for the several local papers. There's even a photo gallery planned showing the past three years of our ministry.



New name, same ministry

In April Koinonia House officially became Good Samaritan Home. Although the name has been changed, the ministry is still the same.

“Our primary focus from the beginning three years ago has been to use our home, to use Christian hospitality, as a way to share our faith,” Good Samaritan Home Director John Graham said.

Board chairman Paul Bersche said it is actually a return to our primary vision.

“From the outset it was our hope the Graham’s home would be a safe place for anyone in need. While working with the Koinonia ministry out of Chicago we focused on just working with ex-felons. Now as Good Samaritan Home and with our added outreach programs, we are convinced we will have more impact on the



The ministry's new name is now displayed prominently on the front porch with an antique print that embodies the welcome spirit of the house.

Over the years it was mostly kept in storage because it never quite fit whatever house we were living in. Although I threatened to throw it out repeatedly, Kathy insisted we keep it “until we find just the right house for it.”

So when we were looking for a sign to display our new name, Kathy pulled her old 75-cent print out of the closet one more time and announced, “I think I’ve found the perfect sign for us.”

And she was right. Good Samaritan Home—built in 1879—is about welcoming the stranger.

community.”

Planned for 35 years

The new name for the ministry is now on display on the front porch set in an antique print and frame.

But ironically, this name was planned 35 years ago. Kathy bought an old print at a garage sale for just 75 cents that she felt embodied the warmth and love that she wanted to be the center of her home one day.





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**GOOD SAMARITAN
HOME**

Welcoming the Stranger

Visit our website
www.goodsamaritanhome.org

Our History

Good Samaritan Home was started in 2001 as Koinonia House, a residential mentoring home for Christian men coming out of prison. But when we realized we were not reaching the vast majority of needs in the community, we expanded our vision, changed our name and added to our building to help more people in need.

Our Mission

We believe that faith can only be lived out through acts of kindness to the needy in our community. That is what Jesus meant when he said, "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." For us that means using our home, our time and our lives to show Christ.

Our Vision

Our goal is to help heal broken lives in the community with whatever means we can. By doing that we not only change others, but we change us as well.

Good Samaritan Home remodel nearly done

For the past three and a half years we have lived in a major construction project to make our 125-year-old house a place where hurting people could find welcome, safety and healing.

There were times—especially when it was just 55 degrees in the house all winter – when we didn't think we would ever see our dream come to pass.

But last Christmas the kitchen was completed, by Easter the living and dining rooms were done, and by July the master bedroom was finished. Although the new oak flooring is not done yet, for the first time since we moved in, we feel like we have a home at last.

More important, we feel like we can finally offer hurting people in the community a safe place where they can find acceptance—and our dining room table will serve people



Kathy's dining room table is the center of our ministry to those hurting people who come to Good Samaritan Home for help.

in both houses.

Although restoring this old house

is not our real ministry, it is a symbol of our ministry of restoring broken lives. It is like the motto on our website says, *"With enough work, enough time and enough help from the whole community, broken lives, like a broken house, can be made new."*

To be honest, it has not always been easy. Rebuilding lives is like living in an emergency room. It can be messy, but the alternative—to do nothing, is not an option.

In Hebrews 11:1 it says, *"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* We bought this house on faith. We lived through the dirt and cold on faith, and most of all, we welcomed strangers into our home on faith. We did that because without someone opening their lives to us, none of us would know Christ. Can we do any less for others?