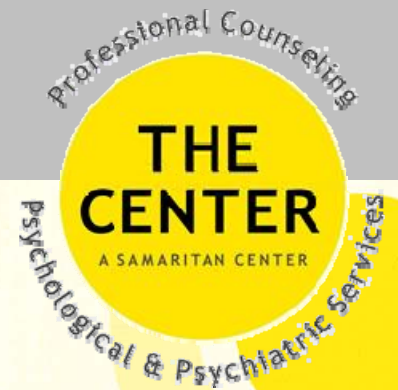


The CENTER, a Samaritan Center

2008 Annual Report



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Special points of interest:

- ◆ The CENTER served 1240 sessions to individuals who qualified for financial aid
- ◆ The CENTER has six therapists and counselors that have served for 10 years or more
- ◆ The CENTER has a new website to better serve the Saint Joseph community



The CENTER
2008

Board of Directors

- Diane Waddell
President
- Ali Wray
Vice-President
- Chris Danford
Secretary
- Doug Brandt
Treasurer
- Marci Bennett
- Drew Brown
- Fiona Hummer
- Carol Mullican
- Elaine Coder
- Jerry Pickman
- Carol Robb
- Roger Lenander

Caring Partners
Committee

- Drew Brown
- Chris Danford
- Karen Graves
- Fiona Hummer
- Sharon Kosek
- Nancy Lear
- Kay Partamian
- Diane Waddell
- Ali Wray



From the Executive Director

We have come a long way!



Almost seven years ago our organization was hidden away on the third floor of the Christ Episcopal education building, was not very well known in our community, and where it was known the Samaritan Counseling Center was perceived to primarily serve either those who wanted spiritual counseling or needed financial assistance. We were not financially stable and our future was questionable.

But this was a mental health organization that was providing much needed services to a population that had few, if any, alternatives. We knew something had to be done to ensure these services continued. So, we developed a vision statement to guide our planning. "Our vision is to be a stable and financially viable provider of choice, for any individual, regardless of financial ability, who comes to us for help, and to be recognized as a leader in the field of mental health and wellness, influencing the delivery of mental health services in our community".

We developed marketing and financial stability plans and proceeded to implement them. We changed the name to "The CENTER, a Samaritan Center" to appeal to a broader population that needed mental health services yet maintain our appeal to those who wanted faith based services. We relocated to new facilities that were handicap accessible and presented a professional environment, yet would be comfortable to those who were being served using financial assistance.

We continue to expand our staff in order to provide a broad range of professionals from psychiatrists, to advanced practice nurses, to psychologists, to licensed clinical social workers to pastoral counselors. This professional staff, supported by an efficient and client caring administrative staff, has resulted in the increase of persons and sessions we now serve.

We also have partnerships and network with numerous community agencies including the Social Welfare Board, St. Joseph School District, Buchanan County Juvenile Court, Heartland Hospital in-patient unit and many others. We also network with other providers of mental health services through leadership on the Mental Health Steering Committee and The Circle of HOPE project to develop and implement a new System of Care for children with Severe Emotional Disturbance.

All that we do is guided by our mission statement; "to provide professional accessible counseling, psychological and psychiatric services to promote the physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being of every individual in our community who turns to us for help".

While continuing to live our mission we look forward to continuing transformation for The CENTER, to become the premier and preferred provider of a full range of mental health services through a full time professional staff, providing leadership in the community for mental health.

The populations we serve, from those needing financial assistance to those covered by Medicaid and Medicare to those covered by private insurance or individually covered are growing and will continue to increase. We continue to try to serve more who can pay so we can serve more who cannot. But under girding all of this is the support we receive from the community for our Caring Partner's Program.

On behalf of those who would not be served without your support, we thank you.

Charles "Bud" Salanski

The CENTER welcomes new Medical Director

The CENTER, a Samaritan Center, is pleased to announce Dr. James Jura joined our staff as a full-time psychiatrist and medical director. Dr. Jura has practiced Adult Psychiatry and Internal Medicine in the Saint Joseph area for the last 3 years and will be accepting new patients, ages 16 and older, for out-patient psychiatric care. Dr. Jura is a graduate of University of Missouri at Kansas City medical school and completed his training in North Carolina at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Dr. Jura



Dr. Jura, board-certified in psychiatry and internal medicine.

looks forward to working with patients experiencing a wide range of needs. His specialties are in medication management of Depression, Anxiety, Psychosis and Substance Abuse.

Dr. Jura recognizes the importance of enhancing the opportunity for treatment success by combining counseling

with pharmacotherapy in a comprehensive treatment plan. He is certified to prescribe SUBOXONE for office-based treatment of opioid dependence.

Dr. Jura is community minded and excited to join our team of clinicians at The CENTER. He will be collaborating with Marilyn Fitzgerald, RN, CS AP/MHCNS who specializes in Grief therapy and Chronic Illness. Another member of the medication management team at The CENTER is Bonnie-Lee Birchansky, M.D., who is board certified in General and Child Psychiatry. Dr. Birchansky is accepting new patients and enjoys working with clients of all ages.

Samaritan Resource Center gets help from volunteers

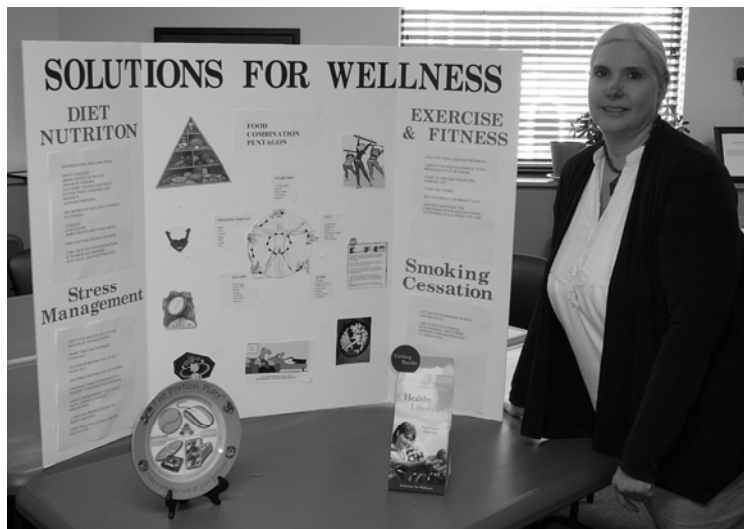
The Samaritan Resource Center is a program at The CENTER to provide take home materials and other resources for issues that are important to our clients. These issues could include substance abuse, depression, marriage/relationship difficulties and chronic pain.

Laura Willoughby, RN, is a mental health nurse at Heartland Inpatient Mental Health Unit who volunteers her time at The CENTER. She maintains the Samaritan Resource Center. Using her expertise in the mental health nursing field, she has added a wellness clinic to the Resource Center. This is important because many clients who use psychotropic medication experience side effects like weight gain, drowsiness and migraine headaches. Laura has provided handouts, resource material like cook books and

a wellness education class to teach clients how to control these side-effects with diet and lifestyle changes. Any clients who wishes to participate in the wellness clinic can also have their weight, and blood pressure monitored.

The CENTER has 7 volunteers who donated about 15 hours every week. Volunteers make appointment reminder calls, file charts, do data entry

and many other important things at The CENTER. If you would like to volunteer at The CENTER, give us a call at 816-364-4300.



Laura Willoughby, mental health registered nurse

The Caring Partners Program continues to serve more funded sessions

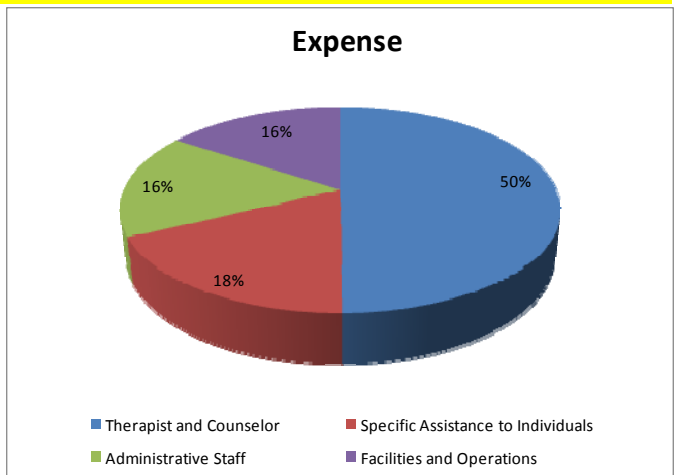
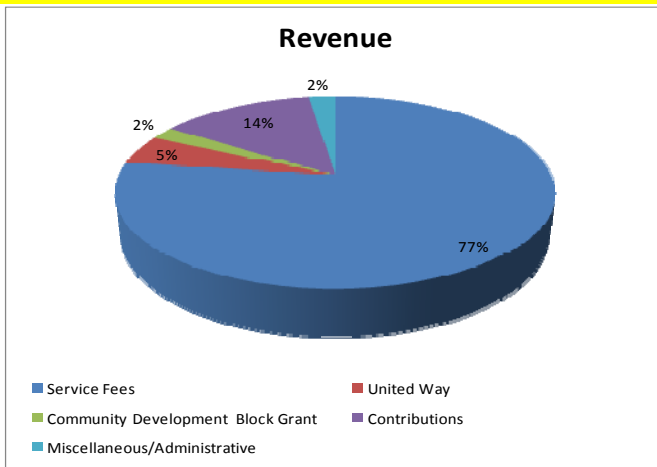
When clients need mental health treatment, but cannot afford the full cost of fees, the Caring Partners Fund helps them get professional treatment. The Caring Partners Fund receives money from the United Way, the Community Development Block Grant, the Leah Spratt Charitable Trust, and from individual donations. In 2008, the Caring Partners Fund helped serve 1287 sessions to 200 individuals. Because mental health care is far more personal than physi-

cal health, most therapy sessions are scheduled for 50 minutes. These sessions are billed at \$120 per hour. In order to see as many clients who qualify for funding as possible, The CENTER will only receive \$55 on average per session compensation from the Caring Partners Fund. Even the mental health professionals will be accepting less pay

for these clients because everyone at The CENTER has a passion for mental wholeness. Administering services at such a reduced rate and maintaining a sound budget is a daunting task, but a task for which The CENTER must continue to strive.

The CENTER is the only mental health out-patient treatment facility in Saint Joseph that offers such a broad range of mental health treatment services to individuals who need financial assistance.

2008 Financial Report



With today's economic climate, The CENTER is experiencing a significant increase in the number of clients seeking financial assistance for mental health treatment. Without proper funding, The CENTER will have to turn away more of these individuals.

* Unaudited numbers

Samaritan Institute and Clergy and Congregation Care Program

The CENTER is accredited by the Samaritan Institute, a national organization located in Denver, CO. The Samaritan Institute was founded with a belief that most people, religious or not, feel more comfortable with a faith-based approach to counseling.

Last March, The CENTER



Samaritan Institute President, R.J. Ross

hosted Samaritan Institute President, R.J. Ross. Mr. Ross spoke to area pastors and leaders of local congregations about a new program The CENTER will offer. This new program will provide support to pastors, ministers, and clergy in their

stressful profession. It would also provide a contract guarantee to serve their congregation with counseling and therapy sessions. To find out more about this program or to find out how your church can become involved, call 816-364-4300.

The CENTER celebrates employee service

Carole V. Scott, MSW, LCSW, CADC, has served The CENTER for the last 20 years as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Her dedication to The CENTER was honored at a staff appreciation dinner in October.

Carole has a passion for serving everyone who needs mental health treatment, not just those who can afford it. Her tremendous commitment to The CENTER and its services is displayed by her years of service.

Carole works with adults with adjustment, anxiety and depressive disorders. As a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, she also specializes in substance abuse counseling. Carole also counsels on issues related to women as



Carole says, "I love working at The CENTER!"

well as marriage and divorce issues for individuals and couples.

Carol is not alone in her dedication to The CENTER. In fact, Dr. Bonnie-Lee Birchansky, Robert Randleman and Marilyn Fitzgerald have all served for 16 years or longer. The average length of service for counselors and therapists at The CENTER is 13 years.

Front Office staff works hard to provide service to clients

In customer satisfaction surveys, clients at The CENTER felt the front office staff treated them with courtesy and respect. Office manager Jeanie Ferril says, "We understand how hard it can be to ask for help. We always try to answer the phones, or greet a client with understanding and empathy."

The CENTER staff works hard to keep the office running smoothly. The goal is always to get a client into the counselor or therapist within ten minutes of their scheduled appointment.



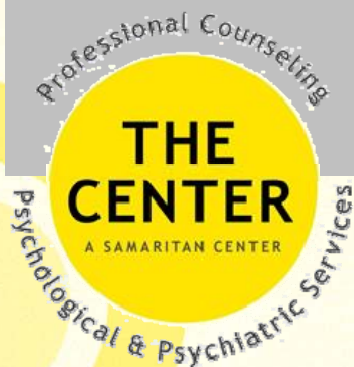
Angela Lukeheart, Thea Griffin, and Jeanie Ferril

The CENTER, a Samaritan Center

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"People are our business"



Check out our new website at
www.theCENTERlistens.org



The CENTER adds new Employee Assistance Program administrator

The CENTER has offered Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services to local business for the last decade. These are contracted services with local businesses that provide therapy sessions, educational seminars, and management training. We are committed to offering mental health treatment for a wide range of employee needs.

As a part of this commitment to excellence, we have decided to add to our EAP family. The CENTER, a Samaritan Center, is pleased to welcome O.L. "Lanny" Ellis as Employee Assistance Program Consultant. Lanny is a member and past president of the Northwest Missouri Human Resources Association. He has over 40 years experience working with major employers in the Saint Joseph area. He brings the right experience to act as administrator for The CENTER's EAP program.

The CENTER was founded in 1986 in conjunction with Heartland Hospital to provide outpatient faith-based mental health interventions. Due to growth and a large need in Northwest Missouri, The CENTER reorganized as an independent organization in 1992. With the help of area pastors and other professionals, a governing Board of Directors was appointed and the agency operated on the third floor of the Christ Episcopal Church. The appointment of current Executive Director, Charles W. Salanski, in 2002 and his revamped marketing plan and financial strategy resulted in growth of services and another move to a handicap accessible location in downtown Saint Joseph. The organizations steady growth is shown by sessions served. In 2003, The CENTER saw 491 new clients and served 5836 sessions. In 2008, The CENTER saw 683 new clients (1,551 Total) and served 6109 sessions.