



The Barnabas Connection

Volunteer News

Introducing the Barnabas Connection

On behalf of the staff and our clients, we wish to convey our heartfelt thank you for all the time and effort you have put forth to support our mission of helping individuals and families in need throughout Nassau County.

As you all know, the work of the Barnabas Center can be quite difficult. We see so many people each day that are discouraged and even heartbroken. At the very least, we can mend the immediate crisis and give some hope that tomorrow will be a little bit better. The name "Barnabas" has been translated as the "son of encouragement" and over 200 of you each year make the name come alive.



Many of you work at the crisis center and food pantry, others in the medical and dental programs and still others volunteer at New To You. And there are those of you that help out at special events and other fundraising activities. What we accomplish together is amazing. For example, we dispense 65,000 pounds of food each year, sort clothing so that New To You can financially support our programs and if that weren't enough we provide over a hundred visits to the Samaritan Medical and Barnabas Dental Clinic each month. You all make a difference in the lives of over 5000 men, women and children clients that utilize our agency.

We are very excited about the Barnabas Connection, the newly formed Auxiliary. On May 27th they have a wonderful evening event planned. A bus will transport our volunteers touring all of the sites of Barnabas ending with a party at New to You. I hope to see you there! Again, thank you for making such a difference in our community.

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Waldo Romero Receiving the Roland Knight Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2008 Barnabas Center Annual Meeting



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Barnabas Crisis center is looking for a few volunteers that might like to work on landscaping for the center on 11th Street. If you are interested, please contact :
Mary Clemens at 206-4466

Save The Date !

Wednesday, May 27th at 7 PM.

Barnabas Connection will sponsor a Tour of Operations for all our interested volunteers. At the end of the tour there will be wine and cheese refreshments to honor our volunteers and their spouses.

The evening will start at "New to You", 930 South 14th Street, where Carol Reader will explain the Barnabas resale shop operation. From "New to You" the buses will take our volunteers and their spouses to Barnabas Crises Center and Food Pantry. The group will also tour the Medical and Dental Clinics to learn about those facilities. After the tour, the buses will bring everyone back to "New to You" for wine and cheese.

Please RSVP by May 20th by phone: Crisis Center (904) 261-7000 or E-mail: Thea True at: thea.true829@gmail.com



**Katie Carr and Nancy Bullen,
Nurse Coordinators**

Samaritan Medical Clinic Update

The Samaritan Clinic has now been open for three years. The original clinic opened one evening a week in the Barnabas Center. The clinic is now open three evenings with urgent care medical every Tuesday and Thursday and women's clinic once a month on Wednesday. Dr. Tom Washburn is the medical director and Katie Karr and Nancy Bullen are the nurse coordinators.

The Samaritan Clinic is a free, walk in, urgent care adult clinic. Nassau County residents qualify for care if they have no form of medical insurance and they are at or below 200% of the poverty level. The clinic has a partnership with the Nassau Baptist Hospital which allows the clinic to use laboratory and radiology services at no cost to the patient. We service about 10 – 12 patients each evening with about half being new patients.

All of the people who staff the clinic are volunteers except for Katie and Nancy. The clinic is always recruiting new volunteers. There are several job descriptions and you don't need medical training for most. When patients walk in the front door they are greeted by a volunteer receptionist who gathers information from the patient in order to create a chart and get the process moving. A volunteer intake worker will interview the patient to assure that they qualify for services. A volunteer mental health worker will also interview the new patient concerning social behaviors. The volunteer admission nurse will take vital signs, record the patient's medications and chief complaints. We have 10 volunteer doctors who rotate through the month to examine the patients and plan treatment. A volunteer nurse will discharge the patient, reviewing with them the doctors' findings and new orders. A PAP volunteer may also assist in contacting drug manufacturers to obtain free medication for patients. If you are interested in volunteering at the Samaritan Medical Clinic, please call Nancy Bullen at 277 9761 or email nbullen@aol.com.

This winter outstanding volunteers for the Barnabas Center were honored at the Barnabas Annual Meeting at the St. Peters Episcopal Church. Claudette Drummond was honored as the Samaritan outstanding volunteer. Claudette is officially an intake interviewer but her talents and volunteer time go way beyond that. Claudette has exceptional computer skills and has helped to refine our forms, train other people, and she takes work home with her to help us catch up. Claudette is the perfect example of a caring, dedicated volunteer and friend to Samaritan Clinic.



Hello! I am Mary Ann Blackall, and I'm the Program Manager here at the Barnabas Center. This April marks my two-year anniversary with the Barnabas Center, and I must say that I am delighted to be part of the team making such a powerful impact in our community. While I do know many of you that so graciously give your time and talent for this agency, there are also many Barnabas volunteers that I most likely have not met. If that is you, let me proclaim that I truly believe in the saying, "There are no strangers, just friends we haven't met yet." A bit about me: I was born in North Carolina, grew up in Chicago, and moved here from the small community of Holland, Michigan (a lot like Fernandina Beach) where I had lived for 26 years. I have three wonderful children, and three *even more wonderful* grandchildren! They all still reside in Holland. My previous work life has been in university administration and marketing/business development. I'm married to a great guy who works a lot, and plays golf every chance he gets! My role at Barnabas keeps me very busy, and I absolutely love it; no day is the same, nor is there ever a dull moment.

While Barnabas history documents a lot of admirable accomplishments, let me assure you, I know first hand that most of them could not have been achieved if not for the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers. You are all the true heartbeat of this organization; we both applaud and thank you! I've heard it said, "Timing is everything", and this first newsletter is coming to you at the precise time Barnabas is welcoming a brand new person to the team.

Tara Stuart has recently joined the team at the Barnabas Crisis Center. She hails from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada originally, but has been in Fernandina Beach for almost eight years. Tara and her husband have two daughters, one at college, and another heading off to college in the fall. She brings a wide variety of experience to her role at Barnabas; we're glad to have her. As a volunteer, you will get to know her well since she serves as the main liaison between the agency and the volunteers. Tara's email is tara_stuart@comcast.net, and her phone # is 261-700 ext.104.

