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Away
Hunger.

PLUS!
MEET THE 2023
SU FOOTBALL TEAM
THEY WILL BE SHOWING
THEIR SUPPORT FOR
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VOLUNTEERING AT THE
TOURNAMENT.



Monday, August 7, 2023
The Links at Erie Village

samcenter.org/soup-bowl-open
315.472.0650



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The Samaritan Center
215 North State Street
Syracuse, NY 13203



Welcome, we're so glad you're here.

Hello and welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Deep Dish*. We've created a warm, welcoming newsletter to help you get to know our community and what we

do. In each issue, you'll meet a volunteer and a guest. And, we'll share upcoming events and how you can get involved. But we're mostly sharing the incredible and inspirational magic that happens daily within these walls.

Samaritan Center is a nonprofit 501c3, interfaith effort of community members committed to serving the hungry and those in need in order to promote their welfare, dignity, and self-sufficiency.

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Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Rob Lee

When Rob Lee mentioned to a friend that he was looking for a place to volunteer that would get him out of his comfort zone and help others in his community as well, his friend suggested Samaritan Center. Rob signed up to volunteer and was hooked!

“I keep coming back here because it brings me a lot of joy and peace. I know I am helping my neighbor,” he says.

Rob works full-time in addition to regularly volunteering. He says

he loves coming in because he gets a lot more out of it than he puts in, “It turns my faith into action.”

While volunteering, Rob’s favorite task is working the dish return because it gives him a chance to speak with guests as well as stay active during his shift.

“I’m so glad I found this place,” he says of Samaritan Center. “I have benefited so much mentally,

spiritually...it’s had such a positive impact.”

“I’m so glad I found this place.”

Special thanks to the sponsors of our 2023 Good Samaritan Event

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The power of a good night’s sleep

One guest's victory in housing with help from Samaritan Center

The phone rang at 9:30 on a Wednesday morning. The moment we answered, Joe’s voice rang out with contagious excitement, “You won’t believe it! I just woke up! I haven’t slept like that in years.”

For the last three years, Joe has lived in a boarding house, sharing a kitchen, bathroom, and common spaces with strangers. Prior to that, Joe had long periods of time where he experienced homelessness and uncertainty. He stayed with friends, or at the shelter, and even had stretches of sleeping outside. The boarding house was a great improvement, but often made home life chaotic and even dangerous.

Each day, Joe would leave the boarding house before dawn to make the hour-long walk to the Samaritan Center for breakfast.

Over a period of seven months, we worked with Joe to secure

the necessary documentation and paperwork to secure a subsidy. Finally, we found the perfect apartment – close to the Samaritan Center and Joe’s other support networks, in a secure building, with his own kitchen and bathroom.

That Tuesday in early June, Joe unwrapped his My Place box in his big empty apartment. For the first time in years, he could hang his own towel in his own bathroom. He plugged in his own coffee maker

“I haven’t slept like that in years.”



and filled it with beans, ready for the next morning. Later that day, a wonderful community partner delivered a bed and a big recliner for Joe to sit in as he devoured another murder mystery.

We like to think of Joe on that first night. Of him finally being able to sleep for almost eight full hours – finally feeling the quiet of his own place wash over him, finally feeling safe enough to sleep so deeply. We like to think of him waking up and calling us, just to tell us that he hadn’t slept like that in years.



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