



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

ello and welcome to the inaugural Lissue 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.

∉ samcenter.org & 315.472.0650 ◙ @samaritancenter 👎 @samcenter

Join us for the 20th Annual Soup Bowl Open Foursomes and sponsorship opportunities available. Hunger. Register today!

> **PLUS! MEET THE 2023** SU FOOTBALL TEAM THEY WILL BE SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT FOR SAMARITAN CENTER BY VOLUNTEERING AT THE TOURNAMENT.

Drive

Away

ATHLETES

The Links at Erie Village samcenter.org/soup-bowl-open 🚇 315.472.0650





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# THE LATEST NEWS & EVENTS THE DEEP DISH Summer 2023 EST . 1981







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 selfsufficiency.



## **Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Rob Lee**

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place.

hen 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!

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"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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS Kimberly Murphy** President **Richard Fess** Vice President

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 l'm so glad l found this 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."

> Jessica Woodruff Treasurer **Amy Rhone** Secretary

### Special thanks to the sponsors of our 2023 Good Samaritan Event

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## The power of a good night's sleep

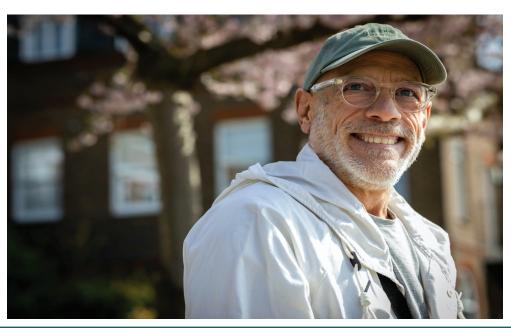
One guest's victory in housing with help from Samaritan Center

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.

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



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I haven't

slept like that in

years.

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Barbara Kay Matthew Lumia James Miller

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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.

**Richard Nave** Mark Olson Thomas Resch



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.



Michael Ruf Stephanie Salanger John Sindoni Kristen Stein