

# ABOUT US

Because Samaritan House is not a shelter, all of our guests come to us through a referral system used by social workers and authorized medical personnel at area hospitals.

During their stay with us, each guest is provided a clean bed, home cooked meals and great fellowship through our partnerships and association with many local churches and organizations. We provide each guest with transportation to and from all medical appointments as well as prescription pick-up. Also, we provide each guest with resource information that may be beneficial in helping them with employment, housing and/or transitioning into other social service programs available to them.

Samaritan House is a not-for-profit recuperative care place for people who are homeless and in need of short term care following a hospital or emergency room stay. Samaritan House emphasizes the gospel values of love, dignity, respect and welcoming inclusion. While Samaritan House is established out of our faith as Christians, it is intended to be a place of healing and hospitality for all persons.

We welcome people as they are and offer the gift of time to rest and recuperate. For those that seek a change in their way of life, we offer support and encouragement.

- Samaritan House was conceived in the hearts and minds of Ruth Woodend and Freda Schlaman in June 2003 in response to "Living in the Shadows," a work commissioned by the Mecklenburg County Commission to identify the needs of the homeless people living in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.
- Eight individuals formed a mission team in Ruth's kitchen with soup, prayer, and sheer determination. Ruth and Freda gave the mission its name: Samaritan House.
- An empty house in dire need of repair in front of the

YWCA on Park Road became the perfect temporary home for Mecklenburg County's homeless in need of recuperative care. Everything necessary to care for guests was donated by groups and individuals alike.

- The miracle known as Samaritan House received its first guests on March 1, 2005.
- After 6 years, Samaritan House was recognized by the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council as a unique respite care program.
- In June 2011, we moved into our current facility at 611 Fortune St. Our original location on Park Rd. was rented, our new facility we own. Our new facility allows us to care for 12 guests including those using crutches and wheelchairs because it is located on one floor compared to our old facility that only let us serve 8 guests with all of the bedrooms on the second floor prohibiting us from helping those using crutches and wheelchairs. This became a major step in our evolution and could not have been done without the generous support of our community.