

## THE SAMARITAN INSTITUTE

The Samaritan Institute was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1979 for the purpose of extending the Samaritan Ministry. With a \$700,000 grant from the Martin Foundation of Elkhart, Indiana, the Institute studied existing programs, developed a Samaritan model, and worked with congregations throughout the United States to start and support Samaritan Centers.

The Samaritan Institute functions as a professional association, providing accreditation as well as administrative, consultative, educational, and organizational services to affiliated Centers. The partnership of the Institute and the Centers is based on the following principles.

- The Samaritan Institute is a ministry that assists affiliated Centers in meeting the needs of congregations and their communities.
- Samaritan Centers are best served by working together with the Samaritan Institute to provide national leadership in counseling, education, and consultation.
- Accreditation fosters self-regulation, public accountability, and quality care.
- Samaritan Centers benefit by replicating the successes and avoiding the failures of other counseling programs.
- Management consultation and education, particularly in administration and finance, facilitate Center growth and cost-effectiveness.
- In a rapidly changing health care environment, the long-term viability of a single Center depends increasingly on the strength of its affiliation with other similar Centers.

With the leadership of the Samaritan Institute, the Samaritan Center Ministry has become one of the largest providers of outpatient counseling in the United States. This size provides the basis for taking a leadership role in responding to changes in the health care environment while maintaining the Samaritan identity as an interfaith ministry.

The basic operations of the Samaritan Institute are funded by fees from affiliated Centers. Contributions, grants, and revenues from fund-raising events are used to pay for the development of new program areas.

The Institute is governed by a board of directors with up to thirty-six members, including one-third from outside Colorado. A National Council of Samaritan Centers' executive directors helps focus the planning and program of the Samaritan Ministry by identifying issues and trends influencing Samaritan Centers. The Institute has a paid staff of six full-time and one part-time people and draws on the expertise of volunteer board members and community leaders.