

Affiliation

Counseling programs interested in joining the Samaritan Institute and its network of affiliated Centers typically evaluate the viability of affiliation through the following four steps.

- 1) A center's executive director decides if he or she is seriously interested in investigating the value of their center being part of the Samaritan network. This is done through reading information on the website, particularly *The Benefits of Samaritan Affiliation* and discussing this possibility with representatives of its administrative staff and board.
- 2) Once the executive director decides to continue with the evaluation process, he or she contacts R.J. Ross, Samaritan Institute president. If following an exchange of phone calls and/or emails there continues to be sufficient interest, R.J. will meet with the center's staff, board, and other representatives. The purpose of the meeting is for the two organizations to learn more about each other and determine if an affiliation is viable for both the center and Institute. The trip is at the Institute's expense.
- 3) Assuming an affiliation is feasible and of interest to both organizations, the executive director then attends a director orientation program in Denver to learn more detail about Institute services and how to best use them.
- 4) After the orientation program the executive director and/or board members do reference checks with representative Samaritan Center executive directors and board presidents. The Institute completes its reference checks of the proposed center. Upon completion of the reference checks, the board makes a final decision.

While the affiliation decision may be determined prior to attending a director orientation program, an onsite visit by the Samaritan Institute is required. The success of the association is dependent upon active support and use by affiliated participants. These affiliation steps have proven worth the investment of time and money. Centers seldom disaffiliate from the Samaritan network due to unmet expectations or expense.

Benefits of Affiliation

Starting a New Center

During its 36 year history, the Institute has started 79 Centers and has helped in the development of an additional 88 established programs that affiliated with the Samaritan network. The experience and resources of the Institute greatly enhance the likelihood of a Center's success.

Opening a new Samaritan Center normally requires 18 – 24 months. This includes forming a board, incorporating as a 501(c)3 organization, fundraising, recruiting an executive director, securing office space, and marketing. The Institute charges a set fee per month plus travel expense for 3 – 4 onsite visits. The fee includes all consultation and materials.

The first phase in starting a new Samaritan Center is to investigate interest level, need, and potential support. There are normally three steps:

- 1) Someone interested in having a new center and willing to provide leadership for the investigation phase should become familiar with Samaritan Centers. This information is available at several locations on the Institute's website plus there are downlinks to many of the Centers' websites.

- 2) The Samaritan Center information is then shared with congregational and community leaders to see if they believe a program is needed.
- 3) After receiving a positive response from the preliminary evaluation, the leader contacts R.J. Ross, Samaritan Institute president, to discuss the next phase.

The Institute does not charge for its assistance with the investigative phase.

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