



The Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley, Inc.

Our mission is to be an expression of God's love, facilitating emotional healing and growth for women, men, and youth—regardless of financial status or faith background—so that they may develop more fully their relationships with self, others and God.

What does the Samaritan Counseling Center do and why does it matter?

The Samaritan Counseling Center offers hope through three distinct and mission focused programs:

Outpatient Counseling for children, adolescents and adults that strengthen individuals, couples and families because we believe that everyone deserves access to quality mental health services in order to live a life filled with promise and strength.

Clergy and Congregation Care providing programs, consultation and coaching for faith communities and their leaders because we believe that strong faith communities support healthy individuals and a healthy larger community.

Treatment Foster Care for children who would otherwise be in an institutional setting because we believe that every child deserves a chance to be in a home setting with therapeutically trained and prepared foster parents.

The Crisis in Our Community

Insurance parity for out-patient mental health care is a growing concern for everyone—employers, citizens, government, those in need of services and providers of services.

Most reimbursements from local and national insurance companies do not cover our already lean costs. This is a growing crisis in northeast Wisconsin as more and more mental health providers refuse insurance.

Services for children are critical. The need for quality mental health services for children is growing at an alarming rate. The wait for many children to see a professional counselor is longer than it should be. Children who are uninsured or insured through medical assistance typically have an even longer wait. Even insured children may have difficulty finding a provider if the trend of providers moving away from accepting insurance continues.

The Samaritan Response

For over 35 years—first as Fox Valley Pastoral Counseling and now as the Samaritan Counseling Center—we have delivered quality, professional counseling in a cost-effective manner. We are unique because we are committed to serving all persons, regardless of financial status. More than 35% of our clients are uninsured or qualify for medical assistance programs which reimburse far below cost.

We are passionate in believing that every person seeking a positive change in their life should have access to quality, professional counseling. Our counselors and staff take seriously the spiritual beliefs clients have as they face illnesses, problems in living, and relational impasses. One's faith is a gift, which can help or hinder the way an individual deals with problems. We are committed to honoring the diversity of faiths and traditions found in each and every person. **Our communities are strengthened when everyone has access to quality mental health services.**

History

The Samaritan Counseling Center had its beginnings in 1970. It was founded by the First Congregational, United Church of Christ in Appleton. At its inception, our agency was called the Appleton Pastoral Counseling Center and later incorporated as the Fox Valley Pastoral Counseling Center. In 2006, it was renamed The Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley, Inc. to be congruent with the Samaritan Institute, the national network of faith-based counseling agencies of which our agency is a part.

Outpatient Counseling Programs

Individuals and Families

We offer out-patient counseling in three locations: Fox Cities (Menasha), Oshkosh and New London. Outpatient counseling is an important focus of our work, helping adults, teens and children deal with symptoms of depression, anxiety, grief, adjustments, etc. Our top referral sources in 2007 were insurance companies, physicians, churches and family of clients. In 2007, we provided 4,140 service hours to 687 clients, representing an almost 20% increase over the previous year.

Children's Outpatient Counseling

Nearly 30% of our caseload is made up of children and their families. We are committed to fully develop our children's services to promote healthy psychological growth and healing for all children who come for our help.

Outpatient Drug & Substance Abuse Treatment Program

We are certified as an outpatient Alcohol and Substance Abuse facility that meets all the requirements of the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Our program is unique in that it is an expression of our mission and is centered in spirituality.

Gambling Addiction Counseling

Our center has two certified gambling addiction counselors. Most insurance companies do not cover services for gambling addiction, and most clients who need gambling addiction counseling have few or no funds.

Project Open Door

Project Open Door began as an outreach to low income children, youth and their families in Oshkosh who were in need of our counseling services. The project is funded by the First Presbyterian Church, Oshkosh and the Presbytery of Winnebago.

Clergy and Congregation Care

Our Clergy and Congregation Care (CCC) program supports pastors and churches with a trustworthy referral option as well as with educational programs and consultation services. In 2007, we provided over 150 hours of service to churches and the community, and we expect those hours of service to increase in 2008 and 2009. Our Pastor Leadership Seminar continues to be very popular and is in its eighth year.

Treatment Foster Care

The Samaritan Counseling Center is developing a Treatment Foster Care program for children whose needs are greater than a traditional foster care home can handle—offering a child another option other than an institutional placement.

The Samaritan Center's goal is to serve children of all ages in Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet and surrounding counties whose needs cannot be met in standard foster care and who may go or are already in institutional settings.

Why we need your financial support

We need a healthy and whole Fox Valley

When quality mental health services are available to all who need it, our community as a whole is strengthened. Employers have healthier employees, children have healthier parents, parents have healthier children, and spouses have healthier spouses. When financial constraints prevent individuals, couples, and families from coming for help with depression or anxiety, grief or behavior concerns when the problems first develop—the problems grow. Thus more suffering ensues and the cost of eventual intervention as well as the cost of lost productivity at work and performance at school grows even greater. **Your financial contributions support a healthier community.**

Accreditation

The Samaritan Counseling Center is accredited as a service center by the Samaritan Institute of Denver, Colorado. In 2006, incorporated Samaritan Centers provided over 585,000 hours of outpatient counseling, education, and consultation from 300 offices in 36 states and in Japan.

The Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley is fully licensed with state of Wisconsin as an outpatient mental health clinic and an outpatient substance abuse treatment clinic.

Contact

If you have questions or would like to know more about the Center's work, please call 920-886-9319 and speak to our Executive Director, Rev. Amy Bertschausen.