About the Good Samaritan Shelter

Good Samaritan Shelter provides safe, comfortable housing for homeless men, women and women with children in the greater Phoenixville and Ephrata areas. GSS also collaborates with local health and social service agencies to help our residents regain stability in their lives and address the issues surrounding their homelessness.

Our work is based on Christian principles and though we gladly accept men of all faiths, we ascribe God’s power to help the men through their struggles and to allow us to help them as best as we can.

We offer residents a variety of programs including computer training, resume writing, smoking cessation, budgeting and financial planning.

We are committed to having a long lasting impact on our residents. Our work demonstrates that we are committed to addressing the root causes of poverty and homelessness.
We can all be Good Samaritans

The notion of being a Good Samaritan, or a good neighbor, is something that we can all strive for on a daily basis.

In our lives we have many opportunities to have a positive impact on the people we come into contact with.

None of us, by ourselves, can possibly serve and address all of the needs we encounter. But collectively, as a whole, if we all are mindful of the ways in which we can act as a good neighbor the communities in which we live will be healthy and vibrant.

In order to live a life of a good neighbor, there are three main principles to follow. These principles can be summed up with three ‘R’ words:

**Recognize**

**React**

**Respond**

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**Recognize the Needy**

The first step to having a positive influence on those around us is to recognize those that we are able to help. We all know of people in need. Some people need someone to listen to their problems while others need help with getting a ride to a doctor’s appointment. Whatever the case, recognizing the need is the initial step.

**React with Compassion**

After we recognize a situation where we can help, we have to be filled with compassion in order to have a significant impact. It is very difficult to have any long lasting impact if you are void of compassion. It is important to find an issue or cause that you are passionate about. It is easy to recognize many causes, efforts and individuals that need help. But you cannot support and help them all. Identify those people and causes that you feel passionate about.

Reacting without compassion makes the task of helping laborious and difficult.

**Respond with Generosity**

After you have recognized the need and reacted with compassion, the final phase of living the life of a good neighbor is responding with generosity. After all, it is the sacrificial giving that is the most meaningful and has the greatest impact. It is important and often appropriate to give of your money, but you can also respond generously with your time and talents. In most circumstances, it is the sacrifice of our time that produces the greatest results.

Acting as a good neighbor to those in need is something that we all have the ability to do. The beauty of serving the needs of others is that it doesn’t require a certain level of education or training. We are all qualified. Take the time to recognize those in need, react with compassion and respond with generosity. You will find that you receive as much benefit as the person you are serving.

**Mission: The Good Samaritan Shelter is a Christian ministry that provides transitional housing and supportive services to homeless men, women and children in the communities we serve.**

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