Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

To say that we have grown as an organization over the last year is an understatement! Our annual budget has more than tripled and we have developed and implemented several new programs that provide support and comfort for so many who struggle with mental health issues and for those who have been touched by suicide. I am so proud of my role in helping to drive and support our organization in this direction.

In the past year alone, we have renewed our Safe Place support groups for individuals who have lost someone to suicide and we have piloted two new programs – A Second Chance Families for family members of suicide attempt survivors -- and -- A Caring Connection which provides engagement and follow-up to individuals who have been hospitalized for a suicide attempt or significant suicidal ideation.

James Cash Penney, the founder of JCPenney once said, “Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together.” The successful growth of our organization depends on many things – volunteers and staff, changing needs, etc. But most importantly, our growth depends on individual donors like you.

If you have supported our work in the past, thank you and please continue to do so. If you have not supported us previously, I hope you will consider donating and becoming one of the forces working with us to meet the needs of our community.

With my sincere thanks and appreciation,

Stephanie G. Kelly
Executive Director
Exciting News

Stephanie Kelly, Executive Director for the Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands, has been appointed by Governor Charlie Baker to serve on a special commission to study the prevention of suicide among correction officers in Massachusetts.

According to figures from the MA Department of Correction (DOC) and the MA Department of Public Health (DPH), the suicide rate among correctional officers is around six times the rate of suicides in the general Massachusetts population. During the six-year period between 2010 and 2016, 14 employees of the state’s DOC died by suicide.

The 13-member commission was created as part of the 2018 criminal justice reform law and will (1) review existing suicide prevention programs and policies within MA correctional facilities; (2) make recommendations for improving identification of suicide risk and intervention strategies for correctional facility staff; and (3) explore ways to make mental health counseling more accessible to corrections officers in need of services.

“I am honored to be appointed to this commission and I look forward to sharing ideas with and learning from the other members,” Kelly said. “I am confident that the experience I have with the Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands will be helpful in reaching the goals of the commission.”

The commission is being chaired by Spencer Lord, Director of Policy and Assistant General Counsel at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. In addition to Ms. Kelly and Mr. Lord, the committee will include four legislative appointees and representatives from the MA Sheriffs Association, DOC, DPH, the Department of Mental Health, the MA Correction Officers Federated Union, the MA Psychological Society, and the New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

We Need You!

For 41 years the important work of the Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands has been done by over 900 volunteers - ordinary people - just like you. If you’ve been thinking about volunteering for the Samaritans, now is the time. We need you!

- **Crisis Lines Volunteers**
  Our Crisis Lines are “warm” lines that are there for everyone. Crisis Line volunteers simply listen with empathy and compassion.

- **Senior Outreach Volunteers**
  A referral program where outgoing calls are made to older adults. Seniors are called once or twice each week simply to listen.

- **Safe Place Volunteers**
  Provides those who have lost someone to suicide a caring, confidential support group.

- **A Second Chance Volunteers**
  Offers a place for people to talk about the feelings that led them to attempt suicide and the impact on their lives. The volunteers act as group facilitators.

- **A Caring Connection Volunteers**
  Designed to provide emotional support to adults after being discharged from a facility after having attempted suicide or experienced a suicidal crisis.

- **Other Ways to Volunteer**
  Serving on our Board of Directors, helping in our office, fund-raising, and marketing. Bring your skills - we'll work with you on how best to use them!
Grant Awards

The Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the following state, private, and charitable foundations for their generous support:

- C. Northrop Pond and Alethea Marder Pond Foundation
- Cape and Islands Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Cape Cod Healthcare
- Elder Services of Cape Cod & the Islands
- The Woods Hole Foundation
- The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
- The Suicide Prevention Program
- of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Special Recognition to our Gold Sponsor: The Enterprise Newspapers
Thank You to all of our individual and private donors. Your generosity keeps us going! Heartfelt Gratitude to our volunteers for your time and your compassion! We could never do what we do without you!

Fundraising

11th Annual Upper Cape Bocce Festival a Smashing Success!
On September 22, 2018, The Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands held its 11th Annual Upper Cape Bocce Festival fundraiser at Falmouth Academy. Although a bit windy, the weather was great – a beautiful fall day. Participants ranged in age from 16-90+! Everyone enjoyed friendly competition and camaraderie while showing commitment to the Samaritans and its mission. Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a success!

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The Bocce Posse • The OF’s • Tito’s Bookshop • Wood Lumber Company

Special thanks to LaCucina Sul Mare Italian Ristorante for providing a splendid feast for all of our participants and volunteers and to Falmouth Academy for providing a lovely venue for our event!
About Us

Samaritans 2018-2019 Board of Directors
Patti Haney, President • Sue Anderson, Vice President • Ed Wirtanen, Clerk • Peter Clark, Treasurer
Lenny Fontes • Jill Garvin • Don Lee • Paul Ruane

Stephanie G. Kelly, Executive Director
Karen Ellery-Jones, Assistant Director
Margaret "Peg" Frederick, Volunteer Coordinator
Greg Giardi, Program Director and Acting Office Manager

508-548-7999 Office • 508-548-7996 Fax
P.O. Box 65 • Falmouth, MA 02541
info@capesamaritans.com • CapeSamaritans.org

Crisis Line 508-548-8900
Statewide Helpline 877-870-4673