

## **Samaritan Counseling Center Turns 50!**

Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley is a leading behavioral health agency serving Kaukauna, Menasha, New London and Oshkosh. We connect mind, body and spirit so individuals, families, organizations and communities thrive. Founded in 1970, the center provides professional, compassionate counseling to children, adults and families. Our center and team have a reputation for developing inclusive, innovative and spiritually integrated treatment solutions.

In addition to counseling, Samaritan has several programs aimed at mental health education and suicide prevention. **Connected Community Wellness Screen** provides confidential mental health screening to K-12 students at 55 school sites in 11 districts in four counties. In the 2020/21 school year, over 12,000 students will be offered the screening to detect treatable mental health concerns associated with increased suicide risk. In 2017, the program received the Insight Innovation Award from Insight Publications in the special category "Community Response" and is garnering national attention. **QPR** (Question, Persuade, Refer) trains people within workplaces, faith communities, civic groups, schools and communities to respond effectively to someone who may be considering suicide. **Mental Health Ministry Initiative** equips faith leaders to more effectively minister to people with mental health issues, strengthening care and support systems for individuals and families.

Approximately 40% of our clients qualify as low-income or are uninsured or underinsured. We serve everyone regardless of ability to pay or religious affiliation. Subsidies are made possible by the generous support of congregations, foundations, corporations, and individuals through grants, donations, referrals and volunteers. We also host four special events during the year: Silent Samaritan, Creating Hope, Race the Lake, and Ethics in Business.

Samaritan is accredited by the Solihden Institute, the support organization for a network of over 40 Counseling Centers in 23 states. In October 2019, we launched a capital campaign to build a new office in Menasha and make room for expanded conversations and services to address mental wellness in the community.

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