



SAMARACARE CELEBRATES 50 YEAR MILESTONE AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Naperville, IL. August 24, 2021: SamaraCare announces its 50th anniversary! The organization was founded in 1971 by Knox Presbyterian Church, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and St. Raphael Catholic Church to provide preventative and therapeutic counseling with a focus on family life in response to meeting the mental health needs of a rapidly growing Naperville community.

Its mission is to provide affordable access to high-quality comprehensive mental health care to everyone, regardless of financial resources, religious affiliation or insurance status. SamaraCare is unique in its ability to provide spiritually-integrated care for those interested in that option and in providing fee subsidy assistance, to under-resourced individuals, couples and families, through its Mental Health Access Program. In the last 15 years alone, the program provided over \$7.5 million in fee subsidy assistance to thousands of under-resourced individuals, couples and families.

SamaraCare currently provides over 21,000 counseling hours serving over 1,500 clients annually. Now, with over 42 employees, SamaraCare offers both virtual and in-person counseling, psychotherapy, psychological testing/assessment and psychiatric services throughout Chicagoland. In 2019, SamaraCare achieved a significant strategic goal by merging with Winnetka-based Samaritan Counseling Center, an organization with similar core values serving Northern Cook and Lake counties for over 50 years. This expanded SamaraCare's geographic footprint to become a regional provider of mental health services. In 2021, SamaraCare merged with Wellspring Clinical Associates, a Lisle-based psychiatric care practice. The Wellspring merger positions SamaraCare to offer counseling, psychotherapy and psychiatric care within one organization. This is the first step towards a long-term strategic vision to provide fee-subsidized psychiatric care to under-resourced clients.

"Over the past 50 years, we've stayed true to our roots and focused on helping people achieve their greatest potential." said Scott Mitchell, CEO & President. "We could not have achieved our outstanding success without the dedication of our clinical and administrative staffs, board leadership, and relationships with our community partners and funders. Their passion for addressing the mental health needs of our clients and communities comes through in everything they do. I am so honored to lead this organization."

Looking forward, SamaraCare plans to increase capacity by hiring additional psychiatrists and experienced therapists, including those with expertise working with autism, children/adolescents and older adults. SamaraCare continue to seek strategic mergers and collaborations to help meet the growing mental health needs of the communities within its service territory. Plans are underway to host an in-person celebratory gala in June 2022. An event committee is working to engage a broad range of community and corporate support. Details about the event will be released later this year.