

# A PAGE FROM THE LONG AND AMAZING HISTORY OF ST. STEPHEN AND THE INCARNATION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Samaritan Ministry

In 1982, the Rev. Jack Woodard, St. Stephen's rector, began a new outreach program at St. Stephen's called **Samaritan Ministry**.

The initial funding for Samaritan Ministry came from the Episcopal Church's

**Jubilee Ministry** program, which is now a network 600 centers that empower the poor and oppressed in their communities by providing direct services, such as food, shelter, and healthcare.

**JUBILEE**

"St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church is located in the heart of an economically depressed neighborhood. We are one block from the 14th Street corridor, the site of this city's worst riots in the late sixties. This neighborhood has never recovered from these events. The social fiber of this neighborhood has been stretched by massive alcoholism and chronic drug abuse. The unemployment rate in this largely black and hispanic neighborhood is one of the highest in the nation. **In the past 12 months we have helped 2,212 people** with food, financial, and employment assistance. "

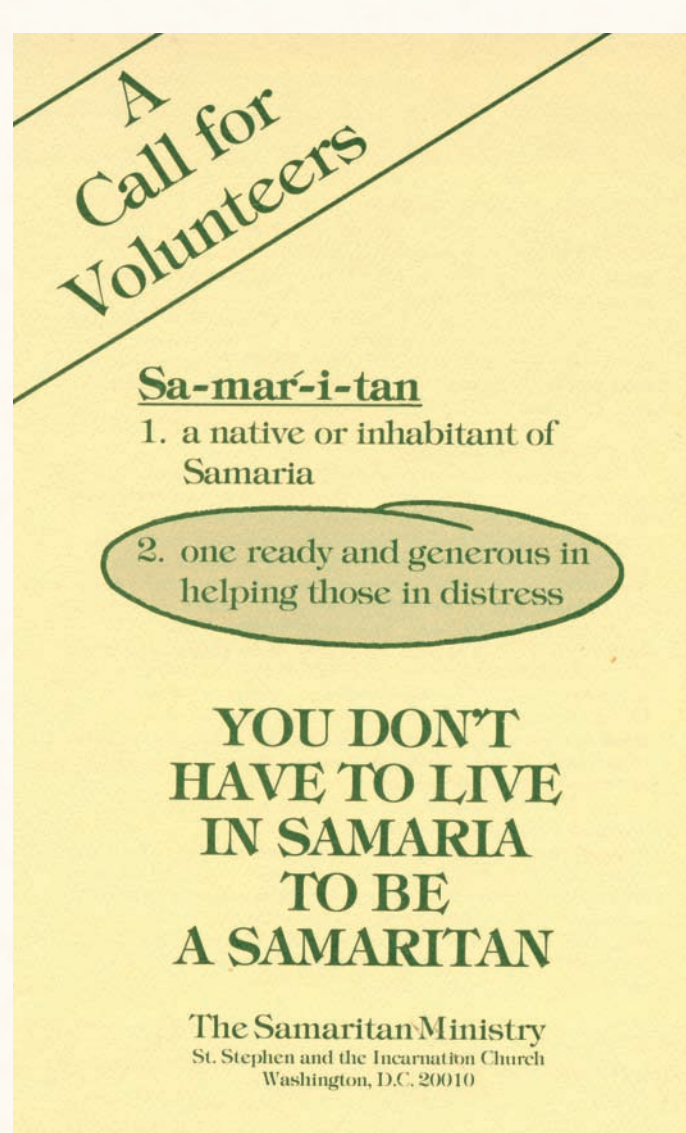
*-From a 1983 grant proposal*



Elizabeth Downs, Samaritan Ministry's Executive Director in the early 1980s, in the food pantry. **Samaritan Ministry gave out dozens of bags of canned food each day to people in need.**

Samaritan Ministry assisted neighbors who were **looking for work, needed food, or needed social service assistance.**

Providing help five days (and many evenings) a week, Samaritan Ministry complimented the weekend meals offered by Loaves and Fishes.



While the Samaritan Ministry had a skeletal staff (mostly "stipended volunteers" making \$500 per month), **the bulk of its work was done by volunteers.**



Volunteers (from top) Bob Brown, Edith Eder, Annie Brown, and Jon Bailey, in the food pantry in the early 1980s.



Before long it became clear that the neighborhood's needs far surpassed St. Stephen's limited financial resources. In 1986, St. Stephen's recruited a dozen Episcopal parishes to support the program, which then became independent from St. Stephen's and changed its name to Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. Programs formerly run by the Episcopal Caring Response to AIDS were incorporated into Samaritan Ministry in 2000. **Today, SMGW provides services from three locations in the DC area and is supported by 50 partner parishes,** including St. Stephen's Church.

WIDENING THE CIRCLE THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. STEPHEN'S