

## **SAMARITAN MINISTRY HALLMARKS**

The Samaritan Ministry, founded in 1972, serves the mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children, adults, couples, families, and organizations to restore health and promote growth. It is a partnership of the Samaritan Institute and affiliated Samaritan Centers. There are 481 Samaritan Center offices in 389 cities in the United States and Japan. In 2009 over 646,00 hours of service were provided for children, adults, families and organizations, including educational and consultation services to thousands of clergy, and congregations. During the last five years, with the support of Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Samaritan program has also developed services promoting the health and vitality of clergy and congregations.

While broadly diverse in their particular services and structures, all Centers reflect a common ministry. The hallmarks of this ministry are:

- a belief in the close relationship and balance of body, mind, spirit, and community and that optimal health involves all four
- a team approach to counseling integrating the psychological, medical, and theological disciplines
- a commitment to quality services and organization
- an emphasis on cost-efficiency and accessibility
- organizational accountability to sponsoring congregations
- professional accountability through certification and licensure
- network affiliation and accreditation through the Samaritan Institute

Samaritan Centers are independently incorporated with local governing boards drawn from sponsoring congregations as well as the larger communities.