



The Samaritans A Safe Place to Turn in Times of Crisis

Volunteer Testimonials on the Value of Working at Samaritans

The comments made by individuals who have successfully completed Samaritans Hotline Training and worked as volunteers on our 24-hour suicide prevention hotline are anonymous to maintain program confidentiality.

"This experience has taught me so much about being there for others and how to communicate. Performing this work and meeting the staff and volunteers has been a life changing experience and I truly have appreciated all that was done to facilitate it."

"I received some of the most profound training I ever expect to find. Samaritans, and the body of ideas that represents, is alive in me even on those days when basic compassion is a struggle..."

"When you work on yourself to bring the best out of you to serve someone else, it causes yourself to feel uplifted, and makes you feel that you are doing something meaningful in this life."

"The training class, experience on the lines, close community and supportive atmosphere make it all special, unique and challenging. I don't think there is any other place like Samaritans, were volunteers there doing very difficult work but feel among family at the same time..."

"The organization has acted as a bridge to my new-found, fulfilling career as a social worker"

"The time I have spent volunteering for Samaritans is the most meaningful time in my life. I will never forget the volunteers and staff at Samaritans, simply the finest human beings I have ever met."

"I think volunteering at Samaritans brings out the better qualities in all of us because of the philosophy and values you support and encourage."

"I thank you for giving me this opportunity--An opportunity that will be part of my life; and experience that gave me the opportunity to open my eyes and my heart to those people who suffer in silence; an experience that gave me the opportunity to grow, to be less judgmental and more open to other people's feelings."

"I truly feel that my experiences at Samaritans, the support and encouragement I received from everyone here, has made this next step [to a doctoral program in psychology] possible. For that I thank all of you."

"I believe the Samaritans provide a form of assistance that is priceless and exceptionally good in manner, form, and style. I thought the volunteer training was not only informative and educational, but insightful, as well as excellent preparation for the challenging work ahead. Active listening skills and good communication are vital to my future studies in psychology."

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to have worked alongside such kind and generous people as all of you. My 2 ½ years with Samaritans rank right up with the most enriching experiences of my life. I have learned so much and so grateful for new perspectives gained."

"I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to volunteer with Samaritans for the last two years. The experience--from training, to hotline work, to recruiting--has been invaluable. The challenge of improving my active listening skills is an ongoing one, and it was great to be able to practice those skills on a weekly basis.... I can honestly say I have never worked with a more supportive group of people in my life. Samaritans is one place that I am always excited to return to every week."

To learn more about becoming a Samaritans Hotline Volunteer go to: www.samaritansnyc.org/volunteer