

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT SUICIDE + HELP SAVE LIVES.

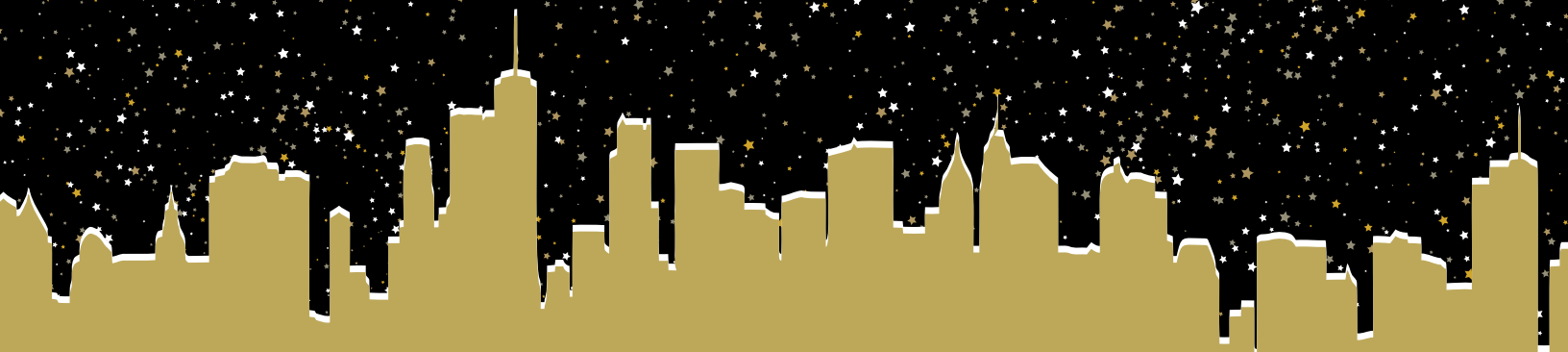
SAMARITANS'

Suicide

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

230 FIFTH PENTHOUSE

6-9 PM



CELEBRATING HOPE

Welcome, friends, to an evening that embodies the very heart of community. Simply by being here, you affirm a shared belief that every person in distress deserves to be heard with patience, empathy, and hope.

In a year when calls to our 24/7 hotline have reached record highs while public funding has tightened, your presence lights the way forward. Thank you for carving out time, energy, and generosity to stand beside our volunteers and staff who answer New York's most urgent calls, day and night.

Tonight, we invite you to lean into that spirit of allyship—bid enthusiastically, give if you are able, and consider joining our volunteer family. Every pledge made, every conversation sparked, strengthens the lifeline that keeps thousands of neighbors connected to hope.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for turning compassion into action and for making the Samaritan Soirée a beacon of possibility. Enjoy the evening knowing you are part of the reason someone will see tomorrow.



Thank You

Wes Puryear, Board President
Samaritans Suicide Prevention Center

Samaritans Board Members: Norberto Velazquez (Vice President), Jeremy Wells (Treasurer), Keith Shinberg (Secretary), Elizabeth Carroll, Dave Cazeau, Grant Dally, Melissa Conway, Devin Kothari, and Bianca Shmulevich.



GREETINGS + GRATITUDE

A message from Samaritans' Co-Executive Directors

Seventy-two years ago, an Anglican minister found himself profoundly shaken following the death of a teenage girl in his community. She was ashamed of what she was going through and, feeling she had nowhere to turn and no one to speak with in confidence, she took her own life.

Struck by the conviction that anyone in need should always have a safe place to turn, in 1953 Chad Varah opened the first branch of Samaritans, made up of caring volunteers taking turns quite simply being that someone anyone could connect with and speak to in confidence.

Today, there are 90 branches in 48 countries across the globe, from Brazil to Bangladesh, Kenya to Ukraine.

For over 40 years, Samaritans of New York has been here—quietly and simply responding to people in their darkest hours. We've stood with individuals through many crises, both personal and collective.

“

Your generosity and kindness afford Samaritans each opportunity to connect with a person in crisis and to stand alongside them so they don't have to go it alone.

”

Because we know: nothing is more powerful than compassion and the ability of the human heart to bring those who feel lost and alone in darkness back into the light.

Your generosity and kindness afford Samaritans each opportunity to connect with a person in crisis and to stand alongside them so they don't have to go it alone.

Thank you for being part of this community. We hope that you carry with you the knowledge that your support has left an indelible impact—and that you leave feeling fulfilled and empowered to continue making a difference.



Joy -&- CASEY

Joy Savola + Casey Starr,
Co-Executive Directors
Samaritans Suicide Prevention Center

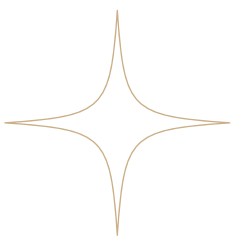
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

6.00 PM SILENT AUCTION + OPEN BAR

Featuring live music and specialty cocktails
courtesy of Dame Más Tequila

7:30PM WELCOME

Joy Savola + Casey Starr
Samaritans Co-Executive Directors



THIS MOMENT, THIS CALL

Hanu Gupta
Samaritans Hotline Volunteer

APPRECIATION REMARKS

Wes Puryear, Samaritans Board President

Head of US Private Bank Fixed Income Specialists,
J.P. Morgan

8:30PM SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

Proceed to the Information Table
to see if you won and to closeout!

9:00PM EVENING CONCLUDES-
GET HOME SAFELY!



SILENT AUCTION

TRAVEL

- 1 Fabulous Hudson NY Vacation House** **Value: \$1,200** **Minimum Bid: \$600**
Come enjoy some peace and tranquility while experiencing all that Hudson has to offer for 3 nights. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath house sleeps 6. Newly renovated, it is just 3 blocks from Warren Street in Hudson, home to amazing restaurants and vintage stores. It is also just a 7 minute walk to the Hudson River and the backyard overlooks the river and the Catskill Mountains. Blackout dates apply.
- 2 Stay Like A Boss** **Value: \$2,000** **Minimum Bid: \$1,000**
Indulge in a 2-night stay at a luxury International Hotel, featuring executive central park views and exclusive treats of champagne and chocolates. A splendid way to pamper yourself or a loved one! Located at the Trump International Hotel.

STYLE

- 3 Bespoke One of One** **Value: \$500-700** **Minimum Bid: \$300**
Customize your style with Jeff Puryear, designer for CEOs and athletes. Provide a shoe, and Jeff will personally help you design a one-of-a-kind masterpiece.
- 4 Swarovski Crystal Elegance Clutch** **Value: \$ 1,590** **Minimum Bid: \$650**
Adorned with thousands of authentic Swarovski crystals, this dazzling blue clutch shimmers with every movement. A true conversation piece and an unforgettable gift, it comes with a removable serpentine chain and arrives in a satin-lined gift box—pure luxury in the palm of your hand.
- 5 Contemporary Jewelry Suite** **Value: \$500** **Minimum Bid: \$250**
Indulge in elegance with this captivating collection of handcrafted necklaces, bracelets, and earrings from Thailand. Nakamol Jewelry presents a curated selection of stylish and distinctive pieces, each adorned with genuine stones. Wearers can revel in the pride and appreciation that comes from owning meticulously crafted jewelry.

FAMILY

- 6 One Year at Brooklyn Children's Museum** **Value: Priceless** **Minimum Bid: \$950**
Enjoy a year of meaningful, engaging, and educational cultural experiences at Brooklyn Children's Museum! The Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) Explorer membership provides two named adults and up to four children with unlimited free admission for one year, discounts for seasonal exhibitions and movie tickets, discounts at the Museum's cafe, 10% discount on birthday parties, and more!
- 7 Weeklong Stay at The Doggie Chalet** **Value: \$560** **Minimum Bid: \$950**
Give your pup a week-long getaway at The Doggie Chalet, a 9-acre haven in northern New Jersey offering cage-free boarding and expert dog training. Owned by Nicholas Bradley, a certified trainer & U.S. Air Force veteran, this retreat ensures personalized care, socialization, and door-to-door transportation for a stress-free experience.
- 8 EA Ultimate Gamers Package** **Value: Priceless** **Minimum Bid: \$950**
EA Sports Ultimate Package: Impress your teenager/college student , 4 EA sports games + 30 minute zoom with EA senior communications specialist, plus a potential one on one with EAs next gen recruiter.

SILENT AUCTION

HOME

- 9 Resilience & Renewal: A Surrealist Masterpiece** **Value: \$1,200** **Minimum Bid: \$600**
A bold, dreamlike celebration of strength, transformation, and healing, this framed surrealist piece by award-winning artist Alex Puryear blends vibrant layers and expressive forms to evoke hope and renewal. Created with Alcohol Inks on Yupo Paper, it's a stunning testament to the beauty of resilience.
- 10 Marilyn Monroe's First Magazine Cover** **Value: \$4,000** **Minimum Bid: \$2,000**
Before she was Marilyn Monroe, she was aspiring model Norma Jeane Baker. That's when she was discovered by photographer Andre de Diennes, who shot this cover for Family Circle. Though she would go on to grace the cover of hundreds and hundreds of magazines, this was her first. Certified and graded an 8 out of 10 by CGC Universal.
- 11 Luxury Spirits & Cuban Cigar Package** **Value: \$750** **Minimum Bid: \$350**
Raise a glass, share a story, and savor the moment with this luxury spirits & cigar package. Enjoy the smooth, aged Dame Más Tequila, rested for five years in French oak barrels, alongside the limited-edition PiggyBank Rye, bursting with rich caramel and spice notes. Complete the indulgence with premium Montecristo Cuban cigars, crafted for those who appreciate tradition, craftsmanship, and connection.
- 12 "September Sunset"- Original Oil Painting** **Value: \$500** **Minimum Bid: \$250**
This stunning 11x11-inch oil painting captures the warmth and serenity of a September sunset. Created by Kamilla Talbot, whose work has been exhibited at the Pamela Salisbury Gallery and the Johannes Larsen Museum, this piece reflects her mastery of light and atmosphere. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Talbot has also taught at prestigious institutions including the Art Students League and the National Academy School, solidifying her influence in the art world.

HEALTH & BEAUTY (MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS!)

- 13 Haircut & Spa Experience** **Value: \$300** **Minimum Bid: \$150**
Enjoy a precision haircut and signature headspa treatment with Gigi Manapat, a celebrated stylist featured in Vogue and Allure. Relax with a scalp detox, hydration therapy, and expert styling in Bloom Beauty Lounge's serene setting.
- 14 Glow & Renew: Custom Facial** **Value: \$170** **Minimum Bid: \$85**
Experience a science-backed, plant-based skincare treatment at Graceful Touch Spa, where expert techniques meet cutting-edge technology. This 70-minute personalized treatment is tailored to your skin's unique needs—whether exfoliation, deep cleansing, hydration, or acne care—leaving you refreshed, glowing, and revitalized. Suitable for all skin types.
- 15 Wellness & Joy Gift Basket** **Value: \$50** **Minimum Bid: \$25**
A thoughtfully curated selection of uplifting affirmations, journals, and connection games designed to inspire reflection, creativity, and meaningful moments. Perfect for self-care, mindfulness, or sharing with loved ones.
- 16 Mental Health Makeover** **Value: \$800** **Minimum Bid: \$300**
Experience a month of transformative therapy sessions at Hand Extended Therapy. Their seasoned therapists will guide you through the intricate landscapes of your mind, fostering a nurturing environment for healing and empowerment. Whether it's a gift for someone else or for yourself, this journey of self-discovery and growth supports mental health and personal well-being. Bid now and invest in a brighter, healthier version of yourself!

SILENT AUCTION

EXPERIENCES

- 17 Private Comedy Show** **Value: \$1,000** **Minimum Bid: \$500**
Craving laughter and lively vibes? Look no further! Living Room Laughs delivers New York City's top stand-up comedians right to your doorstep. Customize your one-hour show with four handpicked comedians in the comfort of your home. Get ready for a side-splitting experience with talent from HBO, Comedy Central, Netflix, and beyond!
- 18 Tee Up in Style** **Value: \$250** **Minimum Bid: \$125**
Elevate your golf game with a \$250 gift card to Five Iron Golf, the ultimate indoor golf experience. Whether perfecting your swing in a state-of-the-art simulator, taking a private lesson, or enjoying food and drinks in a lively atmosphere, this gift card lets you play your way.
- 19 Sushi & Sips: Brewmasters Omakase** **Value: \$500** **Minimum Bid: \$250**
Indulge in a one-of-a-kind Brewmasters Omakase Pairing at Moody Tongue Sushi, a MICHELIN-starred culinary brewery in the West Village. Executive Chef Hiromi Iwakiri, renowned for his mastery of Japanese cuisine, curates an elevated sushi experience, perfectly complemented by craft beer pairings from Brewmaster Jared Rouben.
- 20 Dinner for Two at Noodle Pudding** **Value: \$250** **Minimum Bid: \$125**
Enjoy an intimate Italian dining experience at Noodle Pudding, a beloved Brooklyn gem known for its cozy ambiance and authentic cuisine. Savor handmade pasta, fresh seafood, and signature dishes in a warm, candlelit setting that has earned rave reviews from locals and critics alike.
- 21 Fungi & Friends: Mushroom Adventure** **Value: \$250** **Minimum Bid: \$125**
Dive into the fascinating world of fungi with two tickets to the Mushroom Growing 101 Workshop, led by Brooklyn Mushroom founder Zeke Depas, where you'll learn to cultivate mushrooms at home. Enjoy VIP access to the June Fungi Art Show, showcasing mesmerizing mushroom-inspired artwork, plus take home two Brooklyn Mushroom T-shirts and zines packed with insights on mycology, psychedelics, and sustainable growing.
- 22 Double-date Night at Canto** **Value: \$600** **Minimum Bid: \$300**
Experience the best of Italian cuisine at Canto West Village, a charming neighborhood gem known for its homemade pastas, fresh seafood, and curated wine selection. With its warm ambiance and expertly crafted dishes, it's the perfect spot for date nights, celebrations, or a casual indulgence in one of NYC's most scenic areas.
- 23 Instant Millionaire** **Value: \$100** **Minimum Bid: \$50**
Instant millionaire! Take a chance with \$250 in New York Lottery scratch off tickets. Hey, you never know!

Every bid helps save lives!

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GRACEFUL TOUCH SPA



A special thanks to Samaritans Host Committee

Committee Chair Grant Dally, Elizabeth Carroll, Michael Cassidy,
Paul Glezer, Jack Harrington, Robin Levine Shobin, and Forrest Mcneil

CELEBRATING OUR NYC COUNCIL MEMBERS!



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ADRIENNE E. ADAMS



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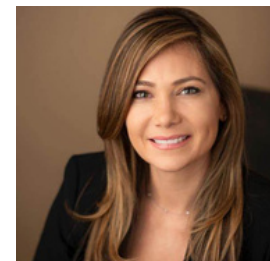
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Thank you for all you do!





MEET *Hanu*

One volunteer's experience on Samaritans' 24-hour crisis hotline, discovering what it truly means to connect.

Q. What brought you to Samaritans?

A. When I moved to New York City I was looking for ways to give back and initially thought about volunteering at a soup kitchen. But I realized I had more time to offer and wanted to be part of something with a bigger commitment. When I saw Samaritans, it felt like the perfect fit—the training, and the idea of learning to communicate with people in crisis really intrigued me.

What was the biggest difference between your expectations and the reality of volunteering?

A. I knew that it would be challenging and rewarding from what I'd heard, and in many ways, that was true. What surprised me was how much being a hotline volunteer pushed me to change and grow. It challenged my biases and opened my mind to the vast complexity of each person's struggles.

I Initially, I thought I'd just be touching on mental health topics, but the depth of the conversations goes beyond that. It's about sitting with people in their pain, allowing them to talk openly without judgment.

Q: How has being a hotline volunteer impacted you beyond the work itself?

A: It's wild to think about it now, but I used to only want to text. The thought of calling anyone other than my parents would send me into an anxiety attack.

But volunteering has really changed that. Now, I actually prefer just picking up the phone and talking to people. It's like this new skill I've learned—to just pick up and chat without overthinking it.

The hotline taught me so much about communication and connecting with people beyond words, and that's had a huge impact on me.

Q: How do you decompress after a shift?

A: I usually head to a Pilates class or some other workout to clear my head. It's a way to let go and shift focus. On the hotline, we're trained to step back from ourselves and focus entirely on the caller, setting our own feelings aside. Debriefing is built into every shift, so there's always support if something sticks with us, but after a shift, it's almost like I do the opposite—I step back into myself and return to my own life.

Q: If you had a superpower what would it be and why?

I'd love to have the power of teleportation! I really enjoy traveling and experiencing different cultures, so how amazing would it be to have lunch in Paris and dinner in Bangkok without the hassle of airport lines and everything else?

But it's more than that—travel has shown me how connection goes beyond language. It's about finding common ground, whether through a shared interest, a smile, or simply being present with someone.

Even if we don't speak the same language, there are so many other ways to understand each other. It's those moments of connection, often without words, that make travel so meaningful to me.

Q. What's something people would be surprised to learn about you?

People might be surprised to know that I'm really into oil painting. I started in art classes back in India, and when I moved to the U.S., painting helped me adjust to all the changes. My apartment is full of my work—mostly still lifes and landscapes.

What I enjoy most is the process. With oil paint, you have to wait for each layer to dry, so you keep coming back to it. There's no pressure to make it "perfect"—you just see where it goes.

It's similar to what we do on the hotline. It's about being there, not trying to say the right thing or fix someone's problem, but just being present with someone else. The process itself is what truly matters.



ABOUT HANU

Born in India, Hanu moved with her family to the U.S. when she was in high school, navigating the challenges of a new culture and school environment. She found comfort in math, a constant across both countries, which helped her build connections in unfamiliar surroundings. Later, she studied math and economics in college.

Today, Hanu lives and works in New York City. She has been a Samaritans volunteer for 7 years and continues to explore her love for connection and expression through oil painting.

Suicide prevention starts with me.

ABOUT SAMARITANS

For more than forty years, Samaritans has been at the forefront of suicide prevention in New York City. Samaritans is NYC's only community-based organization dedicated solely to suicide prevention. Our mission to prevent suicide + help save lives.

Samaritans offers a comprehensive suite of services

- 24-hour Suicide Prevention + Crisis Support
- Bereavement Services for those who have lost a loved one to suicide
- Suicide Prevention Education + Outreach Programs
- Suicide Prevention Advocacy (at all levels of government- local, state, + national)

Samaritans crisis support services offers NYC's only anonymous + completely confidential hotline. This essential service is provided entirely by dedicated community volunteers which research shows are as effective (if not more) than their clinical counterparts.

Samaritans is a founding member of the *National Council for Suicide Prevention* and a key player in the world's largest suicide prevention network, with 90 centers across 48 countries. This wide-reaching collaboration underscores our established credibility and extensive reach in the field of suicide prevention, positioning Samaritans as a go-to organization with a broad impact.

 samaritans



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suicide + save lives.



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