

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Samaritan Village Awarded \$2.2 Million Multi-Year Grant to Curb Incidence of HIV/AIDS
Among Substance Abuse Disorder Community
Partner Agencies include Education & Assistance Corporation's New York Treatment
Accountability for Safer Communities and Damien Family Care Center

New York, NY (December 3rd, 2012) – Samaritan Village President and CEO Tino Hernandez, LCSW, recently announced that the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded Samaritan Village a five year, \$2.2 million grant that will provide increased access to and coordination of care for individuals with substance abuse disorders affected by, or at risk of, HIV/AIDS. Samaritan Village was the recipient of one of just 52 SAMHSA Target Capacity Expansion (TCE) HIV Program grants nationwide.

Through TCE-HIV grant funding, Samaritan Village will provide access to behavioral and health care services for individuals who have a substance abuse disorder and are most at-risk of or living with HIV/AIDS. Every individual referred to Samaritan Village's outpatient substance abuse treatment program will be screened for HIV, tested for HIV and Hepatitis C through rapid testing, and, if testing positive, receive intensive care coordination. In the first year, the goal is to screen over 250 individuals and enroll 80 in the TCE-HIV program, with significant growth expected each of the following four years.

"As we approach the landmark AIDS awareness event, World AIDS Day, it is apparent that the services we will be providing through this SAMHSA grant are vital to the New York City community," Hernandez said. "We will assist those with substance abuse disorders in reducing HIV risk and incidence through access to testing, education, and high quality treatment."

Partnering agencies, Education & Assistance Corporation's New York Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) and Damien Family Care Centers (DFCC), will collaborate with Samaritan Village for care coordination to ensure that affected individuals have timely access to essential care. TASC, Samaritan Village's criminal justice partner, will identify and refer high risk individuals and DFCC will provide health services to outpatients enrolled in the TCE-HIV program.

"While we are now incorporating HIV treatment into its outpatient substance abuse program, Samaritan Village was one of the very first nationwide to incorporate HIV treatment into its residential treatment setting over 20 years ago," James Hollywood, Assistant Vice President of Residential Treatment, said. "We are pioneers in treating those who suffer from both substance abuse disorder and HIV/AIDS. We are simply continuing innovative treatment where the growing need has been identified - among our outpatients."

It is anticipated that over the next five years Samaritan Village will screen over 4,000 referred individuals and enroll at least ten percent in its TCE-HIV grant program. By providing improved access to HIV and hepatitis prevention, Samaritan Village will help the New York City community decrease the incidence of HIV/AIDS among individuals with substance abuse disorders.

SAMARITAN VILLAGE

Samaritan Village, Inc. is a not-for-profit social services provider offering an array of quality programs including residential and out-patient treatment for drug and alcohol dependency, specialized programs for veterans including treatment for post-traumatic stress disorders, and services for homeless individuals and seniors. Serving more than 4,000 men and women each year, Samaritan Village offers health care, mental health care, addiction treatment utilizing evidence-based practices, housing and employment assistance. Most notably, Samaritan Village developed the nation's first residential treatment program exclusively for women veterans. Samaritan Village operates 22 facilities throughout New York City and in upstate New York as well as several annex shelters. For more information about Samaritan Village visit www.samvill.org or call 718.206.2000.

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