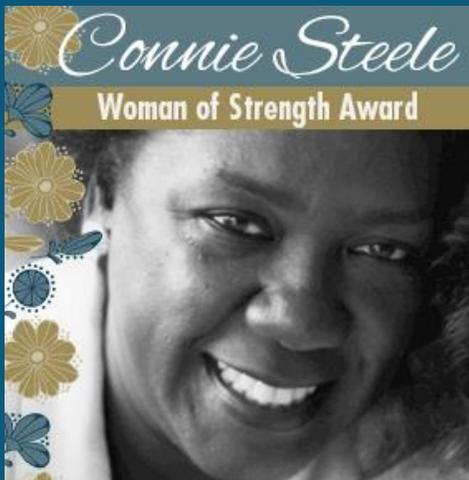




*Women of Strength  
Helping Women in Need*

### **Special Events—Big and Small**

Our lives are a blend of events, big and small, and the emotions we attach to them. Some are visible celebrations or solemn moments; others are private milestones and personal epiphanies. At Samaritan Counseling Center, we are most proud of the individual milestones our clients achieve through access to quality spiritually integrated mental health care. Occasionally, we also have a chance to shine a light on our mission through larger public events and celebrations. The 2019 Connie Steele Woman of Strength Award, presented at the Silent Samaritan Campaign Thank You Luncheon, are two such worthy opportunities!



### **Nominate a Woman of Strength**

The 2019 Connie Steele Woman of Strength Award, named for the late Connie Steele, former senior legal



**Save the Date**  
*For the 2019 Silent Samaritan  
Campaign & Thank You  
Luncheon*

counsel for Thrivent Financial and member of the Samaritan Counseling Center's Board of Directors, recognizes a strong woman who:

- Lives in the Fox Cities, Heart of the Valley, New London, Oshkosh or surrounding areas;
- Exemplifies strength of character, integrity, generosity, faith, courage, optimism, persistence, and community service;
- Has complete [nomination papers](#) submitted on her behalf by **March 13, 2019**.

[Give online and/or fill a luncheon table for eight!](#)

**Thursday, May 9, 2019**

**11:30 am-1 pm**

**The Grand Meridian  
2621 N. Oneida St., Appleton**

- Honor the *2019 Connie Steele Woman of Strength Award-Recipient*
- Keynote Speaker: [Wisconsin State Representative Amanda Stuck](#)

**\*To attend the luncheon, a campaign gift (suggested: \$100 or more) must be received with an RSVP by April 25, 2019.**

*Samaritan Counseling Center's [Silent Samaritan Campaign](#) (March-May) helps low-income women access the counseling they need. A gift to the campaign supports the Samaritan Fund, and the Silent Samaritan Luncheon is our way of thanking you for your gift—and celebrating the strength we find in each other.*



## Remembering RoseAnn

Talk About a Woman of Strength! [RoseAnn Blair](#) was our first Woman of Strength honoree. She was a former board president for Samaritan Counseling Center, a longtime volunteer, and a dear friend of Samaritan. She passed away on January 5, 2019. We miss her presence, yet her spirit and positive energy live on in the work we do every day at Samaritan. God bless you, RoseAnn.

## Choose Samaritan for Your Thrivent Choice Dollars®

Are you looking for an organization to which you can designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars®? Eligible Thrivent Financial members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable outreach funds using a vehicle called Choice Dollars®. This is part of the Thrivent Choice® member-advised charitable grant program. Samaritan Counseling Center is enrolled in Thrivent Choice® and accepts Choice Dollars®. Visit [Thrivent Choice®](#), learn more, and live generously. **Your 2019 Choice Dollars® designations are due March 31.**





## A Sip of Success

*I'd like to thank you for working with me. I always felt you had my back. You helped me become a stronger person, believing in myself. You helped me get through a rough time.*  
-Submitted by a Samaritan Counseling Center client



## Connected Community WELLNESS SCREEN

[Connected Community Wellness Screen](#) provides emotional wellness check-ups for youth right at school. It's midway through the school year, and a good time to report on our activity.

- Our team offered screening to **more than 7,676 K-12 students** thus far this school year within [10 school districts](#) across the region.
- Of that number, **3,264 students and families** have participated in the screening process, and **we identified 764 students** who may be struggling with an emotional health concern.
- [Our team](#) has partnered with these families to connect them to resources that will support their student and their family.



## A (Big) School Board Presentation

On January 23 in Milwaukee, (L-R) Mike Altekruze, Ph.D., mental health coordinator for Neenah Joint School District; [Jen Parsons](#), Connected Community Wellness Screen Program Director at Samaritan Counseling Center; and Katie Jensen, MSE, LPC, of [Catalpa Health](#) in the Fox Cities, shared a well-received presentation, "How A Mental Health Coordinator Created Possibilities for Students, Staff, and the Community." The presentation was to a full house at the [2019 Wisconsin State Education Convention](#), an annual gathering of the [Wisconsin Association of School Boards](#).

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## The Importance of Peer Support Faith Leaders Gather for Mental Health Seminar



The [Faith Leader Mental Health Ministry Initiative Program](#), a collaboration between Samaritan Counseling Center and [NAMI Fox Valley](#), helps equip area faith leaders to minister to people in their faith communities with mental health needs.

On January 3, the group held the fourth of six 2-hour sessions on the topic of living well in recovery. Twenty-six participants from 14 different faith communities attended. The focus was on how mental illness can be managed, particularly with the support of family and friends, mental health providers, and a faith community. The group learned about peer support as an important component in managing mental health problems, along with psychotherapy and medication management. The director of [Iris Place](#), Paula Verrett, was the presenter. Iris Place is a

peer support respite facility in Appleton that offers short-term stays (1-7 nights) in an environment of peer support to help people with mental illness and/or substance abuse navigate emotional distress or crisis.



For more information about the Mental Health Ministry Initiative (MHMI), please contact [Doug Bisbee](#) at (920) 886-9319 ext.107 or [dbisbee@samaritan-counseling.com](mailto:dbisbee@samaritan-counseling.com)

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## Let's Stay in Touch

Thank you for your interest and investment in Samaritan. You are a hero to the clients and students who seek our care.

Sincerely,

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