



**Samaritan
Daytop
Village**

WHERE GOOD LIVES™

NEWSLETTER

Good Lives Thanks to Our Social Workers

This National Social Work Month, we're honoring the social workers across our programs who support people in recovery, as they stabilize and move forward.

That includes people like Suleiman Rifai, a social worker at our Forbell men's shelter in Brooklyn, who has spent more than 20 years supporting men who are working to rebuild their lives. Suleiman, who is blind and understands life's

challenges, supports individuals by meeting them where they are, listening, and being the person they can count on, no matter what. Even after being injured in a fall onto subway tracks during his commute to work, he still came to work that day. That dogged dedication guides everything he does.

Thanks to NY Community Trust, we're also continuing to invest in the next generation of social workers through our Social Work Opportunities for Leadership in Addiction and Recovery (SOLAR) program in partnership with Stony Brook University, where participants earn their social work degrees. Now in its second cohort, SOLAR participants from across Samaritan programs are building the skills to lead in recovery care, helping ensure more people get the compassionate, expert support they deserve.

You can read more about his story [here](#).



Good Recovery Happens in the Kitchen

Recovery doesn't only happen in counseling sessions; it also happens in the kitchen.

For many of the people we serve, recovery means rebuilding physical and mental health at the same time. Nutrition plays a powerful role. Research continues to show that healthier diets can reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, making it easier for people to stay engaged in treatment and move forward.



At Samaritan Daytop Village, we've integrated nutrition into care across our residential, outpatient, and housing programs. From healthier meals to hands-on cooking demonstrations, participants learn how to prepare affordable, nourishing food that supports their recovery.

Read more about our work in this opinion piece from James Hollywood, our Vice President of Residential and Recovery Services [here](#).

Good from a Great: Mike Sweetney Inspires the Next Generation

At Daytop Preparatory School, Long Island and Rockland-based high schools for those struggling with addiction, students recently heard from someone who knows firsthand that success and struggle can go hand in hand.

Former NBA player Mike Sweetney, a first-round draft pick of the New York Knicks, shared his journey from early success at Georgetown and in the NBA to the personal challenges that followed with students at the Long Island school. After losing his father and facing the pressures of professional basketball at a young age, Mike struggled with identity and depression.

What makes his story powerful is what came next. By opening up, seeking help, and doing the work to heal, Mike was able to overcome his challenges. Today, he speaks to young people, like our students, helping them understand that asking for help is a strength.

More information on Daytop Prep [here](#).





[Read It Here](#)



[Watch It Here](#)

[DONATE](#)

Questions? Contact us at communications@samaritanvillage.org.

Follow Us On Social Media!



[Samaritan Daytop Village | Contact Us](#)
[Samaritan Daytop Foundation | Contact Us](#)

Samaritan Daytop Village | 138-02 Queens Boulevard | Briarwood, NY 11435 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!