APPLICATION

Acceptance to the Good Samaritan Ministries Counselor Certification Program begins with a completed Volunteer Counselor Training Application, (see attached) which includes two letters of recommendation from applicant's pastor, counselor, teacher and/or employer.
A criminal background check will be conducted at some point during the program.
Applicant *may* also be interviewed prior to acceptance to training program.

THREE-YEAR PROGRAM

The Good Samaritan Ministries Counselor Certification Program covers a two-to three-year period. Trainees with relevant credentials or with geographical or time constraints may participate in an accelerated version of the program at the Supervisor's discretion.
As a trainee meets all the requirements throughout the three-year program, he/she will then become eligible for a final evaluation of competency and receive a Good Samaritan Ministries Counseling Certificate.
With this certificate, you are qualified to participate in volunteer counseling here at Good Samaritan Ministries.

An active file containing the chronicle of the trainee's accomplishments, including special trainings, will be available to the trainee. To assist the certificated graduate in further employment or professional development endeavors,
a letter of recommendation will be provided, upon request

LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT

The Good Samaritan Ministries Counselor Certification Program is comprised of three levels. At the conclusion of each level, the supervisor and trainee will meet to determine the trainee's readiness to continue to the next level. Assignments and directions will be given specific to the trainee's gifts and strengths, and/or areas that require strengthening.

Level I

Level I is designed to develop the fundamental concepts and skills of counseling. The 15 lesson modules occur in consecutive weeks and include three Healing Miracle classes. Class time is 6:30 – 8:30 PM. The course is offered once a year or more often, as demand may require. The class size is limited to no less than six and no more than twenty. The trainee is evaluated at the end of each level for readiness to enter the next level. The scope and focus of Level I Counselor training is to introduce the work of Jesus Christ as a counselor. The studies revolve around faith, hope and love as related to counseling and the ways Jesus demonstrated these concepts in His interactions with people. Trainees will study how Jesus connected with people through the Holy Spirit, bringing healing and wholeness to the spirit, soul and body of the person. Trainees will be involved in role-play as counselors to gain or improve questioning and listening skills. Trainees will receive instruction pertaining to how to develop a case study and treatment plan. Trainees will also be informed regarding professional and ethical standards and acceptable file management strategies.

The Good Samaritan Ministries Counselor Training Program is provided on a donation-only basis. There are minimal charges for materials. Inability to purchase materials will not prevent qualified candidates from participating in program.

Level II

The training at this level is comprised of three categories of accomplishment.

Directed:

Monthly Dyad and case study hour
Healing Miracles class
Bible Study
Group facilitation experience
Family Camp attendance as staff counselor
Wednesday Counselor Training meeting
Quarterly one-on-one meetings with Supervisor
Attendance of minimum of three DBT classes

Self-Directed:

A book report in basic essay format on each assigned text on reading list.
Trainee or team to teach one class or series of classes during Level II.
Topic and materials may be provided.

Community:

Completion of a minimum of one class or seminar. The focus of extra-curricular training is to be agreed upon by trainee and supervisor.

Typically, the objectives of Level II can be accomplished in one year. As the trainee nears the completion of Level II requirements, supervisor and/or Director will perform an evaluation; based upon successful completion of goals and positive evaluation, trainee will be recommended to Level III.

Level III

Level III is a practicum, promoting trainees to intern status. During this practicum, interns will be given an opportunity to observe volunteer or professional counselors and their interaction with clients. Interns will also receive training regarding compiling and managing files. This practicum shall last for three to six months or until intern has observed a minimum of ten counseling sessions. Interns' observation reports will be reviewed during periodic supervision meetings.
At such time that the interns' performance meets with the standards and requirements set forth in the training program, and intern files are reviewed by supervisor, Director and one other member of the staff and found complete; intern will be awarded a Good Samaritan Ministries Certificate of Counseling.
Now the intern may begin to meet with clients. Supervisor and/or Director may attend individual client/intern sessions as conditions dictate. Intern will operate under direct supervision of supervisor and/or Director and be responsible for submitting full reports during bi-weekly supervision appointments. After successful completion of internship (four to six months), volunteer intern's work will be reviewed by supervisor, Director and one other member of the Good Samaritan Ministries staff and recommendations will be made for promoting intern to Volunteer Counselor status.

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Additional Requirements and Recommendations

1. *All evaluations sessions will be done individually with assigned personnel.*
2. *Interns are responsible for keeping their files in order. The following are required for each intern file:*

    a. *The intern application form.*
    b. *A copy of all book reports.*
    c. *Eight Healing Miracle reports.*
    d. *Report from Family Camp*
    e. *A brief summary of notes taken during Level II and Level III classes and teachings, including seminars and workshops.*
    f. *A minimum of four case studies per year that will demonstrate significant progress in proficiency.*
    g. *Intern notes from personal evaluation sessions and any supervisory notes.*
    h. *Attendance records, which reflect consistent participation.*

At any time during the Levels I, II or III supervisor and/or Director may amend or delete requirements. Such changes will not adversely affect the trainee or intern's ultimate progress.

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