

## HOW CAN I HELP?

### VOLUNTEER

- Attend our bi-weekly meetings (in-person or via Zoom). See banner on website Home Page for dates.
- Join a Desert Search or Water Drop team to provide humanitarian aid.
- Serve food and share conversation at El Comedor (KINO dining hall for migrants) in Nogales, Sonora.
- Support migrants and asylum seekers in Ambos (Both) Nogales. We partner with non-profit and governmental organizations on both sides of the border to assist migrants and asylum seekers in need.
- Observe Migrant Hearings in Tucson federal criminal court.

### DONATE

- Anything you give will be appreciated.
- Donate online on our website.
- Donate by mail. Make check payable to The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ. In the memo line, write Samaritans.

### SHARE YOUR BORDER EXPERIENCE

- After you visit Arizona and learn more about immigration and our borderlands, share your knowledge and personal experience with others.
- Talk with your friends or make a presentation back home.

## CONTACT US

### WEBSITE

[www.gvs-samaritans.org](http://www.gvs-samaritans.org)

### EMAIL

[gvs.samaritans@gmail.com](mailto:gvs.samaritans@gmail.com)

### FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/groups/664786850266517](https://www.facebook.com/groups/664786850266517)

### MEETINGS

Alternate Mondays from 8 to 9 a.m.

By Zoom and In Person

For exact dates, see Banner on Home Page

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ  
17750 S. La Cañada Drive  
Sahuarita, AZ 85629

*Samaritans provide food, water, and medical assistance to people in need. We believe in respect for human rights, the rendering of humanitarian aid, and one's ethical responsibility to assist those who are suffering.*

Revised January 2025

## Green Valley- Sahuarita SAMARITANS



*A healing presence along the border*

**Our Mission:  
To Save Lives and  
Relieve Suffering in the  
Arizona Borderlands**

## Who Are Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritans?

We are friends and neighbors who believe there should be no more deaths in our desert. We believe providing help to another human being in distress is a fundamental human value. We are non-denominational volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Prompted by mounting deaths in the desert, we came together in 2005. Our work has expanded since then.

We travel the desert, continuing the Southwest tradition of hospitality to travelers. Samaritans have 4WD vehicles to navigate rough roads. At least one member on each trip speaks Spanish and another has medical training. Vehicles carry water, food, medical supplies, and items for basic desert survival.

We hike short distances to leave water at pre-determined sites along migrant foot paths. Others support migrants and asylum seekers by working closely with shelters, and with both governmental and non-profit organizations on both sides of the border. We attend group migrant hearings in Tucson's Federal Criminal Court.

## Isn't Our Work Illegal?

No. Samaritans is an entirely lawful, open organization that provides humanitarian assistance. Border Patrol and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents are aware of what we do. We strive to build and maintain cooperative relationships with them. We search only in areas open to us and do not trespass onto private land.



Hand embroidered cloths, wrapping food with love and hope, were carried in backpacks, then left behind in the desert. Found rarely now, due to the commercialization of border crossing, the ones we have are dearly treasured.

## Why Is Our Work Needed?

Our work takes place in the context of international, national and Arizona dynamics and changes. What has not changed in 25 years is the need for our mission.

Push factors world-wide include chaos in failing states, extreme poverty and criminal violence, political, ethnic and gender persecution and worsening climate change. Pull factors include the promise of asylum, of work and of family reunification. Migrants and asylum seekers believe they will find safety and opportunity.

The harder it is to access legal pathways, the more lucrative the opportunities for organized crime. Migrants are being routed into ever more dangerous environments. Asylum seekers are subject to a crazy quilt of policies and politics. People are being deported to countries they have no ties to.

Though Samaritans dream of a day when our work is no longer needed, that day is not in sight.