

The Shepherd Project

Equipping the Church to address sexual abuse in the areas of prevention, intervention, and recovery

The Samaritan Women has been leading the charge in restorative care for victims of domestic sex trafficking for the past 12 years. Over that time, we have learned a great deal about the trauma histories of our survivors and many of the social factors that have contributed to their vulnerability. Sexual abuse in all its forms is rampant in our day – destroying marriages, families, and lives. Members of our community and congregations are suffering and we need to use our voices to invite them out of the pain, shame, and isolation of these wounds. Dr. Bruce Perry, a nationally-recognized trauma specialist has said, “trauma can only be healed in relationship.” We know this to be true, and we believe the healing relationship is with Christ, but it comes through us.

In response to this, The Samaritan Women is launching a year-long initiative called *The Shepherd Project* to equip the Church with the tools and resources necessary to de-stigmatize conversations, protect the vulnerable, and respond to abuse. We want to reframe the Church as a safe place where safe conversations and healing help is offered.

In this initiative, representatives from local churches will commit to one year of learning about the issues and serve as a bridge between what we teach and what would be most helpful to their members. Throughout 2020, we will be providing monthly training on various topics of abuse, and equipping church representatives with tools to bring back to their community. We will showcase curriculum, local services, resources, and essential practices. We will be bringing in national and area experts, trauma specialists, and counselors to enrich learning.

Dates: January 2020 – December 2020; First Monday of each month (with the exception of September)

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Location: The Samaritan Women Administrative Building; 602 S. Chapel Gate Lane Baltimore, MD 21229

Tuition: \$300/per person

Timeline: Each quarter will focus on one of four topics: pornography, child abuse, sexual assault, and sex trafficking, through the lenses of prevention, intervention, and recovery.

		PREVENTION	INTERVENTION	RECOVERY
Quarter 1 Jan - Mar	Pornography	January 6 th	February 3 rd	March 2 nd
Quarter 2 Apr - Jun	Child Abuse	April 6 th	May 4 th	June 1 st
Quarter 3 Jul - Sept	Sexual Assault	July 6 th	August 3 rd	September 14 th (2 nd Monday)
Quarter 4 Oct - Dec	Sex Trafficking	October 5 th	November 2 nd	December 7 th

Please contact Jasmyne Cummings, TSW’s Church Impact Manager, at jcummings@thesamaritanwomen.org for interests and inquiries.

