

For Immediate Release

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COASTAL SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

MYRTLE BEACH, SC – May 14, 2008 – The Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center has been awarded Full Accreditation for April 2008 to April 2012. The Samaritan Institute, located in Denver, Colorado, announced today.

“Accreditation is a major accomplishment and demonstrates a Center’s commitment to excellence,” according to Dr. James R. Laurie, Executive Vice President of the Institute, which is the headquarters for an international network of Samaritan Centers. “The accreditation process indicates that Centers offer professional services within a framework of quality organizational, administrative, and financial practices.” Laurie said.

The Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center was established in 1980 by an independent board representing a cross-section of the community and is supported by 20 area congregations. The Center provides a wide range of outpatient counseling services, including counseling for individuals, couples, and families; educational programs; and consultation for professionals and organizations.

The Samaritan Ministry advocates the concept of interfaith, team-oriented, and cost-efficient counseling, emphasizing the inter-relatedness of mind, body, spirit, and community.

The Executive Director is The Reverend Kathy T. Heustess, MSW. The Center is staffed by Susan Bulsza, Ed Fitzpatrick, Christopher Galton, Lee Gravely, Melissa Swartz, and Jim Remington.

To assure accessibility to community residents, counseling services are offered in the following locations: Conway, Carolina Forest, Little River, North Myrtle Beach, and Litchfield.

Through its affiliation with the Samaritan Institute, the Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center is part of an international network of 95 Samaritan Centers with over 500 offices in 340 communities in 35 states and Japan.

“We are extremely fortunate to have such outstanding counseling services available,” said Anne Lawrence, President of the Board of Directors. “The Center provides positive life changes for people seeking help regardless of their ability to pay. The Center’s satellites provide services in the local communities where clients live. And in the past year, the Center donated more than \$113,000 worth of subsidized counseling services back to the community,” continued Mrs. Lawrence.

The Center is open Monday through Thursday 9 am to 7 pm and Fridays 9 am to 1 pm to serve the needs of individuals and families. For more information, call 843-448-4820 or visit the website at www.coastalsamaritan.org.