



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BOOST BALTIMORE FARM PRODUCTION

Baltimore, MD (August, 2010) – The Samaritan Women, a nonprofit in SW Baltimore, (www.thesamaritanwomen.org) manages the largest urban farm within City limits. It operates completely on volunteer labor and donations. Produce from the farm is sold at local farmers markets, to restaurants and schools, and a portion is donated to local nonprofit organizations and shelters.

American University faculty followed up on an invitation to visit The Samaritan Women and agreed to take on a pro bono development project to advance the work of this 2+ acre farm. Seniors from the Computer Science program at AU will be defining the technical requirements and building a Web-based farm management database. This system will keep record of all the crops planted, harvested, sold or donated as well as the volunteer labor and donations that contribute to the success of this unique urban farm.

“The American University computer science department is very excited to partner with The Samaritan Women. After meeting with their volunteers and seeing their work, we know they share the same commitment to community service that AU students are known for. We're looking forward to this challenging and rewarding project to bring real world experience to our students in a way that helps them and serves our community!” comments - Dan Fleck, AU Instructor and Michael Black, Assistant Professor. The class project will begin in September and is estimated to be completed by the end of the fall semester.

“It's a great collaborative between the art of organic farming and the science of today's technology,” offers Jeanne Allert, Board Chair of The Samaritan Women. *“Everyone has a gift*



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*to give, and this creative partnership proves that we only have to think beyond of ourselves—
towards the better goal of serving others-- to see those creative possibilities.”*

The Samaritan Women’s mission is to promote health, healing, and hope in Baltimore City through four primary ministries: (1) a transitional residence for women in recovery including a vocational program in culinary arts; (2) a public events and education center; (3) a 2-acre organic urban farm that grows produce to support of local shelters, recovery houses and neighbors in need; and (4) specific outreach to women and girls oppressed by drugs and sexual exploitation.

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