

# The Good Samaritan Center



*"A Healing Place"*

Fall 2006

## We Love Our Volunteers

*John Willome, Executive Director*

This newsletter is dedicated to the work and service of our volunteers. Frankly, they blow me away. Did you know that in 2005 they gave over 7,100 hours of time to our Center at a value of over \$124,000? That is just the tip of the iceberg.

Over 50 volunteers work with us every week, and more than 90 volunteers come over the course of a month. These 90 people are women and men from all parts of our society. Some take time from their day-jobs to give back to the community. Some are retired people who are working harder than ever, and loving it. They are dentists, physical therapists, nurses, doctors, and housewives. They are here because they care, and they show God's love to our patients indiscriminately.

We can never thank them enough, but on page five of this newsletter, we have attempted to acknowledge all of our volunteers. When you start making lists you risk leaving someone off, so please forgive us if we accidentally forgot you. We believed it was worth the risk, however, so that we could show how much we truly appreciate every single moment our volunteers spend with us on behalf of our patients.

Our hope is in the power of God working through the hearts of people. Our volunteers, along with our donors, staff, network of referring specialists, and imaging and lab partners, are making a difference. May the blessing they give to our patients and us be returned to them many times over.



*Ann Stewart Shafer, along with Ros Haertlein, Evelyn Burns, and Eddie Graham, ensures that our patient charts are in order*

## A Samaritan's Story

One of our diabetic patients recently celebrated a milestone—43 years of living with Type I diabetes.

"A lot of it has to do with the mental attitude," she explained. "I've always had a really good outlook."

After several years of caring for an ill family member who eventually died, she found herself destitute. She moved to Fredericksburg to be closer to her daughter and to find work again. But her diabetes kept getting in the way.

Type I diabetes has different symptoms than Type II, and its treatments can differ as well. But she found support from our

Certified Diabetes Educator and Registered Nurse, Kathy Lux, and from Dr. Maurine Porto. Our diabetes program is funded in 2006 by a grant from the Hal and Charlie Peterson Foundation.

This woman and our staff learned from each other about the ins and outs of Type I diabetes. Dr. Porto helped her locate a specialist from San Antonio who holds a weekly clinic in Kerrville. Kathy Lux helped her get hooked up with the Medication Assistance Program offered by Hill Country Memorial Hospital.

She is working again, thanks to good management of her diabetes. She returned

to the clinic recently for assistance with an infection resulting from a cat scratch. Even though she's just getting back on her feet, she is happy to pay the small fees that the clinic charges.

"I like that you pay to go. My mother told me that it's really important that you pay for every service you use," she said.

Until she came to us, she had gone three years without seeing a doctor about her diabetes. Now she says she's on an even keel.

"It's been my life-saver," she said. "I have never met anyone I felt disdain from. They welcome me. They remember me."

## December Events to Benefit The Good Samaritan Center

We are grateful that so many local organizations choose to make us the beneficiaries of their events.

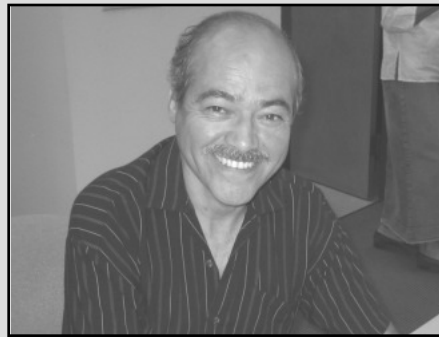
**Canto** will be on Tuesday night, December 5, at 7:00pm at the Hill Country Evangelical Free Church in Fredericksburg. Anyone who has been to this knows that it is the premier sacred Christmas concert of the year. Tickets are \$25 and are available at our front desk, or you can order them from this newsletter's reply card.

**The Fredericksburg Athletic Club's Weihnachten 5K Fun Run** is on Sunday, December 3, at 2pm. We are proud that this event is one of the few winter events that promotes good health and family fun. See the enclosed flyer for registration information.



*The Fredericksburg Athletic Club's Weihnachten 5K Fun Run on Sunday, December 3, at 2pm will benefit The Good Samaritan Center*

# Bilingual Volunteers Bridge the Gap: Elena Howard and Pablo Mireles



*Elena Howard and Pablo Mireles are Tuesday morning front desk volunteers*

The Good Samaritan Center welcomes two new volunteers to its roster: Pablo Mireles and Elena Howard. Both use their bilingual skills to serve our Spanish-speaking clients.

**Elena Howard** has known about the Good Samaritan Center for years. In fact, she used to volunteer at the Free Clinic's after-school program. After she retired from Fredericksburg ISD in May, Elena decided to offer her time on a more regular basis.

"I've always enjoyed helping people. At school I worked with underprivileged children," she said. "My main reason for volunteering is to help the Hispanic community."

Elena's bilingual skills make her a

valuable volunteer.

"Even if they speak a little English, they like to communicate with someone in their own language," she said.

Elena has known people who have received care at the Good Samaritan Center. She considers her volunteering a way of giving back to the community.

Much of Elena's time is spent caring for her aging mother. Although she enjoys caregiving, she is happy to spend some of her free time giving care to people outside her family.

**Pablo Mireles** came to Fredericksburg about twelve years ago. He works as an interpreter and translator for Early Childhood Intervention, and also as a massage therapist at spas in San

Antonio and the Hill Country.

Pablo works at the front desk on Tuesday mornings. Sometimes he also comes in on Thursday afternoons after he finishes working. Why does he volunteer even after a full day of work?

"The environment in this clinic gives you the willingness and the energy. The environment allows you to *be* here," he said. "Sometimes I don't want to go home."

Since he started volunteering in July, Pablo learned to operate a complex phone system and to organize files. More importantly, he is learning how to think for himself.

"I'm learning how to make decisions, how to give out information, how to use information for the benefit of people and the benefit of the clinic," he said.

Mireles finds many opportunities to use his Spanish while working at the front desk, both on the phone and in person.

"The clinic is the one place where I can use my language. I can share."

The Good Samaritan Center is always in need of volunteers like Pablo and Elena who can bridge the gap between, especially Spanish and English. If you are bilingual and would like to volunteer, please contact Linda Noe at 990-8651.

# Community Service that Makes a Difference

We have volunteers that help us with every area of our clinic. They help at the front desk, our nurse and doctor in the clinic, in the medication room, and even with the landscaping. But what about the things that aren't as much fun like mopping, vacuuming, and disinfecting? Who will do the little things like take out the trash and clean the windows?

Gillespie County provides a community service director, Domingo Sanchez, who works with all of the nonprofit agencies in the county to help accomplish what we have a hard time doing on our own.

When people are assigned community service hours they report to Domingo, and he ensures that they are doing the maximum good for the community. In our case, that means janitorial service, clearing brush, trimming trees, making a sign for the front of our building, and even building a storage building that we have been needing for a long time.

We want to say thank you to Judge Mark Strocher and the county commissioners, Domingo, and all who have worked here through the community service program. You are making a difference and we are blessed.



*Community Service Director Domingo Sanchez coordinates service hours for Gillespie County.*

# Thank you!

This is our best effort to list those who came to our center to volunteer over the last twelve months. We apologize if we left you off.

**Individuals**

Rose Marie Allen  
 Russell Allen  
 Sara Allerkamp  
 Liz Althaus  
 Voy Althaus  
 Kristy Anders  
 Tom Anderson  
 Jean Andrews  
 Estela Avery  
 Jim Bacon  
 Meredith Barsch  
 John Benson  
 Peggy Benson  
 Margaret Bierschwale  
 Brenda Boenig  
 Beverly Bowie  
 Evelyn Burns  
 Bill Bush  
 Randy Busch  
 Lois Bush  
 Marjorie Cardwell  
 Mary Cassidy  
 Jack Chase  
 Lonnie Childs  
 Noel Clark  
 Sherry Cleckler  
 Tom Cleckler  
 Karen Davies  
 Joanne Davis  
 Lorie Dearing  
 Michael Dearing  
 Sonja Denton  
 Dot Dittmar  
 Mary Lou Dixon  
 LaCretia Doss

James Eager  
 Gilbert Elizondo  
 Suzanne Ellison  
 Rosemary Ender  
 Annie Eppright  
 Richard Eppright  
 Joanna Folse  
 Bill Freeborn  
 Sarah Frerichs  
 Betty Gandre  
 Reg Gartner  
 Jodie Geiker  
 Eddie Graham  
 Sue Graham  
 David Greathouse  
 Margarita Greathouse  
 Ros Haertlein  
 Lillian Hahn  
 Janet Hardy  
 April Harris  
 Yvonne Haug  
 Mary Heidtke  
 David Heinrich  
 Patsy Hejl  
 Cathryn Hensell-Morales  
 Glenn Herzog  
 Jim Heupel  
 Matthew Hoermann  
 Patricia Hoerster  
 Paula Hoff  
 Polly Horany  
 Elena Howard  
 David Hughes  
 Judy Hutcherson  
 Storm Hutchinson  
 Rocky Janssen

Sandra Janney  
 Stacy Johnson  
 Rad Kothman  
 Heidi Kovar  
 Lance Kovar  
 Sally Kuhlmann  
 Irma Kumpf  
 Salley Lang  
 Karla Lawrence  
 Benjamin Lehman  
 Curtis Littman  
 James Lively  
 Jose Lopez  
 Kathy Lux  
 Narcissa Marquez  
 Sharon Massey  
 Jan McGrath  
 Jackairis Medina  
 Linda Metzler  
 Margaret Meyers  
 Melissa Mial  
 Becky Miles  
 Ken Miles  
 Tina Miller  
 Larry Miller  
 Pablo Mireles  
 Willie May Moerbe  
 Brooke Morales  
 Dianne Munoz  
 Sarah Newman  
 Greg Oehler  
 Linda Ottmers  
 Elizabeth Pacheco  
 Jean Paicurich  
 Humberto Palmerin  
 Paul Panacek

Peggy Patterson  
 Katherine Peake  
 Hector Pedregon  
 Jason Peet  
 Harold Pieratt  
 Anne Phuenneke  
 Danny Richardson  
 Mary Beth Richardson  
 Beatrice Rivera  
 Helen Rode  
 Kelle Rodriguez  
 Barbara Russell  
 James Russell  
 Jim Ryan  
 Judy Ryan  
 Nate Sagebiel  
 Katie Sauer  
 Mary Schadua  
 Jim Schonaerts  
 Brenda Schott  
 Charlie Schwartz  
 Mary Segner  
 Ann Stewart Shafer  
 Maureen Sharp  
 Kim Shisler  
 James Smathers  
 Pat Smathers  
 Cheri Snyder  
 Kelly Sosland  
 Pam Spruiell  
 Camey Stewart  
 Amber Stivers  
 Ronald Stotz  
 Veronica Strackbein  
 Sandra Striegler  
 Lance Tatum

Kay Telle  
 Larry Trantham  
 Janie Trantham  
 Pam Traver  
 Melissa Triplett  
 Ginny Walker  
 Martha Warner  
 Jan Warner  
 Raymond Wuest  
 Allane Wheelless  
 Bettie White  
 Barbara White  
 Wayne White  
 Cyndie Williams  
 Gayle Williams  
 Megann Willome

**Groups**

Fredericksburg Middle School  
 Horticulture Classes  
 Gillespie County Community  
 Service  
 Gillespie County Leadership  
 Class 2006  
 Heritage High School Students  
 Holy Ghost Lutheran Youth and  
 Parents  
 Morning Rotary  
 Zion Lutheran Church

**In Loving Memory**  
 Trudy Anderson  
 Ralph Greenlee, Sr  
 Dick Hall

## Yes, I want to help!

You are welcome to help us in any way that you feel led to be involved. Because we charge only \$15 to \$25 per patient visit, we end up subsidizing about \$70 for every patient we see. This money comes from private donations and foundations. Of course, there are other ways to help too. Volunteers and in-kind donations help us to minimize our costs and use our resources wisely. Please take a moment to pray and consider whether you would like to become a volunteer or donor. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Monthly commitment (amount \_\_\_\_\_)
- One-time donation (amount \_\_\_\_\_)
- Memoriam/Honorarium (see below)
- Wish List (see back for list)
- Canto Tickets (\_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$25 each)
- Volunteer (type of activity \_\_\_\_\_)
- In-kind service (type \_\_\_\_\_)
- Send me the quarterly newsletter
- Please make my gift anonymous

**Memorials/Honorariums (circle one):**

Name of honoree: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Person(s) to be notified: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Good Samaritan Center**  
 140 Industrial Loop, Ste 100  
 Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
 Phone: 830.990.8651 · Fax:  
 830.990.0852  
 www.goodsam.fbg.org

John Willome, Executive Director





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Nonprofit Organization  
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Executive Director:  
*John Willome*

Medical Director:  
*Maurine Porto, M.D.*

Board of Directors:  
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*Patsy Hejl*  
*James Heupel*  
*Judy Hutcherson, RN*  
*Jose Lopez, MD*  
*Greg Oehler*  
*Paul Panaceck, DDS*  
*Katherine Peake*  
*Hector Pedregon*  
*Anne C. Pluenneke, MD*  
*Danny Richardson*

## Your Chance to be Involved

People often ask us how they can help. Here are some options for you as you prayerfully consider how you might join us in reaching out to our neighbors.

### Help us get the word out:

- Bring your friends by for a tour.
- Invite us to present to your church, social, or civic organization.

### Volunteer:

- Become a weekly administrative/medical volunteer. *If you speak Spanish we definitely need your help.*
- Help with facility maintenance and cleaning.
- Join our landscaping crew.
- Assist us in conducting fundraising events.
- Conduct a public education class.

### Donate:

- Become a monthly/regular donor to cover our \$70 per patient cost (we see 200-260 patients each month).
- Donate "Wish List" items or services your business might provide.

*Our mission is to provide coordinated and affordable health and social services that minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the unserved and underserved in the Texas Hill Country (Blanco, Gillespie, Kimble, Llano, and Mason Counties).*

### Wish List:

- Cholestec machine (\$800) *will allow us to do more blood tests in-house*
- Used or new riding lawn mower
- Used or new push mower

*Please call to verify that someone has not already donated your chosen item.*

## Thank you!

*James Lively helps get our landscaping ready for winter.*

