

# The Good Samaritan Center

"A Healing Place"



Fall 2008

## Working together

John Willome, Executive Director

I want to take a moment to give some recognition to our local nonprofit community. We all work together to meet the basic everyday needs of those in our community who are less fortunate. And it is important for people to know that there is hardly any duplication of services between the different agencies.

Of course, the medical and dental care that we provide families is unusual for a town of this or any size, but we can do it because of the support we get from **Hill Country Memorial Hospital** and all of the **doctors** who help us. The hospital's **Community Health Center** also meets critical medical needs with government programs to serve low-income families and individuals.

The **Hill Country Community Needs Council** is unique to Gillespie County. This is a terrific resource for someone who finds themselves in a financial or emotional crisis. Not many counties have this kind of a resource!

The **Boys and Girls Club** not only provides after-school and summer care for school-aged children, but also provides character education and conflict resolution training. They are also mentoring over 100 children every school day.

Other important organizations include the **Fredericksburg Food Pantry**, the **SPCA**, **PAWS**, and **Habitat for Humanity**.

Of course, there are others that I don't have space to mention here. But I hope you can see we have a tremendous community of love and support in Fredericksburg. Please join with us to make a difference in precious lives.



*Willie Mae Moerbe is one of our behind-the-scenes volunteers. She comes in every week to put together new patient charts, conduct patient research, and share her wonderful spirit with us.*

## A Samaritan's Story

This September a man came into the center with a problem. He couldn't work because he had hurt his arm.

He saw the doctor on a Wednesday. The doctor decided that he needed an MRI, which Hill Country Memorial Hospital (HCMH) was able to provide to him that same day.

The results came back on Thursday and revealed that he had torn a tendon in his arm and required surgery to repair it. The surgery would have to be soon because a tendon can be

irreparable if not operated on in a timely manner.

Our nurse called one of the orthopedists who sees our patients, and he graciously fit the man into his schedule that day (Thursday). Then he repaired the tendon the next day (Friday).

The exciting aspect of this story is how the community rallied together to help this man.

- There was a **volunteer working at our front desk** to make his appointment and check him in.
- Because we are still without a regular doctor, a **volunteer**

**doctor** examined him and ordered the MRI.

- **HCMH** helped him with the MRI.
- A **radiologist** volunteered his time to interpret the MRI.
- An **orthopedic surgeon** volunteered his time to see the man, and expeditiously.

Lest we forget, our **donors** are part of his story too because we wouldn't be here without you. So thank you for being part of this story. We hope it brings you joy to know that we were here to serve this man in Jesus' name.

## Medical Director/Physician Search Update

We are still searching for a permanent medical director/physician for our clinic. The doctor we mentioned in the last newsletter did not work out, so our search continues.

The good news is that through volunteer doctors and hired interims we are still seeing

between 150 and 180 medical appointments every month. We have made arrangements to see patients nearly every Monday through Thursday throughout the fall.

We covet your prayers for our search. We desperately want to make sure that the person we

find is the one God has for us.

And if you know of a doctor who might be interested in our position (or helping us short-term), please contact John Willome at 830.990.8651 or via email at [jwillome@beecreek.net](mailto:jwillome@beecreek.net). And let them know that we can now offer health insurance.

# Some volunteers do more than could ever be asked. Dot Dittmar is one of them.



*Dot Dittmar is a Thursday afternoon volunteer, but she was originally the center's volunteer volunteer director.*

If you ever want a treat and you know Dot Dittmar, stop and ask her about her history with The Hill Country Community Needs Council and The Good Samaritan Center. But when you do, hold on, because it is quite a story.

Dot's volunteerism started back when she was a child. She volunteered at an orphanage near her home, playing with the children there.

"Somewhere deep in my heart, I care about people," Dot said when we asked her about all of her volunteer activities.

Dot was doing volunteer work with the Needs Council when she first met The Good Samaritan Center's founding director, Sara Allerkamp. Dot fell in love with her and her vision for helping others.

"Sara let God work through her, and it showed," she said. "Who wouldn't want to volunteer for that?"

Peggy Benson, another long-time volunteer for the center, was the first to recruit Dot to volunteer. She started working at the front desk, but by the time the new building opened in June 2004, she

was working four days a week, eight to ten hours per day (that's 32-40 hours per week as a volunteer). She coordinated the volunteers and helped Sara with her administrative functions.

Over a year later, the center hired Linda Noe as its first paid volunteer director, and Dot scaled back her volunteering to working the front desk once a week.

"My favorite part of being there is dealing with people who need love and come to us for help," she said. "And I also love all of the staff and how everyone gets along. It is a fun place to be."

Dot feels that volunteering is something that anyone who has the time should do because they get so much out of it in return. "Volunteering for a good cause warms my heart," Dot said. "I think everyone should bloom where God plants you. That's what I was always taught."

There are some volunteers at the center who have left a permanent imprint on the entire organization. Dot Dittmar is one of those volunteers.

If you know Dot, ask her about her work. But be careful because by the end of the conversation you might find yourself at the center visiting with our current volunteer director, Cheri Snyder, and asking how you can help.

*"I think everyone should bloom where God plants you. That's what I was always taught."*

Dot Dittmar  
Front Desk Volunteer

## Three fundraisers to look out for in December Weihnachten Christmas Parade Party, Weihnachtten 5K, and Canto!

We are so blessed when people come to us and tell us that they want to hold an event that will help us raise money.

Larry and Jeannie Jackson, of **Jackson's Uptown Market** will host their annual Christmas party at the store on our behalf during the Weihnachten Christmas Parade on Friday, December 5. Seating will be limited, so in order to ensure that you receive an invitation, please tell us you are interested. You can email John Willome at [jwillome@beecreek.net](mailto:jwillome@beecreek.net).

Two days later, on December 7, **Fredericksburg Athletic Club** (FAC) will be hosting the Weihnachten 5K and Fun Run. Bruce Henry at FAC took this event over from Bob and Luann Fletcher a few years ago, and he continues to

make our center the beneficiaries of the proceeds from the event. We enjoy it because it promotes good health for everyone involved.

Finally, one of the premier choirs in our community, **Canto!**, will hold its annual Christmas concert on December 15 at Hill Country Evangelical Free Church. We sold this concert out last year, and it was especially moving.

We would like to thank the Jacksons, Bruce Henry, the members of the Canto! Choir, and Hill Country Evangelical Free Church for your generosity with us.

As Christians, the Christmas season is particularly special to us. We hope you'll be able to join us at the different events so that we can all celebrate the season together.

### A few of our volunteers



*Marilyn Anderson is a volunteer nurse practitioner who has been seeing patients on Thursday afternoons.*



*Kelly Albrecht is a Thursday afternoon front desk volunteer.*



*Eileen Morrison is a new medication room volunteer.*



*Marcey Duarte was one of our versatile medical assistant volunteers. She recently moved to California.*

# The Best Landscaping In Town

*Thanks to amazing volunteers!*



*One of our goals is that our patients not feel like they are receiving charitable care. That is why we have such a beautiful facility and amazing landscaping.*

It is too bad that this picture is in black and white (and printed on our in-house duplicator). If it were in color you would be able to see a small piece of our beautiful landscaping.

Volunteer Master Gardener, Peggy Benson, put together four teams of volunteers who rotate every week to keep our landscaping looking like it is ready for a magazine photo shoot.

Someone came to the clinic recently and said that they felt a peaceful, sweet spirit as soon as they pulled up. That is the whole idea.

We want to thank Peggy, the team captains, and each team member for doing such an amazing job. They remove the weeds, water the new trees, and even bury the weed barrier. It is unseen work that receives no glory, but it does make a difference.

If you see one of these people around town, please stop and give them a thank you for their work.

**Organizer:** Peggy Benson

**Team 1:**

- Cyndie Williams - Captain
- Stacy Johnson
- Rhoda Reynolds
- Bobbie Schonaerts
- Pam Bergman

**Team 2:**

- Judy Fleming - Co-captain
- Elin Elisofon - Co-captain
- Diane Matthews
- Patrick Moore
- Kathie Marlow

**Team 3:**

- Carol Seminara - Co-captain
- Beverly Weidenfeller - Co-captain
- Debbie Russell
- Kathy Lyles
- Mary Thompson
- Sherrill Durham

**Team 4:**

- Linda Metzler - Captain
- Ed Metzler
- Shirley Kunze
- Maria Palmer

## 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 appointment 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed                       Credit Card (Visa or MC)

\_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

- Monthly commitment (amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_)
- One-time donation (amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_)
- Memoriam/Honorarium (see below)
- Wish List (see back for list)
- Volunteer (type of activity \_\_\_\_\_)
- 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 is a 501(c)(3) nonpro fit organization.  
Your donation is tax deductible.

**The Good Samaritan Center**

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*Gayle Williams, MD*

## 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 appointment 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:

- 250 step counters/pedometers for patients (\$500)
- Riding lawnmower (new or used)
- Christian and/or health-related magazines (Spanish ones would be great too).

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

## Thank you!

*Ginny Walker is one of our Thursday afternoon medication room volunteers.*

