

# The Good Samaritan Center

*"A Healing Place"*



Spring 2007

## Volunteering changed my life

*John Willome, Executive Director*

How did volunteering change my life? Well, in 2003 I found myself unemployed for the first time since college. My wife strongly suggested that I find a place where I could volunteer while I looked for a job.

Ever the obedient husband, I found a therapeutic nursery in Waco's poorest neighborhood. We worked with children ages infant to five years old who lived in deep urban poverty.

I came to love these children so much, and eventually became the agency's fundraiser. It was a tough job, but so fulfilling.

That decision to give of myself and volunteer my time to help others eventually led me to The Good Samaritan Center.

We are coming up on April, which is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. We do appreciate our volunteers. We simply couldn't do our work without the 100+ volunteers who help us every year. It saves us well over \$125,000 in costs, but I suspect it blesses them too.

If you have ever thought about being a volunteer in any organization, please take that first step. Whether it is with us or one of the other great agencies in your area, you'll be amazed at what God will do through you *and to you* when you give of yourself.



*L to R:  
Pam Spruiell and Pam Traver stop for a moment to pose for the camera. Both Pams work at the front desk on Monday afternoons.*

## A Samaritan's Story

A lot of men avoid going to the doctor. This is true regardless of financial status or insurance. That explains why only twenty-five percent of The Good Samaritan Center's patients are men. When they do come for a simple office visit it often becomes more complicated.

A man came to The Good Samaritan Center last month because he had an earache. His answers to some of our health screening questions caused our

nurse and doctor to suspect that the patient had other conditions. They discovered he also suffered from diabetes and hypertension.

After his time with our doctor, he spent the next hour with our diabetes educator. She told him about managing his disease with diet, exercise, testing, and medication.

Then we were able to give him the medications he needed for the diabetes and hypertension out of our medication room, in addition to giving him medicine

for the original earache that brought him to us. All this care for only a \$20 fee!

The Good Samaritan Center cannot replace health insurance, but we can take some stress off the health care system by serving patients who can only afford small amounts. Your donations of time and money enhance the quality of life for patients like this man who have chronic diseases and don't even know it.

*Thank you!*

## The New Year Brings Changes to the Board

**Estela Avery, RN; Reverend Michael Dearing;** and **Dr. Paul Panaceck** will be tough board members to replace, but, thankfully, they have all agreed to be there whenever we need them, with Dr. Panaceck still directing our dental program.

The good news is that we found four great people to replace them. **"Dutch" Bowman** works for Edward Jones in Fredericksburg and brings

extensive financial expertise. **Reverend Michael Ensrude** is the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, and has a huge heart for our patients. **Becky Miles** is a Thursday afternoon volunteer and a retired clinical registered dietician. And **Dr. Kristi Stafford** is a local family practice physician who was involved in getting our center established.

Thanks to all seven of these people for the work they are doing to serve our community.



*Kristi Stafford & Becky Miles*



*Dutch Bowman & Michael Ensrude*

# Keeping it Clean: Four Volunteer Dental Hygienists are Changing Lives



*L to R: Polly, Veronica, Sandra, and Kelly rotate Thursdays each month to volunteer in our dental clinic.*

Not many charitable medical clinics have dental departments. Even fewer offer cleanings. The Good Samaritan Center is blessed to have four hygienists who take turns on Thursdays to clean patients' teeth and teach them about dental hygiene.

**Kelly Sosland** said that many clients are receiving their first cleaning – ever. Sometimes it takes two or three appointments to get a mouth back in shape.

"Our patients get a good oral exam, check-up x-

rays, and a good cleaning," she said. "We try to look at their whole mouth, which is a real plus."

Hygienist **Polly Horany** hopes to expand dental education for clients, especially since some only come once or twice.

"They think it's too simple to really work – that brushing and flossing really do prevent most dental disease," said Polly. She understands that some clients live in dire circumstances, and added, "Brushing their teeth is just not on their radar at all."

Hygienist **Sandra Striegler** echoed that statement. "I'm seeing mouths like I've never seen in 28 years of dental hygiene."

But unlike some traditional patients, our patients really appreciate the work of the volunteer hygienists. "The need seems to be a lot greater," said **Veronica Strackbein**. "Their appreciation level is different, too. It's not just a regular routine for them."

All the hygienists find fulfillment through their service. Just listen to their comments:

"In a small way it's my way of giving back," said Kelly.

"It's so rewarding!" said Polly. "It's better for the person who's volunteering."

"There's a lot of satisfaction when the light goes

on and they're like, 'I can do this! It's not hard.' Then you know you've reached them," Veronica said.

"I feel good when I leave not only because I've helped people, but because of the camaraderie and the fellowship," said Sandra.

We appreciate the monthly efforts of these faithful volunteers who have a skill we desperately need. If you know of any other dental hygienists who would consider joining our team, please call Linda Noe at 990-8651.

## *A Special Call for Dentists*

*We turn away as many dental patients as we see because we have no more room to see them.*

*Please let us know if you or someone you know has an active dental license and can give four hours per month to work with our patients.*

*Thank you!*

## The Best is Yet to Come

We saw a lot of growth in 2006. Our dental program grew substantially thanks to our five volunteer dentists (**Drs. David Heinrich, Lance Kovar, Paul Panacek, Melissa Triplett, and Jan Warner**) and four hygienists (see article above) providing dental care; and our Certified Diabetes Educator, Kathy Lux, began working sixteen hours per week thanks to a grant from the Hal and Charlie Peterson Foundation of Kerrville. She more than doubled the number of patients she counseled in 2006.

2007 is already proving to be busier than 2006. We set a new records in February 2007 with 267 medical visits and 59 dental and hygiene visits.

In addition to needing to see more medical patients, our priorities for 2007 include expanding our dental program and coming up with a way to address our patients' mental health needs.

Our plan for dental includes trying to open our dental clinic one more afternoon per week (see "A Special Call for Dentists" above). This could add nearly 150 appointments in 2007 and over 300 in 2008.

Our plan for providing limited mental health care is to test having a bilingual counselor in our office one day per week to meet with patients our doctor refers.

Please pray for us as we seek God's provision in meeting these needs. We know that we cannot do it without His leadership.

Finally, thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered in 2006. We simply could not have done it without you.

### 2006 Statistics

Medical Appointments	2,528
Dental Appointments	450
Hygiene Appointments	101
<u>Diabetes Education Appointments</u>	<u>240</u>
Total Appointments	3,319

Annual Cash Expenses*	\$278,916
In-Kind Value of Volunteer Hours	\$125,576
Cash Expense per Appointment*	\$84

\*Cash expenses include blood work and imaging expenses.

*Right: Rosemary and Martha have fun at the front desk.*



*Left: Mary and Dot ride on the Christmas Parade float sponsored by Edward Jones.*

# More Convenient Ways to Give

Our goal is to bless our donors as much as possible for their decision to partner with us. Several people have asked about different giving options. Listed below are new ways you can give to The Good Samaritan Center that might be more advantageous or convenient for you.

**Operating Endowment:**

Our operating endowment currently totals just under \$18,000. While nearly all of our donations are used for general operations, we have established an operating endowment account at the San Antonio Area Foundation that some can give to. This account is ideal for those who wish to make a large planned gift as part of their estate planning, but also want assurances that the money will go towards sustaining the organization over the long term.

**Credit Cards:**

Yes, we take credit cards. That is the answer we wanted to give to several donors last year, but we couldn't. Now, as of January, we can accept donations via credit card. We still do not accept patient fees via credit card. If a patient cannot pay, we see them anyway. We would rather they owe the money to us than the credit card company—we don't charge interest.

**Bequests:**

We had three individuals express interest in leaving a planned gift to us as part of their estate. We are glad to work with you to ensure that your giving goals are met, and invite you to visit with us if you wish to look into this option.

**Securities:**

We can receive any type of stock, bond, or other security. Our policy is to manage our funds conservatively, so the security in question will likely be liquidated and put into treasuries, but if it makes sense for tax purposes for you to give us an appreciated security instead of cash, we will be happy to work with you.

It is our desire to honor every gift given to us, and to make sure your philanthropic goals are met through your giving. Please let us know if there is any way we can make your experience with our organization more fulfilling.

## Challenge Grant Report

We mailed out 1,150 letters in November asking you to help us with a \$10,000 challenge grant from the Floyd A. and Kathleen C. Cailloux Foundation in Kerrville.

We had 132 responses (over 11%) and raised nearly \$37,000! This is money that we will use to work on some of the expansion projects we are planning for 2007 (see bottom of page 2).

**Thank you!**

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_)
- Memorial/Honorarium (see below)
- Wish List (see back for list)
- 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 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Your donation is tax deductible.

**The Good Samaritan Center**

140 Industrial Loop, Ste 100

Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Phone: 830.990.8651

Fax: 830.990.0852

www.goodsamfbg.org

*John Willome, Executive Director*  
jwillome@beecreek.net





## The Good Samaritan Center

140 Industrial Loop, Ste 100

Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Voice: 830.990.8651 Fax: 830.990.0852

Executive Director:

*John Willome*

Medical Director:

*Maurine Porto, M.D.*

Board of Directors:

*J.H. "Dutch" Bouwman*

*Rev. Michael Ensrude*

*Richard Eppright*

*William Freeborn, MD*

*Patsy Hejl*

*Jim Heupel*

*Judy Hutcherson, RN*

*Jose Lopez, MD*

*Becky Miles*

*Greg Oehler*

*Katherine Peake*

*Hector Pedregon*

*Anne C. Pluenneke, MD*

*Danny Richardson*

*Kristi Stafford, MD*

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Fredericksburg, Texas

Permit No. 107

# 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:

- Two New Desktop Computers (No Monitor) (\$550 each)
- Used Christian Magazines (English and Spanish) for lobby

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

# Thank you!

*Humberto Palmerin is a translator for our Thursday evening dental clinic*

