

The Good Samaritan Center

"A Healing Place"



Summer 2007

We couldn't do it without a lot of help.

By John Willome, Executive Director

A lot of people give us praise for the work we do, but we know that we are only able to be here because of the volunteers, donors, doctors, dentists, and other organizations that support us.

One of the most amazing parts of our program is our partnership with **Hill Country Memorial Hospital**. They help our patients with imaging and lab work. They also end up underwriting a lot of hospital charges for our patients.

Probably the most unsung thing they do for our patients, however, is their **Medication Assistance Program (MAP)**. Patients who qualify for us usually qualify for MAP. Under MAP, patients pay the hospital a flat fee of \$10 per month for an individual and \$15 for a couple. MAP then works with the pharmaceutical companies and fills out the paperwork necessary to get free medications each month.

Out of the 190 patients on MAP in 2006, 160 of them were patients from our clinic. Our 160 patients received \$1.25 million in medications for their \$10 per month. That is nearly \$8,000 per patient, or over \$650 per month!

Six dentists and four hygienists volunteer their time to see hundreds of dental patients. Specialists of nearly every type see our patients for reduced fees or no fees at all. Other nonprofits such as the Community Needs Council, the Food Pantry, MHMR, and even The Boys and Girls Club cooperate with us to meet our patients' needs.

We are grateful to be part of a tremendous and supportive community. That includes you. Thank you for what you do to support our work. You are making a difference, and we hope your partnership with us brings you a lot of joy.



Judy Ryan is a weekly med room volunteer. She also helps keep some of our computer databases current.

A Samaritan's Story

When patients come to the Good Samaritan Center, they not only get quality health care – sometimes they get a whole new lease on life.

In last spring's newsletter, we told a story about a woman who came to us with a tumor in her abdomen. She did not come voluntarily; her sister dragged her here. She hid her head in her hands and spoke as little as possible. Eventually she had a ten-pound benign tumor removed.

She recently returned for a regular appointment ten months after her surgery. Our clinical director, Eryn Tatum, RN, immediately noticed a change in the woman's countenance.

"She spoke to you. She looked at you. She was grinning from one side to another," Eryn said.

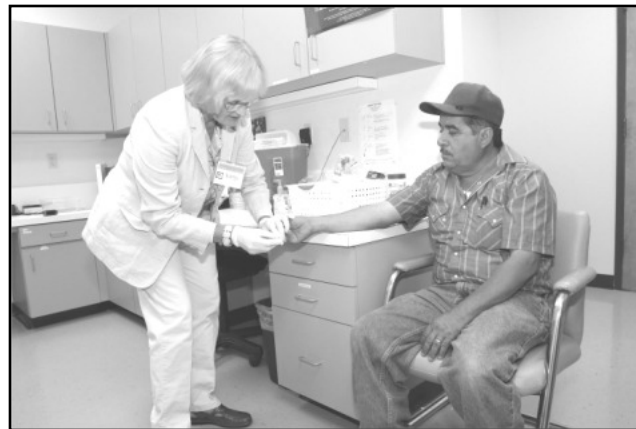
Another woman came to see our Certified Diabetes Educator, Kathy Lux. She weighed over 300 pounds, and suffered with

In the following months, the woman joined Weight Watchers. She started walking and lifting weights. Kathy continued to talk with her by phone. As she lost weight, she was able to drop some of her medications.

When the woman came to the clinic last month, Kathy didn't recognize her – she had lost 104 pounds! Even though she hopes to lose more weight, her metabolic rate has already improved and her blood sugar is under control.

Eryn and Kathy each used the same words to describe the

these two patients: "She was a new person." The medical care these women received enabled them to begin new lives. That is what loving others in Jesus' name is all about.



Kathy Lux, RN, CDE, takes a blood sample from a patient

diabetes and hypertension. Kathy taught her how to manage her diabetes and set her up with the Medication Assistance Program, run by the hospital. (see column at left)

Growing Deep Roots: Peggy and John Benson use their gifts to bless their community.



Peggy and John Benson sit among the beautiful landscaping at The Good Samaritan Center.

John and Peggy Benson's roots with The Good Samaritan Center go deep – all the way back to the Free Clinic days. When the Center was raising money for the current building, Peggy was on the board. Peggy stepped down in 2005 when her husband John began to serve as the Director of Operations.

"They needed me more outside than they did inside," she said.

Peggy is the driving force behind the Center's beautiful landscaping. At the time the building opened, she was completing course work for her

Master Gardener certification. She brought that knowledge to the center's landscaping.

Instead of installing expensive carpet grass and a sprinkler system, Peggy used drought-tolerant plants and a drip irrigation system to work with the poor soil around the building. In 2005, the back area received an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat designation from the National Wildlife Federation. The addition of a patio, picnic tables, and bird feeders by groups including the Gillespie County Leadership Class provide a respite from medical cares.

Thanks to donations from the Native Plant Society, local nurseries, the Lower Colorado River

Authority, and a grant from Wal-Mart, Peggy and her crew have not had to spend the Center's money. Four to five times a year, community and church youth groups work to keep the blooms coming.

"I love to see the landscaping evolve season by season and the people enjoying it," Peggy said.

Many of these landscape volunteers come on weekends or evenings. Their faces may not be seen, but their work blesses so many. Especially children.

"The children really benefit from nature. I see children trying to catch butterflies," said Peggy. "It lifts their spirits a little to realize all this is for them."

Peggy's roots are visible for all to see outdoors, but John's roots in the clinic are hidden deep inside the Center. During his tenure with former director Sara Allerkamp, John was gratified to help people who could not otherwise get medical care.

"It was fascinating to work through the obstacles of people obtaining quality health care," said John. He continues to volunteer, focusing on the Center's computer system and facilities.

John and Peggy Benson's roots go deep into the clinic, and we are grateful for their tireless and passionate service.

"The children really benefit from nature. I see children trying to catch butterflies," said Peggy. "It lifts their spirits a little to realize all this is for them."

New Counseling Program Meets Critical Needs

Our board of directors identified two areas for program growth in 2007. The first was to expand our dental program, which you have heard in this newsletter before. The other was to try to enhance our support for our patients suffering with depression.

The Hill Country Community Needs Council has been a great resource for patients needing counseling. The challenge was to get a depressed patient to go to the effort of making an eligibility appointment with the Needs Council, and then going through the steps to get a counseling appointment. We needed something easier for some of them.

Thanks to a suggestion from the Needs Council, Carol Hawkins of Catholic Charities in San Antonio is coming to our center one day every two weeks to meet with our patients. Carol is a terrific woman with a sweet spirit. She also speaks Spanish, so there is no language barrier to overcome.

Through a different partnership with the Hill Country Crisis Council and the Needs Council, Carol is already coming once a month to conduct a "Stress Support Group" in Spanish for some of our women patients. This group has been well-attended each month, and is making a significant difference in their lives.

At some point, we hope to have Carol come every week, but for now we are thrilled with God's answer to our prayers.

Thank you for your support. We are able to grow in this area because of you. If you have a particular interest in supporting this part of our program, or have any questions, please let us know.

Volunteer Samaritans caught in the act of loving others



*Top l to r: Rosanne Cowan and Margarita Greathouse.
Bottom l to r: Evelyn Burns and Dr. David Hughes.
Center: Kelly Rodriguez.*

Our building just turned three years old!

Fifteen years ago, Sara Allerkamp worked as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Hill Country Memorial Hospital. She felt God calling her to use her medical skills on behalf of people who lacked health insurance.

“When I was doing medical mission trips to Mexico, I would come home and find there were needs here as well,” Sara said.

She served, and recruited doctors to serve with her. In 1992, she began the Free Clinic. The need was so great that the Clinic moved four times in eleven years. As the patient load grew to over 130 people per month, the calling changed.

“I began to think the Lord was wanting us to do more for the patients,” said Sara. She envisioned having a doctor full-time in a first-class, permanent facility. She also wanted the clinic to provide spiritual care.

“That’s why the chapel is part of the building,” she said.



Founding supporters pose for a picture on our vacant lot in 2002: l to r - David Hardison, Dave Rodriguez, Diane Gold, Neal Reeh, Larry Altman, Sara Allerkamp, Bill Freeborn, Katherine Peake, Chris Avery, Laura Duecker Rice, and Ray Gestweidt.

The Free Clinic incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2001. At this point, the Center changed from being a “Free Clinic” to charging a nominal fee to its patients. The 10,000-square-foot facility opened three years ago, in June 2004, following a \$1.3 million capital campaign.

In its new space, the Center provided over 2,500 medical visits, over 550 dental visits, and 240 diabetes education appointments in 2006. The main goals this year include increasing dental capacity and adding counseling services (see “New Counseling Program” on page 2).

Though Sara is no longer with The Good Samaritan Center, she shared her hope that the community will continue to support people in need with Christ’s love.

“I hope it will continue to be a place where Christian people love and work. I want to continue to feel the Spirit there. And the love of Christ,” Sara said.

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 _____)
- 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

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Fredericksburg, Texas
 Permit No. 107

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

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:

- Medication for acid reflux (\$500)
- Used Christian magazines (English and Spanish) for lobby

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

Thank you!

Ros Haertlein audits patient charts at least a couple of times every week.

