

# The Good Samaritan Center



"A HEALING PLACE"

Providing a safe, Christ-centered environment that gives our patients quality, coordinated, and affordable health care.

Summer 2018

## The Joy of Involvement

By John Willome

One of the best sermons I ever heard was about 18 years ago back in Waco. Would you believe it was about giving?

We were part of a new church, and the pastor wasn't trying to get us to give more money to the church. He asked us to explore the idea that God designed us to be blessed through the giving of ourselves—be it our money or our time.

When we sacrifice *selfish* uses of time for *selfless* uses of our time or sacrifice *selfish* uses of money for *selfless* uses of our money, God has an emotional and spiritual blessing for us in return. Keeping in mind, there has to be an honest balance between helping others and self-care.

My wife and I had tithed faithfully since college, and I was at peace with that area of our lives. But I didn't really volunteer very much of my time. I was active in my church and taught children's Sunday school, but that was about it.

Three years later, I was asked to visit a nonprofit in South Waco. The easy part of the story is that it changed my career path, and I've been doing nonprofit work for the last 15 years. But that isn't the biggest change it made in me.

Getting out of my bubble and interacting with people who live in a different part of our society than I do gave me empathy and understanding that I never had before. I spent a lot of my church life judging others. Not about their "sin" as much as their life choices: substance abusers, not working, etc. The list is long.

My pastor was right. There are several parts to me working out my faith with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12): Bible study, worship (corporate and private), prayer, community, etc.

But becoming involved with those in need and touching their lives added a dimension to who I am as a Christian that I would never have had otherwise.

I encourage you to consider volunteer opportunities. You could be a mentor in the schools or Boys & Girls Club. You could work at the Needs Council, Food Pantry, or MOM Center. You can even see if we have openings to volunteer here.

But whatever you do, I can guarantee it



## A Samaritan's Story

Just after Memorial Day, a woman came in the Center's door crying. She had recently experienced a medical emergency that left her with a stack of medical bills she didn't know how she was going to pay. Not only that, but she now needed to follow up on her serious condition with a family practice doctor. She is 19 years old, works at two different stores on Main Street in Fredericksburg, and had no idea what to do about these new challenges in her life.

She needed our help.

One of our staff was able to take time to visit with her. She explained how the young woman could deal with the bills in her hand. Then the staff member helped her fill out new-patient paperwork and got her registered as a patient. Our Medical Assistant was then able to schedule an appointment for the young woman with our doctor.

Within the space of less than half an hour, this young

woman had moved from being in tears of despair to being relieved and assured.

When you think about it, the biggest change in her situation was the addition of *hope*. When she walked in she had debts she had no idea how to pay, along with a critical medical need that scared her and she didn't know how to address. Because we were here for her, she left with a pathway to dealing with her future medical needs and her medical bills.

The vast majority of our patients come to us because something has gone very wrong, and they are in crisis. Sometimes it's physical pain. Sometimes they need help from the broader medical system, and they don't know how to access it. Sometimes they are simply scared and don't know what to do next.

That's why we are here, to be this community's answer to those who need medical assistance, reaching out and going the extra mile to serve

## Waltstock & Barrel Music Festival Benefits Good Samaritan Center

The second Waltstock & Barrel Texas Wine & Music Festival was held April 6-7 at Texas Wine Country Jellystone Park hosted by Walt and Tina Wilkins.

Along with a host of musical performers from across the state, the event featured only Texas wines and craft beers, and food.

In keeping with the all-Texas theme, a Silent Auction of works donated by Texas artists was organized by Amy Clark to benefit the Good Samaritan Center (see photo, left).

Fifteen local artists, including four from Fredericksburg, donated 19 pieces of art to the event. The Silent Auction and a washer-tossing tournament netted the Center *just under \$11,000* in donations.

Thank you to Walt and Tina, to Amy and all the artists who gave their works, and to everyone who participated in the festival. We are blessed by your generosity.

And, in case you missed this year's festival, the third annual Waltstock & Barrel Wine & Music Festival is set for the first weekend in April, 2019. Keep up-to-date on the festival website at:

[www.waltstockandbarrel.com](http://www.waltstockandbarrel.com).

## Our Wish List:

- \$1,100, **labor** for stripping, waxing & buffing GSC floors.
- \$600, **supplies** for stripping & waxing GSC floors.
- \$475/ea., two dental assistant **chairs**

Please call the Center to verify whether someone has already donated your item.

**Thank you!**

## 2018 Spring Dinner Celebrates Virtues of Service, Faith and Giving

The Good Samaritan Center hosted its annual fundraising dinner on May 8 at St. Mary’s Parish Holy Family Center. The evening was filled with laughter, conversation, uplifting music by harpist Emily Jumes, and even a few tears were shed as attendees heard the moving life story shared by our founder. Guests were all ears as Sara Allerkamp described how God used her parents, her 16 siblings and a variety of other challenges to draw her to Him and inspire her to give of herself in His name.

The Good Samaritan Center would not be here today if not for Sara’s devotion to helping those in our community who could not access traditional medical care. In addition to generous underwriters and sponsorships that provide for general operations, the sold-out event included a special time of giving that fully funds the Center’s Medication Assistance Program for the year. We hope that all who attended felt blessed to be a part of an amazing evening.. We are so grateful for your support.

The photo (right) is Sara’s portrait as a graduating senior from Fredericksburg High School. She shared several images from her life during her talk, including photos of her parents and siblings; early life with her husband, Curtis Allerkamp; and their son, Eric, and his wife and children. This young woman went on to do great things.



**Our dinner underwriters: Estela & James Avery, Cindy & Bruce Busby, Frost Bank, and Joseph Financial Partners**

### The following businesses also sponsored our dinner:

Alstadt Brewery  
Bierschwale-Rees Insurance  
Braunbach Granite  
Karen Cornett, MD  
Mark DeLeon, MD  
Fischer & Wieser Specialty Foods  
Fredericksburg Farms

Fredericksburg Theater Company  
Garrett Insurance—Frantzen Insurance  
Grape Creek Vineyards  
Hill Country Refrigeration, Inc.  
Hill Country Memorial  
Hill Country Memorial Foundation  
Billy Johnson State Farm Agency

McLane Ford  
My Own Chef  
Opa’s Smoked Meats  
Real Estate Advisory Team  
Reeh Plumbing  
Kristi Stafford, MD  
Wildflower Ridge Alpacas

## Good Samaritan Center’s Garden Shed Gets a Much-needed Facelift



This group of handymen working on a project at GSC are members of UMC’s Faith in Action team and include John Doudna (left), Charlie Koym (center, and Tom Benfield (right). The team was organized by Jim Ryan .

Sometimes a project at GSC might seem a little less critical, but is still important to the Center’s ability to function effectively.

For example, the garden shed where our crew of dedicated landscape volunteers store the tools and equipment necessary to keep us “one of the prettiest doctors’ offices in town.” Over the years, weather and wear had taken its toll, and the shed doors were no longer keeping the elements out, which is a prime requisite of being a door.

Such was our dilemma.

That’s when the Faith in Action Group of United Methodist Church (UMC ) stepped in to resolve our problem by replacing the old door with a brand-new, custom built one. The UMC group completed the job along with some minor repairs on the shed’s outside in late April.

Additionally, a group of volunteers from Atmos Energy Corporation, organized by Brent Hammons and Randy Hartford, offered to caulk and paint our new shed doors this summer.

In case you didn’t know, our beautiful native-plant gardens were designed by Peggy Benson, a certified Hill Country Master Gardener.

Each month Peggy and a host of green-thumbed volunteers descend upon the grounds to weed, prune, and groom the landscape (hence the shed and its need for a working door).

In addition to creating a welcoming environment for the Center’s patients, the grounds are also certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

A habitat provides the four basic elements for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover, and a place to raise their young. The many birds, butterflies, squirrels and deer who visit us everyday are living proof.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the recent shed door project and to all our many volunteers who partner with us in serving our neighbors in need.

It takes a village, but we think Tom’s shirt (insert left) says it better: “Faith in Action.”

## GENERAL DONATIONS

The following is a listing of donors for gifts received between March 1, 2018, and May 31, 2018.

Sara & Curtis Allerkamp  
Priscilla Althaus  
Julie & Chuck Alvarez  
Anonymous  
Judy & Dennis Armstrong  
Anita Arnold  
Arrowhead Bank  
Atmos Energy Corporation  
Estela & James Avery  
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Spencer Youngblood  
Lucinda & Casey Zesch  
Zonta Club of Fredericksburg



# CHURCH DONATIONS

<i>Catholic Daughters of America, St. Mary's Church</i>	<i>Greater Life Christian Center</i>	<i>Memorial Presbyterian Church</i>	<i>St. Vincent de Paul Society</i>
<i>Faith Baptist Church</i>	<i>Hilda United Methodist Women</i>	<i>Methodist Health Care Ministries</i>	<i>Women of Memorial</i>
<i>First Baptist Church</i>	<i>Hill Country Church</i>	<i>St. Barnabas Men's Breakfast Group</i>	<i>Presbyterian Church</i>

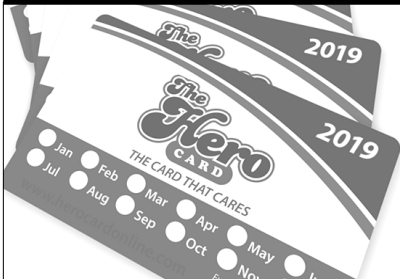
# MEMORIALS

<b>Virginia Anderson</b> <i>Susan &amp; Mark Stroehrer</i>	<b>Pat Crane</b> <i>Judy &amp; Jerry Luckenbach</i>	<b>Mary McDermott</b> <i>Catherine Davis</i>	<b>Evelyn Rose</b> <i>Peggy Sue &amp; Mike Sagebiel</i>
<b>James Avery</b> <i>Catherine Davis</i>	<b>Margaret Enderlin</b> <i>Judy &amp; Jerry Luckenbach</i>	<b>Gary Overstreet</b> <i>Ricardo Castillo</i>	<b>Mary Jane Schmidt</b> <i>Kelli &amp; Joseph Stone</i>
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<i>Hill Country Memorial</i>	<b>Levy Ersch</b> <i>Madeline &amp; Joe Sagebiel</i>	<b>Herminia Rivera</b> <i>Tanya &amp; Mike Arizola</i>	<i>Judy &amp; Jerry Luckenbach</i>
<i>Eryn &amp; Lance Tatum</i>	<b>Frances Hoch</b> <i>Margaret Bierschwale</i>	<i>Kristy &amp; Brett Beyer</i>	<i>Virginia &amp; Stanley Sauer</i>
<i>Megan &amp; John Willome</i>	<b>Fredoline Kaderli</b> <i>Margaret Bierschwale</i>	<i>Margaret Bierschwale</i>	<b>Anne Studer</b> <i>Mary &amp; Ralph Studer</i>
<b>Viola Baethge</b> <i>Evelyn Goins</i>	<i>Catherine Davis</i>	<i>Laverne &amp; Kermit Boos</i>	<b>Bill Sutherland</b> <i>Marsha &amp; Jerry Bane</i>
<b>Glyn Barnhouse</b> <i>William Barnhouse</i>	<i>Judy &amp; Jerry Luckenbach</i>	<i>Catherine Davis</i>	<i>Linda &amp; Frank Johnson</i>
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<b>Eddy Carr</b> <i>Evelyn Goins</i>	<b>Kenneth Lochte</b> <i>Roselee Lochte</i>	<i>Gail &amp; Jimmy Nielsen</i>	
<b>Dorothy Cornehl</b> <i>Florine &amp; Alton Bruns</i>	<b>Lucile Marburger</b> <i>Judy &amp; John Hutcherson</i>	<i>Barb Scherer</i>	
		<i>Peggy &amp; Charles Schmidt</i>	
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		<i>Cheri &amp; Bill Snyder</i>	
		<i>Sharon &amp; Ted Stehling</i>	
		<i>Becky Walch</i>	
		<i>Megan &amp; John Willome</i>	
		<i>Suzanne Wood</i>	

# HONORARIUMS

<b>Sara Allerkamp</b> <i>Kathi Herzog</i>	<b>Ann Hoch</b> <i>Catherine Davis</i>	<b>Barb &amp; Stan Sultemeier</b> <i>Texas Hills Realty</i>	<b>John Willome</b> <i>Memorial Presbyterian Church</i>
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<b>Andy Farohof</b> <i>Kay &amp; Kevin Straube</i>	<i>Crystal &amp; Jim Fox</i>		

## Another Way to Give to GSC



The Good Samaritan Center has teamed with the Hero Card, a community discount card, as another way to help raise money to support our organization's work. The Hero Card offers a year of discounts to businesses across the Hill Country, including Fiesta Texas and Schlitterbahn. Cards are available for \$25 each, of which the Center receives \$10. Cards can be download to your smart phone, or you can receive a plastic card for your wallet. *You must put "Good Sam" in the notes section when purchasing a Hero Card so the Center gets the \$10 donation.* Visit their website at [herocardonline.com](http://herocardonline.com) or download The Hero Card App from Google Play/App Store to see the list of participating businesses, their discounts and how to subscribe.

The Hero Card is another way to "passively" give to GSC. Members of Amazon Smile can also donate a portion of their total sale (.5%) to the Center when purchasing books and other items through them. *For Smile, you must designate our official IRS name — "Fredericksburg Community Health Center" — as the recipient of your gift.* For more info, visit their website: [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Every penny counts, and we thank you for all the ways you support us.

**In appreciation of the local physicians who have privileges at the hospital,  
Hill Country Memorial made a donation to the Center  
in their honor for National Doctors' Day on March 30, 2018.  
Thank you, physicians and Hill Country Memorial, for doing so much for our community.**

Shari Addington, MD  
Gregory Andreassian, MD  
Leigh Anne Bains, MD  
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Anne Pluenneke, MD  
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**Yes, I want to help!**

You are welcome to help us in any way that you feel led to be involved. 70% of our budget comes from private donations so those are important to us. But we need volunteers and "Wish List Items," too. We appreciate any way you want to be involved. Thank you!

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City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.

- Monthly commitment (amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_)
- One-time donation (amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_)
- Memoriam/Honorarium (*see below left for designation*)
- Wish List (see cover for list)
- Volunteer (type of activity \_\_\_\_\_)
- Please make my gift anonymous

**The Good Samaritan Center**

140 Industrial Loop, Ste 100

Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Phone: 830.990.8651

Fax: 830.990.0852

www.goodsamfbg.org



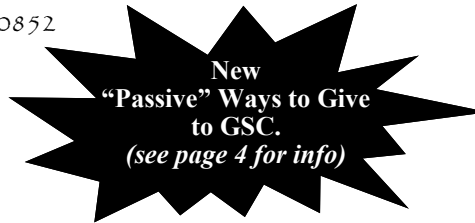
*John Willome, Executive Director*



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*James Heupel*  
*Billy Johnson*  
*Sharon Joseph*  
*Lorri Kendrick*  
*Susan Kimbrell*  
*Rad Kothmann, M.D.*  
*Philip Maple, M.D.*  
*Jim Overman*  
*Tommy Russell*  
*Byron Scarborough*  
*Cynthia Scroggins*  
*Fred Witters*  
*John Youngblood, M.D.*

**“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man...?” Luke 10:36a**  
**Making the World a Better Place ... One Smile at a Time**

Good oral health is essential to overall health and well-being, but it is frequently one aspect of self-care that is neglected by lower income people (our target population for patients). The Good Samaritan Center (GSC) has the only charitable dental clinic in our service area. We offer routine checkups, cleaning appointments and hygiene instruction, simple fillings and extractions.

We couldn't care for so many without the commitment and expertise of our team of volunteer dental professionals who back up our Center's dental staff, which is comprised of one part-time dentist, Woody Farris, and a full-time dental assistant, Norma Aguirre.

Four dentists and three dental hygienists donate half a day each month from their practices to help us fulfill about 1,400 dental appointments each year.

A 33-year veteran of the profession, Veronica Strackbein (pictured right) donates two half days each month, taking time from her job as a hygienist with Lance Kovar, DDS. Veronica has volunteered her services to the Center since 2005.

"It's all about the patients," Veronica said. "They don't have to come, yet after their first visit



**I particularly like bringing people hope. For many of our patients, this is their first experience with dental care.**

*Veronica Strackbein  
 Volunteer Dental Hygienist*

they realize how important it is to take care of their teeth and mouth. They keep coming back.

"I've seen some patients for many years; they

want to improve themselves and break the cycle of neglect that goes along with poverty," she continued. "We give them hope and a path to health."

Veronica said she has seen several patients for years and developed relationships similar to those in private practice. "Some have even become almost like family. I love our patients."

Apparently the patients are fond of Veronica, too. The Center has been collecting anonymous patient surveys for several months. Here's a comment that was recently submitted, "Thank you, Veronica, for your kindness and gentleness. For treating me as a whole, body and spirit."

Veronica is a shining example of the sort of person who volunteers at the Center. Here are the other local dental professionals who also support our in-house dental clinic: dentists David Heinrich, Zach Hoerster, Robert Lindeman, and Jay Lindsay, and hygienists Sandra Striegler and retired periodontist Michael Brunsvold.

We've said it before, and it's still true, we literally could not be here to serve our patients without the help and support of our team of dedicated, faithful volunteers. Thank you all.