

The Good Samaritan Center



"A HEALING PLACE"

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

Summer 2019

We Have a New Neighbor!

By John Willome

When Sara Allerkamp and the Good Samaritan Center's original board of directors planned our facility, they included in the design 2,700 sq. ft. of office space across the breezeway that was available for us to rent to agencies whose services complemented our mission.

Last winter, **Hill Country MHDD** (Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities) contacted us to see if they could rent that space for their Fredericksburg offices. **Hill Country Memorial** was occupying part of the space for the **WIC** (Women, Infant, Children) program at that time, but they willingly relocated their program so MHDD could occupy the whole space.

Having MHDD in the building not only helps the Center receive rental income, but it also continues fulfilling our original vision to work closely with organizations that help the same clientele we serve.

Now, when we have a patient who needs MHDD services, we are right next to each other. Same goes if MHDD needs to refer someone for medical/dental help to our clinic, thus making referrals much easier and more convenient for clients.

Not too long ago, I had a man in my office who was having some severe mental health issues. MHDD was located only two blocks from us at the time, but it felt like 10 miles. I worked with the man all morning, helping him calm down to the point where I could go with him to the MHDD office to seek help.

I can only imagine how much better it would have been for the patient if I could have asked someone from their office to walk across the breezeway into my office to see him, or if I could have walked him over there. These kinds of things happen fairly often and having MHDD so close will be good for the patients.

Our mission statement is to provide our patients a safe, Christ-centered environment that gives them quality, coordinated, and affordable healthcare.

We are glad our friends at MHDD are now able to be even closer to us and can help further this care. Close proximity can make a huge difference for our patients who are in need and who, without our help, would have no idea where to turn.



Dr. Tara Cully and Dental Assistant Norma Aguirre perform a simple filling on one of the Center's patients. To learn more about our new-to-us staff dentist, please see her story on page 2.

A Samaritan's Story

If you went to our annual fundraising dinner in May then you heard this story from the patient himself. It turned out to be a very emotional moment when a man got up to tell the 250 people in attendance how GSC had impacted his and his wife's lives.

Although he grew up in Mississippi, the couple had lived in South America for several years as environmental missionaries. In 2018, the man found himself feeling worse and worse. He finally learned that he had contracted hepatitis C from an unsterile routine dental procedure and was now experiencing liver failure.

Through a series of events, he ultimately ended up in Fredericksburg with his wife, staying with a friend. After a trip to Hill Country Memorial's Emergency Room, they were told to see if we could help him.

He completed his patient eligibility requirements, and we ran tests to confirm his diagnosis and determine if there is medication available for his condition. The bad news is that it can cost over \$100,000 for the course of treatment. However, we helped him apply to the pharmaceutical company for assistance through our Medication Assistance Program, and they sent the medication at no charge.

Now, months later, he came to us before the dinner and asked if he could share with everyone the story of how we saved his life and also helped his wife with a surgery she needed. Of course, we gladly accepted.

At the dinner, he began by telling the story of the Good Samaritan, adding . **"I was the man along the side of the road. I was left beaten and torn, and the Good Samaritan Center was there to help me."**

He went on to thank everyone there for contributing to us because he knows that we could not have been here to help them if not for all the assistance and support from our **donors, volunteers, specialists, and Hill Country Memorial.**

His "thank you" was to all of you too. And, of course, *we* want to echo his thanks to you as well. We really could not do any of this healing without your faithful help.

Our Wish List:

- \$1,300, mounted dental halogen lights (2 @ \$650/ea.).

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

Thank you!

2019 Spring Dinner Celebrates Austin Heart - FBG with Inaugural Good Samaritan Award

GSC revamped its annual Spring Fundraising Dinner program to focus on presenting a **Good Samaritan of the Year Award** honoring individuals and community partners who exhibit devoted service to our mission to help lift our patients back to health.

“As a charitable clinic, there is only so much we can do in-house for our patients,” said John Willome, GSC’s executive director. “We frequently see those needing complicated assessments, and that’s when we turn to our system of community partnerships for help.”

“We picked the providers of **Austin Heart - Fredericksburg** because they are consistently available to care for our patients’ numerous cardiac issues, including sleep study matters. In



John Willome (far left) presented the 2019 Good Samaritan Award to providers of Austin Heart - Fredericksburg at the Center’s May 7 fundraising dinner. Recipients of this first annual award are (l-r): Dr. Kevin Gallagher, Dr. Mell Jackson, Dr. Noah Greene, and Nurse Practitioner Jennifer Shelden.

2018, they were able to offer services to for more than 60 or our patients.”

The spring event is one of the Center’s biggest fundraising initiatives, second only to the annual fund campaign. “This

year’s dinner was even more successful than we hoped,” Willome said, citing the record number of underwriters and successful “paddles up” donations, which raised more than \$75,000.

“We work hard to give all of our dinner participants a joyful and meaningful experience. We keep the cost as low as possible while still providing, we hope, an evening of fellowship and fun.

“More than anything, we want our donors to feel how important they are to the Center. They are the ones who keep our doors open, allowing us to be here to serve our neighbors in need.”

Popular local harpist **Emily Jumes** performed classical and contemporary pieces on her iconic golden Lyon and Healy harp throughout the event.

The annual dinner is held at St. Mary’s Holy Family Center and features a catered dinner with wine and/or beer. Next year’s dinner date is already set for Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

Underwriters for this year’s dinner include: Estela Avery, Cindy & Bruce Busby, Dian Graves Owen Foundation, Frost Bank, Joseph Financial Partners, and Fredda & Fred Witters

The following businesses also sponsored our dinner:

Arrowhead Bank
Billy Johnson—State Farm Insurance
Capital Farm Credit
Edward Jones
Fredericksburg Clinic

Fredericksburg Farms
Hazelett’s Concrete
Hill Country Memorial
HCM Foundation

Messina Hof Winery & Resort
My Own Chef Catering
Phil Jackson’s Granite & Iron Store
Reeh Plumbing
Texas Heritage Vineyard

Tara Cully, DDS, Brings Her Passion for Restoration to the GSC Dental Program

Dr. Tara Lee Cully joined the Good Samaritan Center as our part-time staff dentist on May 1. She sees dental patients three full days a week and comes to the Center with eight years experience in a private community health clinic.

“I love practicing in small towns doing need-based dentistry,” she said. Dr. Cully knows rural Texas; she grew up in Evant, Texas, which she describes as a “tiny town near nowhere.” Her father had been a dairy farmer and her mother is still a teacher. “This pattern (dairy farmer/teacher) goes back generations in my family,” she said. “I broke the mold.” She graduated with her DDS from the University of Texas at Houston in 2010.

Dr. Cully is married to Reg Cully, DC, a sports medicine specialist practicing in Boerne. Their 7-year-old son, Jude, attends elementary school. They are in the process of moving to Boerne from their small farm in Colorado Bend. “We have three horses and one miniature daschund,” she laughed.

Among her hobbies, Dr. Cully enjoys rehabbing old houses, saying “I have a

passion for seeing things restored. Taking what’s old, broken, abused, and making it like new.”

This penchant for fixing-up extends to her work, too. “I was surprised to see the level of need in Fredericksburg, in part because I’ve always thought of this as an affluent area.”

Dr. Cully fulfills patient appointments each Monday through Wednesday. “I particularly like that the Center is totally community supported and doesn’t take any government money,” she said. “My prior clinic was 100% government-funded and wholly about the numbers. It was almost impossible to devote the needed time to each patient.”

“I find it very rewarding work being here at the Good Samaritan Center. You can make a real difference in the patients’ lives.”

In keeping with her fondness for repair, Dr. Cull did say the dental clinic equipment needs some modernizing. See this issue of the newsletter’s “Wish List” for her first request suggestion.



“I’m impressed with how passionate the staff is about the Center and all the love and attention they give to the patients.

“If I think back to what kind of job my heart wanted when I went to dental school, I think God brought me here.”

Dr. Cully, part-time staff dentist

GENERAL DONATIONS

The following is a listing of donors for gifts received between March 1, 2019, and May 31, 2019

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Here are snapshots of some of the fauna and flora inhabiting the native landscape surrounding the Center. From left to right: hummingbird at *Salvia greggii*, roadrunner in grasses, and bumblebee face-first in a Turk's cap plant. Our beautiful grounds are maintained by a corps of dedicated landscape volunteers who help keep the Good Samaritan Center the prettiest doctor's office in Fredericksburg.

**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, 2019.
Thank you, physicians and Hill Country Memorial, for doing so much for our community.**

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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!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Check Enclosed Credit Card

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- Monthly commitment (amount \$ _____)
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- Memoriam/Honorarium (*see below left for designation*)
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- Volunteer (type of activity _____)

Memorials/Honorariums (circle one):

Name of honoree: _____

Person(s) to be notified: _____

Address: _____

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The Good Samaritan Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Your donation is tax deductible within limits of current IRS tax codes.

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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 140 Industrial Loop, Ste 100
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“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man...?” Luke 10:36a

This Volunteer Works Behind the Scenes for Our Patients

Records auditing is far from glamorous work, but it is essential for keeping our patients' information accurate and up-to-date. This exacting, detailed job is mostly done behind the scenes by volunteers like Suzanne Wood.

A Texas-native, Suzanne moved from Waco to Fredericksburg in 2006 to live with her parents after the tragic, accidental death of her husband.

She was introduced to the Good Samaritan Center in 2008 when she attended a Zonta meeting with her mother, Barbara Scherer. That evening's program was Linda Noe, office administrator for GSC at the time, who talked about the Center and its mission to serve the uninsured working poor.

"I filled out an application at the meeting," Suzanne said, "and the next day (then-Volunteer Coordinator) Cheri Snyder called to set up an interview. In no time, I was signed up to help."

Back in Waco, Suzanne had worked in technical and management services, so the job of auditing suited her skill-set. "When I started at the Good Samaritan Center, all the records were on paper," she said. "It was my job to review each checkout form, comparing it to the paper chart,



“The Good Samaritan Center is a wonderful place full of friendly, helpful people ready to serve the patients.”

Suzanne Wood
 Volunteer Records Auditor

and make certain that all the i's were dotted and t's crossed."

When the Center transitioned to an EMR

(Electronic Medical Record) system in spring of 2015, Suzanne was delighted. "I've always been interested in computers," she said.

Suzanne still lives on her parents' ranch outside of Fredericksburg with her mother and Poco, her beloved Australian Shepherd. Among her hobbies are attending musical events with friends and working with her church group at St. Paul Lutheran Church at Cave Creek, where she teaches preschool Sunday school classes.

Earlier this spring, Suzanne graduated from the Christian Women's Job Corp program. "I wanted to improve my business skills," she said, "and to enhance my self-image."

Suzanne is legally blind from cornea degenerative issues she developed in her left eye in 2014. She can't drive, so her mother drops her off and picks her up at the Center each Thursday morning for her scheduled volunteer time. Happily, Suzanne is working with a couple of social service agencies and foundations on grants to help her secure a corneal transplant.

Despite all her personal trials, Suzanne is devoted to her volunteer job. "I love working here," she said. We're glad she's with us.