

The Good Samaritan Center



"A HEALING PLACE"

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

Spring 2020

Father, Make it Count

By John Willome

I wish I could remember who, but someone taught me a few years ago to always include in my prayers for any sort of suffering that God would, at a minimum, make whatever we are experiencing count.

In mid-March, shortly after everything seemed to fall apart with COVID-19, a thought occurred to me. Our parents and grandparents didn't become the Greatest Generation because of how they responded to the 1920s. They became the Greatest Generation because of how they responded to the 1930s and 1940s. Now, it's our time.

As I write this column on March 30, I've already seen remarkable shifts in our society. Neighbors are not only meeting their neighbors, but they are offering to go to the store for them. People are contacting our clinic and other nonprofits for the first time and asking how they can help. Those that regularly attend church appreciate the ability to worship together on a Sunday morning more than ever, and some that do not normally attend wish they could. And churches are not only creatively delivering Sunday morning worship, but also reaching out to individual members in new ways.

In an address about COVID-19 on March 27, Pope Francis noted, "In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that blessed common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters."

We have a long road ahead of us. We will have good days, and we will have setbacks. We will celebrate and we will mourn. We will be squeezed and pressured. But God can and, if allowed, will use that pressure to remove the dross of camouflage from our egos to bring us into a new type of relationship with him and our brothers and sisters. This is our time, friends. If we are going to experience this pain, Father, please make it count!

Fredericksburg's General Surgeons 2020 Good Samaritan Award Recipients



Dr. Gregory Andreassian



Dr. Lance Love



Dr. Jay Stauffer

It won't surprise you to learn we ended up canceling our annual fundraising dinner planned for May 5, but we didn't want to miss the opportunity to tell you about the three wonderful surgeons who do so much to help our patients.

What would you do if you weren't able to work because of a hernia and you didn't have health insurance? What if you had this incredible pain in your

side and you found out you need your gall bladder removed? What if you need a colonoscopy, a biopsy, or a mastectomy? These three surgeons and their respective staffs make it possible for our patients to receive all of these services and more. Many of you probably know them and know how kind, caring, and professional they are. Without specialists like these partnering with us, we would only be helping

people with their colds, infections and chronic conditions. They allow us to do so much more.

If you run into any of these men or people from their office in the community, give them a big thank you and a socially-distanced virtual hug. They represent the best of what Jesus meant about loving your neighbor. They are Good Samaritans in every sense of the term.

We want to give a big thank you to following for still underwriting our canceled dinner!

Estela Avery Cindy and Bruce Busby Joseph Financial Partners

Additionally, *Hill Country Titles* and *Bierschwale Rees Insurance* chose to still sponsor the dinner as well!

A Samaritan's Story

Speaking of the Greatest Generation (see "Father, Make it Count" to the left), we had a very sweet dental patient recently. An elderly veteran in his 90s came to our clinic. While he had VA benefits for his regular medical, he doesn't have dental coverage, and he was in considerable pain. He currently lives in a nursing home, and his daughter brought him to see us.

Our dentist was telling me later about him and how sweet and appreciative he was. It was only at the end of her story that I realized I had met him and his daughter before.

I was at my desk one afternoon and someone at the front desk told me a man needed a wheelchair to get into the building from his car. I found the daughter, and she told me that he really needed a new wheelchair anyway. We had recently had a very nice one donated, so I went to the attic and got it for her. Then we used it to bring her dad in for his appointment. When he was done, I wheeled him out and loaded the chair in the back for his daughter. She was so grateful to have found a place that could help her father both get out of pain and have a nice wheelchair.

Thank you for helping us be here for this family and thousands more like them. I wish all of you could be here personally for moments like that. They are precious.

Our Wish List:

The Native Plant Society helps us to have the best landscaping and nicest doctor's office in town. They gave us some new trees, but we could use a couple of things to help them survive:

- \$500 for dripline irrigation to the young trees
- \$300 for anti-deer protective caging for the young trees

Please call the Center to verify whether someone has already donated or contributed towards this item.

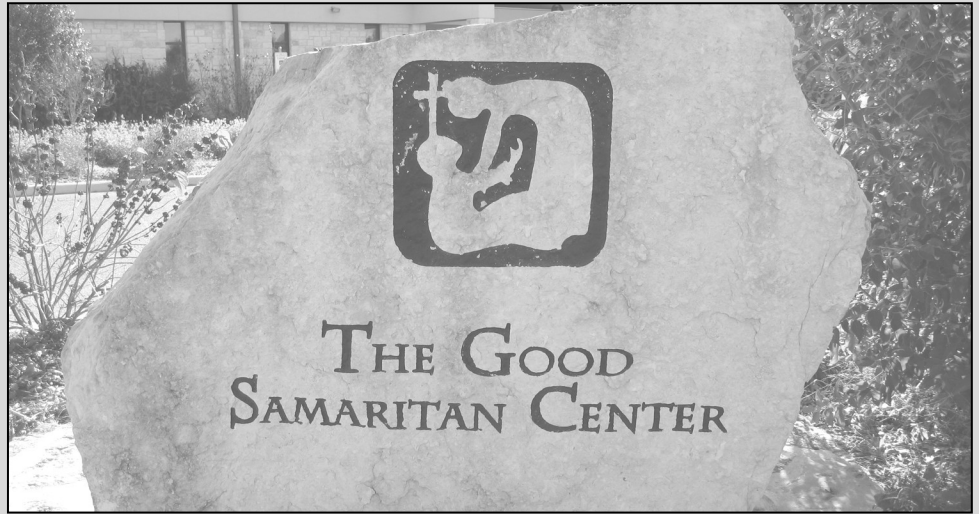
Thank you!

Doing Business in a COVID-19 World

It is a privilege to be able to remain open for our patients, especially in these uncertain times. We couldn't be here without the 1,000+ people who donate their time, treasure, and talent to us every year. You enable us to be here for our patients and support our medical community in good times and bad. Thank you!

COVID-19 caused us to change some of our operating procedures to ensure we can continue seeing our neighbors in need, including new patients who qualify for our services. Our availability is especially important now that many of our friends and neighbors are struggling financially and otherwise.

As someone who cares about the Center, we thought you would want to know how we are working as an integral part of Gillespie County's response to this pandemic.



Front Desk

- All who enter are screened for fever, cough, and travel.
- All disinfect hands and the lobby is wiped down every 30 minutes.
- Half of lobby chairs removed and remaining chairs spread out.
- Installing glass at front desk.

Medical Clinic

- Weekly women's clinic continues.
- Acute appointments still scheduled. All *non-urgent* appointments with doctor delayed.
- Medication refills and Medication Assistance Program remain unchanged.

Dental Clinic

- Acute appointments still scheduled. All *non-urgent* appointments delayed.
- **Community Health Worker**
- One-on-one appointments with uncontrolled diabetics continue.
- All public health classes and home visits delayed.

Other

- Monthly food truck continues, but moved to First Baptist for drive through distribution.
- Volunteers over 65 with underlying health conditions prohibited indefinitely.
- 2020 fundraising dinner canceled.
- Clinic hours changed to 9-3.

A Love Letter to our Volunteers! *We Miss You!*



Joni Mitchell had a song from 1970 called "Big Yellow Taxi." The key line from the song was, "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone?" Well, we would like to think that we have always known what we have in you, but sure has made us miss you!

We have about 40 volunteers help us run our clinic every week and about 80 over the course of a month. However, due to the risks associated with COVID-19, nearly all of our volunteers have had to stay home out of an abundance of caution. Our volunteers work at the front desk, in the medication room, with the Medication Assistance Program, and help with behind the scenes office work. Plus there is the small army that comes each month to care for our landscaping.

Some of our volunteers have been here since the Free Clinic Days in the 90s. One of our dentists, Dr. Heinrich, has been giving half a day a month from his practice to our clinic since this building opened in 2004. Some volunteers are new to us and have only been with us a few months, but all have become part of our little family.

There is a huge *blessing exchange* that happens when a volunteer gives their time to help us. Of course, they are a huge blessing to us as they perform critical clinic functions. They bring energy, love, and a pure desire to get out and help their neighbors. Our hope is that each of them feels equally blessed by the opportunity to take a moment and have compassion, as the Good Samaritan did in Jesus's parable. (Luke 10:33).

When this is all over, we look forward to hugging on you and getting back to seeing patients at full steam. Until then, know that you are loved, you are appreciated and you are missed!

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Please let us know if you see an error or if you think we've made an omission. Thank you.

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in honor of their tenants and staffs:

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Dr. Lance Love & his wife, LeeAnn,
made a donation in honor of the following doctors and medical professionals.

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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 vitally important to us. But we need volunteers and "Wish List Items" too. We appreciate any way you want to be involved.

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Thank you!

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@goodsamfbg.org



The Good Samaritan Center
 140 Industrial Loop, Ste 100
 Fredericksburg, TX 78624
 Voice: 830.990.8651 Fax: 830.990.0852

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“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man...?” Luke 10:36a

Meet Our Past and Present Queen of the Database

In 2006, Joanne Davis was on “hiatus” having recently retired from a 35-year stint as an educator in the Beaumont Independent School District. She was attending a women’s circle meeting at Memorial Presbyterian Church where the speaker was The Good Samaritan Center’s brand-new executive director, John Willome.

“I was very impressed with the Center’s mission and with John,” Davis said. “He said they needed volunteers, so I signed up with him.”

Her job then (as now) was entering confidential information into the Center’s donor database. She kept this sensitive position for five years, leaving in 2011 when she was elected President of the Texas state organization of Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG), an honorary educator society.

As DKG president 2011-2013, Davis traveled all over Texas, speaking to chapters and serving as an ex-officio member of all committees. Her frequent companion on these jaunts was her husband, Billy, a retired bank trust officer.

Then about two and a half years ago, after successfully overcoming some severe

health issues, Davis got a note in the mail from Willome asking if she was interested in having her old job back.

“It was the right time,” she said. “I was looking for something to do, and out of the blue I heard from John. I think it was a God thing.”

Davis rejoined the GSC volunteer brigade nearly three years ago. She is at the Center every Thursday afternoon, updating the vital donor database.

“I think I’m doing something productive, and I like being around congenial people; everyone at The Good Samaritan is caring and kind,” she said, adding, “I really like the people here. They’re nice—then and now.”

Davis is still very active in DKG, as past president and international nominations committee member. She sings with her church choir and the Fredericksburg Chorale, and she’s on the board of the local Salvation Army service unit. Additionally, she attends every show of the Fredericksburg Theater Company where Billy volunteers on the stage building/painting crew.



“When you retire, it’s important to find something meaningful to do, something that contributes to the good of society.”

**Joanne Davis
 Data-entry Volunteer**