

The Good Samaritan Center



"A HEALING PLACE"

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

Summer 2021

Volunteers!!

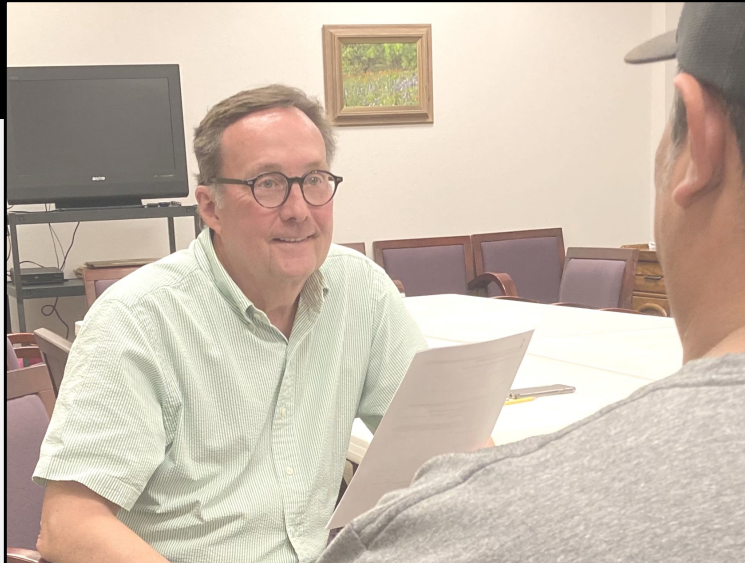
By John Willome

One of the most precious aspects of nearly every nonprofit is the volunteers who make our work possible. In fact, I began my personal journey from private business to working in nonprofits as a volunteer for a nonprofit in Waco, taking two hours twice a week to play with children who lived in government housing. Helping meet the needs of others changed my life.

The Good Samaritan Center started in 1992 as a one-night-a-week free clinic, staffed solely by volunteers, including our founder, Sara Allerkamp. Each of our volunteers, from that time until now, sacrifices personal time to reach out and be here when one of their neighbors needs our help. They are blessing our patients, but the big secret that they will tell you is that they are blessed in return.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will see a few volunteers mentioned, but they are just the tip of the iceberg. Everything our patients see when they come here is touched by a volunteer. From the landscaping in front of the building, to the person who greets them at the front desk, to the individual who helps with their medications, to the dentists and hygienists who volunteer time out of their private practices to fill in when our staff dentist isn't here. Then there are those who work behind the scenes — maintaining our donor database, collecting data from our electronic health record to help gauge our effectiveness, shredding expired and redundant documents — doing important clerical and administrative work.

To everyone reading this who is either a current or past volunteer: Thank you! Jesus used the parable of an idealized Samaritan who transcended the politics and attitudes of his time to simply love others, giving sacrificially of his time and his financial resources. What he didn't mention is the blessing this Samaritan would receive in return. Thank you for choosing to care about others.



Retired Physical Therapist Mike Scroggins (above left) volunteers two days a week at the Good Samaritan Center helping patients rehab from acute and chronic issues. (see story to right)

Another New Face at GSC

On May 6, we welcomed Mike Scroggins as our volunteer physical therapist. Two days each week, Scroggins provides our patients with affordable treatment for orthopedic and physical issues.

"It's almost unbelievable to have someone of Mike's caliber here for our patients," said Executive Director John Willome. In addition to his private practice, Scroggins served as director of rehabilitation for three separate hospitals; his most recent post was an 8-year stint as rehab director at HCM.

"I was planning to retire last October," Scroggins said, "But with Covid, the hospital was unable to perform elective surgeries (which included most joint replacements), so I retired in March 2020.

"Working with the Center's patients is very fulfilling. My first patient here was a woman who had slipped on the ice and broken her ankle. She was prescribed PT after surgery, and I was able to help her get off crutches and walk without a limp, restoring her to her pre-injury way of life."

Scroggins and his family (his wife, Cindy, is a GSC board member) moved to Fredericksburg in 2002, 10 years earlier than they originally planned. "We were in town for the Thanksgiving holiday. That Friday, while Cindy and the girls went shopping on Main Street, I dropped by the hospital. Serendipitously, they were looking for a new rehab director, I interviewed, was hired and so we accelerated our plans."

His desire to volunteer comes at a providential time for the Center. We had recently gone through a transition with our previous resource, and we were not sure what to do. "Mike fills a real need at the Center," said Medical Director Rachel Myers. "After an injury, our patients need help regaining their strength and mobility."

As often happens, God seems to have orchestrated this for the good of our patients and for Mike. It is a wonderful blessing for all of us.

A Samaritan's Story

Dr. Arnoldo Cuellar filled in for six weeks while our regular dentist, Dr. Tara Cully, was on maternity leave. What a blessing that he was able and willing to help us out!

One afternoon, there was a dental patient who was very afraid. She was here for a cleaning, but dental trauma from the past left her terrified of any dental procedure.

Our executive director spent a few moments trying to comfort her in the hallway before the dentist was ready for her. Then Dr. Cuellar came out to call her in. He knew she was extremely anxious, so he started out very gently.

After decades of practicing dentistry in Portland, Texas, this wasn't his first anxious patient. If you know Dr. Cuellar, you know he has a kind and gentle spirit. So he combined his natural persona with all of that experience to help this patient be at peace as he gave her the help she needed. By the time she left, her teeth were clean, and she was completely at ease, telling staff how happy she was.

While we are always here to meet the physical and mental health needs of our patients, sometimes our role is to be comforters too. We were unbelievably fortunate that God provided Dr. Cuellar to share his Samaritan spirit with all of us. It was a true gift.



Dr. Arnoldo Cuellar

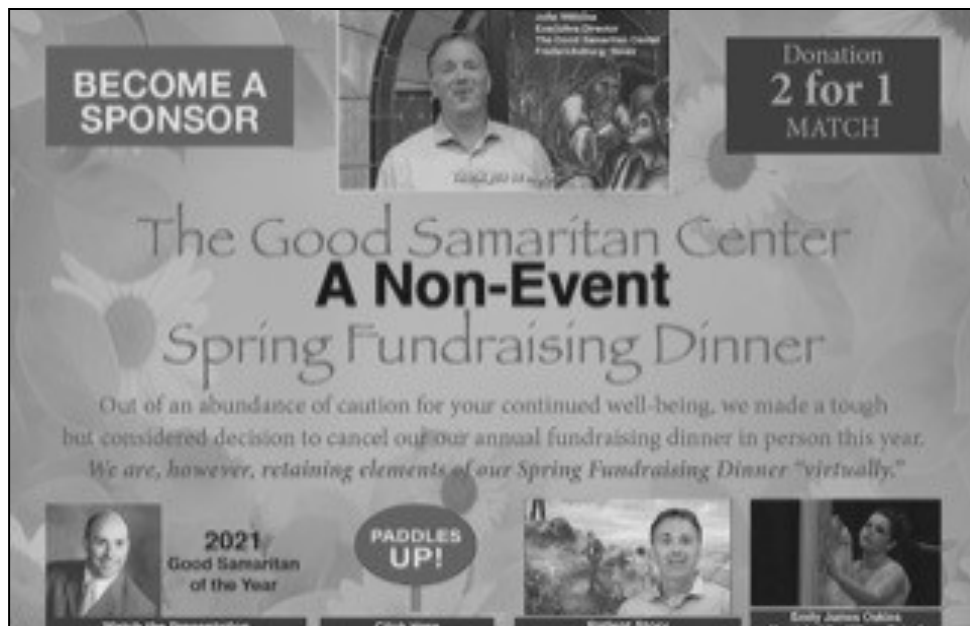
Our Wish List:

\$1,500 to purchase and install a new network server for the Center.

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

Thank you!

Our First (and Hopefully Last) *Non-Event* Dinner



When we decided to make the Good Samaritan Center’s annual *Good Samaritan of the Year* spring fundraising dinner a *Non-Event*, we had some concerns:

- **Would we be perceived as being overly cautious?**
Things were opening up, yet we felt a responsibility as a medical facility to err on the side of risk-avoidance.
- **Would our donors find our “virtual” efforts engaging?**
Even with engaging online videos by Executive Director John Willome and a musical interlude by Emily Jumes, on-line pleas are a faint substitute for in-person camaraderie.
- **Would we be successful?**
We worried difficulties arising from the pandemic and recent deep-freeze weather would have a negative impact on donors’ ability to give despite having received an astounding \$100,000 matching-grant from an anonymous donor.

We mulled, met with committees and prayed earnestly, and we are grateful and delighted to report that our 2021 Spring Fundraising Dinner *Non-Event* was a rousing success! Thanks to the generosity of 245 Good Samaritans in our community, the Good Samaritan Center met the challenge grant and exceeded its *Non-Event* fundraising goal of over \$100,000!

“Every cent is a blessing and an affirmation to the work we do helping provide necessary healthcare to our uninsured neighbors in need,” said Willome. “We are humbled by this outpouring of support, and we thank God for moving through our donors in this way.”

In addition to so many individual donors, the Center’s mission was endorsed by three underwriters and 27 sponsors to our *Non-Event*, listed separately on this page. “We have never had this many sponsors to any event,” Willome said. “This outpouring of support is phenomenal and humbling. I hope people will take time to see who reached out to help us and support their businesses.”

Although raising money is the primary focus of the annual event, there’s an additional and equally important component to the spring fundraising dinner... to honor that year’s Good Samaritan of the Year.

Gastroenterologist Dr. Christopher Fincke was honored as the *2021 Good Samaritan of the Year* for helping our patients with everything from screening colonoscopies to serious digestive issues. These kinds of conditions are often embarrassing as well as debilitating, yet Dr. Fincke, his Nurse Practitioner Kelly Seals and the rest of his staff always treat our patients with dignity and compassion.

Dr. Fincke’s dedicated service to our entire community – without regard to social status and/or financial standing – embodies what it means to be a Good Samaritan.

Along with our Good Samaritan of the Year and our host of faithful donors, we would be remiss if we didn’t also offer our profound thanks to our anonymous benefactor who generously granted us a huge sum in matching funds. The impetus of a two-for-one match on each dollar up to \$50,000 was certainly a gift in helping us raise the necessary monies to help fund the Center’s myriad services.

Willome summed up this year’s experience saying, “Even with all the success this year’s *Non-Event*, we look forward to being with everyone *in person* again next year. “



The Center’s Executive Director John Willome (l) presents Dr. Christopher Fincke (r) the 2021 *Good Samaritan of the Year* award for his compassionate service to our patients.

Heartfelt thanks to the following three Underwriters for directly donating to our *Non-Event*:
Cindy & Bruce Busby - Joseph Financial Partners - Stinson Family Foundation

Plus special thanks to these 27 businesses & individuals who signed on as Sponsors for the *Non-Event*:

William Stehling, DDS
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 Arrowhead Bank
 Texas Heritage Vineyard
 Jayne & Stephen Pope
 Texas Hills Realty
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Security State Bank
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The following is a listing of donors
for gifts received between
March 1, 2021, and May 31, 2021

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(Continued on page 4)

Every donation is precious to us, and we do our best to make certain every one is correctly listed.
Please let us know if you see an error or if you think we've made an omission. Thank you.

GENERAL DONATIONS, continued

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Marc Williamson
Sharon Joseph & Mac McAfee



Natural Beauty Abounds at GSC

When the Good Samaritan Center opened its doors on Industrial Loop in 2002, founder and then-executive director Sara Allerkamp expressed a wish to make this charitable clinic "the prettiest doctors' office in town." Thanks to Peggy Benson, a certified Hill Country Master Gardener, and her troop of devoted volunteers, the grounds at GSC are filled with native trees, shrubs and flowers, attracting a bevy of butterflies, bees, humming birds, song birds, squirrels and the occasional road runner. In 2010 the garden was certified a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. To learn more about Peggy, who recently retired from her landscaping duties, read her volunteer profile on the back page. And if you need a breath of fresh air in a beautiful place, please come by.



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.

Name: _____

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Name of honoree: _____

Person(s) to be notified: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

*GSC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Your donation is tax deductible within the limits of current
IRS tax codes.*

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

Thank you!

The Good Samaritan Center

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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

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our great volunteers. Thanks
to all of you for your help!

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

Peggy Benson, GSC's Patron Saint of Our Lovely, Native Landscape

Peggy Benson and her husband, John, were volunteering their services and skills to GSC back in its earliest incarnation as a once-a-week free clinic. When the current facility's doors opened in 2004, Peggy served on the Center's first board of directors. In addition to her supervisory role, she took on designing and installing the Center's landscaping as an authorized project for the Hill Country Master Gardeners (HCMG).



Peggy Benson (right) consults with landscape volunteer Ward Miller (left) on tree placement.

For 17 years, Peggy oversaw and worked alongside a team of dedicated landscape volunteers on a monthly basis keeping the grounds groomed and growing. Some recent health issues have compelled her to give up physical labor, but she remains actively involved in working for the Center. Recently, Peggy and John both worked the booth at the June 13 Waylon's Birthday Bash in

Luckenbach raising funds on behalf of GSC's diabetes program, and she stopped by the day this newsletter went to press to help fill the bird feeders.

Of course, GSC is not her only volunteer gig. Shortly after Peggy, John and their two daughters, Lisa and Amy, moved to Fredericksburg so John could take over as president of then-Texas American Bank, she got involved with the Needs Council serving on the board, including a stint as Board president. She still serves as a volunteer driver taking patients to medical appointments.

"I've been a volunteer and a fundraiser my whole life," Peggy said, "and I'm great at scrounging up things." She put those talents to work in 1995 after John retired. They lived in San Antonio for nine months on a mission project to help educate low-income people about financial management and entrepreneurial skills. "I found computer and office equipment and raised funds to keep the project afloat," she said.

In keeping with her volunteer spirit, Peggy is an active member of P.E.O., an international women's organization providing educational opportunities to female students, and she has more than 30-years experience on the Fredericksburg Market Square Redevelopment Committee.

She and John have been married 58 years and have four grandchildren: three boys and a girl. Peggy is originally from Virginia, where the rest of her family still lives, and she received her teaching degree in mathematics from Texas Woman's University and a Master's degree in liberal arts from

SMU. She recently began turning wood — making bowls and other items — on a lathe she originally bought for John. "After two years, I decided someone needs to put it to use," she said.

Yet despite her many accomplishments, Peggy just wants to talk about the gardens. In addition to GSC's landscape, Peggy installed a Biblical Plants Garden on the grounds of Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, where she and John are members. Throughout her interview, she kept referencing all the help she's had over the years from HCMG interns, folks in the Native Plant Society, Holy Ghost Lutheran youth who spread the mulch donated by the City, and individuals and groups who donated every one of the native and/or adapted plants that make up the Center's stunning year-round landscape and Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

"It's not about me," she said, "but the way the garden has evolved through the years and all the helpers I've worked with to accomplish making it into the beautiful landscape it is today."



Above, Peggy helps out by refilling one of the Center's several backyard bird feeders.