

The Good Samaritan Center



"A HEALING PLACE"

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

Fall 2022

Peggy Benson's Legacy of Beauty

By John Willome

My wife Megan and I want to be like Peggy and John Benson when we grow up. We've said it ever since we met them at the end of 2005, and the sentiment is even more true today. They are wise, compassionate, and giving people. We just love them.

A lot of people already know that Peggy is a Hill Country Master Gardener who takes her love of plant life and spreads it all over our community, including leading the installation of the Biblical Garden at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. Did you know the Good Samaritan Center is another beneficiary of Peggy's vision for creating a community decorated in the beauty of native plants?

From the beginning of our building's construction in 2003 through the end of 2020, Peggy not only oversaw the installation of our native plants around the building, but she also recruited, organized and worked alongside volunteers to manage it through countless hours of weeding, pruning, raking and hauling away clippings and branches.

She worked with Holy Ghost Lutheran Church's youth to spread mulch each spring. She coordinated with the county to have community service workers (those having to complete court-assigned community service hours) come out to do some of the more difficult tasks and mow the natural grass areas on our property.

As I told many people, Peggy owned the landscaping, and I didn't make any decisions about "outside" without her permission.

She has now turned her duties over to Raeann Reid, who has taken that responsibility and run with it.

But we have one last tribute for Peggy. Please see the article on page 2 about an upcoming dedication ceremony where we will be placing an arched stone to honor Peggy and what God has done through the works of her green-thumbed hands.



Former landscape volunteer Peggy Benson fills one of our numerous bird feeders. Peggy's exclusive use of native Texas plants contributed to the Center's designation as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

A Samaritan's Story

Sometimes, we simply cannot help a patient without visiting their home and assessing their full living situation. Last spring, our doctor, Rachel Myers, asked our community health worker, Delia De La Cruz, to do a home visit for a patient. The patient seemed to have some disabilities that might impede their ability to care for themselves, and Dr. Myers wanted to know that the woman was safe in her home.

As it turned out, Delia found things that both impressed and concerned her. She was impressed that the home was impeccably kept. Everything was clean. No clutter. The patient could do these things for herself despite some mental issues that kept her from being able to function at a high level or keep a job. Some family was sending her a little money every month to cover some bills. Looking deeper, Delia found that the woman had no gas because the propane bill hadn't been paid and there was no food in her refrigerator.

To meet the woman's immediate needs, Delia took her shopping for food, which we paid for. Then she contacted another nonprofit for help paying the propane bill so the woman could once again cook and have hot water.

Long-term, however, something would have to be done. Delia suspected the patient would qualify for disability because of her limited mental capacity, so she set up an interview with Hill Country MHDD (Mental Health &

Developmental Disabilities). The two women interviewing the patient were from Uvalde, and, as fate would have it, Delia was in the patient's home on the phone with the MHDD women when the Uvalde school shooting happened in May. Both the women had children at Robb Elementary School. They received texts in the middle of the phone call and had to hang up so they could check on their children. It was pretty traumatic for both our patient and Delia.

Fast forward a couple of months and the patient is doing better. Delia was able to better communicate the patient's situation to her family, and MHDD is helping her receive disability income.

Our community health worker is funded through a grant from Methodist Healthcare Ministries and through donations from individuals like you. Through your generosity, you are touching so many lives like this woman's. They will never be the same because of you and your gifts. Thank you.

OUR WISH LIST

\$1,965 Audiology testing device for hearing tests

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

Mark Your Calendars for October 18: We are honoring Peggy Benson!

We hope you will be able to join us at the Good Samaritan Center on Tuesday, October 18 for a short reception and celebration in honor of our landscape maven Peggy Benson. The event is scheduled for 5 p.m., with the program to begin promptly at 5:30 p.m.

We are dedicating a stone to pay homage to the nearly 20 years Peggy spent working to ensure we serve our patients at the most beautiful doctor's office in town.

Proposed location of the tribute stone is the native flower bed to the right of the Center's entrance, strategically placed so everyone who enters the clinic can see and appreciate it.

The pink granite arch was prepared by Nagel Memorials in Fredericksburg. The engraving reads, "These gardens are dedicated to Peggy Benson, their founder and visionary," and references Isaiah 40:8 which says, "The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever." (NLT) It was important that we remember, while beautiful landscaping is an important part of God's creation, He is the only thing that remains the same yesterday, today and forever.

When: Tuesday, October 18, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Where: The Good Samaritan Center, 140 Industrial Loop, FBG
(off Hwy 290 E, just past the Law Enforcement Center)**



Our native landscaping is managed by monthly volunteers who keep our gardens looking beautiful. Special thanks to all of them for their hard work.

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This is a listing of all gifts received between June 1, 2022, and Aug. 31, 2022.
We do our best to accurately list every donation. If you have a question or see an error, please let us know.
Thank you!

Yes, I want to help!

You are welcome to help us in any way that you feel led to be involved. 65% 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.

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- 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
jwillome@goodsamfbg.org

Thank you!



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

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**Join us on October 18
 when we honor the
 visionary behind our landscape.
 (see pg. 2 for details)**

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“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man...?” Luke 10:36
She’s an RN. She’s a Board Member. She’s also a Volunteer.

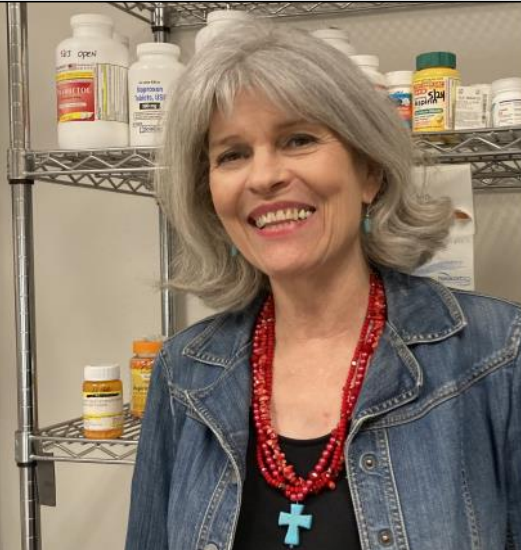
You probably recognize Ruthann Hoover as our city’s current “first lady,” as she is married to the mayor. Ruthann and her husband, Jeryl, moved from Austin to Fredericksburg in May 1996. “We were ready to get our boys out of the Austin school district,” Ruthann said, “plus we had some dear friends, Gwen and David Fullbrook, who encouraged us to come here.”

While Jeryl realized his dream of working in the theater by founding the Fredericksburg Theater Company and serving as its executive director, Ruthann divided her time among caring for their three young sons, teaching nursing students and serving as costume director for the theater.

“I have a Master of Science degree in Nursing,” she said, “and taught LVN and RN transitional programs for 18 years through Austin Community College when it was here. Before that, when we were still in Austin, I had a part-time teaching job for nurses through UT Health Sciences.”

“I juggled all three ‘jobs’ for years,” she said with a laugh. “I stopped teaching in 2015, took a little time off and began volunteering at the Center in January 2016.

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“There’s so much I like about being at the Good Samaritan Center. I still get to use some of my nursing skills, and it’s wonderful being able to help people get their medications.”

Ruthann Hoover
 Med-room Volunteer & Board Member

Samaritan Center. I still get to use some of my nursing skills, and it’s wonderful being able to help people get their medications. And, of course, the people who work here are great. I’m a peopling person all the way.”

In addition to her weekly 3-hour stint in the medication room on Monday mornings, Ruthann also serves on GSC’s Board of Directors. “I’m on the Clinical Services and Fundraising committees,” she said, “and recently began chairing the ad hoc Committee for Preventative Education. We’re looking at ways to help patients support their own health, through possible classes and instruction.”

When she’s not volunteering or attending meetings at the Center, she is busy being Gran to her four grandchildren. “It’s an awesome and important part of our lives,” she said. Fortunately for Ruthann and Grandpa Jeryl, their sons and families settled nearby: two in Fredericksburg and one in Buda. “Our kids didn’t get to spend a lot of time with their grandparents [because they lived in Amarillo and Odessa], so it’s our joy to be able to be with the kiddos as much as we can.”