

The Good Samaritan Center



"A HEALING PLACE"

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

Summer 2022

The Social Determinants of Health

By John Willome

You will probably be hearing this phrase a lot over the next few years—especially if you read our newsletter: **The Social Determinants of Health.**

While we have limitations when it comes to severe situations like cancer treatment, dialysis, and things of that nature, we have a wide-ranging program that can address most health ailments for those who are low-income and uninsured. We provide acute and chronic medical care (including referrals to specialists), prescription assistance, health screening programs, PT, dental services, and even mental health counseling appointments. We are a true medical home for our patients.

So what's next for us? Well, there are a lot of factors that impact someone's health and many don't seem health related. Examples include adequate housing, access to childcare, and whether a patient lives in an environment safe from physical or emotional harm.

These things are called the "social determinants of health," and we are gearing up to address these issues with our patients in a more intentional way. So instead of simply telling a patient who needs food about the Food Pantry, we want to have someone sit down with them and make a comprehensive support plan. We will listen and see if we can determine other needs they might have that they didn't think to mention. Marital or parenting issues. Job search. Childcare. Whatever else might come up, we will help them address it.

Our goal is to enable someone without much money and no health insurance to have the same opportunity for a joyful life as the person with everything. We already partner with our friends at the *Hill Country Community Needs Council*, *Fredericksburg Food Pantry*, *Boys & Girls Club*, etc. to help meet patient needs. But we can be more intentional about it. We can do more. Thank you for helping us grow in service to our patients.



This year marks 30 years since Sara Allerkamp (center front) started the one-night-a-week Fredericksburg Free Clinic that evolved into today's Good Samaritan Center, a medical home for many uninsured, low-income people in our community. Pictured with Sara are Judy Hutcherson, an original board member; former operations director, John Benson; and current executive director, John Willome (back).

A Samaritan's Story

During a recent staff prayer time, our Community Health Worker, Delia, tearfully shared about one of our patients who had passed away. He was a good man who was well-liked by all of our staff and volunteers.

A month before he passed, Delia visited him in his home, and she and our doctor concluded it was time to refer him to hospice for care. (As a side note, people who call hospice always regret not calling them sooner. We encourage you to call them as soon as you think you *might* need them.)

In this man's case, he had been estranged from his daughter for some time. She lived in another city, and hospice was afraid he would end up dying alone. They worked to reconnect the two of them, and we are grateful to say the daughter took him in for the last two weeks of his life. They were able to reconcile their differences. And, mercifully, he didn't die alone. In telling this story, Delia praised the hospice workers for making all of it happen. They went the extra mile to make a difference in not only that man's life, but his daughter's as well.

One thing that is important to include in your prayers, regardless of whether God says yes or no to your petition for any given situation, is that He would make the pain of the situation count. Make it count for the good of those experiencing something difficult or tragic. If it has to be experienced—if it can't be taken away—please God, make it count. In this case, He used the hospice workers to make it count. We are grateful our staff is able to work with local hospice providers, and so many others, so that we can all be a *neighbor* to those who God puts in our lives.

Another New Face in the GSC Dental Clinic

Registered Dental Assistant Courtney Reddick joined the Good Samaritan Center's dental team at the end of December 2021 to pursue her personal mission to help people in need achieve dental health and confidence.

"My mother always had trouble with her teeth," Reddick said, "and when she received the care she needed, it made such a dramatic difference in her life. I knew that was what I wanted to do."

Reddick attended Texas Tech University before returning to the Hill Country to care for her mother and attend dental assistant school in Kerrville.

Reddick lives in Fredericksburg with Miloh, her yorkie-pom. "The main reason I moved here (from Harper) was to be near my grandma, brother and two nieces. They are my world," she said.

Reddick works part-time assisting Dr. Tara Cully, the Center's staff dentist, three days a week.



Our Wish List:

- \$4,512 to purchase new A1c analyzer, used every day to monitor diabetes patients.
- \$950 to purchase a new refrigerator for the staff lounge. (The current, second-hand one is no longer reliable.)

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

Thank you!

Celebrating 30 Years of Service

We celebrated our 30th anniversary on June 14th! More than 100 people from the community, including patients, donors, volunteers and staff, gathered at **Texas Heritage Vineyard** for fun, food, fellowship, live music and reminiscing. The highlight of the evening was our founder, **Sara Allerkamp**, addressing the crowd. She and her husband, Curtis, came from their new home in Lometa (near Lampasas) to join the festivities. The message she shared is an important one for all of us to remember: Making a real difference begins with responding to God in faithfulness and letting Him bless the work from there. Sara's act of faithfulness 30 years ago has impacted tens of thousands of people over the last three decades. Thank you for being part of His plan for the people he loves so much, and that includes you!



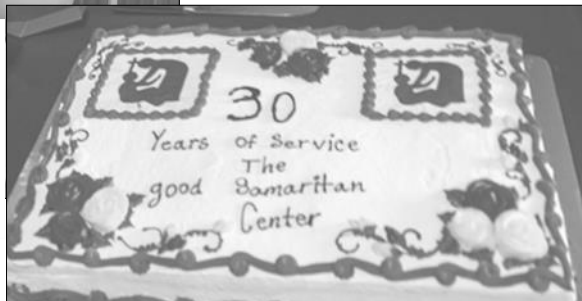
GSC's Big 3-0 Birthday party was held at **Texas Heritage Vineyard**. Special thanks to owners **Susan and Bill Johnson** for opening their tasting room after hours for us.



Adriana Medrano, RN, is staff nurse and clinical director at GSC. She also moonlights as a balloon artist, and she graced our party with fiesta-inspired decorations in the hall and at the front door.



Fredericksburg's H-E-B donated comestibles (a delicious chatcuterie board and festive cake), expendables (plates, cups, napkins & forks) and water to the event. Our local **Pizza Hut** donated several pizzas and other tasty treats for the party.



Musician **Dan West** donated his singing and playing for the party's guests.



Among the evening's many guests were two of GSC's original volunteers. Seen here with **Sara Allerkamp** (center) are **Margaret Bierschwale** (left) and **Mary Wilson** (left).

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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.

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It Was a Party: 2022 Spring Fundraising Dinner and Good Samaritan of the Year Awards

On May 3, we gathered at St. Mary's Catholic Church's Holy Family Center to honor our 2022 Good Samaritans of the Year. This year, we recognized the eight dental professionals (pictured right) who volunteer their time and skills for our patients each month.

Dental care is often the first thing people neglect when they cannot afford it even though it can prove to be very important. In fact, Medicare does not cover dental care so we end up seeing a lot of seniors in our dental clinic who are living on very fixed incomes.

The spring dinner reminds us what being a Good Samaritan means. Fortunately, each of these people know exactly who their *neighbor* is!



This year's Good Samaritan of the Year Award recipients, pictured left-to-right: **Zachary Hoerster, DDS**; presenter **John Willome, GSC Executive Director**; **Arnoldo Cuellar, DDS**; hygienists **Sandra Striegler**; **Ken Wiedenfeld, DDS**; **Michael Brunsvold, DDS**; GSC Staff Dentist **Tara Cully, DDS**; **Jay Lindsay, DDS**; and **David Heinrich, DDS**. Not pictured is hygienist **Veronica Strackbein**.

Our heartfelt gratitude for these three Underwriters for helping make our Spring Fundraising Dinner a reality:

Estela Avery - Cindy & Bruce Busby - Joseph Financial Partners

Plus special thanks to these 27 businesses & individuals who signed on as Sponsors for this year's event:

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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!

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The Good Samaritan Center

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The Good Samaritan Center
just celebrated 30 years! (see pg 2)
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“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man...?” Luke 10:36a

She’s Been Making Our Dental Patients Smile Since 2004

Sandra Striegler began her volunteer career at the Good Samaritan Center (GSC) back in 2005. “I was one of the first hygienist to work in the Center’s dental program,” she said.

In fact, Striegler’s participation at GSC goes back even further to the early days of the Fredericksburg Free Clinic, started by Sara Allerkamp in 1992. “I used to hand out toothbrushes to patients back then,” she said. “We didn’t have any equipment or space to work, so we did what we could to help people take care of their teeth.”

Striegler graduated from University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio with a certificate in Dental Hygiene in 1979. In addition to her monthly volunteer gig at GSC, she also works with two local dentists: Dr. Shelly Nagle on Mondays and the rest of the week with Dr. Jay Lindsay

Although she was born in the old Keidel Hospital, the youngest of five children, Striegler grew up in Stonewall. “My maiden name was Klein, and I was surrounded by lots of relatives,” she said. “Both my parents came from large, local families.”



“I thoroughly enjoy being of service, and working at the Good Samaritan Center lets me be helpful and useful to others.... It’s a really good feeling.”

Sandra Striegler
Volunteer Dental Hygienist

Striegler and her husband, Kenny, just celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. They have two children, a son and a daughter, and four grandchildren: three girls and a boy. “Fortunately, everyone lives close enough for visits — San Antonio and Bedias,” she said. “Spending time with my family and playing with our grandchildren is one of the joys of my life.

“The kids may live elsewhere,” she added with a mischievous smile, “but there is another woman living in my house, Her name is Lily, and she’s my husband’s dog, a Cairn Terrier.”

For fun, Striegler and her girlfriends from school at Stonewall still get together for weekend trips, and she also enjoys working in her flower gardens. She is an active member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church where she has been a lector for 30 years and serves as a Eucharistic minister.

Striegler said she plans to keep volunteering at GSC. “I thoroughly enjoy being of service, and working at the Good Samaritan Center lets me be helpful and useful to others. Seeing the difference in our patients is why I’m here. I like teaching them the importance of caring for their teeth and seeing them smile. It’s a really good feeling.”