

The Good Samaritan Center



"A HEALING PLACE"

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

Spring 2015

The Big Give SA (and Fredericksburg, too)

By John Willome

The Big Give SA is coming to Fredericksburg (to learn more about The Big Give SA please see the enclosed insert). I'll admit that, at first, I was skeptical about our participation in this. You, our donors, are already so generous with us that I didn't want to come to you one more time.

BUT that's not what The Big Give SA is all about. It's about introducing donors to new organizations and organizations to new donors. That will be our focus for our participation with The Big Give SA—finding new donors who are interested in being a part of our patients' lives.

That's where you will come in. What we are asking you to do is help us get the word out about The Big Give SA to your friends and direct them to our organization. Here's how it can work:

1. If you are on Facebook, go to our website at www.goodsamfbg.org and click on the "Like" our Facebook page. From there, whenever you see us post something on our Facebook page about The Big Give SA, please share it on your timeline and ask your friends to share it as well.
2. If you are not on Facebook, go to www.thebiggivesa.org and find our page. The easiest way to find it is to go to the counties list on the lower right-hand part of the page and click on Gillespie County. After you have found us and the other Gillespie County nonprofits listed, copy the link and email it to your friends.
3. If you are not comfortable with computers, bring your friends to Bethany Lutheran Church's fellowship hall on Tuesday, May 5, from 4pm to 9pm. The participating nonprofits will be there to receive your donations and tell you more about themselves.

In addition to introducing your friends to us, we hope this is also an opportunity for you to learn more about some of the other nonprofits in Fredericksburg that help those in need. This event has a lot of



Sara Allerkamp's dream was for GSC to be the prettiest doctor's office in Fredericksburg. Thanks to our Landscaping Volunteers, we are.

A Samaritan's Story

During the year-end holidays, a man came into the Center needing dental help. He'd never been a patient at our clinic before but we were able to work him in as soon as we opened up after our Christmas break. The evening after his appointment, he sent the following e-mail to Executive Director John Willome.

Here's what that patient wrote:

John,
I just wanted to thank you for the experience I had today. I am sure I don't need to tell you that the staff and facilities were wonderful. There was something more that I took away from my visit though. It is not easy for me to explain, but I came away with a better view of the world. Today I saw good.
Thank You!

Everyone at the Clinic was honored and humbled by this man's note, and we hope you feel joy in sharing his gratitude. Thank you for being a dedicated partner in our mission to provide a safe, Christ-centered environment to our neighbors in need. We can do so much good when we work together as a community.

Our Wish List:

- Curing light for dental suite (\$500).
- Four rolling desks for examination rooms (\$50 each).

Please call the Center to verify that someone has not already donated your item.

Thank you!

Board Corner

By Lorri Kendrick, GSC Board member

Serving on the Board has been an eye-opening experience in so many ways. I learned of the Center through my church shortly after moving to Fredericksburg, and I saw that it was an excellent resource for the community. I was proud to support it, but doing so for me was really more about "being a good Christian steward of my resources," not about the actual people being served.

It wasn't until I joined the Board and attended my first Clinical Services meeting that the mission of the Good Samaritan Center really came to life for me. At these regular meetings with the Center's doctors and staff we go over significant cases and how their medical treatment is progressing. Names are withheld to protect their privacy, but we discuss specific individuals - people in pain, in need, and whose lives are impacted by what we are doing.

I was first struck by the amount of need in our community. Not just by the quantity of patients we see, but by the severity of conditions we are able to treat. I was also struck by how much the medical staff cares. For many of our patients it has probably been some time since someone touched them physically, looked at them, questioned them, and cared about their needs. They get that from our medical staff and volunteers. Our patients don't just receive medical care - they gain a relationship with providers who hurt for them in their pain, and care deeply about their progress.

Since joining the board I have also had my eyes opened to the services donated by the private health care providers in our community - they come to the Center and work for free; they donate untold hours to review x-rays and files; and they perform surgeries for a fraction of what they usually charge. The generosity of time and skills is astounding, as is the generous financial support our community provides.

We are surrounded by good people in this town. Caring, giving people. And I am reminded of that fact every time I attend a meeting or work on a project at the Good Samaritan Center.

2014 Annual Fund Campaign a Success! THANK YOU!

As you can tell by the number of donors listed on the next few pages, our annual fund campaign in December and January was a terrific success. We want to give a special thanks to the anonymous foundation that gave us our \$50,000 challenge grant (which we received in February). In a two-month period we received over 400 donations. THANK YOU!

Of course, your donations are essential to our ability to be here for those who come to us. Since we do not accept any state or federal funds, we are wholly dependent upon the generosity of you, our donors, Hill Country Memorial, and the myriad of specialists who donate their time and resources to care for our patients.

You've heard by now that our big expansion this last year was adding a Community Health Worker to our services. While it's hard to figure out how to numerically gauge the impact she is having, anecdotally, she is reaching people with important information and empowering our patients to care for themselves at a whole new level.

Finally, our Medication Assistance Program continues to thrive. While it helped just over 200 patients when we took the program over a little more than two years ago, it now serves over 450 patients, helping them receive nearly \$1 million in medications from participating pharmaceutical companies.

Clinic Statistics

Medical

No. of appointments:	2,024
No. of unduplicated patients:	1,087
No. of new patients:	251
No. of prescriptions:	3,594

Dental

No. of appointments:	1,363
No. of unduplicated patients:	524
No. of new patients:	255

Mental Health

No. of counseling appointments:	135
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Kristin DeGroot Headlines 2015 Dinner on May 12

Did you see Fredericksburg Theater Company's *Les Miserables* last summer? If you did, you couldn't help but have been struck by the performance of an unbelievable talent, Kristin DeGroot. Kristin will be presenting a 40-minute concert during our dinner, sharing standards and Broadway show tunes that will leave you touched and moved. It will be a terrific evening, complete with a great meal provided by My Own Chef, complimentary wine and beer from Grape Creek Vineyards and Pedernales Brewing Company, respectively. And St. Mary's has once again agreed to host us in their new, beautiful Holy Family Center.

Finally, **don't forget Mother's Day is the previous weekend**, so maybe this can be part of your gift to a mother who is special to you.



Kristin DeGroot, best known in Fredericksburg as Eponine from FTC's 2014 Les Miserables, will be in Fredericksburg on May 12 for this exclusive engagement.

Special Thanks

While we will print a complete list of our sponsors in the summer newsletter, we want to thank the following sponsors for helping underwrite the meal and beverages for our dinner.

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- Hill Country Evangelical Free Church*
- Holy Ghost Lutheran Church*
- Memorial Presbyterian Church, Pioneer Class*

FALL IN MEMORIA

We accidentally omitted these Memorial contributions from our Fall newsletter. We are correcting that oversight here, with sincere apologies.

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- Jewell Weirich**
Elsie & Kermit Burrer
Peggy & Mike Sagebiel
- Oliver Welgehausen**
Marion Welgehausen
- Libby Wells**
Kathy & Cal Yarbrough
- Bill White**
Randy & Steve McAnally
- Marian White**
Margaret & Milton Bierschwale
- Lillian Wissemann**
Andrea Treibs
- Suey Yang**
Dorothy & Paul Panaceck
- Gary Zink**
Nancy & Mark Nichols

HONORARIUMS

Sara Allerkamp <i>Clair Shultis</i>	Marcia & John Draper <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i>	Alice & Pete Jensen <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i>	Lisa & Scott Smith <i>Peggy & John Benson</i>
Betty & Tom Anderson <i>Peggy & John Benson</i> <i>Pat & Phil McConnell</i>	Liz & Gus Eberle <i>Debra & Christopher Patton</i>	Alice & George Kolb <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i>	Beverly Speer <i>Lucy Ann & Jack Arnold</i> <i>Crystal & Jim Fox</i>
Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Bane <i>Camey Stewart</i>	Woody Farris <i>Catherine Davis</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Brance Lewis <i>Camey Stewart</i>	Bob Spies <i>Beverly & Jim Speer</i>
Carol & John Batterton <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i>	Fredericksburg Rotary Clubs <i>Alice White</i>	Melinda Lowrey <i>Debra & Christopher Patton</i>	Staff of St. Mary's Catholic Church <i>Stephanie & Joe Cavanaugh</i>
Melinda & Lamont Beckett <i>Catherine Davis</i>	Sherry & John Freeman <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i>	Vickie & Carl Luckenbach <i>Martha Parker</i>	Kristi & Adam Stafford <i>Angie & Matt Hoermann</i>
Peggy Benson <i>Laura Bowman</i>	Edna Fritz <i>Alice Klein</i>	Marcia Manhart <i>Judith & Jean Pape Adams</i> <i>Charitable Foundation</i>	Dian Stai <i>Terri Mund</i>
Peggy & John Benson <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i>	Ray Gallagher <i>Riparian Research Corporation</i>	Randy & Steve McAnally <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i>	Megan Staudt <i>Catherine Davis</i>
Brooks & Brady Bonn <i>Joan & Terry Bonn</i>	Melissa George <i>Riparian Research Corporation</i>	Pat & Phil McConnell <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i>	Rose Suenram <i>Karen Davies</i> <i>Pam & Mike Suenram</i>
Bill Borron <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i> <i>Peggy & John Benson</i>	Roger Gildersleeve <i>Riparian Research Corporation</i>	Becky Miles <i>Jennifer & Steve Martin</i>	Rich Terry <i>Riparian Research Corporation</i>
Dutch Bouwman's Edward Jones Clients <i>Paula Swenson & Dutch Bouwman</i>	Jane & Bruce Good <i>Marsella & Tim Fults</i>	Nan & Robert Mosley <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i> <i>Peggy & John Benson</i>	Sue & Jack Tompson <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i>
Jeffrey Bouwman's Edward Jones Clients <i>Jeffrey Bouwman</i>	Bruce Good <i>Johnson & Johnson</i>	Staff of the Museum of the Pacific War <i>Stephanie & Joe Cavanaugh</i>	Susie & Randy Thompson <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i> <i>Peggy & John Benson</i>
Evelyn & Barrett Burns <i>Cheryl & Gary Hill</i>	Dianna Green <i>ExxonMobil</i>	Prescription Lab <i>Riparian Research Corporation</i>	Annette & Bill Tilley <i>Betty & Tom Anderson</i> <i>Peggy & John Benson</i>
Rene Cameron-Brooks <i>James Avery Craftsman</i>	Ralph Greenlee, Jr. <i>Judith & Jean Pape Adams</i> <i>Charitable Foundation</i>	Kay Pressler <i>Mr. & Mrs. William Gary</i>	Mr. & Mrs. John Walker <i>Camey Stewart</i>
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	Mel Jackson <i>Riparian Research Corporation</i>	Barbara Scherer <i>Suzanne Wood</i>	

Drs. Martha Walton, Anne Pluenneke and Charles Cohn of Fredericksburg Eye Associates made a donation in honor of the following doctors.

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GSC Welcomes Mayra Rivas to the “Family”

Here at the Good Samaritan Center we believe that when one door closes another opens. Our new Medical Assistant Mayra Rivas proved, once again, our faith is justified.

In March, when Samantha Pacheco, our medical assistant, announced she was leaving as the Center’s patient interface person, we wondered where we’d quickly find someone with the necessary qualifications of medical experience, bilingual capabilities and immediate availability.

God provided us with a seamless replacement in the person of Mayra. Not only is she a Licensed Medical Assistant (LMA), fluent in Spanish and experienced in patient records management, she also happens to be Samantha’s sister-in-law.

“I had just decided it was time to go back to work, and this position appeared on-line. I wanted to do something for my community,” Mayra said, “and this perfect opportunity to make a difference opened up. It’s amazing what you do here”

Mayra worked at Texas Sinus Center in Boerne before moving from Comfort to Fredericksburg about a year ago.

Mayra was able to work alongside Samantha for a couple of weeks before Samantha left at the end of February to work with her husband in his construction business.

Mayra divides her responsibilities, scheduling appointments during her morning shift and switching to clinical duties — taking vital signs and performing lab tests — in the afternoon. She shyly admits that her favorite part of the job is the clinical work.

She has three children: two boys and one self-proclaimed princess. Her husband, Angel, works in the family concrete fabrication business, Rivas Construction.

During what little down-time she has, Mayra enjoys reading, playing sports with her children and dancing.

When asked what she liked best about coming to work at GSC, Mayra said, “Everyone here is so helpful and down-to-earth. There’s always someone willing to lend a hand. It’s like a family here.”



Mayra Rivas, LMA, labels blood samples in the lab. Mayra joined the Good Samaritan Center in March.

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.

Name: _____

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Name of honoree: _____

Person(s) to be notified: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

The Good Samaritan Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

- Monthly commitment (amount \$ _____)
- One-time donation (amount \$ _____)
- Memoriam/Honorarium (see below)
- _____ ticket(s) to the dinner (\$100 each) _____
- Wish List (see cover for list)
- Volunteer (type of activity _____)

The Good Samaritan Center

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Fredericksburg, TX 78624

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Fax: 830.990.0852

www.goodsamfbg.org

John Willome, Executive Director

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

Mary MacWithey is One Volunteer You May Never See at the Center

You may not know Mary MacWithey, but if you’ve given a donation to the Good Samaritan Center in the past three and a half years, you know her work. Thanks to Mary, your year-end tax receipt arrived quickly and correctly calculated.

Mary is the sole volunteer who inputs records into our confidential fundraising database, specifically the who, where, what, when and how much of every gift received.

“When our annual fund drive comes around each December and January, Mary works tirelessly so our donors can get their annual tax notices in a timely fashion,” said John Willome, GSC’s executive director.

Because she has a day job as a technical services librarian at San Antonio Community College, Mary usually works Friday afternoons and Saturdays to input the latest batch of contributions. The Center is closed to the public on Fridays and Saturdays, so she has little interaction



with the staff other than Willome and none with patients.

Mary and her husband, Bryan MacWithey, who is director of the Pioneer Memorial Library in Fredericksburg, moved to Leon Springs the summer of 2014, but Mary still regularly commutes back to GSC to help keep the records up to date.

“I’d been a volunteer at hospice and for

a short time at the HCM, and I kept hearing what a good place the Center was for volunteers,” Mary said when asked what brought her to GSC.

“My first task was getting the filing up-to-date and then I transitioned to working on the donor database. I really enjoy using my skills in computing and organization,” she said.

“I come in and John (Willome, the Center’s executive director) is wonderful; it makes for a very pleasant working atmosphere.”

“The Center is a good place to go for anyone who wants to volunteer and make a real difference helping people in our area.”

*Mary MacWithey
 Data Entry Volunteer*