

# The Good Samaritan Center



"A HEALING PLACE"

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

Summer 2015

## Nearly 600 People in Eight Weeks!

By John Willome

We started using our new electronic health record (EHR) on April 7th, and over the first eight weeks I learned something very surprising. **In that amount of time, our medical clinic served nearly 600 unduplicated individuals.** That shocked me!

Knowing that we see between 1,000 and 1,100 individuals a year for around 2,100 medical appointments, I would have figured a two-month average for unique interactions would have been closer to 250 or maybe 300.

But here is what I learned in this process: **when you are someone's medical home, they need you throughout the year.** Perhaps it doesn't show up as a medical appointment (which is how I gauged it). Instead, they might call for a medication refill, come in to have their blood drawn, meet with the diabetes educator, participate in a health screening, visit a specialist to whom we have referred them, visit our licensed professional counselor, etc. The variety of interactions are practically countless and it made me even more proud of the amount of work our staff and volunteers do to serve our patients.

As for our conversion to the EHR, it is going smoother than I had hoped. The staff, to a person, likes it more than being on paper charts. The volunteers are getting better and better at using it even though they only get to work with it half a day each week. And, while we are still operating a little slower than optimum (about 70% capacity), we are getting faster as we get more patients put into the system. And I've noticed that having patients in the new EHR has already improved our efficiency in the areas where we hoped it would.

I hope that seeing the number of patients we serve, not only each year, but each month or two, excites and encourages you. You are our partners, and we are all in this together. We couldn't do what we do without you and the entire community.



*A Fiesta of FUNdraising was held May 5 in Bethany Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall. Above are representatives from 12 of the 13 participating local nonprofits: Bethany Preschool, Boys and Girls Club, Fredericksburg Dog Park Assoc., Fredericksburg SHINES, the Good Samaritan Center, Habitat for Humanity, Hill Country Community Needs Council, Hill Country SPCA, MOM Center, Stonewall Head Start, Texas Center for Wine & Culinary Arts, and the Texas Society for Preservation of St. Joseph's Halle.*

## Big Give, Big Thanks!

On May 5, GSC joined with 12 other Gillespie County nonprofits in a day of online giving. In that 24 hour period, The Big Give SA generated more than \$23,700 in donations for the lucky 13 participating organizations. Thank you to our faithful donors for supporting us in this new medium and for all of their help spreading the word via social media.

## A Samaritan's Story

We have to be careful when we tell a patient story because we never want to give up a patient's anonymity or privacy. Therefore, the story you are about to read is going to be a little vague, but that vagueness is intentional.

In April, our Community Health Worker (CHW), Delia De La Cruz, was working with a family in their home, and she encouraged them to come to a screening that Hill Country Memorial was conducting. The screening included blood work as well as tests to identify cancer. One person, in particular, agreed to have blood tests, but rejected the other screenings saying that cancer did not run in his family. Delia, however, was persistent, and the patient finally agreed to go through the entire program.

As it turned out, the screening identified a stage 1 cancer in this patient. Thankfully, it was caught very early and the patient was able to access funding from a government program for this specific type of cancer. Best of all, the patient was able to get all of his treatment right here from Fredericksburg. The surgeon told our director, John Willome, the surgery was easy and the patient is "cured and cancer free," thanks in no small part to early detection through CHW outreach.

This is exactly the kind of service we wanted to accomplish with our CHW program. We were confident in our ability to handle what comes in the door in a very efficient and effective manner. But we felt we hadn't done enough to proactively reach out to those who are not coming to us. Now we are better able to leverage our relationships with the medical community in Fredericksburg and help our neighbors live healthier lives. There is still a lot of work to do, and we have a lot of people to reach, but there is also no denying that our CHW program is having a positive impact on the health and wellness of our community.

We would be remiss if we didn't take another opportunity to thank St. Barnabas Episcopal Church and those who joined them in raising enough support for the first two years of the CHW program. We also want to thank Hill Country Memorial for doing so much for our patients, including the "Salud for You" program. We are grateful to every specialist in Fredericksburg and the surrounding communities for being so generous with our patients. And finally we thank you for being there to support us with your donations, your volunteer hours and your prayers. You are a part of this story as well.

## Wish List

- 4 Med Room desk chairs @ \$90 each.
- Water cooler for volunteers & staff, \$150.
- Old issues of health-related or Christian magazines for our patients' lobby area.

Please call us to verify that someone has not already donated your item. **Thank you!**

## Kristin DeGroot Charms Spring Dinner Guests

Gifted singer/actress **Kristin DeGroot** and her talented accompanist **Jane Haas** on piano helped turn this year's annual Spring Fundraising Dinner on May 12 into an intimate supper club experience. Approximately 200 guests enjoyed the spring-themed banquet and then listened in rapt silence to the songstress's selection of smooth standards, snappy show tunes and popular favorites. DeGroot, who was cast as lead in this summer's Fredericksburg Theater Company production of *Evita*, also delighted the crowd with a sneak preview of "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina."

"Our annual fundraising dinner has developed the reputation for being an elegant, low-key event that both lets people know a little about the clinic and gives them a lovely evening of entertainment," said John Willome, executive director of the Center. "The same was certainly true this year, with Kristin's beautiful performance. This is one of those events that makes me really proud to be associated with our work here."

Our dinner would not have been such a success without help and support from a lot of people. Gratitude and appreciation go to **St. Mary's Catholic Church** for hosting us again in their lovely Holy Family Center and to our caterer, **My Own Chef**, for a delicious meal. Cheers to **Grape Creek Vineyards** and **Pedernales Brewing Company** for providing wine and beer, respectively. Compliments to **The Flower Pail** for the lovely flower centerpieces and to **The Party Affair** for colorful table linens. Most generous were **Fischer & Wieser Specialty Foods** and **Frost Bank**, helping to underwrite the food. And there's more. We have listed everyone who sponsored our dinner below. If you know any of these businesses, please thank them again for their help on our behalf.



Austin singer/actress Kristin DeGroot brought her considerable performing talents to our Spring Dinner on May 12. You can see a video clip of Kristin's performance on The Good Samaritan Center's Facebook page.

### Other Dinner Sponsors

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## Three Local Businesses Host Events To Help Our Patients



Brenda Rodriguez (left) and Maryvel Cortez (right) volunteered to join our Community Health Worker, Audelia De La Cruz (center), to do health screenings at Waylon's Birthday Bash in Luckenbach on Sunday, June 14. All proceeds from the gate went to purchase blood sugar testing strips for our diabetes patients.

### Waylon's Birthday Bash (June 14)

Back in the 1970s, country music legend Waylon Jennings and his hit song, "Luckenbach, Texas," helped make the little town where "Everybody is Somebody" a national phenomenon.

In 2004, **Luckenbach** started the annual **Waylon's Birthday Bash** in his honor. The next and every subsequent year, Luckenbach has used the occasion as a vehicle to support the Center's diabetes program and to increase diabetes awareness.

This year's concert featured performances by **Thomas Michael Riley**, **Drew Kennedy** and **Josh Grider**. Admittance to the event was by a suggested donation of \$10, the proceeds going to help supply blood sugar testing materials free of charge to diabetic patients at GSC.

"Waylon died from complications of diabetes, so Luckenbach decided a long time ago to make this event about helping others with diabetes," said John Willome, executive director of GSC. "They have always really cared about our patients, and we are grateful for their relationship with us."

### Pint Night (April 2)

Earlier this spring, **Pedernales Brewing Company (PBC)** and **Aldorf Biergarten** hosted a special "Pint Night" to benefit the Center. Everyone who purchased a pint of locally-brewed PBC beer received a souvenir glass, and the Biergarten donated 50-cents to GSC.

"Both of these events highlighted fellowship and fun in the name of service to others," said Willome. "We appreciate these partnerships in helping us fulfill our mission to bring quality, coordinated and affordable healthcare to those of our neighbors in need. We couldn't do it without their support."



## DONATIONS Received — Thank You!

**The following is a listing of donors for contributions received between February 1, 2015, and May 31, 2015.**

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(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

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As you know, the Good Samaritan Center does **not** accept any state or federal monies. **Seventy (70) percent** comes **directly from you our faithful and generous donors.** We sincerely hope you feel the **honor and respect** we have for you as **partners in our work** to provide affordable health care to our neighbors in need. We thank you, and we bless you.

**In appreciation of the local physicians who have privileges at the hospital, Hill Country Memorial made a donation to the Center in their honor for National Doctors Day on March 30, 2015. Thank you, physicians and Hill Country Memorial, for doing so much for our community.**

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## Yes, I want to help!

You are welcome to help us in any way 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.

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- ☐ Memorial/Honorarium (see below)
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- ☐ Volunteer (type of activity \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Please make my gift anonymous

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Check out our NEW website at:  
[www.goodsamfbg.org](http://www.goodsamfbg.org)  
 (thank you Robyn Hicks and  
 Joe Houde for all of your help!)

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

## **This Med Room Maven Once Worked for the CIA!**

In 1987, young Regina Rosenwinkel was training for her career as an administrator for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Killeen, Texas. One weekend, on her way to Austin, she stopped for lunch in Fredericksburg.

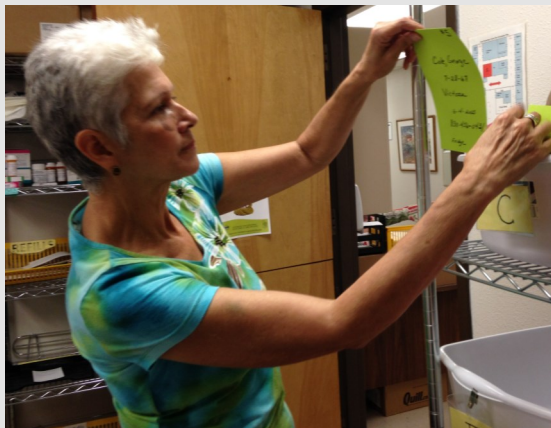
"I even remember it was at the Altdorf Biergarten," she said, laughing, "But I don't remember what I ate. I'm sure it was delicious."

Years later, when it was time to retire, Regina decided she didn't want to live any place where hurricanes or snow were a constant threat. Then she remembered Fredericksburg. That was back in 2009.

It was shortly after relocating to Fredericksburg that Regina learned about the Good Samaritan Center. While playing the ancient Chinese game of Mah Jongg, she met Cheri Snyder, our volunteer director, and it wasn't long before Regina had signed on as one of the Center's volunteers.

"Working in the Med Room is a perfect fit for me," Regina said. "It requires acute attention to detail and organizational skills. Too, my last post with the CIA was as an administrator for a medical clinic in Virginia, where I learned how to read prescriptions and order and distribute drugs. I love people, and being able to help others is a joy."

Along with her work with the Good Samaritan



Center, Regina keeps uber busy with her other volunteer roles. She currently teaches beginners line-dancing at the Golden Hub every week and serves on the PCAA Scholarship Committee. This summer's musical, *Evita*, is her third production with the Fredericksburg Theater Company. She also plays the dulcimer.

Music, in fact, is an important element in her life. Regina is a member of and sings with the Canto Choir, the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church Choir and the German Choir.

Recently, she teamed up with her four-legged partner, Teddy, and started offering Teddy Grams to those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions.

"Teddy is a ShiChi, which means he's a cross between a Shih Tzu and a long-haired Chihuahua," she said. "I sing and he loves."

Regina has three grown children, one son and two daughters, and two grandkids, all of whom live in states where hurricanes (Florida) and snow (St. Louis) are realities.

She's happy to visit, but says she's very glad she lives in the Texas Hill Country.

We're grateful she's here, too!

*"For all my 22 years at the CIA, I regretted that I couldn't work as a volunteer. I felt bad and, when I retired, I vowed to give back."*

**Regina Rosenwinkel**