



THE CARING PLACE

Another Season of Caring in Our Community

WAITING FOR SPRING

Giggles filled the room when Mike came in to speak with us recently. He was full of joy and jokes when he shared his story of gratitude for The Caring Place. Mike fostered a memorable relationship with volunteers and staff at The Caring Place and expressed his gratitude at every opportunity. Mike will be the first one to tell you that The Caring Place has made a profound impact on his life when he navigated some difficult business issues.

With a chuckle, Mike began, "It all began on a brisk spring day in 1959." In reality, his story began with The Caring Place just a few months ago. Mike remodeled homes. This past winter his work truck broke down. Mike also had two customers who didn't pay for the work he did for them. Without a working vehicle, running his residential remodeling business became next to impossible. While letting the court system deal with his customers' delinquent payments, Mike sunk deeper into a hole of unknowns. How would he pay rent and utilities? How would he take the next remodeling job? Mike decided to come to The Caring Place for help.

Initially, Mike thought he just needed money to get through this hump, but the team at The Caring Place asked him what his plan was. He realized he didn't have one. With Case Manager, Xinia Vargas, Mike sat down and discussed his finances and budget. Together they anticipated his needs and discussed when business might pick up again. When he reviewed his records, he saw business was always slower around the holidays and picked back up in the spring. With that in mind, he was able to plan a budget to get him through the next few months with some assistance from The Caring Place.

In the meantime, Mike walked everywhere. He walked to work, to get groceries, to church and to The Caring Place. He remains thankful for the proximity of his apartment to all these places or this plan wouldn't work. The Caring Place provided Mike with a "Caring Card" to receive monthly groceries and a \$40 voucher for clothing and necessities at our thrift store. The Caring Place assisted with the cost of rent and utilities to help Mike stay in his apartment during this tough time. Xinia expressed, "It was important that Mike contributed what his budget would allow. He was always honest about what was in the budget each month." Xinia continued, "Mike was motivated. He came with questions and suggestions and wrote things down to develop a plan." Mike added, "Xinia helped me create a plan so I could get back on my feet."

The Caring Place helped Mike prevent the next "crisis." He had an eye infection and needed medicine and glasses. Without glasses he couldn't drive, even if his vehicle did work. Through our partnership with Texas State Optical, Mike was able to seek proper care. Mike said, "It was really bad. I was wearing dark glasses to hide it. But because of The Caring Place, I got in there to see the doctor, got medicine and I am doing much better. Just this morning I was calling them to see if my glasses were ready. It should be any day now."



Mike is ready for spring and the opportunities to come.

Mike was especially excited about the Food Pantry at The Caring Place. Mike said utilizing it allowed him to eat a healthier, nutritious diet. "The people there are so wonderful. We laugh and carry on. They all know me. Amazing staff and volunteers. It's such a joy going in there." Mike admitted that he did have to get over the embarrassment and necessity of using the Food Pantry. However, he described the staff and volunteers as welcoming and professional. Ultimately, he realized using the Food Pantry helped him with his budget. Mike could go on and on about the choices at the Food Pantry. "I love the pink salmon in a can. It's to die for! I could live off that. I got a can at home right now that I can't wait to get to! And the canned beef; you gotta season it and kick it up a few notches!" Mike went on to praise the taco meat, taco soup, chili, produce, and canned fruit that are often available.

"I was given the help I needed." Mike said, "I'm living proof of what The Caring Place can do. I'd be under a bridge if it weren't for The Caring Place." Xinia interjected, "And some of Mike's challenges were out of his control due to the nature of his business, but he was always positive and never complaining. He was always thinking of ways to get ahead." Mike continues to refer those in need to The Caring Place and shares helpful tips as they cook up Food Pantry fare. Now that spring is here, Mike is ready to put his new plan into action.

YOUR GIFT WAS AMPLIFIED!



Your support puts smiles of gratitude on our faces. Thanks to you and our fantastic matching sponsors, we raised \$152,078 during this year's online campaign. Among over 700 non-profits in Central Texas participating in Amplify, The Caring Place raised the seventh-highest amount.

We want to give a special shout-out to The Caring Place Board of Directors, Stephen Benold, First Texas Bank, M/Sgt. Ben D. Snowden VFW Post 8587 Georgetown, Steger Bizzell, St. David's Georgetown Hospital, Georgetown Railroad Company, Pope Materials, Inc., Prosperity Bank, Texas Crushed Stone, Inc. and The Gabriels Funeral Chapel & Crematory. These businesses, organizations and individuals matched the financial gifts made by our community! Their leadership in giving big made this our most successful Amplify giving event to date. If you'd like to be a sponsor in 2025, contact Rita at rturner@caringplacetx.org.

Keep reading to learn how your support has helped our community in 2024!

Staff members, Rita, Jill and Lorna posing before hosting a Georgetown Chamber of Commerce event where they shared information about the Amplify campaign.

Here's what we are seeing in 2024...

Programs & Services in Numbers:

Data reflects January - April of 2024

- Year-to-date, the total number of unique individuals served is 6,943, making up 2,472 families;
 - Through the first 4 months of 2024, TCP has served 44% more unique individuals than during the same period in 2023, and more than ALL of the people assisted in 2022 (6,490);
 - TCP issued 1,420 clothing and household item vouchers in the first 4 months of this year at a value of \$63,908. This is 151% more than the value of vouchers redeemed in the first 4 months of 2023, illustrating the demand of basic household necessities to assist neighbors in need.

Food Programs in Numbers:

Data reflects January - April of 2024

- 15,709 individuals were assisted by the Food Pantry, January through April;
- We have distributed 366,975 pounds of food through The Caring Place Food Pantry this year. This is over 100,000 pounds more food distributed than in the same period last year;
- On average, we served 408 neighbors, 55 and older, through HOPE (Healthy Options Program for the Elderly) each month. This is 73% more participation than last year.



Want to host a Pantry Drive? Hygiene items are in demand!

Email: fooddonations@caringplacetx.org

Help us meet the growing need in our community by making a monetary donation to The Caring Place. Send a check to PO Box 1215, Georgetown, TX 78627 or donate online at caringplacetx.org/donate. Your gift matters!

Besides shopping, volunteering and donating, there is one more thing our community does to ensure we are doing the very most to help neighbors in crisis. **Share what we do!** Do you have a neighbor, relative or friend that needs resources to assist them during a crisis? Cut off the portion below to share information about The Caring Place's services.

CRISIS ASSISTANCE:

Crisis Assistance involves the temporary financial relief of a sudden loss of income through help with rent, mortgage, utilities, food, clothing, household items, transportation, some prescription help or assistance with other emergency-related basic needs.

CASE MANAGEMENT:

Case Management helps neighbors meet goals they are striving toward to thrive in life. This is for neighbors who have a basic needs goal and want assistance in reaching it.

This work builds confidence and knowledge to avert a recurring crisis.

The Caring Place



Scan to learn about services.

FOOD PROGRAMS:

Food Pantry

Open Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
2000 Railroad Avenue, Georgetown, TX

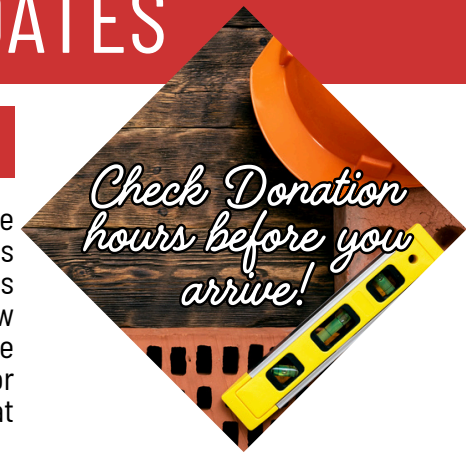
Fresh Food for Families offers produce in the drive-through on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of the month from 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Learn about **Healthy Options Program for the Elderly** and other program info on our website, caringplacetx.org/gethelp.

Our service area includes Georgetown, Andice, Bartlett, Florence, Granger, Jarrell, Jonah, Schwertner, Walburg, Weir, and the portion of Hutto within Georgetown Independent School District.

BIG ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Construction in Donations?



To help build our capacity to accommodate the growth in the need for services, we are excited about a huge project to enclose the Donations Warehouse. This project will help us better meet the needs of our neighbors and is being made possible through a generous bequest. While permits and planning take time, we thought it was important to let you know a few things that will impact our operations. By print date of this newsletter, it's possible we will have more information, so be sure to follow us on Social Media or check our website for updates. You can also sign up for monthly electronic newsletters at caringplacetx.org/newsletter.

How can you help?

- **Donate salable items.** During this construction, it's more important than ever to review our list of items we do not take before you donate. This will help us minimize the use of our expensive waste disposal service. Due to space constraints, some of our recycling efforts will be paused at this time. Find the list of things we do not take, along with a list of alternative resources at caringplacetx.org/donatemystuff.
- **Furniture must be picked up on day of purchase.** While we are under construction, we won't have space for storing items.
- **Watch for changing hours.** It's likely that our hours in the Donations drive through hours will change during construction. Visit our website or Social Media to stay updated.
- **Look out for signs and people.** We will do our very best to direct traffic as situations shift around our building during construction. This might mean staff or signs will communicate traffic flow changes when you arrive.
- **Enjoy a good sale.** Since we will be working to keep our warehouse and pricing areas clear of merchandise, you might find a few good sales this summer, or maybe lower prices on some merchandise! Stop in to shop often!
- **Be patient, friends.** We are so grateful to have your support and like us, we know you are excited to see this project complete. So, on that note, thank you in advance for your continued support as we navigate this big project! The end result will be amazing!

- **And most importantly: Continue donating, shopping and volunteering!** Your support is the reason The Caring Place can do the work it does. In 2023, our stores realized a combined revenue of over \$1.9 million! The nearly 29,000 cars that came through the drive through filled with item donations last year were critical to our success. Not only do they raise funds to support the mission of The Caring Place, but they provide free or low cost necessities to families in our community. Many of the roughly 350 volunteers at The Caring Place help sort, price, cashier and merchandise those items. Then many other volunteers work to directly support neighbors in crisis through work in the Food Pantry and Programs & Services. All of these efforts work hand-in-hand to serve thousands of individuals in northern Williamson County. In spite of a little dust this season, we ask you to continue supporting The Caring Place in all the ways you can! Thank you!

Thank you, friends!



Pam and Dayne

Thérèse with Volunteer Cashier, Donna Codrington

If you've ever wondered how The Caring Place is able to continue to improve our spaces while also providing valuable services in our community, look no further than fabulous donors who happen to be dedicated volunteers. Dayne and Pam Carlson and Thérèse Verdonk-Vertruyen and her husband, Carlos Verdonk have recently given gifts to make general improvements. Dayne and Pam's gift allowed us to remodel and refresh six restrooms and Carlos and Thérèse gifted us the new cashier counter in The Shops at The Caring Place. We love our generous volunteers who take care of us in so many ways!

CELEBRATE

The Caring Place's 39th Anniversary!

39% off in our stores
June 24 - June 29

The Shops at The Caring Place
2000 Railroad Avenue,
Mon-Sat, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Second Helping
3700 Williams Drive
Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Both stores are closed July 4th for Independence Day.

Grow with us!



Learn about Our Mission & Volunteer Opportunities

Meet our Community Engagement Manager & Volunteer Coordinator in the store and learn what we do in the community.

2000 Railroad Avenue
June 24 - June 28
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Bonus Breakfast Event!

Chat & Chew
breakfast edition



Wednesday, June 26th at 9 a.m.

Join us for a light breakfast as we share our mission, our work and take you on a behind-the-scenes tour of The Caring Place. Get an insider perspective! **This event is on Wednesday, June 26th at 9 a.m. Due to limited seating, RSVP to Rita Turner at rturner@caringplacetx.org or 512-943-0702 by June 24th.**

Let our staffs' enthusiasm and storytelling inspire your thoughts about what it means to support good work in your community. Shop the sale afterwards!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT



On Sunday, April 28th, The Caring Place hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. Nearly 150 friends enjoyed lunch and played movie trivia. We also awarded volunteers with their 5, 10 and 15 year service pins! We are honored to have this time together each year.



Are you the missing piece?



Are you the missing piece in our puzzle? If you are interested in a regular volunteer position helping us fulfill our mission, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Dennis Hilgeman at dhilgeman@caringplacetx.org or 512-943-0708.

Let's get you invited to the next Volunteer Appreciation Event!

Learn more at caringplacetx.org/volunteer.





SHOPPING & DONATING CONTINUES THIS SUMMER



YES! You can still donate items!

Your generous item donations keep our thrift stores filled! Therefore, despite some construction expected soon in our Donations Department, continue bringing your gently used or new items to our 2000 Railroad Avenue drive through.

Please follow signs or team member directions as needed. Updates to Donations Department hours this summer will be on our website or Social Media.

Learn more about what we take at caringplacetx.org/donatemystuff.

The mission of The Caring Place is to provide for the basic human needs of all people in our community in a welcoming, respectful and caring way.



"I was given the help I needed. I'm living proof of what The Caring Place can do." - Mike

Check for new temporary hours!

Programs & Services
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
2001 Railroad Avenue, Georgetown

Food Pantry
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
2000 Railroad Avenue, Georgetown

The Shops at The Caring Place
Thrift Store, Mon-Sat, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
2000 Railroad Avenue, Georgetown

Second Helping
Thrift Store, Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
3700 Williams Drive, Georgetown
512-987-2998

Item Donations
Mon-Sat, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
2000 Railroad Avenue drive through, Georgetown
512-943-0700
caringplacetx.org



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