



THE CARING PLACE

Another Season of Caring in Our Community

Spring 2022

A FAMILY OF CARE

The past two years have brought increased crises for many in our community, and the Maldonados were no exception. Each generation in this family experienced different types of crises.

Helen Maldonado, age 87, recently expressed deep gratitude for all that The Caring Place has done for her and her family; she was persistent to give something back. We assured her, "You and your family already have, by working with us and telling your story." The Caring Place was there for the Maldonado family, all of whom had distinctively different needs, but all were working to regain self-sufficiency.

Helen participates in Case Management in an effort to maintain her independence thereby reducing the family burden of caregiving. The Caring Place connected Helen with low-vision services so that she can manage her mail, bills, and other aspects of reading.

Helen's son and daughter-in-law provide caregiving support to help Helen maintain her independence at home. In 2020, their family primarily benefited from The Caring Place's Food Programs, allowing them to offset other expenses and reduced income.

Helen's granddaughter and her husband were significantly impacted by a COVID-19 related job loss. The Caring Place, in collaboration with community partners, helped with rent and utilities to aid in their financial recovery.



The Caring Place's scope of services can provide for basic needs including food, assistance with rent and utilities, and low-cost clothing and household items. This assistance enables families to afford other critical or unexpected expenses. We also offer opportunities for life skills education and mentoring when individuals or families want to create long-lasting change in their lives through Case Management. This type of change means partnering with The Caring Place to move oneself into a place of stability and self-sufficiency.

Our role in Case Management is to guide families toward achieving the change they seek and to avoid stressful disruptions to a stable life that repetitive crises can cause. In the Maldonados' case, The Caring Place found the Texas Workforce Commission for low-vision assistance and Faith in Action and CARTs for transportation. Through Case Management, we reach out to our community partners for their expertise and established resources to better serve families in our community.

As amazing as The Caring Place may seem to the families we serve, we're not much different than a caring family. The Caring Place strategizes with families to lessen the burden of an unexpected crisis. Families like the Maldonados are stronger and more successful when they band together, sharing resources they've found to support stability and independence again. When families find the tools they need to maintain stability through life, communities win.



PROGRAM UPDATES

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry has undergone significant changes within the last year. Improvements included sinking in our scale for safety and expanding our Food Warehouse and Food Pantry by knocking down walls to old offices. These updates have allowed us to grow capacity and increase efficiency while creating a positive and friendly atmosphere for our neighbors to shop in!

Seeing our beautiful Food Pantry alone is a reason to cheer, but beyond this news, our Food Pantry has increased mobile outreach this year. We now provide food in Bartlett, Jarrell, and Granger one Thursday a month. Each community is encouraged to provide volunteers to work alongside our staff. Because of your continued support, The Caring Place can provide food closer to home for neighbors in these communities. With the price of gas and groceries on the rise, we know our friends appreciate this service.

The Food Pantry is also utilizing a new Food Pantry Intake Specialist in the Programs & Services department to inform and register our neighbors in applicable Food Programs available at The Caring Place.

Lisa McGreevey, recently promoted Food Programs Assistant Manager, is pictured to the right (center) along with photos of volunteers in our improved Food Pantry space. Lisa is standing with 180 pounds of food in a shopping cart. That is the average weight of a monthly order for one of our families needing assistance in our Food Pantry. Its value is \$454.00. It feels great knowing that our friends can potentially allocate \$454 towards another critical bill because of food assistance at The Caring Place.



David Earl, Food Programs and Facilities Director, loading vehicles in Bartlett on a remote food distribution day.



Penny Wagner and Diane Wilkie



Lisa McGreevey, Food Programs Assistant Manager



Barb Schulenburg and Ruth Haney



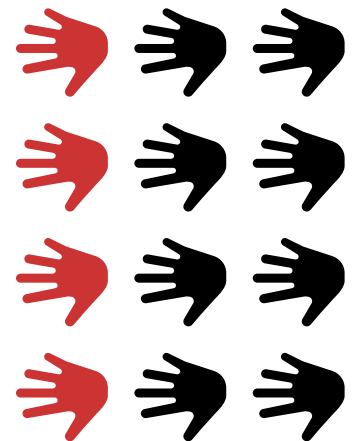
FOOD PROGRAMS: IN NUMBERS

An average of 1,073 individuals per month were served in the Food Programs from January through April.

Total Food Distributed: 267,737 Pounds
Dollar Valuation: \$674,697



In addition to Food Pantry visits, all neighbors are eligible to receive produce up to three times a month through the Fresh Food for Families program on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in our 2000 Railroad Avenue drive-through. Low-income seniors are eligible for additional food programs. Visit our website or call for more information.



Reporting
January - April 2022

Aileen Acuna, Food Pantry Intake Specialist, working in Bartlett.

PROGRAM UPDATES CONTINUED...

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Programs & Services is the department our neighbors go to sign up for Food Programs, request financial assistance, or enter our Case Management program to reach longer-term goals. We are happy to announce that Programs & Services is now fully open in-person Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 2001 Railroad Avenue. Neighbors will now come in person to request assistance instead of via phone. The Programs & Services team re-onboarded a number of volunteers to help us achieve this. They also have spent time reorganizing their processes to build efficiency and client-tailored experiences.

Part of current training involves motivational interviewing. This technique is a wonderful addition for our Case Managers and volunteers as they seek to help some neighbors reach personal goals to improve their quality of life. The confidence that comes with working towards critical goals and achieving them is incredibly rewarding for everyone.

Do you know neighbors who work a Monday through Friday schedule and need assistance? We are working towards utilizing a secure, online portal to assist those neighbors who would benefit from filling out paperwork from home or would like to save a little time once they arrive. Look for news on this exciting option later this summer!



Xinia Vargas, Case Manager (left) recently led the production of training videos for Programs & Services Volunteers. Staff members like Lisa McGreevey (right) became instant actors to assist in the project.



A MATTER OF BALANCE

A Matter of Balance (AMOB) is an evidence-based class specifically designed to reduce the fear of falling and improve activity levels among older adults. The program includes eight, two-hour classes presented to a small group of 8-12 participants led by trained coaches. Taking this class is proven to help prevent falls.

The Caring Place Programs & Services department recently held its first A Matter of Balance class since the beginning of the pandemic. Two of The Caring Place's Case Managers are trained coaches and able to teach this class. Currently, A Matter of Balance class is offered to clients and friends of The Caring Place, but we look to make future classes available to the public. An age of 60 or older is the only requirement.

Dulce Ramirez co-taught A Matter of Balance in May. Students pictured are Allan, Shirley and Ava.



GROUNDBREAKING SUPPORT



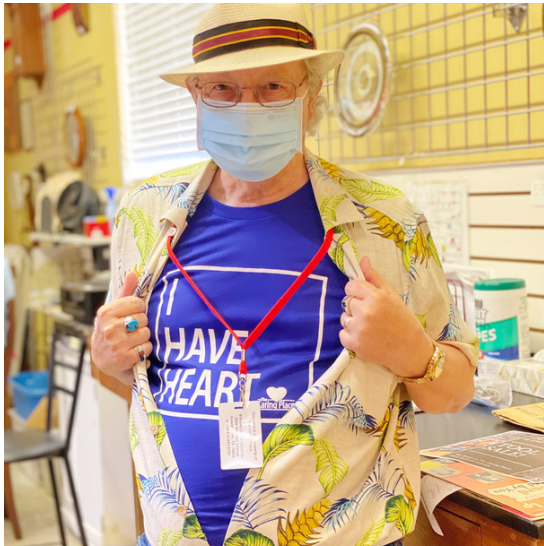
Ginna O'Connor, Executive Director with the HEB team in May

This year we have seen an abundance of growth in our community. As we look to serve more people with basic needs, we are honored that those building here think of The Caring Place as a trusted place to show support for their community. Both HEB and Jackson Shaw included The Caring Place in their groundbreaking ceremonies with a financial gift.



Jill Nalley, Communications Manager with the Jackson Shaw team in April

SPRING INTO VOLUNTEERING



Volunteer Stephen Gruenfelder knows he's a "Super Volunteer" as one of our dedicated Cashiers!



The success of The Caring Place depends on the dedication and heart of our volunteer workforce. The Caring Place has over two hundred volunteers who give their time each week, working side by side with our staff. Our hybrid team is a constant reminder of what can be accomplished when we all work together for a common goal of helping others. Volunteers are integral in The Caring Place's ability to scale operations up after the recent pandemic.

Are you looking for something meaningful to do in your spare time? We need to add additional caring hearts to our team!

Currently, we are looking for Cashiers, Pricers, Food Pantry Warehouse Helpers, Donation Intake Helpers, and more!

Visit caringplacetx.org/volunteer to learn more or to fill out an application.



These Volunteers and Staff participated in our annual "Spirit Week." We love when our team wears their TCP shirts! In these pictures you can see some of our volunteer opportunities in action.

Membership Council

Thirty-nine churches and organizations are part of The Caring Place family through membership on the Membership Council. The Membership Council provides feedback to The Caring Place Board of Directors so that it stays true to its original mission of helping families through an economic crisis in Georgetown and north Williamson County, making it a genuinely community-driven organization. The Membership Council meets at The Caring Place, where representatives can interact with the staff, volunteers, and board members on a quarterly basis.



Pictured Left to Right: Brenda Tyrell, Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church, Secretary, Royce Lindsey, Crestview Baptist Church, Chairman, Geri Scheer, Congregation Havurah Shalom, Vice-Chairman

Members currently include Celebration Church, Christ Lutheran Church, Christ Presbyterian Church, Church of the Nazarene, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Congregation of Havurah Shalom of Sun City, Crestview Baptist Church, Faith Impact Church, Faith Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church of Georgetown, First Presbyterian Church, First Texas Bank, First United Methodist Church of Georgetown, Georgetown Church of Christ, Georgetown Lions Club, Georgetown Seventh Day Adventist Church, Grace Episcopal Church, Grace Presbyterian Church, Hill Country Bible Church Georgetown, Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Corn Hill, Hope United Church, Jarrell United Methodist Church, Kiwanis Club of Sun City, Macedonia Baptist Church, Main Street Baptist Church, San Gabriel Presbyterian Church, San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church, Saving Grace Christian Bible Fellowship, Sertoma Club, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, St. Helen Catholic Church, St. John's United Methodist Church, St. Paul United Methodist Church, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Unity Church of Georgetown, Wellspring United Methodist Church, The Worship Place, Zion Lutheran Church.

If your business or organization is interested in joining the Membership Council, contact Rita Turner at 512-943-0702.

THRIFT STORES & YOU

Second Helping

The growth of the Georgetown community is undeniable when you make your way down Williams Drive. One thing that hasn't changed is the charming house at 3700 Williams Drive filled with furniture, decor, and hundreds of unique items. This thrift store holds a treasure hunt for the discerning eye and is a destination for those looking for some thrift store fun. Camille Campos was announced as our Store Manager this year and her friendly management style and creative display work keeps bringing customers back! Along with her team of volunteers and staff, Camille has kept merchandise moving through the store. What's new at Second Helping? A collection of fine and costume jewelry is back along with gorgeous displays of china, floral arrangements, and vintage textiles.



Camille Campos was promoted to Second Helping's Store Manager earlier this year.

Second Helping is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 3700 Williams Drive.



David Tetrault (left) was promoted as one of The Shops at The Caring Place's Assistant Store Managers this year. He is pictured here with Ann Lind, Retail Operations Director and volunteer Carol Jones.

The Shops at The Caring Place

The team at The Shops at The Caring Place is always in a hundred places at once, so the addition of David Tetrault as an Assistant Manager was a welcome promotion this spring. We are excited to have his energy and new ideas.

What's new at this location? Our outdoor room is now enclosed and showcases our amazing collection of books. Plans for the future include a new area for outdoor merchandise and the return of a dressing room to the floor. Look for that and more this summer!

The Shops at The Caring Place is located at 2000 Railroad Avenue and open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Volunteer Al Beaver

Amplify Results Are In!

Due to the generous gifts of our board, matching sponsors, and incredible community members like YOU, The Caring Place surpassed its goal of raising \$110,000 during the Amplify campaign!

Ultimately, we raised just over \$122,000 to benefit programs and services that The Caring Place offers to neighbors in need! Out of over 700 nonprofits participating in this Central Texas online giving event, The Caring Place raised the 10th most funds according to the Amplify leaderboard! This speaks to your commitment as a community to be a good neighbor when folks need it most. We thank you for being the kind of people who step up when families are struggling, and for making this the most caring community around!

We hope as the year continues, you'll remember the work you help us do through campaigns like this one.



TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING! LET'S DONATE & SHOP!



Fill the Stores!

Your generous item donations keep our thrift stores filled!

You can donate gently used or new items
Monday - Saturday
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in our
2000 Railroad Avenue drive through.

By filling our stores, you directly support programs and services which help neighbors in need.

Learn more at
caringplacetx.org/donatemystuff

We have two thrift stores in Georgetown that offer a wonderful shopping experience. We can help you make every season one to remember with décor and unique gifts. Find fashion for all at our Railroad location.

When you shop at The Caring Place, your purchases support our mission. We call that "Shopping for Good."

The Shops at The Caring Place
2000 Railroad Avenue | 512-943-0700
Open Mon-Sat, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.


Second Helping
3700 Williams Drive | 512-987-2998
Open Tues-Sat, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Learn more at caringplacetx.org/shop

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.



"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Desmond Tutu

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, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
2000 Railroad Avenue drive through
512-943-0700
caringplacetx.org

Georgetown, TX 78627-1215
PO Box 1215

Helping neighbors in need since 1985

The Caring Place

