

THE CARING PLACE

Another Season of Caring in Our Community

GOING STRONG IN GEORGETOWN

Have your parents ever lived with you so you can help them financially or even physically? For many families, this is a solution to help care for aging parents with a low or limited income. It makes sense, but what if the unexpected happens and the parents outlive the child? That's the scenario that played out for Samuel and Patricia, also known as Sam and "Momma," both in their 70s. Their son passed away from a heart condition and that's when the crisis began. Sam and Patricia couldn't afford their rent and have poor mobility due to several health issues. Thankfully, their landlord referred the couple to The Caring Place and that's when their journey to regain their independence began.

Even while grieving, it was critical that Sam and Patricia find a more affordable apartment. However, when you are in your 70s with a cancer and diabetes diagnosis, the idea of moving and packing up your deceased son's belongings and your own is daunting and expensive. The Caring Place helped with rent at their new apartment so that the couple could hire movers. The Caring Place also connected Sam and Momma with a church group that packed up their home. The phrase, 'it takes a village,' applies here as the couple got back on their feet in a new location. "There's no way me and Momma could lift all that stuff," Sam shared. Sam and Patricia also received food from the Food Pantry and gas cards to help them stretch their budget as they got settled into their new place. "Me and momma don't eat a whole lot, but it helps," said Sam as he shared what services he and Patricia used to help them create stability again. "If anybody needs help, this is the place to come. There are very nice people here."

Another surprise Patricia and Sam found at The Caring Place was a mobility scooter. Both have difficulty getting around, especially Patricia who has weak ankles and whose weight has



Samuel and Patricia are still taking care of one another.

dropped significantly due to cancer. The mobility scooter helps the couple do simple things like get the mail and take the trash out at their apartment complex. Next, they hope to save up to buy an attachment for their vehicle so they can take the scooter to stores or appointments.

Throughout the interview, Sam called Patricia "Momma." At the end of the meeting, we asked Patricia what she called Sam. She smiled and teased, "A lot of trouble," but continued, "No, he takes care of me, doesn't let me do anything." Sam interjected, "I gotta take care of you, Momma. It's been a great life, and it's going to continue. Me and my wife, we are going to stick around here." This marriage is 54 years strong and full of hope because The Caring Place helped Sam and Patricia through a crisis. What began with a week of dating and a \$2 marriage license is still going strong here in Georgetown.

FOR INSPIRATION



"The Caring Place changed my mind about asking for help. Everyone needs help at some point and this happened to be my point. It made everything better for me. It opened up so many doors. We got to know the people at The Caring Place too and they were excited with us when we got the keys to our apartment. It was pouring rain that day and we didn't care. We had to come see the people here. We were very thankful...If you need the help go get it," said Brad.

Excerpted from Brad and Renee's story. Read more about Renee and Brad and other success stories at caringplacetx.org/testimonials.

Case Manager Xinia Vargas (far left) and Basic Needs Coordinator Sheryl Rich (far right) pose with Renee and Brad (center). It was a celebratory meeting when the couple began progressing toward their goals, bringing their family closer to stability.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THINGS HAPPEN



Jill and Rita have rallied our community for the past six years during Amplify.

During February and March, you helped The Caring Place exceed its fundraising goal during its annual Amplify campaign. Thanks to you and our fantastic matching sponsors, we raised \$130,140 during this year's online campaign. THANK YOU!

Among over 700 non-profits in Central Texas participating in Amplify, The Caring Place raised the sixth-highest amount. That's amazing and a testament to the support we have from you!

We want to give a special shout-out to The Caring Place Board of Directors, Stephen Benold, First Texas Bank, Steger Bizzell, Eagle Bank, a Branch of Round Top State Bank, Georgetown Railroad Company, Texas Crushed Stone, Inc., Pope Materials, Inc., and The Gabriels Funeral Chapel and Crematory. These groups and individuals collectively promised \$59,000 in matching funds to this campaign and because of you, we more than doubled it! To be part of this incredible campaign in 2024 as a sponsor, contact Rita at rturner@caringplacetx.org or 512-943-0702.

There is one thing just as exciting as your financial gifts though, and that's what those gifts accomplish in our community. Keep reading for a 2023 update!

Community Supported and Mission Driven Work

Programs & Services in Numbers: Data reflects January - April of 2023

- 5,027 unique individuals (1,902 households) received services since January;
- Total new individuals - 1,305;
- A pilot transportation program assisted 508 individuals YTD (total 698 since July 2022, pilot inception);
- Nearly 25% of financial requests are now submitted through our online application, which launched in September, 2022.

Food Programs in Numbers: Data reflects January - April of 2023

- 11,023 visits were made to the Food Pantry or remote distributions in Jarrell, Bartlett or Granger;
- We have distributed 269,157 pounds of food through The Caring Place Food Pantry and remote distribution;
- An average of 20 new neighbors 55 and older signed up for HOPE (Healthy Options Program for the Elderly) each month. The Caring Place has distributed 822 HOPE boxes this calendar year. Utilization of this program is at an all-time high;
- The total value of all food distributed since January is \$678,275.

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. **You share what we do!** Those services highlighted above would not be utilized without you letting people know they exist! 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 crisis 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 are eager for a partnership.

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



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 remote distribution, 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.

MORE ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

ITEM DONATIONS



Expanded Hours! The Donations team expanded hours this spring. You can now drop off new and gently used clothing, housewares, art, décor and more **Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** This is GREAT news!

The truth about your donations is...

their impact reaches far beyond a single individual receiving your gently used items. It's true that through a voucher system, individuals can shop for specific things they need, free of charge, like school or work clothes, pots and pans and other household items. However, for many families, the help they need goes beyond items in the thrift store. Neighbors in crisis often need help with rent, utility bills or even gasoline. Allowing The Caring Place to sell your donated items at affordable prices allows everyone in our community to benefit. It also helps us pay critical bills for neighbors in need, which can make a meaningful impact on someone about to lose household stability. Things like job losses, medical crises or unexpected repairs may sound simple but can have a long-term effect. There is a bigger picture at play here at The Caring Place. We are so thankful you see it and are expanding our abilities by donating your stuff.

FOOD DONATIONS



Food Drives are Back! To ensure we are filling the Food Pantry with the items we need most, we assign groups a particular item to collect during Food or Necessity Drives. Why "Food & Necessities?" Because we give out more than food; think hygiene items, diapers, detergent, toilet paper and other basics.

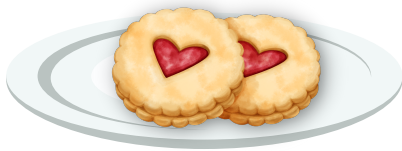
Contact Natalie Tucker at 512-943-0738 with questions or email her at fooddonations@caringplacetx.org to schedule your next group collection.

Whether you are a group or an individual wishing to collect Pantry items for us, we invite you to park in our reserved parking spot at 2000 Railroad Avenue. Staff or volunteers will help you unload your Pantry donations during regular Pantry hours; Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thank you for helping us add variety to the Food Pantry!

CHAT & CHEW - EVENING EDITION

Chat & Chew

evening edition



The summer just got cooler. The Caring Place has an educational opportunity to fit your schedule. Join us for light refreshments as we share our mission, our work and take you on a behind-the-scenes tour of The Caring Place. Are you curious about what we do and our purpose in the community? Do you find an in-person approach is the best way to learn? **RSVP by July 14th for this free, limited seating event on Tuesday, July 18th at 6 p.m. RSVP to Rita Turner at rturner@caringplacetx.org or 512-943-0702.**

You'll attend this exclusive, no strings attached tour with our Community Engagement Manager and Communications Manager. Their enthusiasm and storytelling will inspire your thoughts about what it means to be engaged in your community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE



Stephen Schlobohm,
Board of Directors, 2017-2023

"The Caring Place is blessed to have excellent leadership in its knowledgeable and supportive Board of Directors. Although the Board typically elects new officers and board members annually in June, this year has been unusual in that we've had some unanticipated changes in the middle of the year. In January, we mourned the passing of Board member Stephen Schlobohm, a long-time volunteer and TCP supporter. Also in January, Hugh Brown, TCP Board President and CEO of St. David's Georgetown Hospital, announced plans to retire in early April. Rhonda Wilson, Vice President of TCP's Board, has seamlessly assumed the role of President by a unanimous vote of the Board. We are grateful to our Board of Directors, especially during this time of transition, for the continuity of their leadership and governance of The Caring Place."

-Ginna O'Connor, Executive Director



CELEBRATE

The Caring Place's 38th Anniversary!

**38% off in our stores
June 24 - June 30**

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 will be closed Saturday, July 1st for inventory.

Learn about Our Mission & Volunteer Opportunities

Meet our Community Engagement Manager & Volunteer Coordinator in the store and learn what we do in the community.
(And Eat Cookies!)

2000 Railroad Avenue
June 26 - June 30
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Take a Tour

2000 Railroad Avenue
Thursday, June 29th at 10:00 a.m.
RSVP for the tour at 512-943-0702

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION FIESTA



On Sunday, April 30th, The Caring Place hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Fiesta. We loved seeing over 200 friends together at this event. We played musical Bingo and awarded volunteers with their 5, 10 and 20-year service pins! We are happy to have this time together each year.



You Can Give The Gift of Time



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.



'BEAT THE HEAT' BY SHOPPING & DONATING

Fill the Stores!

Your generous item donations keep our thrift stores filled!

You can donate gently used or new items
Monday - Saturday
10:00 a.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

Our two thrift stores in Georgetown offer a fun and affordable thrift shopping experience. 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.



"The Caring Place changed my mind about asking for help. Everyone needs help at some point and this happened to be my point. It made everything better for me. It opened up so many doors." - Brad


 512-943-0700
caringplacetx.org
 2000 Railroad Avenue drive through, Georgetown
 Mon-Sat, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
NEW
 Item Donations
 512-987-2998
 3700 Williams Drive, Georgetown
 Thrift Store, Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Second Helping
 The Shops at The Caring Place
 2000 Railroad Avenue, Georgetown
 Thrift Store, Mon-Sat, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 2000 Railroad Avenue, Georgetown
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Food Pantry
 2001 Railroad Avenue, Georgetown
 Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Programs & Services


Helping neighbors in need since 1985
The Caring Place

 PO Box 1215
 Georgetown, TX 78627-1215