



PO Box 1215
Georgetown, TX 78627

(512) 943-0700
caringplacetx.org

Programs & Services
2001 Railroad Ave., Georgetown
Mon - Fri, 9 AM - 4 PM

Food Pantry
2000 Railroad Ave., Georgetown
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 9 AM - 4 PM

**The Shops at The Caring Place
& Donations Drive-Through**
2000 Railroad Ave., Georgetown
Mon - Sat, 10 AM - 4 PM

Second Helping
3700 Williams Dr., Georgetown
Tues - Sat, 10 AM - 4 PM
512-987-2998



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HONORS:

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2026

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Charity
Navigator



FOUR-STAR



A Neighbor Finds Financial Freedom

Spring/Summer 2026



*Kenny's Story of Debt, Determination, and Starting Over
and other news and stories from The Caring Place*



Connect with
The Caring Place!





From the Executive Director

At The Caring Place, gratitude is one of our values, and we try to stay mindful of it all the time. This season, though, that gratitude feels even more powerful than usual, and I want to take a moment to tell you why.

The demand for basic needs assistance in our community continues to grow. From January through April of this year, we served 8,120 unique individuals, 7% more neighbors than last year. Across nearly every category of support we provide, from utilities to food, transportation, and medical assistance, more families are turning to The Caring Place for help. That is both a sobering reality and a call to action that this community has answered with remarkable generosity.

Food donations have more than tripled this year. Our donations drive-through team is seeing 51% more drop-offs every single day, and the increased revenue from sales in our stores and online flows directly back into the assistance we provide to neighbors. The generosity we are witnessing, from individual donors, retail partners, and friends near and far, allows us to serve more neighbors in more ways than ever before.

What moves me most is not any single statistic or story, but the pattern behind all of them: you and so many caring people in our community see a need and you show up - time and again. That spirit is what makes The Caring Place possible, and it is what you will feel on every page of this newsletter.

Thank you for being part of something truly special and impactful.

Gratefully,

Ginna O'Connor
Executive Director

Table of Contents

- 2 **A Neighbor Finds Financial Freedom** - Kenny's Story of Debt, Determination, and Starting Over
- 3 **A Pantry Full of Good News** - More Food, More Hours, More Neighbors Served
- 4 **How We're Helping Neighbors in 2026** - A Look at Our Programs and Services
- 5 **Thérèse Verdonk-Vertruyen's Motto in Motion** - Driving Giving in the Community
- 6 **A Veteran's Salute** - Frank Espinosa Recognizes the Programs & Services Team
- 7 **Shopping for Good** - Something New Around Every Corner
- 8 **The Caring Place Anniversary Sale** - Thank You for Supporting The Caring Place for 41 Years!
- 9 **Save the Dates!** - Upcoming Holidays, Closures, and Programs at The Caring Place
- 10 **Thank You, Volunteers!**

A Neighbor Finds Financial Freedom

Kenny will tell you he's just a regular person. "I'm nobody special," he says with a laugh. But sit with him for a few minutes and a different picture emerges, one of a man who found himself in financial crisis, asked for help, and rebuilt with remarkable determination.

A handyman by trade, Kenny knows how to fix things. But in 2024, facing eviction and running out of options, he took out a \$1,800 title loan against his truck. Kenny cares for his mother and lives on a conservative budget. He paid his loan payment on time each month, but with a 309% interest rate, the balance barely budged. "You don't think about it when you need that money," he says. "The loan is what I needed to pay my bills."

Kenny is very candid about the situation. "I made a mistake. You know, making a bad decision doesn't mean it's over. And it doesn't define a person. It could be the sign of a fresh start." That fresh start came through The Caring Place's Alternative Loan Program, a partnership with First Texas Bank that gives people in financial crisis a real path forward. The program replaces a predatory high-interest loan with a new loan at an affordable interest rate.

Describing the relief after being approved for the Alternative Loan Program, Kenny shared, **"It gave me a sense of freedom. I don't like the word hustle, but I could go work harder to achieve the next level of success. And that's what the new loan did - not worrying about, 'Oh man, am I going to wake up and these guys are going to have hooked my car up over \$1,800?'** I'm never getting it paid down. I just paid \$500, and the balance is still \$1,800. I paid again, and it's still \$1,800." Then I finally got the wisdom to say, 'This isn't working.' And I thought, maybe The Caring Place would be an alternative to help me."

When he was approved, Kenny immediately took his check to the payday lender and got his title back. While there, they offered to help if he ever needed it again. Kenny proudly recalls replying, "You will never be in my picture again." He later got an email from the company with the message 'You're approved for a loan!' and he unsubscribed. "Those loans are dangerous," he added. "If I was recommending, yes or no, 100% no, find another resource. Because you'll never get out of a payday loan." It was that financial freedom of escaping that loan, he says, that gave him back the ability to rebuild everything else.



Our Neighbor Kenny

Kenny got back to doing what he does best. He textures walls, frames houses, handles repairs, and takes on handyman work across the area. He is proud of his craft and of how he shows up to a job site. In June 2025, his old truck finally gave out. Because his finances were now stable and his credit score had climbed, he was able to replace his truck with a brand new one. This new, reliable truck gave him the peace of mind to support and grow his business.

Kenny is also proud of another kind of reconstruction - he is more than two years sober. He still cares for his mother, taking her to Mass every Sunday at Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church in Andice, where The Caring Place is featured in the weekly bulletin. After losing his father and his wife, he has rebuilt his days around family, faith, and giving back where he can.

Now, Kenny and his mother bring fresh eggs from their backyard chickens to the church food pantry. For Kenny, paying it forward is simply part of how he has rebuilt his life. He came in ready to do the work. The Caring Place just helped him lay the foundation. As an experienced handyman, Kenny built the rest himself.



At First Texas Bank, we believe everyone deserves a path to financial stability.

Through our long standing partnership with The Caring Place's Alternative Loan Program, individuals like Kenny facing financial challenges can access small dollar loans designed to help rebuild credit, establish positive financial habits, and create opportunities for a brighter future. It is one more way we are investing in the financial well being of the communities we serve.

Alexis Michael
President & CEO of First Texas Bank

A Pantry Full of Good News

The need for food assistance continues to grow, and we are grateful that our community has risen to meet it. **Thanks to incredible community generosity, total inbound food donations have more than tripled this year and financial donations to purchase food have increased.** This outpouring of support means tangible change for our neighbors. The value of food distributed has increased, and there are more pantry categories to choose from, meaning neighbors can select more items — including toiletries.


Some of that growth comes from our retail partnerships via the Central Texas Food Bank's Food Diversion Program. We make regular pickups from the Parmer Ranch H-E-B, Wolf Lakes H-E-B, and Georgetown Costco, bringing in a variety of items including more proteins, fresh produce, dairy — and occasional treats. These partnerships ensure that good food that might otherwise go to waste ends up on the shelves of neighbors who need it most.

Thank you to the Parmer Ranch H-E-B for allowing us to pick up donations three times each week!



Food Programs staff Jeff and James

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sent 250 truckloads of food donations to food banks and pantries around the country, including The Caring Place! In April, the church helped fill not just our shelves, but the shelves at six other pantries in Williamson County!

This donation - 31,500 pounds of food - was grown and processed by dedicated church members, staff, volunteers, and missionaries, and then driven over 1,200 miles, to fill pantries like ours. The whole process was an amazing demonstration of community care and we are proud to have played a part in distributing this generous gift. 

Beginning July 16th, The Caring Place Food Pantry will be open an additional day! The pantry will open on **Thursdays from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.** each week as a pilot aimed at expanding access for neighbors who are unable to visit during our regular hours. Thanks to these new hours and the increase in food donations, *every day* is a good day to shop. The pantry is always stocked and we can't wait to see neighbors who need food support!

Thank you to the donors, staff, volunteers, and partners who make it possible for us to expand our hours and help more neighbors!



Food Programs Mgr. Dave recording a video about Quick Boxes with Communications Mgr. Hannah

New! Food Pantry Quick Boxes

Neighbors visiting the Food Pantry can choose to shop for themselves or get a Quick Box. Both options are available to all shoppers for their monthly visit to the pantry, but Quick Boxes offer a faster option for neighbors in a hurry. Neighbors can expect to be in and out of the pantry with their Quick Box in 5-10 minutes.

How We're Helping Neighbors in 2026



The number of neighbors turning to The Caring Place for support continues to rise. From **January through April 2026, we served 8,120 unique individuals** — a 7% increase over the same period last year.

Twice a month, our Loads of Caring program provides free laundry services to ensure our neighbors can wash and dry their clothes and other laundry. **So far in 2026, neighbors have done 6,581 loads of laundry** at Loads of Caring events.



When facing a financial crisis, keeping a roof overhead can feel impossible. **From January through April 2026 alone, we provided rent or mortgage assistance to help keep 755 neighbors in their homes** — 22% more than during the same period last year.

With summer heat around the corner, utility assistance is critical to more neighbors. **Through April, The Caring Place provided 86% more neighbors with utility assistance than last year.** In just four months, **399 individuals** received support keeping their A/C on and their water running. *Keep reading to learn about one of the ways you can help!*



New Food Pantry Hours!

The Good Neighbor Fund



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Keep the Lights On

The Good Neighbor Fund is a donation-based program sponsored by the City of Georgetown to help qualifying utility customers who are struggling to pay their bills. This vital program is powered by voluntary contributions from residents like you and is administered by The Caring Place. Every dollar donated goes toward helping neighbors keep their lights on and water running.



Programs & Services Coordinators Sheryl and Lora

To contribute to the Good Neighbor Fund, add a donation to your own utility bill. To begin, visit your online CSS portal account under Payment Programs.



Need Help?

If you or someone you know is struggling to pay a utility bill, The Caring Place may be able to help. Reach out directly to our Programs and Services team to learn more about eligibility and how to apply. Visit Programs and Services Monday – Friday from 9 AM – 4 PM at 2001 Railroad Ave. or call us at 512-943-0700. The last check-in for financial assistance is 2:30 PM.

Thérèse Verdonk-Vertruyen's Motto in Motion

Thérèse Verdonk-Vertruyen's simple but powerful personal motto - "give while you live" - is one she honors without hesitation. When she reflected on how to make an impact with funds from her late parents, her motto pointed the way.

When our 2005 donations truck was permanently retired in early 2026, Thérèse chose to donate a new, larger box truck to pick up donated furniture. Thérèse and her husband Carlos have volunteered and supported The Caring Place for nearly 12 years, and this gift reflects that enduring commitment. Wrapped with the phrase "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," Thérèse's gift is a life-size reminder to care for each other. It's also an essential tool to help The Caring Place collect donations that fill our stores, supporting the assistance we provide in the community.



The Donations Team with Thérèse, Ginna, and the truck



The Donations Team: Ryan, Jalen, Martin, Ty, & Isaiah

Call the Donations Team at 512-943-0711 to schedule a pickup of your gently used furniture.

"The new truck supports our neighbors that have large items to give, but don't have a vehicle or cannot move furniture. We will also be able to pickup even more furniture as the community continues to grow."

Jalen, Retail Asst. Manager

A Veteran's Salute to The Caring Place



"Proudly presented this date to the staff of the Client Services Department, The Caring Place, for sustained superior performance over several years by providing for the basic human needs of all people in our community (including our veterans) in a welcoming, respectful and caring way."

The Programs & Services Team, from Left to Right: Delia, Boo, Esea, Lora, Frank, Xinia, Kathleen, Sheryl, and Erin

For more than 11 years, Frank Espinosa has volunteered alongside The Caring Place Programs & Services staff, contributing to the dedicated, heartfelt work of serving neighbors facing a crisis. A retired Navy Lieutenant and active member of the American Legion, VFW, and U.S. Submarine Veterans, Frank recently gathered the Programs & Services team to say thank you by presenting the staff with a set of challenge coins. Challenge coins are a time-honored tradition in veterans' organizations, given to recognize individuals or groups who demonstrate exceptional contributions to their community. Frank presented the staff with three coins accompanied by an inscription that speaks to the heart of their work.

"What I wanted to do today is thank the staff for what you do, day in and day out," Frank said. "You keep this community going." Day after day, the Programs & Services team welcomes neighbors facing hardship with dignity and care. They connect families with food, financial assistance, and other essential resources, often serving as the first point of contact for people in their most vulnerable moments. For veterans like Frank, knowing that his fellow community members, including those who have served their country, are met with respect and compassion means everything.

Join Thérèse today in her mission to give generously. How will you give while you live?

6 Ways To Give While You Live!

Generosity and caring comes in a variety of forms. A legacy is not just something we leave behind, but something we can build in the present. Here are several creative ways people can give to support neighbors in need.



One-Time Gifts



Gifts of Stock



Donor Advised Funds



Planned Gifts



Life Insurance Policies

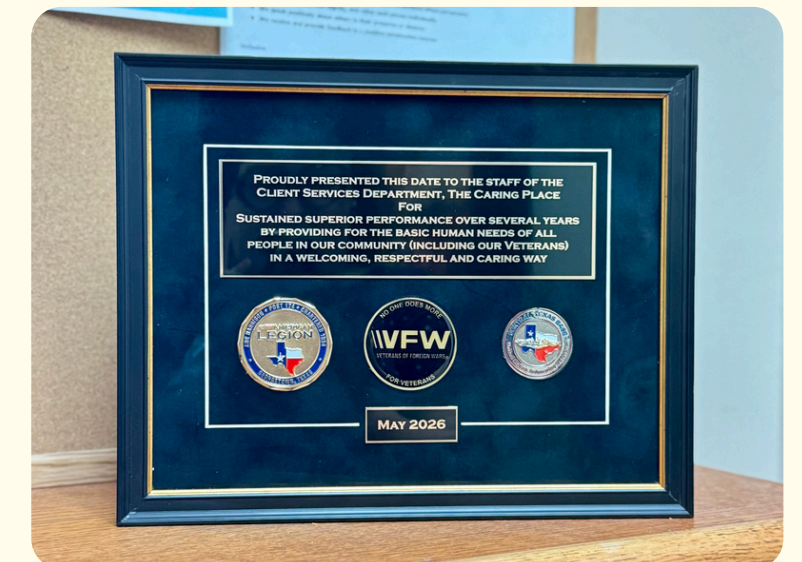


Donate Monthly

Request Info:



Or Email jdavis@caringplacetx.org



Shopping for Good



The Caring Place
Helping neighbors in need since 1985

Second Helping

Now is a great time to stop in Second Helping! Retail Manager Omar is thoughtfully rearranging the store to create an even better shopping experience, and the selection is worth the trip. Quality furniture and an impressive jewelry collection await, with every piece of jewelry carefully processed, researched, and priced by dedicated volunteers. Whether you are furnishing a room or hunting for a hidden gem, every purchase supports neighbors right here in our community.



The Shops at The Caring Place

There is always something new to discover at The Shops at The Caring Place! The newest additions include the Decorating 4 Seasons Boutique, a dedicated space for seasonal and holiday décor available year-round. Fans of the beloved Vintage and Textile Sale will be thrilled to know it is no longer just an annual event — vintage and textile finds are now available every time you visit. And do not miss the new \$1 off-season clearance racks, where great items are always waiting at an unbeatable price.

Did you know The Caring Place has an eBay store?

It is a great place to find unique items that have been carefully selected from our donations, and every purchase supports neighbors right here in Georgetown! Whether you are a seasoned eBay shopper or just browsing, you never know what treasure you might find. Visit caringplacetx.org/eBay to see what is listed today!



Shop for good online! Vinyl, movies, video games, books, decor, and so much more!



Collectibles



Vintage Toys



Instruments



Clothing



41

years of caring

41ST ANNIVERSARY SALE

 **THE CARING PLACE**
2000 Railroad Ave.
Georgetown, TX 78626
Mon - Sat, 10 AM to 4 PM

 **SECOND HELPING**
3700 Williams Dr.
Georgetown, TX 78628
Tues - Sat, 10 AM - 4 PM


JUNE 24 - 30, 2026
41% Off Storewide to Say Thank You 
for Supporting Our Mission!

Save These Dates!

Don't forget! Add these dates to your calendar!

**Friday,
June 19**

Juneteenth
All Locations Closed

**Wednesday,
July 1**

Inventory
The Shops at The Caring Place & Second Helping Closed

**Saturday,
July 4**

Independence Day
All Locations Closed

**Wed. & Thurs.,
July 8-9**

Professional Development
Programs and Services Closed

**Friday,
August 14**

Professional Development
All Locations Closed

**Monday,
Sept. 7**

Labor Day
All Locations Closed - Fresh Food for Families Canceled

Loads of Caring

Second Tuesday and Last Thursday of Each Month, 4-8 PM, at Washatopia

Thursday, June 25th
Tuesday, July 14th
Thursday, July 30th
Tuesday, August 11th
Thursday, August 27th

Fresh Food for Families

First, Third, and Fifth Mondays, 2000 Railroad Ave.

June 15th and 29th
July 6th and 20th
August 3rd, 17th, and 31st
No FFF on Labor Day, Sept. 7th

New Food Pantry Hours Begin in July

Beginning July 16th, the Food Pantry will be open on Thursdays from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Thank You, Volunteers!

Thank you to the 449 volunteers who donated their time and talent to us in 2025! As part of our annual volunteer appreciation celebration, we recognized 17 volunteers who served for 5, 10, 15, or 20 years. Combined, they have an astounding 200 years of supporting The Caring Place! We are so grateful to each individual who chooses to share their time with us.

Ready to join this amazing team of volunteers? Fill out the application at caringplacetx.org/volunteer - we can't wait to meet you.



2025-2026 Board of Directors

President Harriett Jones
Vice President Glenn Schwab
Secretary Lindsay Harris
Treasurer John Sullivan
At-Large Jen Mauldin
Michelle Betts
Chuck Collins
Jan C. Love
Royce Lindsey
Alexis Michael
Paul Partlow
Robin P. Stewart
John Stock
Ian Todd



**Meet
The TCP
Team!**

Learn more about The Caring Place Volunteers, Membership Council, and Board of Directors!

Membership Council

Want more information about how your business or organization can join the Membership Council? Email us at engage@caringplacetx.org!

The Council is one way organizations and businesses contribute to The Caring Place. Member organizations commit to providing volunteers and donations, helping connect their community with our mission.

Celebration Church
Christ Lutheran Church
Christ Presbyterian Church
Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints
Congregation Havurah Shalom
Crestview Baptist Church
Faith Impact Church
Faith Lutheran Church
First Baptist Church Georgetown
First Presbyterian Church
First Texas Bank
First United Methodist Church Georgetown
Church of Christ Georgetown

Church of the Nazarene
Georgetown Lions Club
Georgetown Seventh Day Adventist
Grace Episcopal Church
Grace Presbyterian Church
Hill Country Bible Church
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Jarrell Hope United Church
Kiwanis Club
Macedonia Baptist
Main Street Baptist Church
San Gabriel Presbyterian Church
San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist

Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church
Saving Grace Christian Bible Fellowship
Sertoma Club
St. Helen Catholic Church
St. John's Methodist Church
St. Paul United Methodist Church
St. Peter Lutheran
Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church
The Worship Place
Unity Church of Georgetown
Wellspring United Methodist Church
Zion Lutheran Church

