

How Your Support Changes Lives



A Client's Story

I always thought I had things in place. Then suddenly like dominoes, things changed overnight. I had been caring for my husband, who had lost both kidneys, and other members of my family. But I hadn't been caring for myself. I got sick because of COPD and a rheumatoid arthritis-like condition and I lost my job in 2012.

I had no source of income at all for a whole year. I was behind in my property taxes and had to file bankruptcy. It was a domino effect. One bad thing after another. I was so distraught, I didn't know which way to turn. I couldn't think.

So I went to The Caring Place not knowing what to expect. People were so nice at The Caring Place. They gave me food and treated me with respect. They did more for me than I ever expected. Besides the food, they helped me pay my utility bills. They helped me get dental assistance. And they helped with my medical bills and enabled me to get medicine for hypertension and cholesterol which I hadn't been taking because I couldn't afford it. They have been a saving grace for me.

When I came to The Caring Place, I had some tall pride swallowing to do. But nobody made me feel less than a person. They are loving about what they do. I like how they meet with you in offices in the back so it's private.

I just didn't know the extent of all

that The Caring Place offered. They didn't send me all over the place looking for services. The Caring Place helped me to get on my feet where I could at least see the light of day. It was by God's grace that I received help from them.

I like to give accolades where they are due and I don't give them easily. What The Caring Place does, matters. In today's economic environment—even though they say that we're in the middle of a recovery—the poor and working class don't necessarily feel it.

I came to The Caring Place for food but they've done so much more. If I could give to The Caring Place, I would give double. They have transformed my life.

Brenda, Client

Brenda's story is just one of many at The Caring Place, and the demand for basic human needs is growing! In 2014, The Caring Place served over 5,400 individuals. Additionally, of the families we served, 41%, were new clients requesting assistance from The Caring Place. In 2014, compared to the number of families served in 2013, we saw a:

- 60% increase in families assisted with clothing and household items
- 52% increase in families assisted with utilities to prevent shut-off
- 31% increase in families using our Food Pantry
- 23% increase in families assisted with housing to prevent eviction or foreclosure



WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE CARING PLACE

The Caring Place needs your help in meeting the growing needs! There are many ways you can assist The Caring Place in helping others:

- Learn more about the comprehensive services we provide by attending a monthly Lunch 'n Learn or inviting us to make a presentation (contact our Community Engagement Department, 512-943-0702).

- Refer a person in need and let others know about our services – word of mouth is powerful!
- Share your gently used items which we sell and turn into cash at our thrift store, *The Shops at The Caring Place*.
- Shop often at *The Shops at the Caring Place*! Our eclectic donated inventory changes continuously – don't miss the incredible buys!
- Join our fabulous volunteer staff and share your time and talent!
- Share your treasure by making a monetary donation, 100% of which will be used to help our neighbors in need.

**HOWEVER YOU CHOOSE TO HELP....
THANK YOU!!!**

**WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT
YOU.**



Message From The Board President

Dear Friend,

Spring at The Caring Place is a time of renewal. This year, spring is especially exciting for us as it commemorates three decades of service in Georgetown and rural Williamson County.

As we anticipate our 30th anniversary on June 8th, I am in awe of what you have enabled us to accomplish. Through generous donations of time, talent and treasure, you and the rest of our friends, volunteers and donors have helped The Caring Place become a central resource for helping families in financial crisis in Williamson County.

The minutes from our very first board meeting on August 12, 1985 included this note from then Director, Yoli Branson: "The Caring Place served 60 adults and 125 children in June and 106 adults and 178 children in July." The assistance and the care that existed then continues today. Last year, we served over 5,400 people.

When visitors tour The Caring Place for the first time, they are often amazed at the magnitude and complexity of our operation. It takes many caring hands, minds and hearts to do what we do, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our 500+ volunteers and our staff who keep things running in a thoughtful and efficient manner. Volunteers founded The Caring Place thirty years ago and they continue to be the lifeblood of our organization.

I am also deeply appreciative of the fine people who I have the privilege to serve with on our Board of Directors and our Advisory Council. These community leaders selflessly serve with their time, expertise and treasure. We are indeed blessed to have such a professional and compassionate group at the helm of our ship.

It is with a sense of deep gratitude that I thank you for your caring heart for families who need our help and for your unwavering support of this organization.

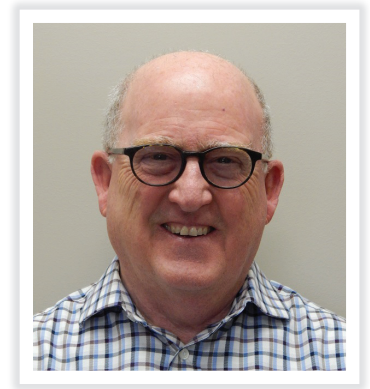
In this 30th Anniversary issue of our newsletter, you will glimpse some of the contributions of and appreciation for all who love and support The Caring Place. We truly appreciate you and hope that you will join us as we celebrate 30 years of service to our community!

God's Blessings,

Lenora Doefler

Board President, 2014-2015

The Caring Place Welcomes **Dr. Stephen Benold** to its Board of Directors



Stephen Benold is a retired family physician. He was a physician in the Georgetown Medical Clinic for 22 years, and the medical director of the Williamson County EMS for 32 years. Currently he is practicing as a certified financial planner, mostly doing retirement planning and investment management. He is active in the First United Methodist Church, where he has taught a Sunday school class for 27 years. He has a wife, Nancy, and 2 grown children, Amy and Jordan.

*Welcome,
Dr. Benold!*

I REMEMBER WHEN

"I remember our first call for a pick-up of furniture in Taylor in 1985. We went in the evening in our cars and we were so excited that we stopped for pizza to celebrate on the way back!"

~ Sue Farrington

1985



1985

Our first home at 303 W. 8th Street, a converted slaughterhouse in Georgetown, donated by Mayor Carl Doering

1990



1990

Ground was broken for a new and larger home at 2001 Railroad Avenue



30 YEARS OF CARING

As The Caring Place celebrates its 30th birthday, it remains true to the mission for which the organization was founded – helping those in crisis with basic human services. We want to recognize and honor the legacy of all the volunteers, Board members and employees who came before us and helped shape The Caring Place into what it is today.

The Caring Place opened on June 8, 1985 with a handful of volunteers, 3 bags of clothes and \$17. Former Georgetown Mayor Carl Doering donated our first building, an old slaughter house on W. 8th Street.

Over the years, The Caring Place has undergone 7 major expansions or relocations to: better serve more client families, improve its ability to accept donated items, and increase sales volume in the thrift store. Today, between its two locations on Railroad Avenue,

The Caring Place spans 36,074 square feet, and it takes approximately 100 volunteers and 19 employees to operate the facilities on a daily basis. On average, 119 people come here every day to donate their gently used items for sale in our thrift store.

We know that our future success – helping more families in need – is only possible with the continued support of our community friends and partners. The Caring Place Board of Directors, Advisory Council, volunteers and employees are committed to ensuring that we continue to fulfill our mission to help families in financial crisis. It is because of the continued support from people like you that we are able to honor that commitment. Thank you!



AMPLIFY AUSTIN: Our Friends Helped Us Beat The Clock!

This year, for the first time, The Caring Place participated in Amplify Austin, a community-wide day of on-line giving. Between March 5th and 6th, 46 individuals donated to our Coats for Kids and Holiday Meal Assistance programs. Donors also made off-line donations to The Caring Place for this event for a grand total of \$4,860. We thank everyone who participated in Amplify Austin. Stay tuned for information about how you can participate in next year's campaign!

AN ALTERNATIVE TO HIGH-INTEREST PAYDAY LOANS



In 2014, First Texas Bank and The Caring Place teamed up to create the exciting new Alternative Loan Program. Designed to assist qualifying clients in paying off a payday loan or title loan with a high interest rate, the ultimate goal of the program is to decrease the use of these loans and help people to rebuild their credit. To date, thirteen individuals or families have participated in the program and one of them has “graduated” by paying back the alternative loan.

GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND

Did you know that The Caring Place and the City of Georgetown partner to help families in need?

The City of Georgetown sponsors the Good Neighbor Fund, a program that assists people having difficulty paying their utility bill. Voluntary contributions from utility customers fund this program, which is administered by The Caring Place. Every dollar donated helps! You can make a contribution by paying the total due on your monthly City of Georgetown utility bill plus one or more dollars. Or, customers can enroll on-line to pledge a monthly donation by completing the form at <https://customercare.georgetown.org/gnf/>.

I REMEMBER WHEN

“On my first day here at The Caring Place 20 years ago, there was a pile of boxes by the back door. I didn’t know what to do yet, so I started by cleaning up those boxes.” ~Fran Quandt



2004



2004

Our current facility at 2000 Railroad Avenue was constructed in 2004



The Shops at The Caring Place

Turning Treasures Into Hope



The Shops at The Caring Place, our thrift store, has grown from a tiny space to approximately 13,000 square feet offering all types of donated items for sale. However, our original mission to serve those in need, has remained the same for the past 30 years. Our clients who qualify for assistance with basic human needs receive a Caring Card which they may use in the store to receive clothing and shoes. Linens, tableware and furniture are also available to them at no cost.

The generosity and support of our community that was so evident when The Caring Place was founded remain unchanged. Because of the population growth in our area and citizens learning about how we help those in need, the volume of quality donations has increased. We strive to be good stewards, turning those items into revenue that supports the entire organization.

In 2014, proceeds from the store accounted for 63% of the organization's entire budget.

The store features all types of mer-

chandise from appliances to zippers, expertly arranged by volunteers and displayed throughout the store. Three specialty shops have been added over the last eight years: *The Boutique*, featuring designer clothing and accessories; *Outdoors 'n More* for sporting goods and outdoor furniture; and *ReFinds*, our very own in-house antiques and collectibles venue.

Special events enhance our sales. On the second Thursday of every month, from 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., our jewelry department organizes a special show and sale displaying costume and fine jewelry. Our grandest special event is Sweets, Treats and Trees, which unveils our Christmas collection. Held two weeks before Thanksgiving, this event attracts more than 600 shoppers, all eager to see the holiday treasures we have carefully sorted and priced throughout the year. We provide homemade refreshments, live music and door prizes designed to give everyone the Christmas spirit.

The story of our thrift store would be incomplete without acknowledging the caring hearts that make every-

thing happen. These hearts belong to our generous, hardworking and committed volunteers. Working with our paid staff members, the volunteers perform all of the tasks necessary to keep the store running smoothly. Our sorters, pricers, cashiers, merchandisers, security and donation workers are all committed to our mission. Without their dedication, the store would not exist. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers; the one thing we can guarantee is that there is always work to be done!

If you participate in our store in any way – as a donor, a shopper or a volunteer – we thank you for your contribution and hope you will continue to visit and support us. All participants are important to our success. Our store hours are 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday. Our drop-off donation area is open 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To schedule the pickup of large items, please call 512-943-0711.

I REMEMBER WHEN

“Back about 15 years ago across the street – in the “warehouse” – donations were randomly placed in metal bins where chicken wire was added to the sides to display items. To get to the clothing area, one had to exit the “warehouse” completely and enter through a separate door to the one room that held the entire stock of clothing items. If sales in the warehouse were strong, at the end of the day, \$100.00 was considered significant.”

~Mimi Boney



2011

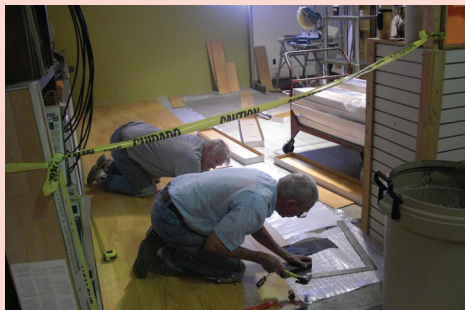
Groundbreaking for 2000 Railroad Avenue Expansion



The Shops at The Caring Place

Throughout The Years: A Walk Down Memory Lane

Then



Now



You're Invited

**30th Anniversary
Community Party!!**

Join us for cake, fun and 30% off in
The Shops at The Caring Place
as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary.

*This is a free event for the
entire community.*

Saturday

June 6, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Caring Place

I REMEMBER WHEN

“My first job at The Caring Place
was sweeping at our building
across the street. Now, ten years
later, I work in the Food Pantry.”
~ Constancio Martinez

2011



The 2011 expansion to the main location resulted in a larger Food Pantry and warehouse, an increased Client Services Department, thrift store and administrative space.





mission, and was instrumental in the agency's development. Awardees in this category consistently exceed expectations and embody the spirit of this dedicated and giving person. Winners of The Caring Heart Award exceeded expectations in one or more of the following areas: Customer, Client and/or Peer Focus; Continuous Improvement; Teamwork; Professionalism; Innovation; and Positive Attitude. New this year is the President's Award for community service and leadership, collaborating with and connecting area non-profits to serve people in need.



The annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner, which was held on April 28th this year, is our way of taking pause to say "thank you" to the amazing men and women who give of themselves every day to help others in need.

If you've ever taken a tour through The Caring Place, you know that it takes hundreds of hands and hearts to keep things running smoothly. Over 500 of those hearts belong to our committed and steadfast volunteers!

This year's affair included the lively and engaging talents of Mr. Thrill, renowned DJ and singer. Between bites of delicious stuffed chicken and salad prepared by CJ's Catering, volunteers and their guests laughed, danced and had a blast socializing with their co-workers and friends.

Several volunteers were honored with awards at the event. "We value the contributions of each of our extraordinary volunteers" said Ginna O'Connor, Executive Director. Awards were given to 9 individual and 2 team volunteers, who were nominated by their peers, and scored by a nominations group.

Volunteers received awards in 2 categories: Doris Krohmer Memorial Service Award and The Caring Heart Award. Doris Krohmer was a volunteer who embraced The Caring Place



AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Doris Krohmer Memorial Service Award

Joyce Gleason
Ceil Kottmer
George Ury

Caring Heart Award

Frank Espinoza
Cathy Lippiatt
Lorraine Uhrig
Gene Miller (*posthumously*)
Leslie Zalles
Shoes and Accessories Team
Carol Jorgensen, Lynn Jorgensen, Betty Miller and Summer House volunteers led by Julia Roby, Job Coach

President's Award

Larry Baird

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you for your excellent service to The Caring Place and our community!



2013

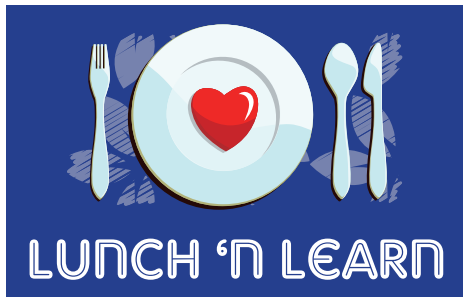
The Caring Place purchased the property at 2001 Railroad Avenue, now known as The Annex.



Today



Save the Dates!



**4th Thursday,
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

People often ask us about what goes on beyond the walls of our thrift store. The Caring Place is a complex yet well-organized operation, and our visitors are always astonished when they get a glimpse of our behind the scenes operations.

We encourage you to attend one of our **Lunch 'n Learn** sessions to learn more about us! Pre-registration is required. Please contact our Community Engagement Department at 512-943-0702.



Summer Food Drive

Join The Caring Place in providing food to individuals and families in need by contributing non-perishable food items. You can make an individual donation or team up with your business, church, organization or neighborhood to conduct a food drive.

For information on how to conduct a food drive for The Caring Place, please see our website or contact David Earl at dearl@caringplacetx.org or 512-940-0710.



**Saturday, October 10, 2015
Schwertner Ranch**

Please join us for our "Deep in the Heart of Caring" event on Saturday, October 10, at Schwertner Ranch Event Center. The night will feature dinner, dancing and a fabulous live and silent auction.

For additional information, please contact Rita Turner at rturner@caringplacetx.org or 512-943-0702. More details to come.



**Thursday
November 12, 2015
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

The Shops at The Caring Place
Sweets, Treats and Trees unveils our Christmas collection of trees and decorations for sale.



NEW WALK-IN REFRIGERATOR

The Caring Place recently received a \$5,000 grant from The Rotary Club of Georgetown for its first walk-in refrigerator. This refrigerator was much needed because of increased fresh food donations from community gardens and our local Walmart store. The new refrigerator allows The Caring Place to store fresh produce and other perishable foods so that more individuals and families have access to items that are part of a healthy diet.



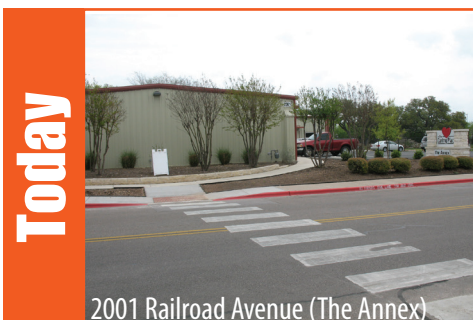
**Thank you to our
newsletter contributors:**

*Lenora Doerfler, Ginna O'Connor,
Ann Lind, Pam Robers, Rita Turner,
Alicea Jones*

*Various photos, page 5,
courtesy of Wayne Slater*

I REMEMBER WHEN

“When there was no boutique, I was a cashier and I loved playing store.” ~ Carol Flynn



2001 Railroad Avenue (The Annex)



Precinct 3
Commissioner,
Valerie Covey

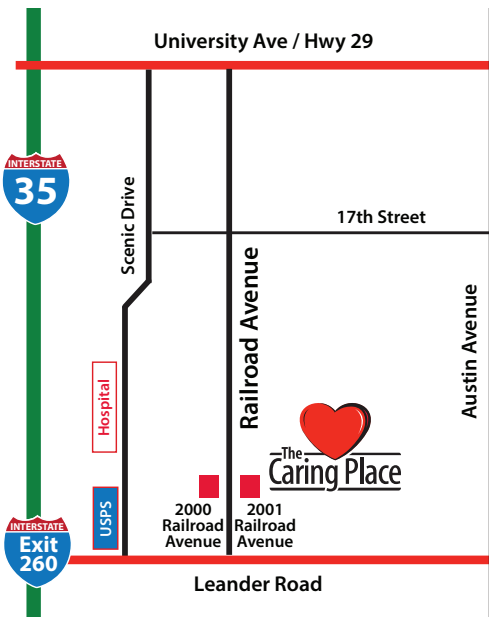
Photo credit: Williamson County Sun



Mayor Dale
Ross

Photo credit: Williamson County Sun

The Caring Place Strategic Plan Launch



Our courtesy truck will pick up your larger item donations to be sold in *The Shops at The Caring Place*. To schedule a pick-up, please call our donation line at 512-943-0711 and leave a message for our Donations Coordinator. Your call will be returned within 24 hours. **Please allow at least one week of advance notice when you call to schedule your pick-up.**

Vision Statement

The Caring Place is a local, faith-based non-profit organization that addresses the basic human needs of people within its service area, and collaborates with community partners to improve the quality of life of every client.

Mission Statement

Honoring its faith-based roots, The Caring Place serves the community as a welcoming and purposeful organization, responding to the basic human needs of people in Georgetown and rural Williamson County.



WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE BEEN VOTED

Best Place to Volunteer / Give
for the Best of Georgetown 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014



2000 Railroad Avenue • P.O. Box 1215 • Georgetown, Texas 78627 • 512-943-0700 • Fax 512-943-0740 • www.caringplacetx.org

Caring Place Hours
Client Services Offices
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Open Thursdays until 7:00 p.m.
Donation Drop-Off Area
Monday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
The Shops at The Caring Place
Monday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Open Thursdays until 7:00 p.m.
512.943.0700
www.caringplacetx.org



P.O. BOX 1215
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The Caring Place

*Celebrating 30 Years of Service
1985-2015*

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