The Caring Place
Helping neighbors in need since 1985

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
Thursday, 2 PM - 6 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

2026 HONORS:

Platinum Transparency 2026
Candid.

Charity Navigator
FOUR-STAR

St David's Foundation · Central Texas Food Bank · Georgetown Health Foundation · Anna+Anton Olson Legacy Foundation

1 in 7 of your neighbors are food insecure.



*Open to learn how you can **shop, volunteer, and donate** at The Caring Place to make this a Hunger Free Holiday season!*

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When Caring Comes Full Circle

Fall 2026

Stacy's Story of Asking for Help and Finding Her Footing
and other news and stories from The Caring Place



From the Executive Director

We've all felt it at checkout: the same necessities cost more than they used to. Rising costs of all kinds have pushed many families past what a paycheck or fixed income can cover. This year, more neighbors than ever have turned to The Caring Place for help bridging that gap.

Food assistance continues to be the most cost-effective way we can help our neighbors struggling to make ends meet. Our programs and services are reaching more neighbors than ever. That kind of growth is possible because of the support of this community. Your participation as a donor, a volunteer, or as a shopper contributes to our response to these rising needs.

In our 2026 Client Survey, 90% of neighbors who responded said the help they received carried them through a money crisis, and 95% said they felt respected at The Caring Place. How we help matters just as much as the help itself. One neighbor wrote, "The warmth and completely non-judgmental way of interacting that every person has is absolutely invaluable when you're coming in for help and in a vulnerable place." We are deeply honored by comments like these, and grateful to the staff and volunteers whose kindness makes them possible.

We are always working to do better, providing ongoing customer service training and professional development for staff. As a learning organization in partnership with our amazing community, we can be better prepared to address the challenges of today and tomorrow.

This season, and all year long, thank you for caring for your neighbors.

With heart,

Ginna O'Connor
Executive Director

Table of Contents

2 **When Caring Comes Full Circle** - Stacy's Story of Asking for Help and Finding Her Footing

3 **Food Pantry Q&A** with Programs & Services Director Erin Becnel

4 **By the Numbers** - Data and Updates from Programs & Services and the 2026 Client Survey

5 **Hunger Hits Close to Come** - Food Insecurity in Williamson County

6 **Hunger Free Holidays** - Help Provide 500,000 Meals to Neighbors in Need

7 **Save the Dates!** - Upcoming Holidays, Programs, and Events at The Caring Place

8 **Many Hands, One Mission** - Meet Our Board and Find Your Fit as a Volunteer

9 **Get Ready for Giving Season** - Amplify 2027, a Giving Machine, & More!

10 **Shopping for Good** - Give Gifts that Give Back This Holiday Season

When Caring Comes Full Circle



Stacy got pregnant not long after her 19th birthday. It wasn't the plan, and she has been hard on herself in the past, but she speaks with confidence on that time in her life now. "I could lay all sorts of blame in different places," she said, "but I think it's just really important that they were my decisions. I made mistakes, and I had to ask for help, but that's how I learned."

After her son Trevor was born, Stacy received WIC for the basics, but food was still a daily worry during her short maternity leave. "The Caring Place kept food on our table," she said simply. After a tour through the Food Pantry, Stacy shared, "Looking around at the boxes of noodles in the pantry, I remembered we made a lot of hamburger noodle casserole. It could go a long way. Those things came from here."

Not long after, the young family fell behind on rent and came close to losing their apartment. The Caring Place, in partnership with a local church from the Membership Council, helped cover the cost so they could stay. Stacy remembers being nervous that day. She had braced herself for judgment, expecting someone to look at her the way a disappointed teacher or an authority figure might, like she should have known better. Instead, she found volunteers who were warm and matter of fact. "They didn't flinch," she said, "They understood that challenges happen and mistakes happen, and sometimes you need a little bit of help."

She worried that someone would take one look at their family dog and wonder how the young family could afford a pet but not their rent. Nobody did. "I don't want to use the word easy," she said, "but I remember walking in and there wasn't a feeling like 'poor, poor you.' Nobody made me feel bad about having to come in. Everyone was smiling and cheery, because they're volunteers. They weren't there to shame me."

Looking back now, Stacy doesn't wish she could rewrite her story. If she'd made different choices at 19, she knows the rest wouldn't have followed: she wouldn't have Trevor, who she says straightened her out and made her a stronger person. She wouldn't have stayed in Georgetown and met the friends who introduced her to her husband, Morgan. Now, she and Morgan will celebrate 16 years of marriage this November and have a younger son, Logan, together.

"It was a tougher path," she shared, "but it was the path that got me here. I'm surrounded by amazing people."The lessons from two decades ago have stayed with her. **"You don't know what your neighbor is going through," she says. "You don't know if they ate that day. You don't know if their electricity is on, or their water's on.** There's a multitude of things that people could be going through. Remember to always be kind."

More than two decades later, Stacy makes a point of giving back. She remembers the wave of emotion she felt the first time she was able to check out at the grocery store without adding up the total in advance to make sure she was able to pay for it. Now, she wants to help more people feel the relief of financial freedom. "There's a wonderful place to donate on every corner," she says, "but anytime I have something, clothes or good furniture, I wait until The Caring Place is open and drive clear across town. I will bring it here because it's full circle. It's something I can do that helps bring in funds."

For Stacy, it isn't complicated. "The Caring Place is Georgetown. When your donation comes here, it's serving your neighbors right around you. Without The Caring Place, we may not have been able to put food on our table or keep a roof over our head until I figured out next steps. How quickly some of us forget when things change. I look back and remember there are people around me who do need help, who are in the same situation I was, if not worse. And the simplest act of kindness or donation can make the biggest difference."

Today, Stacy serves on the Georgetown ISD Board of Trustees and volunteers across the district. Her journey is a reminder that financial crisis can happen to anyone, and it doesn't define who you are or where you're headed.



Food Pantry Q&A

with Programs & Services Director Erin Becnel

Where does The Caring Place get food for the pantry?

- Much of it comes from the Central Texas Food Bank, who helps partners like us stock the shelves at little to no cost. Through their Food Diversion Program, we also receive good food that would otherwise go to waste from the H-E-B stores at Parmer Ranch and Wolf Lakes and the Georgetown Costco.
- Donations from individuals, organizations, food drives, and even local growers are an important part of keeping the pantry full, too!
- We also purchase food in large quantities from commercial vendors to supplement donated food. Buying in bulk helps us stretch donated dollars farther!

How does food help neighbors in financial crisis?

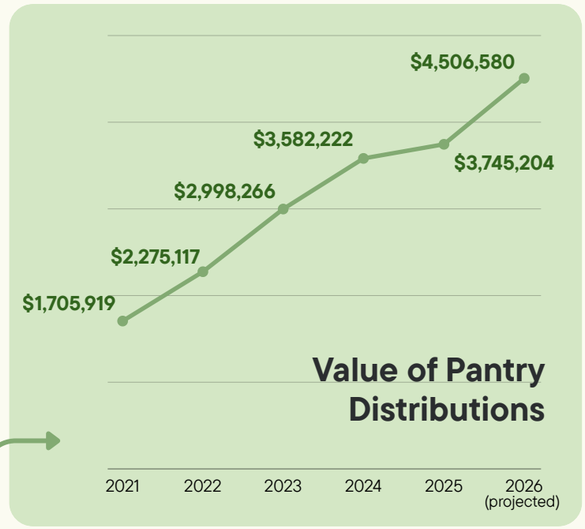
Average Food Pantry Savings	
Oct. 2025	$210
Nov. 2025	$213
Dec. 2025	$221
Jan. 2026	$212
Feb. 2026	$233
Mar. 2026	$237
April 2026	$245
May 2026	$246
June 2026	$247
July 2026	$264
Aug. 2026	$267
Sept. 2026	$243
Total	$2,838

On average, a monthly visit to the Food Pantry saves a household $237 and that savings adds up! Neighbors who use the pantry receive food, but also save on grocery bills, so they can put their funds towards other bills.

How much food can a household get each month?

We encourage neighbors to take what they need and will actually use, so every shop looks a little different. Our team weighs each cart on the way out so we can keep track of how much food we're distributing. On average, families are taking home 73 pounds of food.

Fun fact: the heaviest cart on record weighed 172 pounds! That's more than $550 worth of groceries, and a huge help for a family!



How much food does the Food Pantry distribute each year?

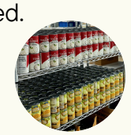
Through September of this year, **The Caring Place Food Pantry has distributed 1,046,420 pounds of food with a value of $3,379,937!** Food is the most cost-effective way we can help our neighbors, so with your help, we're working to provide more food to more families.

What kind of food does the Food Pantry have?

Food Pantry inventory varies from day to day, but we regularly have:

- canned vegetables, fruits, and proteins
- dry goods like pasta, rice, and flour
- fresh fruits and vegetables
- frozen meats
- eggs and fresh or shelf-stable dairy
- canned soup
- cereal and other breakfast items
- bread and pastries

The best part is there's no bad time to visit the Food Pantry! We pick-up and receive donations and deliveries every day, which helps us ensure the pantry is always stocked.





Pantry Math

An average of 85 families shop in The Caring Place Food Pantry every day we're open. That means the Food Pantry assists 255 neighbors each day!





How much is 1,046,420 pounds of food???

It's hard to picture more than a million pounds of food! That's equal to about 523 pallets of canned veggies, which would fill our entire pantry warehouse 17 times!

More News from Programs & Services

So far in 2026, The Caring Place has served 11,719 individuals across all programs, an 11% increase from last year. Just this year, housing and utility assistance has grown 32%, keeping lights on and roofs overhead for 2,321 neighbors.



This summer's Back to School Voucher program was our busiest yet! This year, we distributed nearly 40% more vouchers than in 2025. **Neighbors received 450 vouchers and redeemed $7,039.76 worth of backpacks, clothing, and shoes from The Shops at The Caring Place for their children!** Thank you to everyone who made this annual program possible! From donating items and funds to volunteering your time, you helped families prepare for the school 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 12,527 loads of laundry at Loads of Caring events** at Washatopia in Georgetown!

Could your organization help neighbors access laundry? Learn more at caringplacetx.org/host

Key Findings from our 2026 Client Survey - Of the 514 neighbors who responded:

- 96% felt welcome at The Caring Place, and 92% did NOT feel judged, a 5-point increase from 2024!
- 95% of neighbors used the Food Pantry and 66% used a Thrift Store voucher

When asked what they hope never changes, 25% said the kindness and compassion of our staff and volunteers.

Hunger Hits Close to Home

When we picture hunger, we don't always picture our own neighborhood. But according to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap 2026, **Texas has the largest food-insecure population in the nation and about 1 in 7 of our neighbors in Williamson County are food insecure**, with limited or uncertain access to adequate food. That's 14.6% of the county, equal to nearly the entire population of Georgetown. Our youngest neighbors face even greater food insecurity. In Williamson County, 31,890 kids, or about 1 in 5 (19.7%), live in households that struggle to put enough food on the table.

Many of these neighbors are working hard and still coming up short. An estimated 71% of food-insecure people in Williamson County earn too much to qualify for SNAP but not enough to keep up with rising costs. Nationally, people in food-insecure households say they need about $23 more per person, every week, just to cover food. For many families here, The Caring Place helps bridge that gap.

That gap can be even wider in our rural communities. Alongside Georgetown, The Caring Place serves Andice, Bartlett, Florence, Granger, Jarrell, Jonah, Schwertner, Walburg, and Weir, where the nearest full grocery store can be a long drive away. On average, rural residents face higher rates of food insecurity than their urban neighbors, often with fewer food resources and transportation options nearby.

Month after month, we are distributing more food to more families in Georgetown and northern Williamson County. Your support helps ensure we can continue to meet the growing need.

$1 = 5 Meals

Your financial support allows the Food Pantry to supplement donated foods and fill our shelves with a variety of items. Because the Food Pantry purchases food in large quantities, your donated dollars stretch farther. As a result, when you donate $1, The Caring Place can provide 5 meals or 6 pounds of food.

$73 helps feed a family of 4 for one month. Can you chip in?



The Caring Place
Helping neighbors in need since 1985

October 1 - December 31

HUNGER FREE HOLIDAYS 2026

HELP PROVIDE 500,000 MEALS TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Donate funds so The Caring Place can leverage our buying power and purchase items requested by our neighbors at the lowest cost.

Donate non-perishable food to The Caring Place Food Pantry.

Host a Food Drive at your work, school, church, or neighborhood.

LEARN MORE

caringplacetx.org/holidays

For every **$1 donated,** TCP can provide **5 meals!**

Most Needed Items

October: canned vegetables
November: canned proteins
December: canned soups & tomato products

non-perishable, in-date

DROP OFF:

2000 Railroad Ave. Georgetown, TX 78626
Monday - Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM

Save These Dates!

Upcoming Holidays, Programs, and Events at The Caring Place

Thursday & Friday,
Nov. 26-27
Thanksgiving Holiday
All Locations Closed

Tuesday
Dec. 1
Giving Tuesday
Celebrate generosity on this global day of giving!

Wednesday - Friday,
Dec. 23-25
Winter Holiday Closure
All Locations Closed

Friday,
Jan. 1
New Year's Holiday
All Locations Closed

Loads of Caring

Second Tuesday and last Thursday of each month, from 4-8 PM, at Washatopia in Georgetown

Thursday, October 29th
Tuesday, November 10th
Tuesday, December 8th
Tuesday, January 12th
Thursday, January 28th

Fresh Food for Families

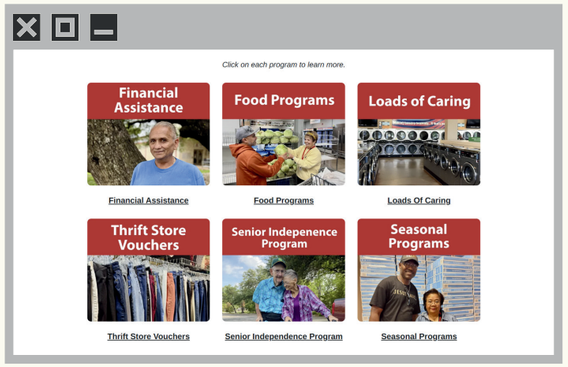
First, Third, and Fifth Mondays at 8 AM, 2000 Railroad Ave.

October 5th and 19th
November 2nd, 16th, and 30th
December 7th and 21st
January 4th and 18th

TCP Calendar

Check out our updated website calendar!

caringplacetx.org/calendar



Have you seen our new website?

We've given **caringplacetx.org** a fresh new look, and it's easier than ever to find what you need. Explore our Programs & Services like the Food Pantry, Financial Assistance, Loads of Caring, and Senior Independence Program, all in one place. You can also browse upcoming events and find ways to give or volunteer.

Whether you're looking for help or offering a helping hand, we hope you'll check it out!

Meet the 2026 - 2027 Board of Directors



Please join us in welcoming our Board of Directors for the 2026 - 2027 term!

Thank you to this group of dedicated, caring individuals for their leadership and support.

Officers:
President Glenn Schwab
Vice President Dayne Carlson
Secretary Jen Mauldin
Treasurer Alexis Michael
At-Large Ian Todd

Pictured: (back row, left to right) Chuck Collins, John Sullivan, (middle row) Glenn Schwab, Robin P. Stewart, Dayne Carlson, Harriett Jones, John Stock, Royce Lindsey, Paul Partlow, (front row) Alexis Michael, Ian Todd, Michelle Betts, Jen Mauldin, Lindsay Harris, and Jan C. Love

Volunteer at The Caring Place!

The Caring Place relies on a team of more than 400 volunteers to help us serve our community. If you're looking for a way to get involved in your community, we'd love to meet you! Whether there's a department you have in mind, or you want to help wherever volunteers are needed most, there's a role for you here!

Where Can You Volunteer?

Food Pantry & Warehouse
Programs & Services
Second Helping
The Shops at The Caring Place
The Boutique at The Shops
Donations Drive-Through
Pricing Warehouse
& more!

caringplacetx.org/volunteer

















In our 2026 volunteer survey:

99%

said they would recommend TCP as a great place to volunteer!

AMPLIFY 2027

---------- with The Caring Place ----------

This year's Amplify theme is "Put Caring on the Map," and we invite you to help us do exactly that. Will you become an Amplify Wilco sponsor for The Caring Place?

Amplify Wilco Day is a hyper-local, 24-hour giving campaign on March 3 and 4, 2027 that runs alongside Amplify Austin Day. Amplify is the largest online giving event in Central Texas and our largest fundraising campaign of the year. **This year, our goal is $175,000 to serve even more families in 2027.** We hope you'll join us again - or for the first time - in putting caring on the map.

Sponsor By	1/19
Giving Starts	1/27
Amplify	3/3-4

Amplify 2027 Dates

For more information on Amplify 2027, please contact Rita Turner at rturner@caringplacetx.org or 512-943-0702.

Want to get your company or organization involved, but need to learn more?

Take a Tour ♥ Schedule a Presentation ♥ Meet Our Team

We can't wait to meet you! Contact Rita Turner at rturner@caringplacetx.org or 512-943-0702 to chat about setting up a tour of our main campus or a presentation to your group.



LightTheWorld Giving Machine

Thank you to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for including The Caring Place in the 2026 Light The World Giving Machine in Cedar Park! Your donation through this big red vending machine provides assistance with laundry, meals, medical care, utilities, or rent, and 100% of your gift goes to The Caring Place!

- November 17 - December 6, 2026 (10 AM to 10:30 PM)
- The Crossover - 1717 Scottsdale Drive, Cedar Park, TX 78641

Learn more at TexasGivingMachine.org/Austin

Holiday Shopping for Good

When you shop at The Caring Place, your gift gives back!
Find unique, affordable gifts, right here in Georgetown!







Pictured, from left to right: Seasonal dishes in the Decorating 4 Seasons Boutique at The Shops at The Caring Place, spooky decor on display at Second Helping, and a new collection of vintage and designer accessories and clothing at Second Helping.







Shopping for a loved one who has it all? Make a donation in their name and we'll send them a letter to share the impact of the gift!

caringplacetx.org/donate

Pictured, from left to right: *the new Textiles & Vintage sections at The Shops at The Caring Place, a guitar on display as part of Second Helping's new instrument collection, and the new jewelry display cases at Second Helping.*

Thanks to a generous donor, there are amazing new fixtures across The Shops at The Caring Place! We are incredibly grateful for this gift, which helps keep the store beautiful and organized, improving the shopping experience for all. From shoes to the textiles and vintage sections and more, these displays help showcase donated items, making shopping for good easier than ever!







Donate: Furniture, Holiday Decor, Clothing, & more!

Whether you're redecorating, upgrading, downsizing, or just cleaning out a closet, your donated items help support your neighbors in need of assistance with food, rent, and more! Drop off at 2000 Railroad, Monday - Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM.

Don't forget, we pick up furniture! Request a pick-up at caringplacetx.org/donatemystuff