



Spring 2018

at The Caring Place

Finding Something Better through SOAR

"I am able to work so hard because I had the SOAR program for the last 18 months supporting me." That's what Tiffany Ibarra says about her work ethic. Tiffany has two kids, a husband, and is in her second year as a full time student at Mary Hardin Baylor in Temple. Somehow she has managed to keep her grades up, participate in community service, and care for a family. So what is SOAR and how is it helping her achieve Super Woman status?

"There are people here that can give you guidance you didn't know you needed."

SOAR stands for Success through Opportunities and Resources. When Tiffany came to The Caring Place she simply said she was in school and need-

ed help paying for books, which was her immediate need. She wasn't looking at the big picture, that there would always be new needs. Through the SOAR program at The Caring Place she was able to see the big picture and meet goals with support. Tiffany says, "When I started looking at long-term goals with The Caring Place, learning to become self-sufficient was the goal. And, it looked different than I thought it would in my mind. It looked better!"

Special Programs Coordinator, Rebecca Orozco, connected Tiffany with a volunteer mentor, Jan Love. Tiffany considers both of these women life-long friends. They brainstormed, problem solved and prioritized with her. They taught her to budget money, shared resources, helped her network and most importantly to Tiffany, they gave her the encouragement and accountability she needed to be successful.

What would Tiffany say to someone interested in the SOAR program? "There are people here that can give you guidance you didn't know you needed." In the fall of 2020 Tiffany is scheduled to graduate with a Bachelors' in Music. Tiffany has graduated from SOAR now and is ready to take on whatever

*The "Thank You"
That is Rock Solid!*
7-year-olds show wisdom too



This past fall we received a beautiful geode from a 7-year-old that told a wonderful story. This child's mother was supplementing their own pantry at home by using The Caring Place Food Pantry. The hope was to put the money saved toward prescriptions for her asthmatic daughter. As she did so, she always reminded her daughter to be thankful. So that's how a little girl's favorite geode ended up on the desk of our Executive Director as a thank you. At The Caring Place a lot of stories walk through the door. And through them all, we often know each of us can be a little rough on the outside but on the inside there is a shimmer of hope, just like this geode. We all have a part in helping people shine.

challenges come her way with a toolbox of skills.

The Caring Place is so proud of Tiffany and looks forward to hearing about the rest of her journey through her new friends, Rebecca and Jan.



Tiffany Ibarra
SOAR Graduate



Georgetown Health Foundation Helps Programs & Services Take Steps to Serve More Neighbors

A recent grant from Georgetown Health Foundation is transitioning The Caring Place Programs & Services department to a new consolidated client database. The broader capabilities and additional technical support will allow Programs & Services to increase capacity and extend its ability to assist more people in crisis. The user-friendly database will support more efficient service delivery and reporting, reduce errors in data entry, thus supporting the reallocation of time and resources of both staff and



Suzanna Pukys, Vice President of Strategic Philanthropy at Georgetown Health Foundation and Erin Bechel, Director of Programs & Services at The Caring Place

volunteers. As a community leader in social service support, The Caring Place aims to provide reliable data regarding the community's needs and factors impacting social determinants of health.

Streamlined and efficient processes also help our volunteers. The Caring Place volunteers will assume the roll of measuring success for the new database. Volunteers are an integral part of the day-to-day visits with clients, including data entry and quality assurance reviews. They will also be providing system feedback. Ultimately, we hope that a user-friendly database will help The Caring Place support volunteer recruitment and retention.



St. David's Foundation Grant Broadens Senior Programming

In response to the tremendous population growth rate of persons age sixty-five plus in Williamson County, The Caring Place launched a new program to support aging in place for seniors. The program is funded primarily by a generous grant from St. David's Foundation. Aligned with The Caring Place's current scope of work through basic needs assistance, it will extend additional support through case management to neighbors age sixty-five and older who have

needs impacting their quality of life. In March, The Caring Place brought on board Program Manager Kathleen Hopkins. Kathleen brings with her a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and a background in program implementation. The new program will focus on collaborating with the community in order to partner clients with the services they need to continue living independently. With Kathleen's help, case management will include education, resource access and a walk of

solidarity with clients as they address the challenges of aging in place.



Kathleen Hopkins
Senior Independence Program Manager

With Summer Comes Opportunity!



Summer is on the way! Is the beach calling your name? Are you hitting up local hot spots like Blue Hole Park for some summer relaxation? For The Caring Place, summertime means vacationing volunteers and fewer food drives to keep our Food Pantry

full. So, as you look up flights and museum times, we hope you also remember us. What could you do to help your community this summer? Is there a way to start teaching your kids about service this summer? Can you balance vacation with giving? Let us help! We have some ideas on the back page!

News & Events

New Gift Cards Available May 1st

We have a new gift card available for use at both The Shops at The Caring Place and Second Helping. You can purchase these \$20 gift cards starting on May 1st! Remember, when you shop at our thrift stores you are “shopping for good.” The revenue from the thrift stores pay all of the operating expenses for the entire organization. This means all monetary donations can directly benefit neighbors needing food, utility, rent, transportation or medical assistance. So come on, start buying The Caring Place gift cards when you need a quick gift. Share with the recipient how their purchases will benefit the local community.



Stamp Out Hunger - May 12th

Did you know 1 in 5 children in Williamson County struggle with hunger? On Saturday, May 12th you can participate in one of the easiest Food Drives around. U.S. Postal Service letter carriers are coming to neighborhoods in zip codes 78628 and 78626 to retrieve non-perishables. Leave a sturdy bag filled with canned goods by 9:00 a.m. on May 12th beside your mailbox. America's letter carriers see the needs of the communities they work in first hand. Let's join them in their quest to Stamp Out Hunger in our community!

Chat & Chew - May 18th

Have a friend new to town? Or maybe you know someone who has never heard of The Caring Place? A new event has come to The Caring Place and it has proven successful in its ability to show individuals what we are all about. Join us for Chat & Chew, an educational luncheon to share our impact, our mission, and our heart. RSVP with Rita Turner at 512-943-0702 or email her at rturner@caringplacetx.org for more information or additional dates.



Deep In the Heart of Caring - Save the Date - October 13th



Our Annual Signature Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 13th, 2018 at Schwertner Ranch Event Center. Enjoy our live and silent auctions, dinner, music, and dancing under the stars as we share our mission. This year's featured artist is Country Music Award Winner, T.G. Sheppard. Please consider attending this event to acknowledge your support for the work we do.

The Caring Place Recognitions

This has been another wonderful year for The Caring Place. At the end of 2017, The Caring Place was voted Best Place to Volunteer/Give in Georgetown for the 7th year in a row. Since The Caring Place is community-based and community-supported, we can't help but be excited about this important local recognition. National Recognition came in April of 2018 from Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator is America's largest charity evaluator and they have awarded The Caring Place its coveted 4-star rating for the fourth year in a row. This rating is given based on the organization's demonstration of strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. This is the highest possible ranking and according to Charity Navigator, only 13%

of charities evaluated have earned this 4-star rating for 4 consecutive years. Both of these awards recognize the work The Caring Place invests into being transparent, ethical, and outstanding stewards of our resources. In a city where our neighbors have many wonderful organizations to give to and recognize, we are always thankful for the continued support we receive.



Summertime Opportunities

- Host a Food Drive at your home or office.
- Volunteer on the 1st, 3rd or 5th Monday at Fresh Food for Families.
- Join our team as a regular volunteer!
- Go on a summer shopping spree at one or both of our thrift stores.
- Donate your gently used items to our thrift stores.
- Share your favorite news from The Caring Place with friends on Social Media or in person.

For more info on these opportunities, visit www.caringplacetx.org.

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.



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

www.caringplacetx.org
512.943.0700

(NO DROP-OFF donations accepted at this location)
Monday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
3700 Williams Drive, Georgetown

Second Helping Thrift Store

Monday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Donation Drop-Off Area

Monday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Open Thursdays until 7:00 p.m.

The Shops at The Caring Place Thrift Store

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Open Thursdays until 6:00 p.m.
2001 Railroad Avenue

Programs & Services

Hours & Locations

P.O. BOX 1215
GEORGETOWN, TX 78627-1215

Helping neighbors in need since 1985

The Caring Place



Thank you for your continued support to make a difference in your community!

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