



Caring Times

A Publication for the Friends and Supporters of the Caring for Children Foundation of Texas

Fall 2011



The mission of the Caring for Children Foundation of Texas' Care Van Program is to immunize uninsured and medically underserved Texas children, and provide health, nutrition and exercise education, as well as other health-related services.

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Celebrating 20 Years

1991

More Than 500,000 Children Immunized

2011

Healthy Kids, Healthy Families Grant to Aid Care Van Program

The Caring for Children Foundation was recently awarded grants from the Healthy Kids, Healthy Families initiative to support the Care Van Program. "Healthy Kids, Healthy Families" is a three-year initiative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas to encourage health education, promote physical activity, prevent and manage disease and support safe environments for children. The program works through investments and collaborations with nonprofit organizations that offer sustainable, measurable programs to reach children directly.



School-based flu vaccine initiatives, such as this recent clinic in Grand Prairie, help reduce absenteeism.

These grants will allow the Care Van Program to conduct two extensive school-based flu vaccine projects. In collaboration with the Grand Prairie Independent School District and Dallas County Health Department, the Care Van Program will be able to provide the flu vaccine to 6,000 children. In El Paso, working with the Immunize El Paso (see article on next page), we will be able to reach 9,000 children. Studies indicate school-based projects such as these

significantly reduce absenteeism due to flu or flu-related illnesses. The Care Van Program is honored to be selected as a grant recipient of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Families initiative. ❤️

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For more information on the Care Van® Program or to schedule an appearance, visit carevan.org, or call 800-258-5437, option #8.

Care Van Program Teams Up with Immunize El Paso

Immunize El Paso and the Caring for Children Foundation, which operates the Care Van Program, are working together to provide 9,000 uninsured and underserved school children in El Paso with free flu mist immunizations. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas is the administrative sponsor for the Caring for Children Foundation. With grant funds received through the company's "Healthy Kids, Healthy Families" initiative, this flu immunization effort began last month.

Immunize El Paso is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting health and safety in El Paso County, serving the metro and rural areas. Immunize El Paso works with the El Paso Department of Public Health on immunization outreach programs and area clinics.



Immunize El Paso visits more than 100 area schools, offering flu vaccinations for children and adults. To help offset the cost of vaccination for adults, Medicare and many major insurance plans are accepted.

"We are proud that this productive collaboration with Immunize El Paso has provided the opportunity to immunize 9,000 children who might otherwise not receive a flu shot this year," says Craig Jeffery, Executive Director of the Caring for Children Foundation. "While Immunize El Paso will provide the professional staff for this effort, we are pleased that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas has provided the funding and the Care Van Program will provide a second van in El Paso just for this flu outreach initiative." ❤️

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Jacob M. Santillan



Volunteer Jacob Santillan worked with Care Van Manager Barbara Adamson at a summer clinic in Houston.

The spirit of public service burns bright in Jacob M. Santillan. The Houston-native served in the U.S. Army for three years. Jacob was twice deployed to Baghdad, Iraq. Honorably discharged as a sergeant on Sept. 11, 2010, Jacob now works as a substitute teacher. He may return to service in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Jacob also volunteers with the Care Van Program, which provides children access to free childhood immunizations and preventive health services.

"Jacob has gone above and beyond in volunteering for our Care Van Program in Houston," said Care Van Manager Barbara Adamson. This summer, Jacob rode a bus to Hobby airport and then walked several miles in 100 degree heat to a Care Van Program clinic site.

"My life has revolved around public service, in the interest of the greater good," said Jacob. He's a 2006 graduate of Sam Houston State University.

"It won't make me wealthy, but decades from now when I'm on my deathbed, I want to be able to look back on my life and feel that I lived a full life, proud of who I was as a man. I can't do that by just looking out for myself."

"If the military taught me anything, it was that we need to stick together," he said. Helping to provide vaccines to keep children healthy is something to be proud of, he added.

The Care Van Houston program is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers like Jacob. Thank you! ❤️



Dal-Tile 

Dal-Tile Supports Dallas Care Van Program

Dal-Tile Corporation recently donated \$5,000 to support the Care Van Program in the DFW area. This donation will allow the DFW Care Van Program to provide more families with Family Shot Records bags, which help keep immunization records safely stored. In addition, funding was used to assist with immunization outreach during our Back-to-School initiative. Nearly 7,000 children in Dallas/Fort Worth and surrounding counties were reached this summer. We thank Dal-Tile for their support! ❤️

Xerox Donation Saves Time and Money

Former Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas employee and current Xerox employee Gilbert Tamez is a regular volunteer for the Dallas Care Van Program. He noticed the enormous amount of paperwork that is required for each immunization clinic. In addition to making copies of many forms, one of the most time-consuming tasks requires volunteers to highlight each page with yellow markers.

After observing this labor-intensive process several times,

Gilbert decided that Xerox could save Care Van Program volunteers hundreds of hours by making copies of the paperwork already highlighted. For the second time, he approached his colleagues at Xerox and arranged a donation of 50,000 color intake forms as well as 20,000 color ImmTrac forms. The donated copies/forms are currently being used by the Dallas, Abilene, Houston, and Austin Care Van Programs. Thank you again, Gilbert and Xerox! ❤️

Show of Support

First United Methodist Church in Forney has proclaimed its support for the Care Van Program with a billboard located on State Highway 80.

The billboard, seen by tens of thousands of drivers each day, is a symbol of the church's strong support

for the program. In 2006, a group of church members looking for a community project learned about the Care Van Program and decided to open its doors to us. Since that time, more than 2,550 children from Forney and the Southeast region have received more than 7,300 shots through this collaboration. We thank First United for their support! ❤️

 First United Methodist Church	FREE SHOT CLINIC 2nd Tuesdays <hr/> 972-564-0500
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What if the Caring for Children Foundation - Care Van Program earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

Just download the GoodSearch Caring for Children Foundation - Care Van Program toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/-caring-for-children-foundation-care-van-program>. Each time you search the Web with GoodSearch's Yahoo-powered search engine they

donate half its advertising revenue to charities — about a penny per search will come to the Caring for Children Foundation - Care Van Program.

Also, every time you shop online through GoodShop.com, with nearly 1,000 participating stores including Amazon, eBay, Target, Apple, Staples, Expedia, etc., a percentage of your purchase will be donated to us at no additional cost to you! The site also has thousands of money-saving coupons! Visit the site to learn more. And, thanks for your support, every penny counts! ❤️

Annual Speaker's Golf Tournament Another Success

For the ninth year in a row, Barton Creek Resort in Austin hosted the Caring Foundation's Speaker's Golf Tournament honoring Texas House Speaker Joe Straus and members of the Texas House. This year's event was another major fundraising success for the foundation. Thanks to the efforts of the sponsors, volunteers and more than 320 players, the Care Van Program will receive over \$230,000 in net proceeds from the tournament and live auction. ❤️



