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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Phone: 800-258-5437
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Thanks to the Care Van, 754,548 children have received 1,185,217 immunizations from June 1997 through November 2014

Proud Member of:

America’s Charities

Lead Sponsor:

BlueCross BlueShield of Texas
bcbsdx.com

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42522.1214

Improve the Life of a Child this Holiday Season

What a year. Despite the Affordable Care Act’s first year of enrollment, more than 4 million Texans remain uninsured for health care – sadly many of these are children. **We know that the “health care gap” will grow by 2020 and beyond unless you help to bridge that gap.**

Please, close your eyes for a minute, and imagine the transformation you can make in the life of a child simply by giving during this holiday season. I am certain of the joy you’ll continue to receive in return for the joy you give. You’ll find an envelope to make a donation with this newsletter for your convenience, but please feel free to call me if you want to learn more about the children we’re helping through our programs.

The Caring for Children Foundation depends on the generosity of individuals to offer help to those who otherwise would have no place to turn for access to health care. This year alone, we generated $8.5 million of cost savings for delivery of health services to children across the state through our Care Van® program. **Every dollar you invest with us is leveraged to yield over eighteen times the value in services — that’s right, Care Van provides $18.40 worth of health services for every $1 donated.**

On behalf of the 750,000 children we’ve served to date, and the thousands more who will use our services this coming year, thank you for all the good things you have made possible for Texas kids and families.

Warm wishes for your health and prosperity,

**Craig Jeffery, Executive Director**
Caring for Children Foundation of Texas

P.S. **You can send your check or credit card information in the enclosed envelope or go online at carevan.org to make a secure donation.** You can even make your contribution on behalf of family or friends, and we’ll acknowledge your gift on their behalf.
School-based Flu Clinics Thrive

Thanks to multi-year grants received from the Healthy Kids, Healthy Families initiative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, the Care Van Program was able to expand its school-based flu outreach. In collaboration with several school districts in Austin, Dallas and Houston, the Care Van was able to visit campuses and provide free flu vaccine to more than 9,000 children this year. Reaching this many students benefits schools and communities by preventing the spread of flu. More importantly, this type of school-based outreach helps schools cut down on absenteeism rates due to illnesses and protects children and others in their community by keeping the flu bug away from school campuses.

Feast of Sharing

Thanks to the support of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, the Care Van Program was able make visits and provide free flu shots during the H-E-B Feast of Sharing events in the following communities:

- San Angelo
- Austin
- Abilene
- San Antonio

The Feast of Sharing is the culmination of a year-round commitment H-E-B makes to fighting hunger. In addition to a holiday meal, attendees enjoy other community resources, arts and crafts, kids' activities and more!

Lives Impacted

Gifts of health made possible by YOU! This year, we enriched the lives of nearly 131,000 children by providing access to care, life-saving vaccines, oral care, hearing/vision screenings and educational programs.

Caring for Children Foundation needs your HELP so that we can continue to transform lives. One hundred percent of every dollar goes directly to programs and services – and gives us the ability to positively impact the lives of thousands of Texas children.

Every donation, at every level, can truly make a difference!

- $5,000 - operates a Care Van outreach clinic
- $2,500 - pays for educational materials or health booklets for children
- $1,000 - provides medical supplies needed for immunization outreach
- $500 - can deliver hearing/vision screenings to students
- $250 - offers vaccines to 100 children to protect against meningitis for life
- $100 - provides protection against measles for life for 50 children
- $50 - can protect five children against many vaccine-preventable diseases

Be Healthy, Be Clean Program: New Health Educator Joins Project

As announced in the summer, we launched the start of a school-based health education initiative Be Healthy, Be Clean, and designed a hygiene booklet for use in classrooms and at home. The City of El Paso Department of Public Health helped develop the hygiene booklet and used funds from the Healthy Kids, Healthy Families® initiative to hire a health education and prevention specialist. Monica Munoz-Leal has a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion/Community Health Education from the University of Texas at El Paso. She is also a certified health education specialist from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc. Monica will use her skills to provide health education on a variety of topics to children throughout El Paso County. Topics include nutrition, personal hygiene, tobacco prevention and others. We look forward to Monica’s contributions to health education for children and parents in El Paso.

Gaston Episcopal Hospital Foundation Supports Dallas Outreach Efforts

The Gaston Episcopal Hospital Foundation recently awarded us $15,000 to support the Care Van Program outreach efforts in the Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) region. This award will be matched with other funds to help reach 16,000 children during the grant cycle. In addition, funding will be used to help expand Be Healthy, Be Clean health education efforts throughout the Greater DFW area. Gaston Foundation awards grants to provide medical care, medical treatment, medical education, and medical research in the State of Texas. We graciously thank the Gaston Foundation for their support!
Meet Our New Care Van Lead Nurses

Terri Lyons
Terri joined the Care Van Program in October 2014 as the lead nurse for the DFW territory, responsible for managing the clinics in the area. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Christian University School of Nursing. She has more than 36 years of professional nursing experience with many of these years dedicated to school nursing. Most recently, she served as supervisor of health services for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District. Terri says she enjoys encouraging parents to make good health decisions and to have their children immunized. “When I was a child, I would play ‘hospital’ with my dolls around my bed as patients and give them instructions,” she recalls.

Terri is enjoying her new start with the Care Van Program. “I love everything about Care Van. Everyone deserves good health care. Prevention is the key to good health. Vaccines prevent diseases,” she says.

“I feel my last 30 years in nursing have led me here to actively accomplishing getting children immunized. I love the children, working with their parents and all the great Care Van staff.”

Terri resides in the North Texas area with her husband Scotty. They have a daughter Katie and son Patrick who is also a RN. Scotty and Patrick can often be seen helping out with the Care Van. Terri also has one grandson, Declan, who she adores. Welcome aboard Terri!

Kerry Lee
Kerry joined the Care Van Program in June 2014 as the lead nurse for the Austin/Central Texas territory, responsible for managing the clinics in the area. Kerry received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing. She has more than 17 years of professional nursing experience and has worked in areas of nursing including acute care, cardiac, medical-surgical and postpartum. Most recently, she was a school nurse with Pflugerville Independent School District. Kerry was motivated to choose a career in nursing because of her mother.

“I wanted to become a nurse to help people. My mother was diagnosed with a chronic illness when I was young. I truly wanted to become a nurse so I could help take care of her,” Kerry says.

Kerry is appreciating her new opportunity to work with the Care Van Program and in public health. “I enjoy meeting new people and partnering with city and community health workers to keep our most vulnerable children healthy. I know I am doing something good for my neighbor, which is what we are all called to do,” Kerry says proudly.

Kerry enjoys spending time with her husband and three kids. She is also active at her church home and loves going to the movies. Kerry also enjoys hiking because “you never know where the path is going to take you.” Welcome aboard Kerry!

Be Covered Texas Campaign - Educating Texans
For the second consecutive year, the Care Van Program will participate in the Be Covered Texas campaign. This health education initiative helps educate Texans on the Affordable Care Act and steps needed to gain access to individual health insurance. Be Covered Texas is a grassroots campaign working to increase the health and welfare of Texas by helping individuals understand how to use their new insurance and assist those who still need coverage to prepare for the next enrollment period. The campaign, which is fully funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, is working with community partners to provider user-friendly information and on-the-ground guidance with the ultimate goal of helping Texas be covered. To learn more about Be Covered Texas or related events, visit becoveredtexas.org or call 866-427-7492.

Upcoming Countdown to Coverage health fair events will provide attendees an array of educational information, health-related screenings and activities. Hundreds of families will have access to free services including flu shots, health screenings, food giveaways and access to local community resources. As one of many community partners, the Care Van program will be on-site to provide free flu shots to those in need during these fairs. To learn more about these events, visit EnrollYouTx.com or call 866-427-7497.
Houston Care Van Program Receives ‘Neighborhood Hero’ Award

Our Houston Care Van was recently honored by the Houston Fire Department as a Neighborhood Hero. The program was recognized by the fire department for its efforts in providing immunizations to Houston children throughout the year. For more than 10 years, the Care Van has partnered with the Houston Fire Department to host immunization outreach clinics at various fire stations, along with special events including an annual Back-to-School clinic at the Val Jahnke Fire Training Facility. Congratulations Houston Care Van team heroes!