

Volunteer Spotlight

Jo Ann Peterson

Board member Jo Ann Peterson shows up at the Mission every Tuesday morning to help patients check out after they've seen a physician, and in their faces, she sees both the strain of the economy and the relief they feel in knowing they have somewhere to go for quality medical care they can afford.

"So many people go to so much trouble to pay their bill in full, even to their last coins," she said. "And they tell us, 'We wouldn't know what to do if it weren't for the Medical Care Mission.'"

Jo Ann's relationship with the Mission goes back 26 years, when she heard about a new effort to help people who were facing each day without medical care in the Abilene area.

"I wanted to put some things in my life that would give me the opportunity to return the blessings I'd received," she said. She found such a place at the Mission.

"I have such a love for this place," she said. "It has been such a part of my life, not only as something worthwhile but because it is great fun. I have made great friends."

Jo Ann gives not only of her time but of her financial resources because of the need the Mission meets in the community and because of the way the volunteers and staff treat the patients, with care and dignity.

"The medical assistants and physicians know our patients' faces and names," she said. "I like the way the Mission is run, and I'm so grateful for Dr. Fred White and others of First Central Presbyterian Church for turning to God with this vision."



Jo Ann Peterson serves on the board and volunteers every Tuesday morning.

Volunteers: The Mission's True *Heartbeat*



Call (325) 692-5266 to learn more about becoming a volunteer at the Mission.

giving opportunity

Help Needed to Furnish Rooms

The medical clinic's move to the building on Pine Street will bring with it an increase of exam rooms from six to 18. The cost of equipping each room with everything the physicians will need to care for the patients comes to \$3,500 per room.

At this time, friends of the Medical Care Mission are invited to help with this challenge by making a gift of \$3,500 — or of any amount — not merely to provide exam tables, stools and tongue depressors but to invest in the well-being and quality of life of the people of the Abilene-area community. Rooms furnished through donations will display plaques containing the name of the donor or the donor's loved one, if the gift was made as a memorial or honorarium.

For more information regarding making a donation to the Medical Care Mission, please call 676-3104.



staff perspective:

Dave Kraly, *Program Director*

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of messages from the Mission's staff members as they describe what it means to care for the whole person.

One day, Dr. Stoebner brought a patient to me who was suffering in a violent marriage. I listened to her story and began to discuss her options. After our conversation, we contacted the Noah Project, where our patient received shelter and protection.

Later, she returned to her husband, and the abuse resumed. At that time, she came back to the clinic with her husband and sought counsel. The marriage improved, and upon the death of the husband, I helped our patient contact Legal Aid of West Texas for help with settling the estate.

I still hear from this patient often, and that reminds me of why we at the Medical Care Mission are here. Yes, we offer medical and dental care, but the Medical Care Mission is more than a clinic. Here, our patients are more than their diagnoses, and we recognize that they are people who have all kinds of needs. We're here to help in any way we can, and that includes listening to our patients, praying with our patients and connecting our patients to various organizations in Abilene that offer what we do not.

This patient's story is one example of the way we at the Mission seek to care for our neighbors.



Dave Kraly, a chemical dependency counselor in training, joined the Mission's staff as the medical program director in 2005. Dave has lived in Abilene since 1976 and has served in the non-profit sector for more than 15 years, including his work at Just People and Betty Hardwick Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation. He is originally from South Lorain, Ohio, and is the son of Lucille Kraly and the late Steve Kraly. Dave served for more than 10 years in the United States Air Force and is a Viet Nam combat vet. He was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal in 1970. He was also selected all-Europe three times in both football and baseball during his career overseas. Dave and his wife, Malinda, are members of the Church of the Heavenly Rest. They have two grandchildren, ages 13 and 9, who live in East Texas.

john's story

Patient Travels from Cisco



John makes a 108-mile round trip to the Mission each time he needs to see Dr. Gene Shelhamer.

"I don't know what I would've done without the Medical Care Mission . . . They are truly out to help people."

— John

John left his home in Cisco at 8 a.m. and returned at 5 p.m. to accommodate his 1 p.m. dental appointment at the Mission.

He rode the 54 miles in a bus operated by City and Rural Rides because he has not been able to drive for quite some time. Several years ago, John had an accident while at work building a mall in Davenport, Connecticut. He moved back to Texas without a job and without insurance.

The income John receives from Social Security because of his disability does not provide enough money to pay for private dental care. When it became apparent that many of his teeth needed to be extracted, a friend told John about the Medical Care Mission.

John has now been treated by Dr. Gene Shelhamer several times and considers the care he has received to be excellent.

"I don't know what I would've done without the Medical Care Mission," John said. "They're Christian people; they are truly out to help people."

Donate Online!

It's easier than ever to make a donation to help the patients of the Medical Care Mission. Please visit www.medicalcaremission.org and click the "Donate Now" button on the home page, shown below. For more information about donating to the Mission, please call 676-3104.

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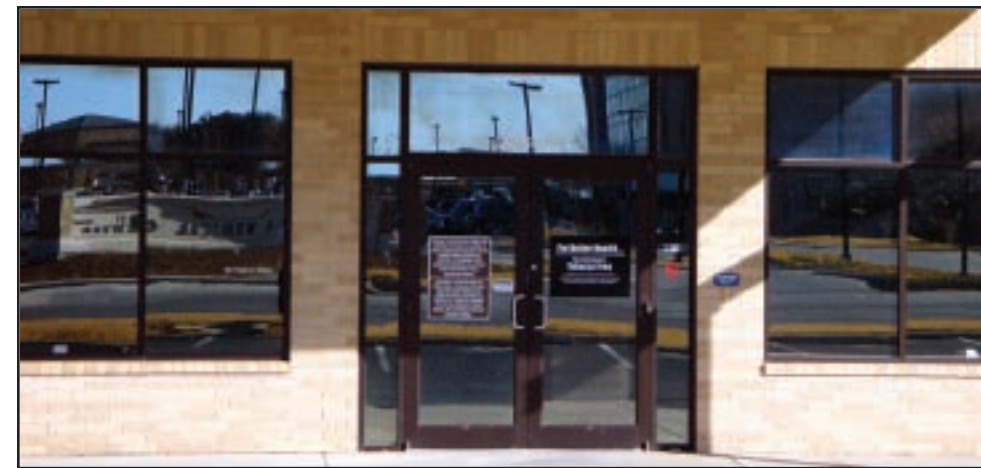
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Heartbeat



The Presbyterian Medical Care Mission exists to provide, in a Christian setting, quality health care to persons in the Abilene area.

Medical Clinic to Move to Pine Street



The medical clinic's relocation to 1857 Pine Street will allow for greater collaboration between the Mission and Hendrick Health System in the effort to serve the uninsured. The move will begin on June 15, 2009, with plans to be operating on a full schedule by July 6. The dental clinic will relocate from 294 Medical Drive to the current medical location at 302.

On June 15, 2009, the Mission's medical clinic will begin moving to 1857 Pine Street in an effort to serve more patients and have a greater impact on the community at large. The staff plans to be operating on a full schedule by July 6.

For 26 years, the Medical Care Mission's staff and volunteers have striven to provide a medical home to people who do not have insurance, thus reducing the number of people who seek primary care at a trauma center. The move is more than a relocation — it is a collaborative effort with Hendrick Health System to serve even more of the people who turn to Hendrick's trauma center for primary care.

This move to the Pine building, which is owned by Hendrick, will triple the size of the medical facility, allow for an increase in the number of patients, provide the opportunity to be more efficient in operations and enable the Mission to utilize additional volunteers.

When the medical clinic moves to Pine Street, the dental clinic will move from 294 to 302 Medical Drive, into the building currently used by the medical clinic.

The Medical Care Mission has more than 50,000 patients of record right now, and that number is expected to grow rapidly as the effects of the economic situation strip away the resources of Abilene-area neighbors.

Texas leads the nation in the number of residents who are uninsured. It is now being predicted that this great state also will carry the greatest rate of increase among the uninsured, as well. That means not only do more Texans than residents of any other state face each day without dependable health care, struggling citizens are being added to that number at a faster rate than in any other state.

The transition of the medical and dental clinics into their new locations will put the Mission's staff and volunteers in a position to further develop services in preparation to meet the growing need.

For more information regarding the move, please see the message from the executive director on Page 2, the article about giving opportunities on Page 4.



302 Medical Drive
Abilene, Texas 79601
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Admin (325) 676-3104
Fax (325) 672-1333
www.medicalcaremission.org

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J. Scott Golding,
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from the Executive Director

With the move on the horizon, the possibilities abound.

The medical clinic's transition to Pine Street brings with it the possibility of giving even more hardworking people of Taylor and the surrounding counties a medical home. The collaborative effort with Hendrick Health System brings the possibility of strengthening relationships among various helping organizations in our great community.

More exam rooms bring the possibility of inviting additional medical professionals to offer their services to help meet the needs of the growing number of the uninsured.

More space and an increased patient load bring the possibility of welcoming even more volunteers to join this ministry.

Increased space also brings with it the possibility of designating space for prayer and attention to spiritual needs.

The dental clinic's transition from its current location to 302 Medical Drive, where the medical clinic is now located, brings the possibilities of treating more dental patients and encouraging the participation of additional dental professionals.

Vision fueled by faith in God is part of the Medical Care Mission's history. It was faith in God that enabled Dr. Fred White and other local leaders to begin the Presbyterian Medical Care Mission in 1983. It has been faith that has enabled every major decision and transition since, from relocations, to additions of programs, to the hiring of staff members. The transition of the medical clinic to Pine Street and of the dental clinic into the current medical facility is no different.

As supporters of this ministry, your faith plays an important role. You soon will be receiving more information about ways your gifts can help us make this transition. Please join us in prayer as we prepare for the exciting possibilities that await this ministry and our community.

Contact-Information Updates:

Have you moved? Has your phone number changed? Do you wish to receive communication via e-mail?
We at the Medical Care Mission wish to communicate effectively and efficiently in the manner that is most convenient to you. Please share your e-mail address, update your mailing address if needed, indicate your communication preferences and mail this information to the address below:

- Here's my email address: _____
- My mailing address has changed: Address _____
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
- My phone number is: (____) _____
- I prefer to receive e-mailed materials only.
- I prefer to receive printed materials only.
- I prefer to receive both e-mailed and printed materials.

Our relationship with you is extremely important. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact the Mission:

302 Medical Drive • Abilene, Texas 79601 • medicalcaremission.org • Medical (325) 672-5601
• Dental (325) 677-3455 • Admin (325) 676-3104 • Fax (325) 672-1333

Memorial & Honor Gifts

Received December 3, 2008 Through May 11, 2009

Gifts to the Medical Care Mission in memory or honor of a loved one offer a lasting tribute and sustain this ministry of healing. Upon receipt of the gift, the Mission's staff will send notification to the honoree's family. Please send your memorial and honor gifts to:

Presbyterian Medical Care Mission • 302 Medical Drive • Abilene, TX 79601.

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