



RUTH'S PLACE CLINIC ~

*BUILDING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOR BOTH HOOD COUNTY RESIDENTS **AND** FUTURE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS*

Granbury, TX (February 11, 2019) – Since 2002, Ruth's Place Clinic, then just an offshoot of the United Way of Hood County, has been providing medical care to low-income and uninsured residents of Hood County. As Hood County's healthcare needs have grown, so has Ruth's Place Clinic. Led by a Board of Directors, a small staff, and a host of volunteers, the clinic continues to focus on its mission to improve the quality of life for those most at risk.

In 2010, long-time residents and community supporters, John & Mary Jo Hill, purchased a house on Crawford Avenue in Granbury city limits to make medical care more accessible and adequate for those in need. The Oak Trail Shores location was not large enough to accommodate the demand for healthcare. Now, that location operates as a Community Outreach Center which provides access to social services.

In 2014, Mueller Inc. selected Ruth's Place to be the recipient of its annual "Helping Hand" program. A 3,200 sq. ft. expansion was gifted to Ruth's Place Clinic. As a result, Ruth's Place can now accommodate more patients. Patients are:

- children and adults
- employed, as well as unemployed
- small business owners, as well as employees
- living in homes, or with others who have opened their homes to them
- primarily English and Spanish speaking, but recently, other languages and ethnicities have been encountered

2019 is the organization's 10th Anniversary as a standalone 501(c)(3). Its operational budget depends 100% on generous donations from the community. The funds raised allow volunteer physicians (Family Medicine and Pediatricians), mid-levels (Physician Assistants and Family Nurse Practitioners), nurses, and others to deliver medical, dental, vision, and counseling services to patients young and old.

The application process is easy and is processed quickly. To qualify, program participants must be residents of Hood County who do not have medical insurance and do not currently receive Medicare, Medicaid, or other benefits.

Unfortunately, many Hood County residents - our friends and neighbors, local employees, students, stay-at-home parents, and even small business owners cannot afford to purchase, or provide, insurance benefits for others or for themselves.

FREE COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENINGS

Strong partnerships with other organizations allow Ruth's Place Clinic to provide FREE screenings. On February 28th, community members are welcome to register for the FREE Moncrief Mobile Hepatitis C screening. In addition, Ruth's Place Clinic performs health screenings so that Hood County residents can "Know Their Numbers" as recommended by the American Heart Association and the American Diabetes Association.

On Sunday, February 10th, staff and volunteer nurses screened 47 participants at St. Frances Cabrini Church. Each participant received an education booklet, along with a record of:

- height, weight, Body Mass Index (BMI)
- blood pressure
- oxygen saturation
- glucose
- cholesterol (HDL, LDL, Triglycerides, Ratio, Total)

Long-time nurse volunteer, Jose Espinosa, RN says, "Health screenings are important. There are many people with undetected conditions that can be prevented and/or treated before it's too late. By doing this, it can help you live longer and healthier."

Granbury High School Counselor and screening volunteer, Erica Espinoza, agreed by saying, "Health screenings are a valuable resource to our community, especially within the Hispanic population. Many families usually do not seek out medical attention unless it is an emergency. Maintaining good health can be difficult because care it is not easily accessible due to being uninsured and for many other reasons. Also, receiving education at the screening is key to help older adults become healthier and prevent diabetes and heart disease."

St. Frances Cabrini Receptionist and screening volunteer, Lizbet Briones, happily reported, "The Health Fair at our parish was a success! Just a week after the event was announced in the bulletin, we were able to fill 50 spots."

CLINICAL ROTATIONS

Since January 2019, Ruth's Place Clinic has developed several healthcare education affiliations that will augment medical coverage for patients during the week and will provide valuable clinical experience for future healthcare providers.

Ruth's Place Clinic is allowing future medical professionals to perform clinical rotations. They are pictured in order (L to R):

- **Texas Christian University - Jaclyn Gomez, BSN, RN, OCN, Family Nurse Practitioner Student;** supervised by Family Medicine physicians and Pediatricians
- **Texas Tech University - Isabella Nguyen & Jesney Jacob, 4th-year Pharmacy Students;** supervised by Gamze Strain, R.Ph.
- **Granbury Medical Assistant School - Ruby Escalera, MA Student;** supervised by Clinical Director, Patricia Green, BSN, RN



TCU FNP STUDENT, JACLYN GOMEZ



DR. RIC BONNELL, ISABELLA NGUYEN,
GAMZE STRAIN, R.PH. & JESNEY JACOB



NURSE VOLUNTEER, JOSE ESPINOSA,
RUBY ESCALERA – MA STUDENT &
PATRICIA GREEN, BSN, RN

GENEROUS DONATIONS COVER 100% OF RUTH'S PLACE CLINIC OPERATIONS

As a United Way (UW) of Hood County partner agency, the annual UW allocation, donations, and Annual Fundraiser proceeds help defray the costs of:

- medical, dental, vision, and counseling services delivered at the clinic
- healthcare not available at the clinic – diagnostic imaging laboratory tests, specialist care, and higher-end pharmaceutical needs
- supplies associated with the on-site laboratory, pharmacy, durable medical equipment, and
- day-to-day bills such as electricity, office supplies, etc...

When, and if able, patients receive care at Ruth's Place Clinic, they are asked to make financial donations toward the cost of the care provided.

The community is invited to attend this year's motivational fundraiser. The keynote speaker is native Texan, Mr. Jim Morris, famous major league baseball player who was portrayed by Dennis Quaid in Disney's movie, "The Rookie".

Individual tickets are \$125 each and table sponsorships start at \$1,000 for eight (8) guests. A Live Auction and "100 Tickets for \$100/each" drawing will also generate much needed funds during the evening. Guests will enjoy a plated dinner by Hard Eight BBQ.

If you are interested, please contact Dixie Lee Hedgecock, Ruth's Place Clinic Community Relations Director at 817-578-0159 or dixielee@ruthsplaceclinic.org.

About Ruth's Place Clinic: In 2002, Ruth's Place Clinic began as an offshoot of United Way of Hood County in order to improve local access to healthcare for low-income and uninsured residents. Named in honor of a loyal United Way donor, Mrs. Ruth Tacke, it was located on the hospital campus. In 2009, Ruth's Place Clinic became a standalone 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Over the years, locations included the hospital, Oak Trail Shores, and Crawford Avenue in Granbury, Texas' city limits. Today, medical, dental, vision, and counseling services are provided in town and social services are available at the Oak Trail Shores Community Outreach Center. Physician, nurse, and other support positions are filled by volunteers. Community fundraising allows the clinic to care for patients who, when they are able, also contribute for healthcare provided. www.ruthsplaceclinic.org. 817.573-6800.