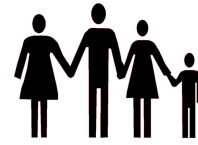


OUR HISTORY

Lakes Area Care, Inc - LACare



Lakes Area Care has been helping people living within the Burnet Consolidated Independent School District since 1985. During the first month, April 1985, LACare was founded and organized, and its mission defined. During June of that year, the doors opened and 12 families were helped. By July 17, an additional 14 families were provided assistance.

Initially directed by Rev. Jim Wooldridge, pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burnet, the food pantry was started and stored within the church. Working with St. Paul's Episcopal Church were the following:

- ~Rev. Bob Howard, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Burnet
- ~C. D. Maxwell, Burnet Presbyterian Church
- ~Rev. Sally Williams and Cindy Muhle, Christ is the Light Fellowship
- ~Rev. Rick Waters, First United Methodist Church of Burnet

On April 30, 1985, the Constitution and Bylaws of LACare, Inc. were reviewed, amended, and subsequently passed/accepted by those participating in the meeting of LACare officers. The election of officers was postponed until Thursday, May 16, 1985 at the Masonic Lodge in Burnet.

The September 1985 issue of *The LACare Gazette* noted the addition of a sixth church. Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church voted to join LACare, though the paperwork required had not been completed at that time. Nevertheless, several members had been volunteers since the doors of LACare opened in June.

The meeting, held on November 4, 1985, amended the LACare Constitution and Bylaws to allow churches in counties adjacent to Burnet to join LACare. At that same meeting, First Union Church of Buchanan Dam (Rev. Don Wayland) and Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church (Fr. James Donnelly) applied and were accepted as members.

The pantry was moved to a small corner room in the Masonic Lodge building on Main Street. Two bookcases, which held food, were donated or purchased by church members. At times, food was scarce. Merchants were generous with damaged cans, day-old baked goods, or slow moving items. Church members dropped by with bags of food and donations of money. All of the purchasing was done locally.

At that time, there was no Capitol Area Food Bank in Austin and no other local food banks in Burnet County. LACare was the first to open it's doors.

The ministry of LACare branched into areas such as distribution of Christmas presents to the children of needy families, gasoline vouchers to enable transportation to/from jobs recently acquired by needy parents, school supply vouchers, and prescription drug assistance.

LACare continued to grow and in January 1986 moved to a new location at 312 S. Main Street. The ground breaking for our current facility was held on February 27, 2005.

