

SAN ANTONIO BUSINESS JOURNAL



COVER STORY

HEALTH CARE HEROES

CELEBRATING THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS HELPING HEAL SAN ANTONIO

JANNETTE ZORRILLA, PAGES 11-25



PHOTOS BY GABE HERNANDEZ | SABJ

THE LIST

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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CHECKING IN

Alamo City hotels have seen room demand strengthen recently, but a key segment of travelers are staying home.

W. SCOTT BAILEY, 6

FOLLOWING THE MONEY

Job growth and a population boom have driven a Dallas developer to invest in Westover Hills.

JAMES MCCANDLESS, 4

MIXED MESSAGES

The local housing market has some home builders looking to slash prices while others push for increases.

RAMZI ABOU GHALIOUM, 8

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HEALTH CARE HEROES

HEALTH CARE TEAM/DEPARTMENT/UNIT
THE WESLEY NURSES

Methodist Health Care Ministries of South Texas, The Wesley Nurses are registered nurses who get placed where needed in communities across South Texas. Through partnerships with the United Methodist Church Rio Texas Conference and local United Methodist churches, the team consists of 87 full-time registered nurse sites across 74 counties.

The best way to describe Wesley nurses is to say they are faith-based motivators, educators, caregivers, connectors, resource providers and supporters. They connect those in need with the people and places that can help. Wesley Nurses promote the health of body, mind and spirit.

During the twin crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic and Winter Storm Uri, the team set up hundreds of food distribution events and virus testing and vaccination clinics. They advocated

for state funds to be distributed to rural communities. They've been advocates for immigrants, underserved communities, and those who cannot afford their health care bills as well as encouraging Texans to complete their census forms so the state could receive funding to care for those most in need.

After their offices were temporarily closed due to the pandemic, the Wesley Nurses continued to offer services via telehealth appointments, as well as delivering supplies and services to patients. Many nurses delivered food, clothing and other necessities, especially to the elderly.

After the mass shooting in Uvalde, the team went to the town to set up blood drives and collaborate with partner organizations to get resources and support to those affected by the tragic incident.



FROM LEFT, DANIELA KULYAS, ELISA GARZA, GLORIA CONTRERAS, WENDY HILBORN AND LINDA HARPER FROM THE METHODIST HEALTH CARE MINISTRIES OF SOUTH TEXAS THE WESLEY NURSES.

HEALTH CARE TEAM/DEPARTMENT/UNIT
SUPPORTIVE CARE TEAM, WELLMED

WellMed's Supportive Care Team offers physician home visits as a way to improve patient access to care, patient and family satisfaction and decrease unnecessary hospitalizations. Over the last 10 years, it says it has demonstrated best-in-class care to bring health care to the most vulnerable patients in San Antonio and in 11 other cities across Texas, Florida and New Mexico.

Founded in 2013, this team of doctors, advanced practice clinicians, nurses and other medical professionals care for some of the sickest and frail patients. Patients typically are homebound or have difficulty getting to medical appointments. The team offers in-home care.

During the Covid-19 pandemic the team did not stop providing medical services. It continued in-home visits

even when the patient had Covid to prevent more hospitalizations and further stress the near or at-capacity hospitals. With focus and compassion, the team recognized the pandemic would increase patients' isolation as families, friends and caregivers were quarantined. The Supportive Care Team offered in-home vaccinations, personal protective equipment, and grocery deliveries, when needed.

The team did a recent home assessment on an 82-year-old patient who was released from the hospital with COPD and congestive heart failure. He was found to need more oxygen, depression treatment and other services including Meals on Wheels. The patient was adamant about not going back to the hospital. The team was able to arrange in-home hospice visits to make sure he gets the attention and medical care at home.



FROM LEFT, DEANNA PATEK, HOLLY WILLIAMS, BONNIE ESPINOZA, LILIANA OAKS, MAGDA BORREGO, VERONICA ESCOBAR, ESMERALDA VILLANUEVA OF WELLMED.



Congratulations

Dr. Linda Hook
Health Care Hero 2022

The University of the Incarnate Word is grateful to Dr. Linda Hook for her tireless service in the healthcare field and commitment to educating the next generation of health care heroes.

We congratulate her on the well-deserved honor of being named the 2022 Health Care Hero in Education.



Together We Are One Word.



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Registered Nurses. Educators. Caregivers. Navigators. 2022 SABJ Health Care Heroes.

The Wesley Nurses are all of that and more.

Over the past 25 years, Wesley Nurses have become integral community cornerstones, through relationships built with individuals, community members, agencies and partners to be catalysts of health and wellness change. Congratulations to our Wesley Nurses for being recognized for their service and commitment to advancing our mission of "Serving Humanity to Honor God."

Learn more at mhm.org.



"Serving Humanity to Honor God"