



Lifeline Chaplaincy and Compassionate Touch 2022 Second Quarter Details by Region

A Prayer for Peace

... and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9b

Lord God,
God of peace,
God of knowledge,
God of grace,
We come before You, diligently seeking from You
that which is severely lacking in our world:
Peace.

On a national level, we are torn with the violence of enemies within and foes without,
and often by our own self-driven divisiveness.
On a worldwide scale, we are appalled and distressed by the lack of regard for
human sanctity,
And wonder if Your word of value for all Your children will ever be heard by the masses.

We confess Lord, that the outer battles we humans fight
are the result of our own inner conflicts,
Our own sinful pride, our own drive for power and control,
Our own willful response to hidden fears and unspoken guilt.

Forgive us, God, when we champion violence as the only answer to violence.
Forgive us when we demand justice for our enemies and expect mercy for ourselves.

Help us, Father, to be a people who love You and Your ways,
A people who love much and hate little, A people who desire and declare Your
healing, reconciliation, and joy.
A people who seek the language of love and resist the tongue of evil.

We praise and honor You, Lord,
And lay our request at Your feet, and ask for peace within
Ourselves and within our world.
Through the Name of the One who blesses the peacemakers,
Amen.

Dr. Virgil M. Fry taken from Rekindled, Warmed by Fires of Hope, published 2007

Second Quarter Calendar Events

- 4/8 **The Grief Handbook** – Virtual Book Review led by David Martin
- 4/12 **The Return of the Prodigal Son** – book Discussion led by Paul Riddle
- 5/2 **North Texas Celebration Saturn Road C/C Watch Party**
- 5/3 **North Texas Celebration Burleson C/C Watch Party**
- 5/2 **North Texas Virtual Celebration** – LC Website and Facebook Live
- 5/5 **North Texas Celebration Airport Freeway C/C and Dallas West C/C Watch Parties**
- 5/14 **Ministry in Times of Illness and Loss: Part 1** – Houston
- 5/15 **Ministry in Times of Illness and Loss: Part 1** – Central Texas
- 6/11 **Ministry in Times of Illness and Loss: Part 1** – Tarrant County
- 6/21 **Compassionate Touch 25th Anniversary Celebration** – Houston
- 6/23 **Compassionate Touch 25th Anniversary Celebration** – Dallas

Dallas

Hospital Patient Visits (In Person + Televisits)	481
Development Team Contacts	2063
Soft Touch Pillow Ministry Items Created	660
Soft Touch Pillow Ministry Volunteers	23
Soft Touch Volunteer Hours	208

5/23 Seeing God’s Healing Power by Geraldine Lacy, Chaplain Volunteer
<https://www.facebook.com/lifeline.chaplaincy/videos/351045720453845>

Transition by Jesse Stroup

Hellos and Good-byes are important parts in life's journey. I am saying Good-bye to Lifeline Chaplaincy Dallas and Gabe Fisher is saying hello. I want to share these thoughts with you as Barbara and I transition to Boerne, TX.

Lifeline Chaplaincy is a wonderful ministry. I am so thankful to have been the Director of Spiritual Care in Dallas for 16+ years. I love Lifeline because it ministers to the seriously ill and because visiting the sick brings into focus our dependency on God.



Lifeline Chaplaincy Dallas is in transition now as we anticipate the arrival of Gabe Fisher who will be the new Director of Spiritual Care. He and his family plan to be here by June 15.

The 23 Active Volunteers (and three volunteers in the pipeline to become Active Volunteers) anticipate the Fishers’ arrival. Several of these volunteers have stepped up to be team captains at the hospitals in which they serve. As more of our 9 hospitals open to volunteers after COVID, many of our present volunteers will be going through re-orientation at their hospitals. I sincerely appreciate our volunteers who have persevered the many ups and down of the past two years and have maintained the spirit of love and service to the seriously ill.

As Barbara and I transition from Dallas to Boerne we are again feeling so supported and affirmed by the Lifeline volunteers, boards, staff, area congregations and friends of Lifeline Chaplaincy. You have given us encouragement, financial support, prayers and spiritual support, and forgiveness when we fell short of the mark. Over the past 16 years, 18 Lifeline friends and volunteers have gone on before us to their eternal reward. They make up the heavenly crowd of witnesses who encourage us to finish the race that is marked out for us to run. For these blessings we are humbled and thankful.

A new chapter for Lifeline Dallas will begin with Gabe's arrival to Dallas and a new chapter will begin for us when we arrive in Boerne, TX. God's faithfulness is the constant through all these changes. We look to him for strength and stability. Please continue to pray for us and to support Lifeline Chaplaincy.

These words are on my mind as I think of leaving Dallas friends and loved ones.

Be joyful in hope, Patient in affliction, Faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

And God, every morning, may you satisfy us with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. To the glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Let it be so.



Welcome Gabe Fisher our new Director of Spiritual Care – Dallas

I am excited for the opportunity to come alongside the work that is being done through Lifeline Chaplaincy. I have lived in Abilene the past 11 years with my wife Jessica, although I am originally from Las Cruces, New Mexico. Jessica is a Speech Pathologist with a heart for supporting her patients in both the geriatric and pediatric populations. She will be joining me in the area with our three children Ethan (9), Madelynn (6),

and Gracelynn (2) a little later this summer. I have served in congregational ministry as well as in tent making ministry through my background in professional cooking. I am grateful to have worked as a chaplain and bereavement coordinator at a nonprofit hospice the past 3 ½ years. I recently completed my Doctor of Ministry degree from Abilene Christian University and have a passion for spiritual care at the end of life and ministry during grief and loss. Chaplaincy is close to my heart because I believe it captures well the compassionate ministry of Christ. I know what it means to have genuine and caring people in my life during times of need and want to be that for others.



Houston

Hospital Patient Visits (In Person + Televisits)	1,767
Development Team Touches	672

A Journey in the Wilderness by Paul Riddle

Note: Names and certain details have been changed to protect patient privacy.

“If the children of Israel could stand forty years in the wilderness, I can stand this,” James Carver told me one day. James had been awaiting a heart transplant for about three months, and I had asked him how he was dealing with the long wait. We didn’t know it at the time, but he would have to wait another three months before he finally received his transplant. James spent the entire six months leading up to his transplant in the hospital, too sick to go home. He was a person of strong faith, as was his wife, Carla, who was a great support to him and was often with him when I visited. Israel’s extended wilderness journey became for James and Carla a metaphor for James’ wait for his transplant, a reminder that God’s timetable is not our timetable, and that God is at work even when it doesn’t seem that much is happening.

One of the biggest challenges a patient awaiting a transplant is the wait itself. It can be days, it can be weeks, it can be months, as it was for James. A lot of factors have to come together in order for a transplant to take place – organ availability, proper match, health of the patient, to name just a few.

I visited James and Carla regularly throughout their six-month transplant journey, and I was impressed by their patience, their resilience, and the way they supported one another. Of course they had their ups and downs – good days and days when things looked bleak – but through it all they continued to trust in God to sustain them and give them what they needed each day.

Finally, the day of the transplant arrived. The surgery was successful, the organ was a good match, and James came through in fine fashion. His recovery went as smoothly as recovery from a heart transplant can go, and a few weeks later he and Carla walked out of the hospital together. I rejoiced with them as they began their new “post-transplant” journey, and they continue to occupy a warm spot in my heart.

Central Texas

Hospital Patient Visits	1,896
Development Team Contacts	290

Central Texas hosted our annual benefit at Dell Diamond in Round Rock, Texas on Thursday, July 28. The event was fun and successful with a great in-person crowd in addition to two live streamed satellite locations at Marble Falls Church of Christ (Marble Falls, TX) and Western Hills Church of Christ (Temple, TX). We look forward to sharing more details and pictures about this event in our third quarter report!

Tarrant County

Hospital Patient Visits (In Person + Televisits)	2,130
Development Team Touches	872
Soft Touch Pillow Ministry Items Created	300
Soft Touch Pillow Ministry Volunteers	10
Soft Touch Volunteer Hours	34

Check out the following video links to see and hear about some of the exciting work of Lifeline Chaplaincy in Tarrant County!

- 6/1 **Sometimes our job is just to be silent and share in the grief** by David Martin
<https://www.facebook.com/lifeline.chaplaincy/videos/1470019076778468>
- 6/24 **God “put me in the game”** by David Yarborough, Chaplain Volunteer
<https://www.facebook.com/lifeline.chaplaincy/videos/839904003570900>



Amount of Assistance Provided (2Q)	\$155,757
Number of Patients Assisted (2Q)	476
Veterans – 21%	
Homeless – 5%	
Children/Minors – 19%	
States Served (2Q)	18
Texas Counties Served (2Q)	69
Total Assistance Provided – 2022	\$325,914
Total # of Patients Assisted – 2022	978
Patients Funded Since 1997	29,033
Amount Funded Since 1997	\$5,379,926

Tuesday, June 21st marked the 25th Anniversary of *Compassionate Touch*! You have been an integral part of this amazing milestone because of your faithful partnership and support for hospital patients and families in need. As we humbly reflect on the past 25 years, while also dreaming and imagining what the future could be with you alongside us, our hearts are full and thankful for the opportunities to be partners in compassion for those experiencing financial hardship during a medical crisis.

It seems an appropriate time to remember “how we came to be” and our heart for the patients we serve. Those thoughts are captured in these words penned by our Executive Director.

“Texas is home to multiple major medical centers that yearly welcome thousands of patients who suffer and struggle with serious health issues. The genesis of Compassionate Touch emerged in these contexts. The organization took root in 1997 in Houston and then expanded to Dallas (2007), Central Texas (2008), and Fort Worth (2009). Texas medical centers have called our attention to the tremendous pain, suffering, and loneliness that too often fills their corridors. Life’s unexpected and undesired griefs and losses are the spaces into which Compassionate Touch enters with open eyes and ears to extend compassion, alleviate suffering, and offer hope.”
– Justin Thompson, D.Min.

In our 25 years...because of generous donors like you and our working partnership with hospital social workers...*Compassionate Touch* has provided funding to over 29,000 patients/families, equaling more than \$5.3 million dollars. This year alone, over \$325,000 have been distributed. That, dear friends, is something to celebrate!

***Thank you for being a part of this huge success and milestone.
 Thank you for SHOWING UP and MAKING A DIFFERENCE!***

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”
– John Holmes