



## PROVIDING 100% DONOR SUPPORTED TRANSPORTATION

to qualifying radiation  
therapy patients to Kate  
Marmion Regional Cancer  
Medical Center.



Thanks to overwhelming donor support in 2018, \$100,000 was raised to buy two new vans and to meet program costs. Pictured left to right are van drivers Clemente Moreno, Raul Valdez, Cipriano Patino, and Victor Valdez.

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We all experience life-changing hits, and likely know someone who has been hit with a devastating cancer diagnosis. We have seen the toll cancer takes physically, emotionally, and financially. And you've probably experienced the desire to help in some small way.

Having radiation therapy in Uvalde eliminates the need to travel out of our area for treatments, reducing many burdens on patients and their families. Donors to Kate Marmion Rides to Radiation recognize that some patients in our vast nine-county service region also need a ride to their treatments.

What does a gift to Kate Marmion Rides to Radiation provide? It provides care to someone who is not physically able to drive to Uvalde and independence to someone that does not want to burden others. It brings relief to family members who can continue to go to work to provide for their families. A gift offers some patients a way to get to treatment they would choose not to receive if we did not exist.

Each time that patients share

their unexpected hit of a cancer diagnosis with me, I am amazed at their resilience to fight and humbled by their sincere appreciation for having the van service. They express surprise and genuine gratitude that people they do not know have given a gift that helps to ease their burdens and gives them hope.

Over the next 90 days, the operating costs for the van service will increase as Clear Springs Center for Cancer Care installs the latest technology in radiation therapy. As they upgrade their linear accelerator, they will still see cancer patients, and those that need radiation will be able to receive their treatments at a sister clinic in Fredericksburg. We will continue to fulfill our mission to provide patient transportation during this time. Will you please help us raise \$100,000 to meet the increase in operating costs during these 90 days, and through the next year?

With gratitude,

*Sheri Rutledge*  
Sheri Rutledge  
Executive Director





**Antonia Samaniego** from Crystal City taught third grade for 41 years, and has been married to her husband, Robert, for 51 years. The couple has three

**daughters, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.** "We have had great losses and great blessings, and we have stuck together through thick and thin. Having cancer is tough; I started feeling extreme fatigue and weakness, and on September 13th, I was diagnosed with B-Cell Lymphoma. I am at peace with my situation, and I am thankful that I can receive my radiation in Uvalde. The van service is outstanding and is so helpful. My husband and I don't have the energy to drive ourselves every day to my treatments. I pray for the donors that support the vans; they have no idea how much they provide. I appreciate them."



**Antonia Bass, 55,** lives in Eagle Pass and has been married for 36 years and has four children

**and eight grandchildren.** "I was diagnosed with breast cancer in February. I will have 30 radiation therapy treatments, and I am thankful to have the van pick me up every day and bring me here to Dr. Brooks. Having the van has helped me so much because my husband and all my kids work. I do not know how I could get to my treatments without it. The van drivers are wonderful and they always ask how we are doing and want to know if we need anything. Muchas gracias, to all that give money so that we have a ride to Uvalde."



**Juan Esquivel, 73,** from Del Rio has been married for 40 years to Maria, and they have one son that has special

**needs. Mr. Esquivel is retired and is receiving 6-weeks of radiation for prostate cancer.** "My doctor in Del Rio referred me to Dr. Brooks. I no longer drive, so the van has made it possible for me to have my treatments. I want to give a big thanks to those that make this service available because there is a need and it has helped me. Thank you!"



**Margarita Ibarra, 58,** lives in Del Rio and has been married for 42 years. She had a mastectomy to remove a tumor in her breast,

**followed by 17-weeks of chemotherapy.** "I will have 30 radiation treatments, and I am very thankful for the van picking me up every day. Everything has been very pleasant because the drivers and the staff are so kind. My husband is a carpenter, and we are so happy that we do not have to worry about how I get to Uvalde, and he does not have to miss work. I have no idea how I could receive this treatment if I had to go to San Antonio. My husband does not worry about me, because he knows that I am in good hands with the van driver, Dr. Brooks and his staff. We would have been in a bind if the van service did not exist. Thank you for providing this help to my family and me."

*"I pray for the donors that support the vans"*



Staff of Clear Springs Center for Cancer Care at Kate Marmion Regional Cancer Medical Center in Uvalde are (left to right) Alicia Swimley, front desk coordinator; Danielle Ardolino, B.S.R.T.; Charles A. Brooks, M.D., Board Certified Radiation Oncologist; Claudia Rendon, LVN; and John Lara, B.S.R.T. Their professional staff provides quality care to treat the entire person, not just their diagnosis. They believe that a patient's time and energy should be spent fighting cancer, not traffic jams and scheduling problems. Learn more at [www.thecentersforcancercare.com](http://www.thecentersforcancercare.com) or call 830-278-6200.



# NEW TECHNOLOGY OFFERED IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER IN UVALDE

## By Alex Streng

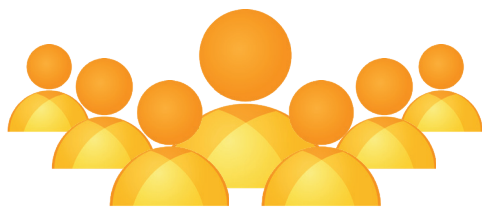
Clear Springs Center for Cancer Care has treated over 1,000 cancer patients from a nine-county region since opening in August of 2011. To keep our commitment to provide the best possible care for every patient we treat, we will be upgrading our linear accelerator (the machine used to treat cancer patients) during the holiday season. This emerging technology will allow for faster delivery and comfort of treatments, even more pinpoint precision in treatment field placement, and better visualization of the patients' anatomy before each treatment. More treatment options will be available to our patients, including accelerated partial breast irradiation, which cuts the duration of treatment almost in half for many breast cancer patients. We are excited to bring these upgrades in cancer treatment to our region!

Our current linear accelerator will be removed; a few treatment room modifications made, and then the new linear accelerator will be installed. Due to the sensitivity of these machines, great care, calibration, commissioning, and safety and accuracy testing must all take place before a new linear accelerator treats patients. To accommodate these requirements,

we will divert our patients for a period of 60 to 90 days. We will NOT stop caring for cancer patients during this time; we will continue to consult new treatment patients, as well as see our previous patients (now cancer survivors!).

For new patients requiring radiation therapy, we will offer three treatment options. Patients may receive care at our Fredericksburg practice, be referred to another physician practice, or elect to wait (only if their clinical status suggests it to be appropriate) for the new machine to be operational. Our board-certified radiation oncologist, Dr. Charles Brooks, will address these options with each patient based on their diagnosis and status. Patients receiving their treatments in Fredericksburg will be able to use courtesy transportation provided by Kate Marmion Rides to Radiation.

The last treatment day with the current linear accelerator was November 8, 2019; therefore, our goal is to be treating patients with the new linear accelerator toward the end of January 2020. Thank you for allowing us to provide outstanding technical and personal care at the only radiation therapy treatment center west of San Antonio.



## 320 People Transported to Cancer Care



**Ramiro Trevino-Lopez, 58, lives in Del Rio with his sister that is caring for him as he battles pancreatic cancer.** "My doctor told me that I could have radiation therapy in Uvalde and that there was a van that would take me to my appointments. I really appreciate it because I would not have come for treatments if it was in San Antonio or if there was no van service. I appreciate the rides and help."



**James Perry, 78, is retired and lives in Del Rio with his wife, Santano. Mr. Perry was diagnosed with breast cancer in May. In his fight to**

**defeat cancer, he underwent surgery, chemotherapy, and received 25 radiation treatments.** "I had a choice between receiving radiation therapy in Uvalde or San Antonio, and I am so glad I could choose Uvalde. The transportation has been tremendous; it is such a blessing because there is no way I could drive myself to Uvalde five days a week. I truly appreciate being able to have the van pick me up. Thank you for taking this worry off of my shoulders."

*"Thank you  
for taking this  
worry off of my  
shoulders."*



**Maria Martinez, 64, lives in Crystal City and is the mother of three and grandmother to nine.** "I

had extreme pain on my right side and experienced numbness, so I thought it was my heart. I was feeling so sick and fatigued and was running a fever. My doctor sent me for a mammogram, and I also had an ultrasound, and that is when they found I had Stage 1 breast cancer. I had surgery and will have six weeks of radiation. I had spent a lot of money going back and forth to San Antonio for appointments, and I am very thankful for the transportation and being able to get my treatments in Uvalde. The drivers are so friendly and thoughtful, and my daughter does not have to take off from work to drive me here. The van service has helped me so much."

Medina

Real

Uvalde

Val Verde

Zavala



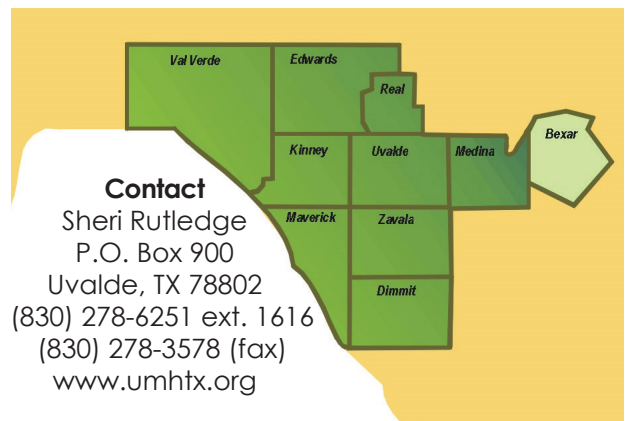
P.O. Box 900, Uvalde, Texas 78802

Kate Marmion Rides to Radiation, a 501 (c) (3), was created after the close of the "Saving Lives Close to Home" capital campaign which raised over \$5 million to build Kate Marmion Regional Cancer Medical Center in Uvalde. This effort brought Clear Springs Center for Cancer Care - the first and only radiation therapy practice west of San Antonio- and expanded specialty care for the residents of our region.

Patients typically receive 30 radiation treatments delivered over six-weeks. Our mission is to help alleviate financial burdens for patients associated with traveling to and from their daily treatments in our vast nine-county region.

Two vans transport medically underserved, low to moderate income, insured and uninsured patients. Patients use the service if they are unable to drive themselves, have unreliable transportation, or their family members are unable to take off of work to take them to and from their treatments.

The staff of Clear Springs Center for Cancer Care lets patients know that transportation is available and they plan treatment schedules for efficiency for our drivers. The drivers are instrumental to the success of the service and they do so much more than drive. They make sure the vans are prepared for their daily trips and monitor the need for maintenance – all with a smile on their face and a compassionate and friendly attitude. Everyone has a role in making sure patients get to their treatments and on with their lives.



**Please find a donation form inside this newsletter or  
donate securely online at [www.umhtx.org/donate](http://www.umhtx.org/donate)**