



**Providing  
100% donor  
supported transportation**  
to qualifying radiation  
therapy patients to Kate  
Marmion Regional  
Cancer Medical  
Center.

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## CELEBRATING 10 Years of Providing Transportation for Radiation Therapy Patients

November 2021 marks the 10th year of operations for Kate Marmion Rides to Radiation, an anniversary that would not be possible without the support and gifts of every donor. Donor gifts have made it possible for 380 cancer patients to receive door-to-door transportation to their radiation therapy treatments in Uvalde. Patients typically receive 30 radiation treatments delivered five times per week over a six-week time period. The 380 patients who have benefited from the van service represent 9,766 round-trips that patients did not have to provide for themselves!

Our mission was shaped over a decade ago from the desire to help alleviate financial burdens for cancer patients associated with traveling to and from their daily life-saving treatments. There is only one radiation treatment center west of San Antonio in our vast nine-county region and it still requires considerable travel time for patients to get to and from their appointments in Uvalde.

Through donations we are able to provide this service 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.

I was recently called to Clear Springs Center for Cancer Care to pick up a \$20 donation from a patient using the van service. This individual's gift was a sacrifice for them and it was important to them to give what they could to show their appreciation to those that were making it possible for them to receive their radiation therapy. This generosity from cancer patients has been repeated many times over the last ten years; they have given what they could. On their behalf we ask that you please consider a generous gift to help us close out this year strong.

We have been blessed with strong nonprofit partners, individual donors and committed board members. We look forward to continuing to meet patient needs over the next 10 years with your support.

We wish you and your family and friends a joy-filled holiday season!

With gratitude,

*Sheri Rutledge*

Sheri Rutledge  
Executive Director





## Donor Spotlight

Kate Marmion Charitable  
Foundation



Raul C.  
Benavides

Raul C. Benavides is a retired livestock and food exporter from Eagle Pass and has been married for 61 years. Mr. Benavides is receiving 44 radiation treatments for prostate cancer. "The van service saves my energy because when I leave my treatment I am tired and it also saves wear and tear on my car. Gasoline is expensive and it would be a chore for me to come to Uvalde every day. The driver is a good guy and I enjoy him and the other patients on the van. I appreciate the donors very much; I don't think I would be able to make it here without this good program. We appreciate the convenience and I am happy, relieved and thankful for the help."

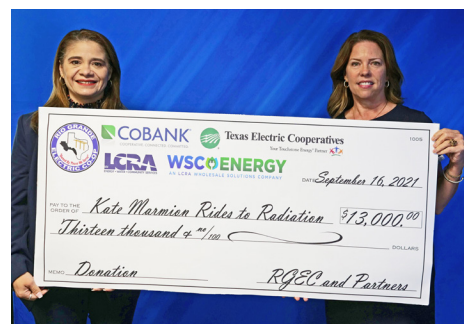


Osiel Saldua

Osiel Saldua is a retiree from Del Rio who has been married for 48 years and is receiving six-weeks of radiation to shrink a tumor. "The van service has helped me so much because our kids are either working or in school and gas prices are so high that I cannot afford to drive myself. The van schedule is set and I do not have to worry about anything. Everyone is so good and kind to me and make me feel comfortable. I really appreciate the care I am receiving and the donors that give to make the van service possible for me because without the van I would be in a bind; I have one less thing on my shoulders to be concerned with."

The Kate Marmion Charitable Foundation has awarded a \$40,000 grant to support Kate Marmion Rides to Radiation.

"The Kate Marmion Charitable Foundation is honored to support the Rides to Radiation Program especially in these times of great need in the Southwest Texas region," said Dolph Briscoe, IV, president of the Foundation. "We commend the excellent work the Rides to Radiation Program accomplishes in its mission to help patients receive the best healthcare available in their home area. Uvalde and its surrounding areas benefit tremendously by this wonderful service."



Pictured (left to right); Theresa Quiroz, RGECC chief operating officer presented Sheri Rutledge, KMRR executive director, with a symbolic grant check in October 2021. Kate Marmion Rides to Radiation was the recipient of a \$13,000 Sharing Success grant award, which included \$3,500 each from Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RGECC) located in Brackettville, TX, and Co-Bank; \$2,500 from Texas Electric Cooperatives; \$2,000 from LCRA Transmission Services Corp.; and \$1,500 from LCRA Wholesale Services Corp.





Beatriz Galindo is from Eagle Pass and received 28 radiation treatments in February for uterine cancer. "I am here today for a follow up appointment and I am so thankful I am feeling good and my hair is growing back. The van service was marvelous and convenient and I tell others about how much it helped me all the time. I have no family members to drive me so the service gave me an opportunity to have my treatments. I appreciate the van service so much and the people who give to make it possible."



Pictured left to right are Raul Valdez, Uvalde Memorial Hospital (UMH) director of security; Cipriano Patino, UMH security officer and KMRR van coordinator and driver; and San Juanita Rodriguez from Campwood.

San Juanita Rodriguez is a retired certified nursing assistant that lives in Campwood. "I missed my mammogram during the COVID-19 pandemic and in September I went for my annual check- up and mammogram and discovered that I had Stage 1 breast cancer. I had surgery on September 22 and thankfully did not have to have chemotherapy but started Arimidex. I will have five-weeks of radiation. The transportation has been wonderful because I am a widow and live by myself and my children live in Houston and California. I live so far from Uvalde and my car is not safe to drive. My kids wanted me to come to Houston but I wanted to stay home. I was so relieved when Dr. Brooks told me about the van service and I was so happy that I qualified because I am on social security and was worried about more expenses. I do not have enough words to thank the donors for their help and support because I would not be able to get to my treatments. I am so happy because I am on the road to recovery!"

## Covid-19 Precautions for Our Patients

We follow CDC cleaning guidelines to care for our patients and van drivers because cancer treatment does not stop during a pandemic.

Our vans drivers are dedicated to driving regional patients to their treatments and following all the prescribed precautions. Our patients and van driver's safety and health are of great importance to us. All occupants are required to wear face masks, and the van interiors are cleaned and sanitized daily. In addition, sanitation supplies are available in each van for patient use.

Getting to your daily radiation treatments is vital, and we will continue to do our part to take exceptional care of each patient.



Staff of Clear Springs Center for Cancer Care at Kate Marmion Regional Cancer Medical Center in Uvalde are (left to right) Charles A. Brooks, M.D., Board Certified Radiation Oncologist; Chelsea Lopez, LVN; Adriana Ballesteros, front desk coordinator; 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.



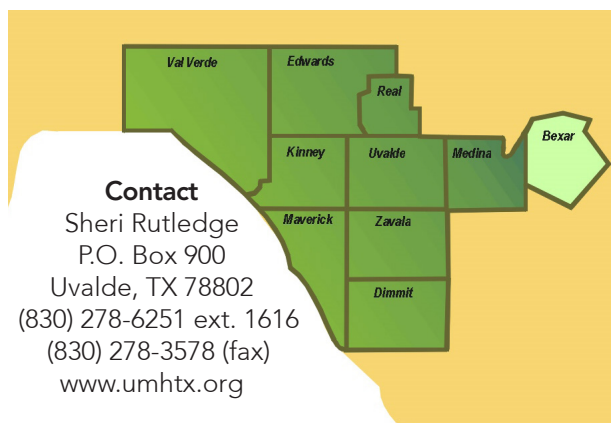
P.O. Box 900, Uvalde, Texas 78802

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)**