

# St. David's grants buoy nonprofits

Foundation hands out  
more than 11 million

By BRIANNE TOLJ

On the corner of Montgomery and West 8th street, construction workers this week pushed forward with the renovation of the Madella Hilliard Senior Nutrition center.

The center, operated by Williamson-Burnet County Opportunities, provides a hot meal and companionship for seniors every weekday.

The nonprofit's center has hosted the senior nutrition program for around 20 years and is undergoing a much-needed renovation, including the addition of a large commercial kitchen, seating area and new restrooms, Williamson-Burnet County Opportunities Executive Director Andrew Shell said.

"We serve more meals out of the Georgetown facility than any of our oth-

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## GRANT

### *Williamson groups receive large amount*

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er sites, yet it is the smallest facility," he said.

The building overhaul, which began two months ago, would not have been possible without the support of the community and a recent \$129,000 capital grant from the St. David's Foundation, Mr. Shell said.

"We are very appreciative of the support of the St. David's Foundation to help us complete the center," he said.

WBCO is one of more than 30 Central Texas nonprofits that received a helping hand from the St. David's Foundation in December.

The foundation dispersed 42 grants totaling \$11.2 million to 32 nonprofit organizations that provide health care services to area residents, including health clinics that cater to the uninsured or underinsured, as well as food banks and agencies that help the elderly.

Numerous Williamson County organizations, including Family Eldercare, Faith in Action Caregivers and Lone Star Circle of Care, received grants.

Lone Star Circle of Care, one of the county's largest health care providers, is the recipient of three grants totaling more than \$2.8 million.

All three grants are "largely targeted for our mission of providing care to underserved patients," said Dr. Tamarah Duperval-Brownlee, Lone Star's chief medical officer.

The largest grant, \$2 million, will allow LSCC to fund nearly 10,000 visits by uninsured residents of Williamson and Travis Counties, she said.

Lone Star's second largest grant of nearly \$700,000 was awarded to help facilitate the

cost of family planning care for women such as birth control, wellness exams and STD screenings.

With the family planning services budget slashed by \$70 million during the recent legislative session, the grant will help Lone Star off set a portion of the costs for such services that have now fallen upon them, Dr. Duperval-Brownlee said.

An additional \$130,000 grant will help expand Lone Star's Community Health Care Program, which helps patients find primary care providers and make follow up appointments after hospital visits, to ensure continual health care.

The St. David's Foundation is not only investing in the agencies, but entering into a partnership, said Spokeswoman Kristy Ozmun.

The foundation is awarding grants to organizations "that will truly address the health care needs of the community," she said.

"They are really looking for solutions to some sort of pressing health care needs in innovative ways," Ms. Ozmun said.

Earl Maxwell, chief executive of the St. David's Foundation, said in a news release that a goal of the organization is to solve healthcare challenges in the community through the grants.

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Through Meals on Wheels and its senior centers, WBCO serves around 600 meals a day to senior residents. However, for the first time in history, the nonprofit had to initiate a waiting list, Mr. Shell said. The grant funding will help get meals to those people sooner, he said.

"It will be used to keep our program operating to where we do not have to have a waiting list," Mr. Shell said. "Without the tremendous support from the foundation we would not have been able to do that."