



STORIES OF CONNECTION,  
KINDNESS AND COMMUNITY



JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023



**WHAT THE HEART GIVES AWAY IS NEVER  
GONE.  
IT IS KEPT IN THE HEARTS OF OTHERS.**

**- ROBIN ST. JOHN**



# I N L O V I N G M E M O R Y

SHIRLEY CHAM

MERCEDES CRUZ

CAP CHESSE

HELEN SCHOECK

THIS YEAR'S REPORT IS DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF CAP, SHIRLEY, HELEN, AND MERCEDES. EACH OF THESE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE HAD DISTINCT TIES TO THF. CAP AND SHIRLEY WERE FAITHFUL DONORS, HELEN A LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER, AND MERCEDES A RECIPIENT OF THE SERVICES THAT OUR PARTNERS LIKE CAP, SHIRLEY AND HELEN HELP US TO PROVIDE. ALL WERE A KEY FABRIC OF OUR FAMILY, AND AN ACTIVE PART OF OUR LIFE HERE AT THE FOUNDATION.

CAP'S DEEP PASSION FOR OUR REBA'S RANCH HOUSE EXPANDED TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS IN HEALTH THROUGH TEXOMA GIVING PARTNERS. THIS LAST YEAR HE BLESSED US WITH A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN IN MEMORY OF HIS WIFE, JACQUELINE, THAT GREETES US EACH DAY WE WALK INTO OUR OFFICES. EVERYONE WHO KNEW CAP KNEW HOW MUCH HE LOVED BRINGING JOY AND SUPPORT TO OTHERS.

SHIRLEY HAD A PROFOUND LOVE FOR SHERMAN FIRE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND SPOKE OFTEN ABOUT HOW THE TEAM WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND DEMONSTRATING CARE FOR HER HUSBAND, MAX, WHILE ILL. HER SCHOLARSHIP FUND THROUGH TEXOMA GIVING PARTNERS HELPS SUPPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN EMS.

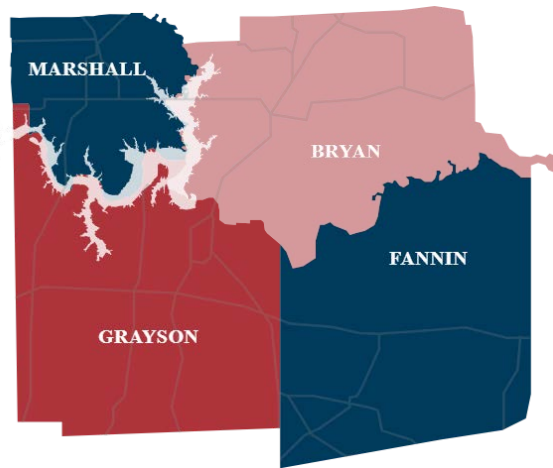
HELEN HAS BEEN A PART OF THE FOUNDATION SINCE THE YEAR THF WAS ESTABLISHED. SHE WAS WORKING THE 2007 REBA'S GOLF CHARITY CLASSIC WITH HER SON. NOT A YEAR PASSED THAT HELEN DID NOT VOLUNTEER FOR A COMMITTEE OR AN EVENT WHEN ASKED. A LOYAL VOLUNTEER AT THE DENISON HOSPITAL, SHE NEVER MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO STOP BY OUR OFFICES AND GIVE US A HUG WITH A SMILE THAT WARMED OUR HEARTS.

WE HAD THE HONOR TO HELP MERCEDES THROUGH OUR ROOM FOR HOPE CANCER FUND AND SERVICES. SHE HAD AN INSATIABLE PASSION FOR HELPING BREAK THE STIGMA OF CANCER AND MENTAL HEALTH. SHE NEVER STOPPED WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OTHERS ALL WHILE SHE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE TREATMENTS AND SURGERY. SHE WAS COURAGEOUS AND AN INSPIRATION TO US.

WHILE THEIR ROLES WERE DIFFERENT, ALL FOUR CLEARLY REPRESENT THE CARING SPIRIT AND HEART OF TEXOMA THAT WE GET TO WITNESS EACH AND EVERY DAY. WE ALREADY MISS SEEING THEIR SWEET FACES STOP BY OUR OFFICES AND YET KNOW HOW VERY PRIVILEGED WE WERE TO BE TOUCHED BY EACH OF THESE INCREDIBLE HEROES.

# OUR MISSION

TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF THE 239,623 PEOPLE IN THE  
COMMUNITIES THAT WE SERVE IN OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS.



TOTAL ASSETS AS OF JUNE 2023

**\$75 MILLION**



FROM JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023 THE DISBURSED

**\$4 MILLION**

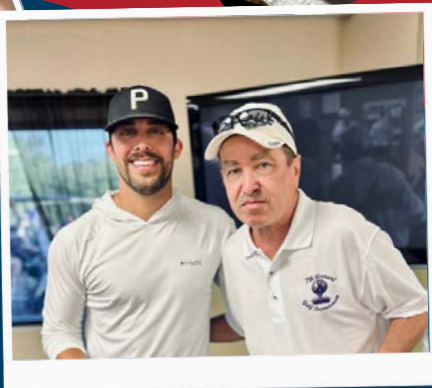
TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY COLLABORATION, AREA NONPROFITS, THE  
BUILT-ENVIRONMENT, AND CHARITABLE PROGRAMS CREATING  
COMMUNITY CHANGE FOR RESIDENTS TO LIVE LONG, HEALTHY LIVES

WE RECEIVED

**\$9 MILLION**



IN DONATIONS TO HELP US DO MORE TOGETHER





# THE BOARD



CHAIRMAN JOE FALLON  
VICE CHAIRMAN PAT FLYNN  
SECRETARY/TREASURER GINGER NYE

HEATHER BURRAGE, GRANTS AND GIVING CHAIRMAN

CINDY BANKSTON

SETH FAIRCHILD

PAT FLYNN

DR. JEANNINE HATT

DAN LITTLE

BRYCE MARTENS

TRACI MOORE

LESLIE MATTHEWS: REBA INC.

DR. TIM PARKER

JIM WALKER, FINANCE CHAIRMAN

BILL WILSON, AUDIT CHAIRMAN

## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN

AS I FINISH THIS YEAR AND BEGIN MY FINAL TERM AS THE BOARD CHAIRMAN OF THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM TRULY HONORED TO SERVE IN THIS ROLE. I AM INSPIRED AND IN AWE OF THE NONPROFITS, DONORS, PARTNERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, OUR THF TEAM AND FELLOW BOARD MEMBERS. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS YEAR'S REPORT AS WE SHARE THE STORIES OF THE TRUE STARS MOVING OUR MISSION FORWARD EACH AND EVERY DAY. YOU WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK BEHIND EACH OF **THF'S THREE CORE AREAS** OF OPERATIONS.

**INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES:** AS A FOUNDATION WE MAKE INVESTMENTS IN NONPROFITS SERVING RESIDENTS IN OUR FOUR-COUNTY SERVICE AREA THROUGH TRADITIONAL GRANTMAKING, WE MAKE BIG INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITY CHANGE THROUGH PLACE-BASED PHILANTHROPY, AND WE STRIVE TO RAISE THE NONPROFIT AND PHILANTHROPIC BAR TOGETHER THROUGH INCREASED AWARENESS OF NONPROFIT SERVICES, COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAININGS. LAST YEAR WE INVESTED IN NONPROFIT PROGRAMS THAT IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITIES' SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH BY INVESTING IN COMMUNITY SPACES, ENCOURAGING PREVENTION, SUPPORTING QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, INCREASING ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, NUTRITION, AND THE NUMBER OF NURSES PRACTICING IN TEXOMA.

**OPERATING OUR OWN CHARITY:** ACCORDING TO GRANTMAKERS IN HEALTH, THF IS AMONG ONLY 1/3 OF FOUNDATIONS ACROSS THE U.S. THAT OPERATE THEIR OWN CHARITY. REBA'S RANCH HOUSE WAS ONCE AGAIN RECOGNIZED THIS YEAR BY THE HOSPITAL HOSPITALITY HOUSE NETWORK FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE. WE ARE PROUD TO OWN AND MANAGE REBA MCENTIRE'S ONLY NAMED NONPROFIT THAT BRINGS HOPE AND CARE TO FAMILIES TRAVELING FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE TO BE CLOSE TO LOVED ONES IN HOSPITALS IN TEXOMA.

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION:** WE CANNOT DO THIS WORK ALONE. WE CONTINUOUSLY FOCUS ON FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE COMMUNITY TO HAVE A GREATER IMPACT. WE DO THIS BY CREATING AND SUPPORTING COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS, HELPING OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, AND ORGANIZATIONS CONNECT THEIR PASSIONS TO PURPOSE THROUGH SPECIAL PROJECTS AND LEGACY FUNDS. WE GAINED NEW FUND PARTNERS WHO ARE INVESTING IN A HEALTHIER TEXOMA INCLUDING OUR RECENT GIFT FROM PHILANTHROPIST, MACKENZIE SCOTT.

THIS GIFT HAS ALLOWED US TO SECURE A GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED TEAM TO FACILITATE A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN, BOLD REGIONAL PLAN FOR MENTAL WELLBEING THAT I WILL BE EXCITED TO SHARE IN NEXT YEAR'S REPORT. AFTER YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO SHARE THAT WE LAUNCHED MINDWELL TEXOMA WITH AREA BUSINESS CHAMPIONS TO IMPROVE THE MENTAL WELLBEING WITHIN AND BEYOND THE WORKPLACE DOOR, AND PARTNERED WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS TO RAISE AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION AROUND THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF INCREASING FENTANYL RATES HERE AT HOME.

I LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER INCREDIBLE YEAR IN THIS ROLE AND HOPE YOU ENJOY AND ARE INSPIRED BY THE HEROES CAPTURED IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW.

ON BEHALF OF THE THF BOARD, THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE A PART OF THIS WORK. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW US YET, WE INVITE YOU TO CONNECT AND LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT TO A THRIVING TEXOMA.



Joe Fallon, THF Board Chairman

# COMMUNITY BOARD ADVISOR / AMBASSADOR

THIS YEAR OUR BOARD WELCOMED OUR FOUNDING BOARD CHAIRMAN, HERMAN RINGLER AS OUR FIRST THF BOARD COMMUNITY ADVISOR. HERMAN IS LOVED BY ALL OF US AT THF. HE HAS REMAINED COMMITTED TO THF'S MISSION AND IS PASSIONATE ABOUT IMPROVING LIVES IN THE COMMUNITIES THAT WE SERVE.

## A MESSAGE FROM HERMAN:

"OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE IN THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION COMMUNITY.

I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO SERVE ON THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION BOARD WHERE VOLUNTEERS HAVE COME TOGETHER TO COMPLETE OUR MISSION STATEMENT.

OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO CREATE A SOCIETY THAT DOESN'T HAVE PEOPLE IN NEED, AND THAT'S VERY DIFFERENT FROM TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE IN NEED.

THE "WOW" FACTOR IS THAT WE HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE TO LIVE IN A THF COMMUNITY WHERE WE HAVE THE RESOURCES AND TALENTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR CITIZENS BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE, PAST AND PRESENT, WHO HAD THE VISION TO CREATE THIS ENTITY THAT ENABLES US TO FULFILL OUR MISSION. A THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF AND LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR PLANTING THE SEED THAT HAS ENABLED US NOT ONLY TO BUILD THE REBA'S RANCH HOUSE BUT ALSO TO FUND COMMUNITY REQUESTS FROM OUR FOUR-COUNTY SERVICE AREA.

IF YOU WANT TO FEEL HAPPY DO SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF.

IF YOU WANT TO FEEL FULFILLED, DO SOMETHING FOR  
SOMEONE ELSE."





**COMMUNITY IS FIRST OF ALL  
A QUALITY OF THE HEART.  
THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE ALIVE,  
NOT FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR ONE  
ANOTHER.**

**-HENRI NOUWEN**



## A NOTE FROM THE CEO

DEAR FRIENDS,

THIS REPORT COVERS THF'S 16TH YEAR AS TEXOMA'S COMMUNITY PUBLIC FOUNDATION. AS THE FOUNDING CEO, I TOO WILL BE COMPLETING MY 16TH YEAR AT THF. ALONG THIS INCREDIBLE JOURNEY IT HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE EVIDENT THAT WE WILL NEVER ARRIVE AT OUR MISSION TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THOSE LIVING IN OUR FOUR-COUNTY SERVICE AREA IF WE DON'T FIRST UNDERSTAND AND ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLBEING. AS ONE OF MY MENTORS, DR. VIKRAM PATEL OFTEN SAYS, "WE WILL NEVER ACHIEVE HEALTH WITHOUT MENTAL HEALTH".

THIS ROAD STARTED FOR US TWELVE YEARS AGO WHEN AFTER CONDUCTING FORUMS AND STUDYING DATA, THE THF BOARD NAMED MENTAL HEALTH AS OUR FOUNDATION'S PRIORITY. SINCE THAT DAY WE HAVE DRAMATICALLY INVESTED MORE OF OUR TIME AND DOLLARS INTO CREATING A MENTALLY HEALTHY REGION. WE ARE CONSISTENTLY AND ACTIVELY LISTENING, STUDYING, INVESTING AND IMPLEMENTING. NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL DATA, ALONG WITH VOICES FROM ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES, REINFORCE THE NEED TO ADDRESS, PREVENT, TREAT AND MANAGE MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE. ALL FOUR OF OUR OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS COUNTIES CARRY SOME OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF SUICIDE, DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY COMPARED TO OUR RESPECTIVE STATES, AND A FOCUSED-STUDY BY GALLUP REPORTED THAT TWO OF EVERY THREE OF OUR RESIDENTS FELT THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE HOPE OR PURPOSE IN THEIR LIVES. SIMULTANEOUSLY, WE ARE SEEING DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENTS IN STIGMA REDUCTION, POSITIVE DATA FROM SCHOOL-BASED PROJECTS THROUGH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, INCREASED COLLABORATION AROUND MENTAL HEALTH CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE, AND IMPROVED ACCESS THROUGH FUNDING IN TELE-MENTAL HEALTH.

AS I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH PEERS AND PARTNERS ACROSS THE U.S., I AM MORE AND MORE CERTAIN THAT TEXOMA CAN BE KNOWN AS THE COMMUNITY THAT SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVES A CULTURE OF MENTAL WELLBEING. A PLACE WHERE ALL RESIDENTS HAVE A STRONG CONNECTION TO HOPE AND PURPOSE, AN OPPORTUNITY TO

THRIVE, RECOGNIZE SIGNS EARLY FOR SELF-CARE, OPENLY SHARE WHEN WE ARE HURTING, STRESSED, ANXIOUS, OR IN NEED OF HELP, AND IN TURN, RECEIVE CARE FROM PROFESSIONALS, AND SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS WHEN NEEDED.

THIS WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED WITH ONE PROGRAM, PROJECT OR SOLUTION. IT WILL REQUIRE A COMMUNITY DRIVEN, MULTI-FACETED APPROACH SUPPORTING THE FULL SPECTRUM OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING THAT IS UNFOLDING HERE IN TEXOMA. I AM SO VERY GRATEFUL FOR AN INCREDIBLE TEAM, AN ENGAGED BOARD, A LONG LIST OF TALENTED AND PASSIONATE PARTNERS, DONORS, MENTORS AND LEADERS WHO ARE A PART OF THIS JOURNEY. I AM HAPPY TO SHARE THAT OUR FRIEND AND PROFESSIONAL WRITER, SARAH SAWYER, HAS BEAUTIFULLY CAPTURED STORIES OF THOSE ON THE GROUND MOVING OUR MISSION FORWARD. THESE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS AND HEROES EMBEDDED IN COMMUNITY AND REPRESENTING THE HEART OF TEXOMA.



*Michelle Lemming*

MICHELLE LEMMING, THE CEO & PRESIDENT



**STORYTELLING HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE  
HEART OF BEING HUMAN BECAUSE IT  
SERVES SOME OF OUR MOST BASIC NEEDS,  
PASSING ALONG OUR TRADITIONS  
CONFESSING FAILINGS, HEALING WOUNDS,  
ENGENDERING HOPE, STRENGTHENING OUR  
SENSE OF COMMUNITY.**



**-PARKER J. PALMER**



# CAPTURING OUR STORIES WITH HEART

SARAH ELISABETH SAWYER IS A STORY ARCHAEOLOGIST. SHE DIGS UP SHARDS OF PAST LIVES, HOPES, AND TRUTHS, AND PIECES THEM TOGETHER FOR READERS TODAY. THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN HONORED HER AS A LITERARY ARTIST THROUGH THEIR ARTIST LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR HER WORK IN PRESERVING CHOCTAW TRAIL OF TEARS STORIES. SHE IS ALSO A FREELANCE COPYWRITER WHO HAS LOVED WRITING FOR REBA'S RANCH HOUSE SINCE 2019.

A TRIBAL MEMBER OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, SARAH RESIDES IN HER HOMETOWN OF CANTON, TEXAS.







**YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT THE WHOLE  
PATIENT AND THE WHOLE FAMILY,  
BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF A  
BABY, YOU'RE ALSO TAKING CARE OF A  
FAMILY. REBA'S RANCH HOUSE PROVIDES  
THAT EXTRA LAYER OF SUPPORT.**

**-DR. SNEHAL DOSHI**



# THE HOUSE THAT REBA BUILT TAKING CARE OF THE FAMILIES OF TINY BABIES AT REBA'S RANCH HOUSE



WHILE PHYSICIANS FOCUS ON THE HEALTH OF THE BABY—SOME AS TINY AS ONE POUND—THE RANCH HOUSE TAKES CARE OF THE HEALTH OF THE PARENTS. PARENTS SHOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT GAS MONEY WHEN THEIR NEWBORN BABY IS IN INTENSIVE CARE. THAT IS ONE OF THE DRIVING FACTORS BEHIND THE MILLENNIUM MEDICAL GROUP'S PARTNERSHIP WITH REBA'S RANCH HOUSE. THE GROUP OWNS AND MANAGES MULTIPLE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNITS (NICU) THROUGHOUT TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, AND GEORGIA. THEY ARE A NATIONAL PRACTICE OF NEONATOLOGISTS—PEDIATRIC SPECIALISTS THAT TAKE CARE OF NEWBORN BABIES WITH EXTRA NEEDS.

MANY OF THE FAMILIES THE MILLENNIUM MEDICAL GROUP WORKS WITH STRUGGLE WITH TRANSPORTATION ISSUES. SOME LIVE HOURS AWAY. FOR PARENTS WHO ARE EVEN A 10 MINUTE DRIVE AWAY, IT CAN FEEL LIKE AN ETERNITY WHEN THEY'RE SEPARATED FROM THEIR BABY. "IT'S HARD ENOUGH HAVING YOUR BABY BE SICK AND NOT BEING IN YOUR ROOM, MUCH LESS HAVING A BABY THAT HAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER FACILITY MILES AWAY," SAYS DR. SNEHAL DOSHI, CEO OF THE MILLENNIUM MEDICAL GROUP. "AS A PARENT, I COULDN'T IMAGINE MY WIFE IN ONE HOSPITAL AND MY BABY IN ANOTHER." THE UNIQUE BENEFIT OF THE NICU AT THE TEXOMA MEDICAL CENTER (TMC) IS ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO REBA'S RANCH HOUSE. SOMETIMES BABIES ARE TRANSFERRED TO TMC SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE THE PARENTS CAN STAY CLOSE TO THEIR BABIES DURING THE LONG DURATION OF THEIR STAY IN THE NICU. "WE DON'T ALWAYS THINK ABOUT IT, BUT LET'S SAY MOM AND DAD HAVE ONE CAR, MAYBE AN OLD TRUCK, AND THEY'RE DRIVING 30-40 MINUTES EVERY DAY TO VISIT THEIR BABY," DR. DOSHI SAYS. "A LOT OF OUR FAMILIES DON'T HAVE THAT CASH TO SAY, 'I NEED TO SPEND \$20 TO GO SEE MY BABY.' IN TODAY'S WORLD, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK LIKE THAT. SO HAVING A MOM STAY AT THE RANCH HOUSE A FEW DAYS TO TAKE THAT BURDEN AWAY HELPS THEM."

CLOSE PROXIMITY IS ALSO VITAL TO THE HEALTH OF THE MOTHER AND BABY. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT KEEPING THE MOTHER CLOSE TO HER BABY REDUCES THE CHANCE OF POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION, LESSENS RECOVERY TIME, AND HELPS THE NEW MOM'S MILK SUPPLY COME IN.

A SPECIAL GUEST ROOM AT THE RANCH HOUSE IS SET UP FOR MOTHERS. THERE IS A ROCKING CHAIR (THANKS TO OUR FRIEND CAP CHESSER), AND EVERYTHING SHE NEEDS TO PUMP MILK, INCLUDING A SMALL FRIDGE TO SAFELY STORE IT. SHOWER, LAUNDRY FACILITY, FOOD IN THE MAIN KITCHEN... PARENTS CAN FEEL AT HOME AND HAVE PEACE OF MIND WHILE THEY LOOK AFTER THEIR NEWBORN DURING THE INTENSE TIME. DR. DOSHI SAYS, "WE AS PHYSICIANS ARE SO FOCUSED ON TREATING THE DISEASE AND THAT'S GREAT. BUT YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT THE WHOLE PATIENT AND THE WHOLE FAMILY, BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF A BABY, YOU'RE ALSO TAKING CARE OF A FAMILY. REBA'S RANCH HOUSE PROVIDES THAT EXTRA LAYER OF SUPPORT."

"THESE PARTNERSHIPS ARE SUCH A VITAL PART OF THE WORK WE DO AT REBA'S RANCH HOUSE," SAYS MICHELLE LEMMING, CEO OF THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION. "ORGANIZATIONS LIKE MILLENNIUM MEDICAL GROUP ARE PART OF THE REASON THAT 100% OF GUESTS AT REBA'S RANCH HOUSE REPORTED A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR OWN PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL WELLBEING THIS LAST YEAR.



# TWO GENERATIONS OF HANDCRAFTED BIRD FEEDERS AT THE RANCH HOUSE



OUR REBA'S RANCH HOUSE HAS A NEW, SPECIAL BIRD FEEDER THAT MITCH GRAY ASSURES IS ALWAYS FULL OF BIRD SEED FOR OUR FLYING GUESTS WHO VISIT THE REBA'S RANCH HOUSE..

THE "BIRD FEEDER STORY" STARTS WELL OVER 30 YEARS AGO WITH RICHARD WARD, AND INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: RICHARD'S PARENTS, BRAD AND BETTY WARD, WERE RETIRED AND LIVING ON BETTY'S HOME PLACE IN NORTH TEXAS. IN 1992, THF'S LEGACY FOUNDATION, BACKED BY THE COUNTRY MUSIC SINGER, REBA MCENTIRE, OPENED THE ORIGINAL REBA'S RANCH HOUSE NEAR THE HOSPITAL IN DENISON, TEXAS.

OUR RANCH HOUSE SERVES A SIMILAR FUNCTION TO A RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE: PEOPLE FROM OUT OF TOWN WHO HAVE RELATIVES IN THE HOSPITAL CAN STAY THERE FOR FREE. GUESTS HAVE KITCHEN PRIVILEGES, AND, ON A ROTATING BASIS, LOCAL CHURCHES FURNISH BUFFET SUPPERS. BRAD WAS ASSOCIATED WITH A DOCENT GROUP AT THE NEARBY HAGERMAN WILDLIFE REFUGE. A LEADER AT HAGERMAN ASKED HIM TO BUILD A BIRD FEEDER FOR THE GROUP TO DONATE TO REBA'S RANCH HOUSE TO GARNER SOME LOCAL PRESS FOR BOTH ORGANIZATIONS. BEING A CRAFTY GUY, BRAD TOOK A LOOK AT THE RANCH HOUSE AND BUILT A MODEL OF THE FACILITY AS A BIRD FEEDER.

IN 2007, DENISON BUILT A MUCH-LARGER HOSPITAL NEAR THE FREEWAY, AND REBA'S FOLLOWED SUITE BY CONSTRUCTING A NEW RANCH HOUSE A BLOCK FROM THIS HOSPITAL. TEN YEARS LATER, BRAD WAS TERMINALLY ILL IN THE NEW HOSPITAL; AND HIS FAMILY -RICHARD AND HIS WIFE, JULIE, WERE STAYING AT THE NEW REBA'S RANCH HOUSE TO BE CLOSE TO THEIR FATHER. DURING A "SAVE-OUR-SANITY DRIVE" AROUND TOWN, THEY TRIED TO SEARCH OUT THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE AND THE MODEL THAT BRAD HAD BUILT. THEY FOUND OUT THAT IT HAD NOT WEATHERED THE YEARS OF TEXAS SUN AND WAS NO LONGER ON THE PROPERTY AT THE TIME THE NEW HOUSE WAS BUILT.

IN A SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, JULIE SAID, "WELL, YOUR DAD BUILT A MODEL OF THE OLD RANCH HOUSE, MAYBE YOU SHOULD BUILD A MODEL OF THE NEW ONE."



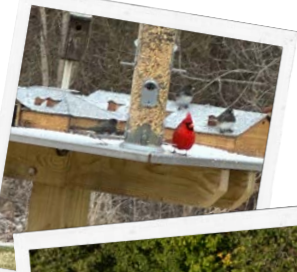
A bird feeder hand crafted as a replica of Reba's Ranch House made a unique gift to the Ranch House. Accepting the donation from Friends of Hagerman representatives Brad Ward and Jessie Stephens (back row) are Jeanie Graber (front left) and Dorothy Harber of the Texoma Medical Center Foundation Development Committee. The Friends of Hagerman donated several bird feeders, seed and irises to Reba's Ranch House, a guest house for the families of Texoma Medical Center patients.

THUS BEGAN A MAJOR PROJECT. A CONTACT ON REBA'S STAFF OBTAINED THE ORIGINAL AUTOCAD® ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN FILES, AND SKILLED DESIGNER, DENNIS BACON, CREATED A CORRESPONDING SOLIDWORKS® SCALE MODEL AND GENERATED PARTS DRAWINGS. AFTER JOINING THE HACKER LAB IN ROCKLIN, CA,

RICHARD USED THEIR WOODWORKING EQUIPMENT TO CREATE THE WALLS AND DORMERS. JIM KREBS, AN EXCELLENT ALL-AROUND CRAFTSMAN AT THE LAB HELPED HIM LASER BURN THE DOOR, WINDOW AND ROCK WALL PATTERNS INTO THE WOOD WHILE A SHEET METAL SHOP, ROSEVILLE PRECISION INDUSTRIES, FABRICATED THE BASE AND ROOF DECKS (AS A FAVOR TO A FORMER GOOD CUSTOMER).

RICHARD ASSEMBLED THE PIECES AND CUT THE "SHINGLES" ON A WORK TABLE IN HIS SIDE YARD. THE ACTUAL PROJECT WORK DID NOT CONSUME ALL THESE YEARS; THERE WERE MANY, MANY MONTHS OF DELAY DUE TO PERSONAL ISSUES AND WORK LOAD AT THE SHEET METAL SHOP.

WHEN RICHARD'S MASTERPIECE WAS COMPLETE, A CUSTOM SHIPPING CRATE WAS BUILT TO SHIP THE FEEDER TO ITS NEW HOME IN TEXAS. A FAMILY CELEBRATION FOLLOWED, FULL OF SINGING, STORIES, TEARS AND A DEDICATION OF THE BIRD FEEDER IN MEMORY OF BOTH BRAD AND JULIE.





# FEEL-GOOD MEALS TO SOOTHE DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

SOMETIMES WHEN GUESTS DRIVE UP TO REBA'S RANCH HOUSE, THEY ARE ON THEIR LAST GALLON OF GAS. HAVING A COZY ROOM TO STAY IN WHILE THEIR LOVED ONE IS HOSPITALIZED IS ALREADY A GIFT, BUT THEY SOON LEARN THE HOSPITALITY DOESN'T END THERE. A HOT MEAL OFTEN AWAITS THEM IN THE RANCH HOUSE'S KITCHEN.

"EATING AT THE RANCH HOUSE SAVES THEM MONEY," SAYS LINDA VISSERING, THE MEAL MINISTRY COORDINATOR AT THE RANCH HOUSE. "BUT MORE THAN THAT, IT'S KNOWING THAT SOMEBODY CARED ABOUT THEM AS A STRANGER IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION. THEY ARE OUT OF TOWN AND OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE, BUT THEY GET TO EAT FOOD THAT WAS MADE WITH SOMEONE'S OWN HANDS THAT CARED ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING FOR A STRANGER. IT'S THINGS LIKE MAC AND CHEESE AND MEATLOAF, STUFF THAT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD AND AT HOME."

LINDA HEADS UP THE SCHEDULE FOR THE MEAL MINISTRY, AND MAKES SURE NOTHING GOES TO WASTE. SHE KEEPS LEFTOVERS LABELED AND ROTATED IN THE RANCH HOUSE'S REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER. MEALS ARE AVAILABLE NEARLY EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK FOR ANY GUEST WHO NEEDS THEM AFTER A LONG DAY AT THE HOSPITAL.

THERE ARE ALSO CANNED GOODS LIKE SOUPS IN THE PANTRY FOR A QUICK MEAL. ON-THE-GO BREAKFAST OPTIONS LIKE SAUSAGE AND BISCUIT SANDWICHES AND BREAKFAST POCKETS HELP GUESTS START THE DAY. THEN THEY ARE SENT OFF TO THE HOSPITAL WITH A BAG FILLED WITH SNACKS AND A BOTTLE OF WATER.

THE HEART OF THE REBA'S RANCH HOUSE'S MEAL MINISTRY REMAINS THE HOT MEALS BROUGHT THREE TIMES A WEEK. LINDA COORDINATES THE LOCAL CHURCHES, LEAGUES, AND RESTAURANTS THAT CONTRIBUTE. IT DOESN'T TAKE VERY MUCH EFFORT FROM ANY ONE PERSON TO MAKE IT WORK," LINDA SAYS. "YOU GET THREE LADIES TOGETHER AND EACH ONE PREPARING A PORTION OF THE MEAL MAKES IT EASIER. A LITTLE BIT OF EFFORT FROM INDIVIDUALS ADDS UP. THAT'S HOW THE MEAL MINISTRY WORKS."





LINDA HAS BEEN A LONGTIME FAN OF THE RANCH HOUSE SINCE THE FUNDRAISING DAYS WHEN SHE BOUGHT TICKETS FOR THE REBA CONCERTS. LINDA WAS A MEDICAL ASSISTANT AT THE HOSPITAL AND ACCUSTOMED TO REFERRING CAREGIVERS TO THE RANCH HOUSE.

WHEN SHE RETIRED, LINDA BEGAN VOLUNTEERING AT THE HOUSE. AS A BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR, SHE WAS DRAWN TO HELP IN THE ROOM FOR HOPE — A ROOM IN REBA'S RANCH HOUSE CREATED TO HELP SUPPORT THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY FACING CANCER. HER VOLUNTEERING GREW INTO LENDING A HAND AT FUNDRAISING LUNCHEONS, AND HER CURRENT PLACE AS THE VOLUNTEER MEAL MINISTRY COORDINATOR.

"ONE DAY, REBA'S RANCH HOUSE DIRECTOR, MARILYN BICE SAID, 'I'VE GOT A JOB I THINK YOU'D BE GOOD AT,' BECAUSE I LIKE TO TALK AND KNOW HOW TO RAISE MONEY," LINDA LAUGHED. "SHE THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT HELPING WITH THE MEAL MINISTRY." VOLUNTEERING AFTER RETIREMENT IS THE PERFECT PATH TO RETAINING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. YOU GET TO MEET WITH FRIENDS REGULARLY AND HELP THOSE IN TOUGH SITUATIONS. LIKE LINDA AND THE MEAL MINISTRY TEAM, IT CAN START AS SIMPLY AS COOKING A PORTION OF A MEAL EVERY FEW MONTHS.

YOU CAN BE PART OF MAKING FEEL-GOOD MEALS HAPPEN AT REBA'S RANCH HOUSE WHEN YOU GIVE FINANCIALLY. YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS THIS LOVING HOME OPEN AT NO COST TO CAREGIVERS.

#### REBA'S RANCH HOUSE BY THE NUMBERS IN 2022-23

# \$414,345

INVESTED IN THE OPERATIONS AND UPKEEP OF  
REBA'S RANCH HOUSE

## 541

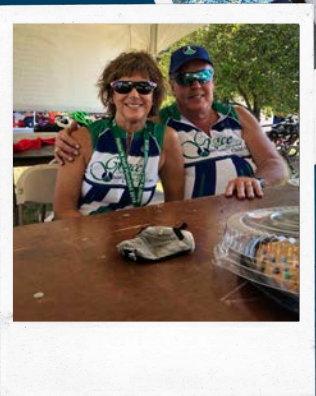
CAREGIVERS CARED FOR BY  
THE RRH TEAM

## 273

VOLUNTEER  
HOURS DONATED

## 6.5

DAYS  
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY





TEXOMA GIVING PARTNERS  
— COMMUNITY DRIVEN WELLNESS —

JACK & KATHLEEN BERRY: CAMP SWEENEY SCHOLARSHIPS

DR. MAX & SHIRLEY CHAM: EMS SCHOLARSHIPS

JACQUELINE VANDIVER CHESSEY: NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

CHILDREN'S: CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY SERVICES

COMMUNITY FUND: SERVICE AREA GREATEST NEEDS

KATHY BOURNE CROWLEY: NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

FANNIN CO. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY: WELLBEING OF FANNIN COUNTY RESIDENTS

R.L. FRANKS ORGAN TRANSPLANT: ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

JERDY & ANNE GARY: SUPPORTING REBA'S RANCH HOUSE

GET ABOVE THE CROWD: SOCIAL & ECONOMIC SKILLS FOR GIRLS

NATHAN HALFMANN MEMORIAL FUND: POTTSBORO HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

HEALTH WORKFORCE EDUCATION: IMPROVING HEALTH WORKFORCE

HP CHILD & ADOLESCENT WELLNESS: CHILD & ADOLESCENT WELLNESS

SUSAN HOOPER CANCER CARE: CANCER TREATMENTS & SURGERIES

HOWE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: WELLBEING OF HOWE RESIDENTS

REBA MCENTIRE FUND: CHARITABLE PROJECTS SUPPORTING THOSE MOST IN NEED

RAY & MARY MORRISON: SUPPORTING REBA'S RANCH HOUSE

ROBERTA POND: NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

RALPH & FRANCES PORTER: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

T.W. PORTER FUND: SAFETY-NET FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

REBA'S RANCH HOUSE: SUPPORTING REBA'S RANCH HOUSE

ROOM FOR HOPE PATIENT ASSISTANCE: CANCER TREATMENTS & SURGERIES

MACKENZIE SCOTT: HEALTH & WELLBEING

TEXOMA RESPONSE FUND: AREA RELIEF

THF PARK: THF PARK SPECIAL PROJECTS

DR. MACKEY WATKINS: DIALYSIS CARE



EVERY HEART SINGS A SONG,  
INCOMPLETE, UNTIL ANOTHER HEART  
WHISPERS BACK.

- P L A T O





# HELPING CHILDREN LIVE A FULL, LONG & MEANINGFUL LIFE

TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION AND TEXOMA GIVING PARTNERS HAVE COLLECTIVELY DONATED TO CAMP SWEENEY EVERY YEAR SINCE OUR INCEPTION FOR THE WORK THEY DO IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF TEXOMA.

DR ERNIE FERNANDEZ SAID "THE HOLY SPIRIT PLACED ME HERE". THE DIRECTOR OF CAMP SWEENEY WHO JOINED THE MEDICAL STAFF OF THE CAMP 34 YEARS AGO, TALKED ABOUT HOW CAMP SWEENEY NOT ONLY TEACHES CHILDREN FROM AGES 5-18 WAYS TO BETTER MANAGE TYPE I DIABETES, BUT HE SAYS AS IMPORTANT, HELPS CAMPERS LEARN SKILLS IN RESILIENCE TO DECREASE DEPRESSION, AND ANXIETY THAT CAN ARISE FROM BEING DIFFERENT AND FACING JUDGEMENT. FERNANDEZ, ALONG WITH HIS MEDICAL STAFF, MEDICAL RESIDENTS AND COUNSELORS INVEST AND CARE FOR CAMPERS DURING AND OUTSIDE OF CAMP TO HELP EACH CHILD LIVE A FULL, LONG, AND MEANINGFUL LIFE.

# LEAVING A COMMUNITY LEGACY: CAP CHESSER

ON CAP CHESSER'S LONG LIST OF CHARITABLE GIVING AND VOLUNTEER WORK, REBA'S RANCH HOUSE STOOD OUT FOR REASONS THAT GO BACK A LONG, LONG WAY. IN THIRD GRADE, CAP WAS GROWING UP IN EAST CENTRAL OKLAHOMA, NEAR PRAGUE, WHEN HIS FAMILY NEEDED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY TRIP TO THE HOSPITAL IN OKLAHOMA CITY. CAP'S MOTHER WAS IN A BAD WAY DURING HER THIRD PREGNANCY AND THEY DIDN'T KNOW IF SHE WOULD SURVIVE. DURING THOSE WORRISOME DAYS, CAP'S FATHER RENTED AN APARTMENT A FULL MILE FROM THE HOSPITAL FOR THE FAMILY TO STAY IN DURING THE ORDEAL.

MOM WAS OKAY. BUT WHEN CAP WALKED THE HALLS OF REBA'S RANCH HOUSE, HE KNEW THE DIFFERENCE A HOME AWAY FROM HOME, SO CLOSE TO THE HOSPITAL, WOULD HAVE MADE FOR HIS FAMILY BACK THEN. "I WAS STRUCK WITH THE MISSION OF TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION AND WHAT THEY DO, AND THEN WITH REBA'S RANCH HOUSE," CAP SAID. "I STARTED GIVING ANNUALLY, BUT GOT MORE ACTIVE WHEN I FELT THERE WAS A NEED. IN 2008, I REALLY STARTED STEPPING INTO THE WATERS THERE."

AMONG CAP'S MANY CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS, SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHMENTS, AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES—HE WAS THE PAUL KISEL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2021 THROUGH THE DENISON CHAMBER—ONE OF THEM IS THE "LEADERSHIP DENISON" PROGRAM. CAP HELPED ORGANIZE THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF FOCUS—FROM GOVERNMENT TO TOURISM—AND HE PUTS THE RANCH HOUSE ON THE AGENDA TO TOUR DURING THE MEDICAL FOCUS DAY.

THOUGH SOMEONE ELSE GUIDES THE LEADERSHIP GROUP TOUR, CAP WAS ALWAYS THERE WITH THEM TO GO THROUGH THE HOUSE. THEY SEE THE FOOTPRINTS CAP AND HIS WIFE, JACQUELINE VANDIVER CHESSER, HAVE MADE THROUGH THE YEARS. IT STARTED WHEN THE COUPLE SPONSORED THE LAUNDRY ROOM, BECAUSE JUST LIKE ANY HOUSE—IT PILES UP. BUT IT'S THE QUALITY OF THE HOUSE THAT CAPTURES PEOPLE'S HEART AND ATTENTION.

"IT'S AN EYE OPENER FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HOW NICE THE FACILITY IS," CAP SAID.



"THEY THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE LIKE A HOTEL, BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S A COMPLETELY ENCAPSULATED HOME FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BE THERE AWHILE." AFTER CHRISTMAS EACH YEAR, CAP WOULD ASK FOR THE RANCH HOUSE'S LEFTOVER WISH LIST FOR THE DENISON ROTARY CLUB TO TAKE CARE OF. HE MAKES SHOPPING TRIPS TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS CHECKED OFF, EVEN IF IT'S NON-GLAMOROUS ITEMS LIKE DISHWASHERS AND VACUUM CLEANERS. "THERE ARE THINGS THAT PEOPLE DON'T THINK ABOUT," CAP SAID. "ONE YEAR, THE THING THAT JUMPED OUT AT ME WAS THAT THEY NEEDED A WHOLE STACK OF TRASH CANS. IT'S ONE OF THE LESS BEAUTIFUL GIFTS I'VE EVER GIVEN."

BUT ONE OF HIS MOST BEAUTIFUL GIFTS WAS AFTER HIS WIFE PASSED IN 2020. CAP SET OUT TO KEEP HER MEMORY AS PART OF THE PLACES THEY BOTH LOVED AND ADMIRER. ONE OF THOSE WAS REBA'S RANCH HOUSE, AND CAP SPONSORED WHAT HE CALLS THE, "I MISS YOU, MOMMY," ROOM. IT HAS A CRIB, ROCKER, AND A FRIDGE—EVERYTHING TO MAKE A MOTHER FEEL AT HOME WHEN UNDERGOING A MEDICAL CRISIS. IT'S THE KIND OF ROOM HIS WIFE WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED, AND HIS OWN MOTHER AS WELL. THE IMPACT OF THEIR FAMILY'S MEDICAL CRISIS EARLY IN HIS LIFE IS ONE REASON WHY THE RANCH HOUSE HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS HEART.

IN MEMORY OF CAP - WHO FOREVER TOUCHED OUR HEARTS.



#### TEXOMA GIVING PARTNERS BY THE NUMBERS IN 2022-23

# 26

TOTAL FUNDS COMMITTED  
TO IMPROVING LIVES

# \$1,476,043

DISTRIBUTED TO PROVIDE  
PATIENT ASSISTANCE,  
SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT  
NONPROFITS

# 1

CAMPAIGN IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH GRAYSON COUNTY  
AND COMMUNITY LEADERS  
TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF  
THE DEVASTATING IMPACT  
OF FENTANYL IN TEXOMA



# SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND COMMUNITY BONDING AT THE THF PARK

FOAM FROM THE CANNON SHOT OUT OVER THE LAUGHING FACES. KIDS DANCED AND GIGGLED AS THE FOAM CANNON KEPT UP ITS BARRAGE OF FUN. A MAN IN A WHEELCHAIR SMILED EVERY TIME THE FOAM SPRAYED HIM.

“THAT WAS ONE OF THE MORE MEMORABLE MOMENTS FOR ME,” SAYS ANDREW MEANS, RECREATION MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF DENISON. “BEING ABLE TO SEE HOW MUCH FUN PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WERE HAVING DURING THAT TIME, AND THE IMPACT THE THF PARK HAS ON THE COMMUNITY.”

THE FOAM CANNON WAS BROUGHT OUT FOR THE ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH TO CELEBRATE THE THF PARK’S ANNIVERSARY. THE CANNON MADE AN APPEARANCE THIS YEAR FOR THE 5TH-ANNIVERSARY BASH, ALONG WITH WATERSLIDES, INFLATABLES, A ROCK CLIMBING WALL, LASER TAG, BALLOON TWISTERS, FACE PAINTERS, AND A PETTING ZOO.



"THE ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH IS ONE IN A LONG LIST OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES HOSTED AT THE THF PARK TO BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR FUN, HEALTH, AND WELLNESS. WITH MILES OF NATURE TRAILS, SOFTBALL/BASEBALL FIELDS, SOCCER FIELDS, SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS, PLAYGROUNDS, SPLASH PAD, PAVILIONS, AND MUCH MORE ACROSS 66 ACRES, THE THF PARK IS THE PLACE TO BE YEAR-ROUND.

THE FOCUS OF THE PARK ALIGNS WITH THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION'S MISSION TO SUPPORT THE WELLBEING OF OUR COMMUNITY. "THF PARK WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE A PLACE FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS—FROM THOSE WHO ARE THE MOST PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED TO THOSE WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN ELITE ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES," ANDREW SAYS. "THE VISION FOR THE PARK WAS TO PROVIDE A PLACE TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF ALL AGES, FROM TODDLERS TO GOLDEN AGES, FOR GENERATIONS TO COME."

FOR DECADES, THE CITY OF DENISON DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF NEW RECREATION AND PARK FACILITIES. IT FINALLY CAME TO FRUITION WHEN THEY PARTNERED WITH THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION AND TOM JOHNSON PROPERTIES FOR A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR, VERSATILE PARK. "THEY REALLY OUTDID THEMSELVES WITH THIS PARK," SAYS JESS, A REGULAR PARKGOER. "IT IS SUCH A PROSPEROUS INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY AND FOR PEOPLE ALL OVER TEXOMA."

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS ABOUND IN THE PARK. ONE IS THE STORY WALK WITH THE DENISON PUBLIC LIBRARY WHICH GETS KIDS BOTH WALKING AND READING. THEN THERE IS THE "WALK WITH THE DOC" AND OPEN-AIR PILATES CLASSES—FREE OF CHARGE. "COMBINING PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES WHILE BEING EXPOSED TO NATURE AND PARKS HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE, INCREASE SELF-ESTEEM, AND HAVE AN OVERALL POSITIVE EFFECT ON ALL ASPECTS OF A PERSON'S HEALTH," ANDREW SAYS.

OTHER HIT EVENTS ARE THE COLLEGIATE SOFTBALL WINTER BLAST, EASTER EGG HUNT, ICE CREAM SOCIAL, POPSICLES IN THE PARK, MOTHER/SON PARTY, TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL AND SOCCER LEAGUES AND TOURNAMENTS, KICKBALL LEAGUES, SAND VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES AND TOURNAMENTS, AND 5K AND FUN RUN EVENTS.

THE BIRTHDAY BASH TO CELEBRATE THE PARK'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY BROUGHT LOADS OF LAUGHTER, SMILES, AND COMMUNITY BONDING. "OUR FAMILY HAS ALWAYS GOTTEN THE THRILL OF MEETING NEW FAMILIES AND OLD FRIENDS HERE AT THE PARK," SAYS RICK, A REGULAR PARKGOER.

"IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN YOU SHOULD GO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF."

**\$793,519**

DISTRIBUTED



# GRANTEE PARTNERS

NONPROFITS COMPLETING THEIR FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2022

AUSTIN COLLEGE  
BIG FIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF DENISON  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF SHERMAN  
COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF GRAYSON COUNTY  
CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER  
CITY OF DURANT  
CRISIS CONTROL CENTER  
FANNIN COUNTY CHILDREN'S CENTER  
FANNIN COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES  
FANNIN HEALTH CLINIC  
GEARY GIRLS RANCH  
GIRLS ON THE RUN  
GRANT HALLIBURTON  
GRAYSON COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
GREATER TEXOMA HEALTH CLINIC  
HOME HOSPICE OF GRAYSON COUNTY  
HOUSE OF ELI  
IMAGINE DURANT  
J127 MINISTRY  
MADILL COMMUNITY DAY CARE  
MASTERKEY MINISTRIES OF GRAYSON COUNTY  
ROOM FOR HOPE  
SURRENDER HOUSE  
TEXOMA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP TEAM  
TEXOMA COMMUNITY CENTER  
THE REHABILITATION CENTER

**27**

NONPROFITS

**\$978,549**

DISTRIBUTED

# NON-PROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING: MATCHING NON-PROFIT AGENCIES WITH STUDENT GRANT WRITERS THROUGH SEPA

MOUNTAINS OF RESEARCH GOES INTO FINDING GRANTS THAT NON-PROFITS CAN QUALIFY FOR, FOLLOWED BY MOUNDS OF PAPERWORK TO SHIFT THROUGH BEFORE FINALLY SITTING DOWN TO COMPILE AN APPLICATION.

ENTER SEPA — SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION. THIS AUSTIN COLLEGE PROGRAM SENDS STUDENTS OUT ON A MISSION WITH SUMMERTIME SERVICE-LEARNING WORK THAT CAN FURTHER THEIR ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS.

ONE STUDENT SAID, “I HAVE WORKED OR VOLUNTEERED IN NON-PROFITS FOR A WHILE NOW, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I’VE WORKED UNDER A PROJECT THAT WAS SPECIFIC TOWARDS THE CAREER I HOPE TO GO INTO. IT CONFIRMED FOR ME THAT THIS IS THE PATH I WANT TO STAY ON.”

IN THE SPRING OF EACH YEAR, SEPA OPENS APPLICATIONS ON TWO FRONTS: APPLICATIONS FOR NON-PROFIT AGENCIES TO APPLY FOR A COLLEGE STUDENT GRANT WRITING INTERN, AND APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS OF ALL MAJORS TO APPLY FOR A PAID SUMMER GRANT WRITING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM THAT GIVES THEM COMMUNITY WORK EXPERIENCE.

THESE APPLICATIONS COME FROM A RANGE OF NON-PROFITS SUCH AS THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM, CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER, GRAYSON COUNTY SHELTER, MEALS ON WHEELS OF TEXOMA, AND MORE. EACH APPLICATION IS THOROUGHLY REVIEWED AND SELECTIONS MADE. THE MATCHING BEGINS, ALIGNING A STUDENT’S STRENGTHS AND GOALS WITH THE NEEDS OF AN AGENCY. ONE EXAMPLE IS HOW PERFORMING ARTS AND MUSIC MAJORS ARE OFTEN MATCHED WITH THE SHERMAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS AND THE SHERMAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

NATE BIGELOW, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT AUSTIN COLLEGE, RUNS THE SEPA PROGRAM ALONG WITH KRYSTAL HUTCHESON AND STAFF AT AUSTIN COLLEGE. “THE AGENCIES PUT ALL OF THEIR TIME AND EFFORT INTO DELIVERING THE VITAL PROGRAMS THEY OFFER THE COMMUNITY,” NATE SAYS. “WE HOPE BY OFFERING UP SOME OF OUR MOST TALENTED

STUDENTS THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE ON WITH THE FUNDRAISING THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.”

AFTER THE STUDENTS AND AGENCIES ARE MATCHED, ALL ATTEND THE COLLEGE’S GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP BEFORE THE STUDENTS ENTER THE FIELD FOR THEIR 200 HOURS OF WORK WITH THEIR ASSIGNED AGENCY. BECAUSE OF THE RANGE OF NON-PROFITS THAT HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE PROGRAM, SEPA PROVIDES A VEHICLE FOR AUSTIN COLLEGE TO INTEGRATE DEEPLY WITH THE CITY OF SHERMAN, WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED, AND IN SURROUNDING AREAS.

“WHEN WE LOOK AT THE SEPA PROGRAM AS A WHOLE, WE’RE HAPPY FOR OUR STUDENTS WHO GET TO HAVE THIS TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE,” NATE SAYS. “WE’RE HAPPY FOR THE COLLEGE BECAUSE WE GET TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN A MEANINGFUL WAY. OF COURSE, WE’RE REALLY HAPPY FOR OUR AGENCIES WHO, WITHOUT OUR STUDENTS, MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FINISH THAT GRANT APPLICATION AND GET IT IN. WE SEE IT AS A WIN-WIN-WIN PROGRAM FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED.”

TO DATE, STUDENTS THROUGH SEPA HAVE GENERATED NEARLY FIVE MILLION IN GRANT DOLLARS FOR DOZENS OF AGENCIES.

“WHEN STUDENTS CAN PUT THOSE [SUCCESSFUL] GRANTS ON THEIR RESUME, IT MAKES THEM LOOK LIKE THEY HAVE MAGIC POWERS,” NATE SAYS. “AND PEOPLE WANT TO HIRE THEM BECAUSE THEY’VE HAD THESE SUCCESSSES.”

THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION (THF) PROVIDES STEADY AND CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR SEPA, ENABLING SEPA TO PAY THE INTERNS AND OFFER SUMMER HOUSING FUNDS. MANY OF THE AGENCIES SUPPORTED BY THF APPLY FOR THE SEPA GRANT WRITING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ANNUALLY.

“WE ARE THANKFUL TO THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION FOR THEIR LONG-LASTING SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM,” NATE SAYS. “THEY’RE ONE OF OUR ANCHORS WHEN IT COMES TO BEING ABLE TO DELIVER THIS PROGRAM.

14

COLLEGE INTERNS PAIRED  
WITH AREA NONPROFITS AS  
A RESULT OF THF FUNDS

\$90,500

IN GRANTS SECURED FOR  
THF GRANTEES



# ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE: FILLING IN THE TRANSPORTATION GAP FOR CRITICAL MEDICAL CARE

DIALYSIS APPOINTMENTS. PHYSICAL THERAPY. EMERGENCY DENTAL. PEOPLE IN TOUGH SITUATIONS WOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THESE SERVICES WITHOUT A RIDE TO GET THEM THERE. THIS IS WHERE SORTS (SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA RURAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM) BY BIG FIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES FILLS IN THE GAP.

“MEDICAID AND MEDICARE WILL COVER CERTAIN TYPES OF MEDICAL TRIPS BUT NOT OTHERS,” EXPLAINS TANYA GLEGHORN, THE BIG FIVE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING DIRECTOR. “THEY ALSO REQUIRE A THREE-DAY NOTICE FOR YOU TO GET TRANSPORT. SO IF YOU WAKE UP AND NEED TO GO TO THE DENTIST TODAY BECAUSE YOU HAVE AN ABSCESSSED TOOTH YOU CAN’T GET A RIDE. WITHOUT TRANSPORTATION, PATIENTS MISS CRITICAL MEDICAL TREATMENT OR SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP THEM REHABILITATE.”

ONE CLIENT CALLED IN TO THE BIG FIVE FOR HELP BECAUSE SHE WORKS FULL-TIME WHILE HELPING CARE FOR HER BROTHER, A DIALYSIS PATIENT. HER TAKING OFF WORK TO TRANSPORT HIM THREE TIMES PER WEEK TO TREATMENT WASN’T FEASIBLE. NOW, THE SORTS BUS TAKES HIM BACK AND FORTH, EASING THE BURDEN ON HIS CAREGIVER SISTER AND ENSURING HE DOESN’T MISS LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENTS. WHILE THE SORTS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IS A LARGE PART OF THE BIG FIVE, PROGRAMS IN THIS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY ARE VITAL FOR SEVERAL ASPECTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY:

- HEAD START FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
- PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
- HOUSING PROJECTS
- RX FOR OKLAHOMA PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE
- SENIOR MEDICAL TRANSPORT
- FAMILY CAREGIVER RESPITE SERVICES
- OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR SENIORS
- CHORE (VOUCHER PROGRAM) FOR ERRANDS, MEAL PREPARATION, HOUSE CLEANING, AND YARD WORK
- FOOD PANTRIES

THROUGH THE PROGRAMS ACROSS THEIR FOUR-COUNTY SERVICE AREA, THE BIG FIVE SERVED APPROXIMATELY 4,000 INDIVIDUALS IN 2022. THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE LOGGED 60,400 TRIPS, AND 4,898 OF THOSE TRIPS WERE IN BRYAN COUNTY FOR MEDICAL NEEDS. TANYA, WHO HAS A HISTORY IN THE MEDICAL FIELD AND NONPROFITS, HAS WORKED AT BIG FIVE FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS. SHE WEARS MULTIPLE HATS THAT KEEP HER GOING IN ALL DIRECTIONS EVERY DAY. BUT THE REWARDS ARE WORTHWHILE. "AT THE END OF THE DAY I CAN GO HOME, LAY MY HEAD ON THE PILLOW, AND KNOW WE HELPED SOMEONE," TANYA SAYS. "THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME COME BACK AND DO IT THE NEXT DAY. NONPROFIT WORK IS DIFFICULT AT TIMES, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF FUNDING ISSUES. BUT THEN YOU GET A PHONE CALL THAT SAYS, 'WITHOUT YOU GUYS, I COULD NOT HAVE HAD XYZ SERVICE.'"

WHILE THE STATE FUNDS 50% OF THEIR OPERATIONAL COSTS, TANYA AND BIG FIVE RELY ON LOCAL GRANT FUNDING FROM PLACES LIKE THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION. THF HELPS FILL IN THE GAP FOR MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION THROUGH THE SORTS PROGRAM FOR THOSE UNDER 60 YEARS OF AGE. "IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIND MATCH PARTNERS AND WE DON'T TAKE THOSE FOR GRANTED AT ALL," TANYA SAYS. "WE ARE EXTREMELY APPRECIATIVE OF THEM. WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OPERATE WITHOUT THEM."



**53,741**

MILES  
DRIVEN AS A RESULT OF  
FUNDS FROM THF  
TO HELP RESIDENTS RECEIVE

**4,898**

MEDICAL VISITS



**AT THE END OF THE DAY I CAN GO HOME,  
LAY MY HEAD ON THE PILLOW, AND KNOW  
WE HELPED SOMEONE.**

**-TANYA GLEGHORN**





# ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE

BY THE NUMBERS IN 2022-23

**1,570**

UNDUPLICATED PRIMARY  
CARE VISITS FOR UNDER AND  
UNINSURED RESIDENTS  
THROUGH THE GREATER  
TEXOMA HEALTH CLINIC

**\$486,108**

WORTH OF PRESCRIPTION  
MEDICATION SECURED  
THROUGH THE  
PRESCRIPTION  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**\$346,944**

WORTH OF FREE  
MEDICATION SECURED  
AND DISTRIBUTED

**469**

RESIDENTS WITH NO  
INSURANCE WERE PROVIDED  
PRIMARY CARE THROUGH  
THE FANNIN HEALTH CLINIC

**36**

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL  
NEEDS AGES 0-14 RECEIVED  
PEDIATRIC PHYSICAL,  
OCCUPATIONAL AND SPEECH  
THERAPY THROUGH THE  
REHAB CENTER

**1,056**

THERAPY SESSIONS  
PROVIDED TO HELP  
CHILDREN REACH THEIR  
HIGHEST POTENTIAL



## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING: A COMMUNITY'S HUB FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

A GROUP OF YOUNG STUDENTS SAT ON THE STAGE TOGETHER DURING THE 2022 TEXOMA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP TEAM CONFERENCE AND SPOKE TO CONCERNS ABOUT THE OVERUSE OF TECHNOLOGY, THE NEED FOR EARLY SUPPORT, AND THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH AMONG YOUTH. THE EFFECTS OF TECHNOLOGY WERE ONE ISSUE AT THE FOREFRONT OF TOPICS DURING THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ALONG WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES MINISTERS WERE HELPING ADDRESS WITH THEIR CONGREGANTS.

OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED IN 2017 AFTER A FEW YEARS OF INFORMAL MEETINGS, THE TEXOMA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP TEAM (TBHLT) HAS CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT AND NETWORK TO BRING TOGETHER INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN HELP FOSTER THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY.

TBHLT WAS AN IDEA BORN IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION (THF). COBY CHASE WITH THE MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE AND THF'S BOARD CHAIRMAN AT THE TIME, BRETT GRAHAM, ALONG WITH CEO MICHELLE LEMMING, DREAMED

TOGETHER, AND DREW UP DESIGNS. AFTER THE MEETING, THE TEAM FORMED AN AD-HOC GROUP OF LEADERS TO FINALIZE THE CREATION OF THE TBHLT.

“THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE WAS A POWER-HOUSE OF LEADERS IN MENTAL HEALTH”, SAID MICHELLE. “AT EVERY MEETING, MEMBERS RETURNED WITH ACTION ITEMS COMPLETE, AND READY TO DESIGN A PERMANENT HUB FOR ALL-THINGS MENTAL HEALTH FOR GRAYSON COUNTY - THE TBHLT. A CHAMPION IN MENTAL HEALTH FOR OUR COMMUNITY, GAIL UTTER, AGREED TO USE HER EXISTING 501C3, NEWCO, TO HOST THE GROUP AND THE REST IS HISTORY.”

COMING FROM 30 YEARS AT AUSTIN COLLEGE AND SERVING AS VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, TIM MILLERICK HAD FRONTLINE KNOWLEDGE OF THE STRUGGLES AMONG STUDENTS AND STAFF IN THE AREA OF MENTAL HEALTH. WHEN ASKED TO COME ON AS DIRECTOR OF TBHLT, HE ACCEPTED. “THE RANGE OF MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES WE ARE FACING TODAY IN THE WORLD, AND HERE IN TEXOMA, ARE SIZEABLE AND GROWING,” TIM SAYS. “ALMOST NO ONE GOES THROUGH THEIR DAY WITHOUT KNOWING OR BEING EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO IS DEALING WITH SUCH ISSUES. WE’RE TRYING TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE WE’RE ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES SUCCESSFULLY. THROUGHOUT TEXOMA, THERE ARE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WORKING HARD IN THEIR WORLDS. WE ARE RECOGNIZING THEIR EFFORTS AND BRINGING THEM TOGETHER SO WE HAVE THE BEST IN THE ROOM TO TALK ABOUT SOLUTIONS.”

AT TBHLT’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, HOSPITALS, AND STATE AGENCIES. THEY COME TOGETHER AND DISCUSS ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY TO BEGIN CREATING SOLUTIONS. “FOLKS ENJOY THE NETWORKING,” TIM SAYS.

TBHLT’S LARGEST PROJECT AT THIS TIME IS A JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM. THE LEADERSHIP TEAM, MADE OF 25-30 STAKEHOLDERS, IS ALSO WORKING ON ACCESS TO CARE ISSUES, SUPPORTING LEGISLATION, AND PILOTING INITIATIVES. AS THE COMMUNITY’S HUB FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS, THE CONFERENCE REMAINS TBHLT’S CORE ACTIVITY. IT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION. THE IDEAS SHARED AT THE CONFERENCE HELP GUIDE THE DIRECTION OF TBHLT MOVING FORWARD. “IT SETS US UP AS AN ORGANIZATION AS WE MOVE BEYOND THAT DAY,” TIM SAYS. “WE ARE VERY BLESSED TO HAVE SO MANY ATTENDEES AND A NUMBER OF SPONSORS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED US CONSISTENTLY. THE CONFERENCE IS A BIG PART OF WHO WE ARE.

**355**

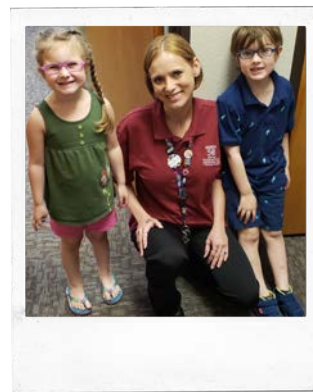
ATTENDEES AT THE 2022  
COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH CONFERENCE

# THE POWERFUL, QUIET WORK OF THE CHILD & FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER OF TEXOMA

AFTER SUFFERING IN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATION, ONE MOTHER WAS BRAVE ENOUGH TO CALL THE CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER OF TEXOMA. DEFEATED, FEARFUL, AND STARTING FROM NOTHING, SHE REACHED OUT TO THE CENTER FOR CASE MANAGEMENT AND THERAPY SERVICES.

WORKING TOGETHER, HER CASE MANAGER WAS ABLE TO GUIDE HER THROUGH OBTAINING CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE THROUGH TEXAS WORKFORCE, RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS AFTER BEING DENIED PREVIOUSLY, OBTAINING FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE FOR COLLEGE, UTILIZING THE DIAPER BANK AND LOCAL FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND COMPLETING A 16-WEEK FINANCIAL COURSE WITH TEXOMA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS. HER MOST RECENT VISIT TO THE CENTER SHOWED HER SMILING—OPTIMISTIC, EMPOWERED, AND DETERMINED ABOUT THE FUTURE.

WHEN SOMEONE IS BRAVE ENOUGH TO CALL THE CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER, THE STAFF MEMBER ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE IS PREPARED TO GUIDE THEM THROUGH THEIR FIRST STEPS. BRENDA HAYWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER, EXPLAINS, “IF SOMEONE SAYS, ‘I DON’T HAVE INSURANCE, I DON’T HAVE A JOB, I DON’T HAVE ANY MONEY,’ OUR FRONT TEAM SAYS, ‘IT’S OKAY. WE ARE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.’ THAT’S WHAT THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION AND OTHER FUNDERS ENABLE US TO DO. WE SET THE PERSON AT EASE EARLY IN THE PROCESS.” THOUGH BRENDA ISN’T DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE CLIENTS, SHE HEARS THE POWERFUL WORK GOING ON IN THE FACILITY. LITTLE VOICES OF CHILDREN DRIFT INTO HER OFFICE AS THEY WALK THROUGH THE HALLS WITH THEIR THERAPIST. TRUST BUILDS. “TO SEE THAT HAPPENING AND UNFOLDING, IS A JOY FOR ME,” BRENDA SAYS. “ONE OF OUR THERAPISTS WAS OUTSIDE THE PLAYROOM WITH A LITTLE GIRL, AND YOU COULD TELL THEY WERE TRULY CONNECTED AND THE LITTLE GIRL FELT SAFE.



WE HAVE SOME WONDERFUL, COMPETENT, CARING PROVIDERS TO HELP PEOPLE. THEY MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE, AND WORK WITH THEM COMPASSIONATELY TO HEAL THE ISSUES THEY ARE BRINGING HERE.”

THE CHILD & FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER OF TEXOMA BEGAN 57 YEARS AGO WITH ONE WOMAN’S VISION TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN POVERTY. THE ORGANIZATION STARTED OFF IN A FREE OFFICE SPACE WHERE IT OPERATED HALF A DAY PER WEEK. IT’S NOW GROWN TO 11,896 IN-PERSON AND TELEHEALTH SESSIONS IN 2022 ALONE. 85% WAS SUPPORTED BY GRANTS, FUNDRAISING, AND MEDICAID. “IN REALITY, THE FOLKS WHO NEED OUR CARE CAN’T AFFORD TO PAY FOR OUR CARE,” BRENDA SAYS. “WE HIRE AND EMPLOY HIGH-LEVEL PROFESSIONALS. OUR BOARD AND I HAVE ALWAYS STOOD ON THE BELIEF THAT WE NEED TO BE A COMPETITIVE EMPLOYER IN THIS COMMUNITY TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN HIGH-QUALITY MENTAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS.”

IN 2013, THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION WAS PART OF SUPPORTING THE CHILD & FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER OF TEXOMA TO BECOME A LICENSED TRAINING ACADEMY FOR THERAPISTS. THE CENTER BRINGS IN MASTER LEVEL INTERNS TO HELP THEM FINISH THEIR DEGREE. ONCE LICENSED, THEY PUT IN 3,000 IN-THE-FIELD HOURS DURING THE 2-YEAR PAID PROGRAM. AFTER SOMEONE IS BRAVE ENOUGH TO PICK UP THE PHONE, INTERNS SEE THE CLIENT CARE PROCESS UNFOLD. THEY BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE WORK OF ALL THE STAFF MEMBERS, AND THEIR OWN ROLE ONCE CLIENTS COME UNDER THEIR CARE AS A LICENSED THERAPIST.

“A LOT OF POWERFUL WORK IS BEING DONE EACH DAY HERE, VERY QUIETLY,” BRENDA SAYS. “THEY JUST GO ABOUT THEIR WORK HELPING PEOPLE HAVE A BETTER FUTURE. WE TAKE THE WINS BECAUSE NOT ALL ARE WINS. BUT WHEN IT DOES HAPPEN AND THINGS GET BETTER FOR PEOPLE, IT’S A GOOD FEELING.”

## 533

THE THERAPY SESSIONS PROVIDED BY CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER USING A HYBRID MODEL OF IN-PERSON AND REMOTE SESSIONS

# RALLYING AROUND KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES



PETER'S STORY IS ONE OF THE HUNDREDS HANDLED WITH LOVE ANNUALLY THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF GRAYSON COUNTY (CAC). INSTEAD OF A CONFUSING, SCARY PROCESS, KIDS LIKE PETER AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE RALLIED BY A COMMUNITY OF PROFESSIONALS FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT TO THERAPISTS. "WE ARE DESIGNED TO HELP CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE TRAUMA AND ABUSE," EXPLAINS BRITNEY BARKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF GRAYSON COUNTY. "THERE IS A GIANT NETWORK OF US: 70 IN THE STATE OF TEXAS AND OVER 900 IN THE US. THERE IS A HIGH LEVEL OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN WHAT WE ARE DOING. WE OFFER EVIDENCE-BASED SERVICES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES AFTER THEY'VE EXPERIENCED ABUSE."

BRITNEY STARTED WORK AT THE CAC FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, DIRECTLY SUPPORTING KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES. SHE FOUND HOW REWARDING IT WAS TO BE A CALM PRESENCE IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS. "NOW WHAT GETS ME UP EVERY DAY IS SUPPORTING MY STAFF THAT ARE INTERACTING WITH THESE KIDS AND FAMILIES EVERY DAY TO HELP THEM HEAL," BRITNEY SAYS. "IT'S HARD WORK AND NOT EVERYONE CAN DO IT. I WANT MY STAFF TO BE SUCCESSFUL SO THE KIDS WE'RE SERVING CAN BE SUCCESSFUL."

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS, ADVOCACY, MEDICAL EXAMS, THERAPY—EVERYTHING A CHILD AND THEIR FAMILY NEEDS ARE IN ONE PLACE AT CAC—AT NO COST TO THEM. ALL THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY CAC ARE FREE TO THE VICTIM AND THEIR FAMILY. NOW, THROUGH THEIR TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION (THF) FUNDING, CAC CAN KEEP A STRONG FOCUS ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE KIDS. WITH HIGHLY TRAINED THERAPISTS, THEY SEE THE MAJORITY OF KIDS GO FROM PTSD AND DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS TO ZERO AFTER TWELVE THERAPY SESSIONS LIKE WHAT PETER RECEIVED. "WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THF AND THEIR FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH," BRITTNEY SAYS. "WITHOUT SUPPORT, WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP ALL OUR STAFF OR SEE ALL THE KIDS THAT NEED HELP. WE DON'T EVER WANT TO CHARGE A VICTIM MONEY FOR GETTING BETTER. THAT'S NOT OKAY. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEST CARE FOR FREE."

NOTE: PETER'S STORY WAS DE-IDENTIFIED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT.

# MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

BY THE NUMBERS IN 2022-23

**60%**

ADDICTION RECOVERY RATE  
FOR 9 MEN RECEIVING  
SHELTER AND SERVICES AT  
SURRENDER HOUSE

**478**

HOURS OF TRAUMA  
TRAINING PROVIDED TO 33  
CASA VOLUNTEERS WORKING  
WITH CHILDREN

**697**

CALLS TO THE CRISIS  
CONTROL CENTER  
EMERGENCY HOTLINE  
(TRIPLE THE NUMBER FROM  
THE YEAR BEFORE)

**12,000**

STUDENTS AND 185 FACULTY  
IN 8 LOCAL SCHOOLS  
RECEIVED MENTAL HEALTH  
PROGRAMS THROUGH THE  
GRANT HALLIBURTON  
FOUNDATION

**210**

FAMILIES RECEIVED GAS  
CARDS TO HELP CHILDREN  
ACCESS ON-SITE MEDICAL  
AND MENTAL HEALTH  
SERVICES AT THE FANNIN  
COUNTY CHILDREN'S  
CENTER

**9**

CHILDREN IMPACTED BY  
ABUSE AND NEGLECT  
RECEIVED MENTAL HEALTH  
CARE THROUGH THE FANNIN  
COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES

**1,390**

STUDENTS EDUCATED ON  
ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE  
DISORDER (ASUD) AND 251  
RESIDENTS BETWEEN THE  
AGES OF 16 AND 21  
PROVIDED SERVICES BY THE  
TEXOMA COMMUNITY  
CENTER'S ASUD PROGRAM

**610**

RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY A  
NEW GRIEF AND LOSS  
CENTER AND "BEYOND  
SUICIDE" TRAINING  
THROUGH HOME HOSPICE OF  
GRAYSON COUNTY

**22%**

INCREASE IN ROOM  
CAPACITY TO PROVIDE MORE  
YOUNG MEN A PLACE TO  
CALL HOME AT THE  
HOUSE OF ELI

# PREVENTION & HEALTHY LIVING: TEACHING KIDS SMART MOVES

A FEW YEARS BACK, THERE WAS ONLY ONE PLACE YOUNG RILEY COULD GO. HER ACADEMICS WERE FAILING. SHE WAS NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL AT TIMES BECAUSE OF HER BEHAVIOR ISSUES, AND WAS ASSIGNED VIRTUAL LEARNING. HER PARENTS STRUGGLED WITH WORK AND RAISING HER. THEN RILEY'S PARENTS WERE INTRODUCED TO THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF RED RIVER VALLEY OKLAHOMA. THE CLUB UNIT DIRECTOR WORKED WITH THE FAMILY PERSONALLY TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO HELP RILEY WHEN SHE WAS EXPERIENCING A LOSS OF CONTROL, BOTH AT THE CLUB AND AT HOME. THREE YEARS INTO ATTENDING THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS, RILEY CAN NOW GO TO SCHOOL ON A REGULAR BASIS AND IS AN A&B HONOR ROLL STUDENT.

"MY HUSBAND AND I CAN CONTINUE TO WORK AND PROVIDE FOR OUR FAMILY KNOWING THAT OUR DAUGHTERS ARE IN A SAFE PLACE THAT CAN MENTOR THEM REGARDLESS OF THEIR BEHAVIOR CONCERNS," RILEY'S MOM SAID. RILEY AND HER FAMILY ARE AMONG MANY WHO BENEFIT FROM THE ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, AND LOVE PROVIDED BY THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF RED RIVER VALLEY OK. THE CLUB SERVES 1,500+ YOUTHS IN 14 LOCATIONS ACROSS 200 MILES OF SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA.

OUR MISSION IS TO ENABLE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO NEED US MOST, TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AS PRODUCTIVE, CARING, AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS," SAYS HANNAH J. McDONALD, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT. "THAT ENCAPSULATES ALL WE DO AND WHY WE DO IT. WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES. THAT IS WHAT REALLY INSPIRES ME." ONE OF THEIR PROGRAMS IS SMART MOVES. IT PROVIDES AGE-APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ABOUT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS; SELF-AWARENESS ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP RESPECT FOR ONE'S OWN BODY; CAPACITY TO HANDLE FEELINGS HEALTHY HABITS; ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO INTERACT AND WORK IN GROUPS; PRACTICE IN DECISION-MAKING, PROBLEM-SOLVING, AND PLANNING AHEAD; AND TRAINING IN REFUSAL TECHNIQUES USEFUL FOR AVOIDING RISKY SITUATIONS.

A STAFF MEMBER OBSERVED THE SUCCESS OF ONE OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE: "WE HAVE A CLUB MEMBER THAT HAS AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. THE CLUB STAFF HAS WORKED HARD WITH HIM TO HELP HIM BUILD POSITIVE PEER RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH OUR SMART MOVES PROGRAM. HIS CONFIDENCE SOARED."



KAM SALLEE IS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF RED RIVER VALLEY OKLAHOMA. HE GREW UP IN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, STARTING IN MONTANA WHERE HE IS AN ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBER OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE. HIS MOTHER HAS BEEN IN THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS MOVEMENT FOR 27 YEARS.

"I DIDN'T KNOW I WANTED TO FOLLOW IN MY MOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS," KAM SAYS. "WHEN I GOT MY FIRST FULL-TIME JOB AT A BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, I REALIZED THIS IS WHAT I WAS MEANT TO DO. THIS IS SOMETHING I'M VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT, ESPECIALLY AT THIS CLUB. IT'S SOMETHING I'M PROUD TO TALK ABOUT, HOW WE TAKE CARE OF AND GIVE BACK TO THE NATIVE YOUTH WHICH ARE NEARLY FIFTY PERCENT AT OUR SITES." NATIVE CLUBS HAVE FOUND THAT SMART MOVES HELPS THEM CREATE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS, POLICE, HEAD START, BUSINESSES, AND OTHER HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES. THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OFTEN INVITE ELDERS OR OTHER TRIBAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO DISCUSS TRIBAL CULTURES, VALUES, TRADITIONS, HISTORY, OR LANGUAGE. THROUGH THEIR TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION FUNDING, THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF RED RIVER VALLEY OKLAHOMA ARE FOCUSING ON INCREASING THE SMART MOVES CAPACITY, TECHNOLOGY, STAFF TRAINING, AND UPGRADING EQUIPMENT. IT'S ALLOWING THEM TO TAKE CARE OF KIDS LIKE YOUNG RILEY. "I KNOW WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON A DAILY BASIS," KAM SAYS. "I'M ONE OF THOSE KIDS WHO WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM WITHOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS."

NOTE: RILEY'S NAME WAS CHANGED BY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF RED RIVER VALLEY OKLAHOMA.





# FOOD PANTRY SERVING OUR GREATEST RESOURCE— SENIOR CITIZENS

LIVING, BREATHING HISTORY BOOKS. THIS IS HOW STAFF AT THE RON CROSS SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER VIEWS THE SENIORS WHO VISIT THERE ON A DAILY BASIS.

THE ACTIVITY CENTER, OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE CITY OF DURANT, PARTNERS WITH OHAI (OKLAHOMA HEALTHY AGING INITIATIVE), SONP (SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA NUTRITION PROGRAM), RSV (RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF BRYAN COUNTY), AND MANY MORE ORGANIZATIONS TO SERVE THESE LIVING HISTORY BOOKS.

AT THE CENTER, THERE ARE VETERANS THAT SPAN THE KOREAN TO VIETNAM WARS, AND ALSO SENIORS WHO ARE RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHERS, BUSINESS OWNERS, AND MORE. THE ACTIVITY CENTER OFFERS DAILY NUTRITIONAL MEALS, ENGAGING GAMES, EXERCISE PROGRAMS, HOLIDAY PARTIES, VETERAN RECOGNITIONS, INDIAN TACO SALES, GOSPEL SINGINGS, AND WEEKLY KARAOKE.

WITH THE AGE OF THE SENIORS—THE AVERAGE BEING 75 AND THE OLDEST AT 95—IT'S A TIME IN THEIR LIFE WHEN THERE IS NO NEED FOR FILTERS. JUST HONEST, GENUINE CONVERSATIONS AND LAUGHTER. MANY OF THE SENIORS ARE FACING DIRE FINANCIAL SITUATIONS DURING THIS SEASON OF LIFE. RESIDING IN A LARGELY AGRARIAN COMMUNITY AND HAVING WORKED ON FARMS AND FOR CASH, THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK IS MINIMAL. MANY LIVE ON \$400 - \$500 PER MONTH.

THE RON CROSS SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THEIR LIVES. TO EXPAND THE WAY THEY SERVE SENIORS, THE CENTER CREATED A FOOD PANTRY WHERE SENIORS CAN SHOP ONCE A MONTH FOR A LOAD OF GROCERIES. THAT PROJECT WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH A GRANT BY THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION. WITH THE FUNDS, THE CENTER HAD SHELVING INSTALLED AND STOCKED, ALONG WITH PURCHASING A NEW DEEP FREEZE AND UPGRADING THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM TO HANDLE IT.

THE DEEP FREEZE LETS THE CENTER OFFER A VARIETY OF BRAND-NAME MEATS AND DAIRY TO THE SENIORS. THE REMAINING GRANT FUNDS GO TOWARD THE SONP NUTRITION PROGRAM. THE FOOD PANTRY IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY EFFORTS, INCLUDING THE LOCAL GROCER, PRUITT'S FOOD, WHO OFFERED A BENEVOLENT BID. ONCE A MONTH, STORE MANAGER MIKE POWER JACKS PALLETS OF FOOD OVER TO THE CENTER ON FOOT.

VOLUNTEERS UNPACK AND STOCK THE SHELVES WITH \$6,000 WORTH OF GROCERIES. MANY OF THE VOLUNTEERS ARE THE SENIORS THEMSELVES, WHO PITCH IN TO GET EVERYTHING READY FOR SHOPPING. AS A COMMUNITY HUB, THE ACTIVITY CENTER PROVIDES THESE SENIORS WITH THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND HEALTH SUPPORT THEY NEED.

# 1

ROOM WAS CONSTRUCTED  
AND EQUIPPED WITH HIGH  
VOLT CIRCUITS FOR A DEEP  
FREEZE FOR FOOD  
DISTRIBUTION TO SENIOR  
CITIZENS THROUGH THE  
CITY OF DURANT

# THE TRIPLE PLAY—CREATING HAPPIER, HEALTHIER YOUTH

WHEN THEY ENTER THE DOORS OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB DENISON, CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 5 AND OLD AS 18 BEGIN TAKING CARE OF THEIR BODIES AND MINDS THROUGH THE TRIPLE PLAY PROGRAM.

FIRST ON THE AGENDA EACH AFTERNOON FOR THE BODY, MIND, AND SOUL IS PHYSICAL EXERCISE. SHAKING OFF THE STRAIN OF THE SCHOOL DAY, THEY ENTER INTO WARMUPS LIKE JUMP ROPE, PUSHUPS, AND SITUPS. THEN BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, AND FLAG FOOTBALL MIGHT ENSUE DEPENDING ON THE SEASON. A FAVORITE ACTIVITY IS THE FREEZE DANCE CHALLENGE. DURING THE CHALLENGES, THE YOUTH ARE PARTNERED TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AS THEY COUNT OFF THEIR ASSIGNED REPS OR RACE. THE TEAMWORK CREATES OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN RELATIONSHIP BUILDING, GROWING THEIR MINDS BEYOND DIGITAL INTERACTIONS. NO PHONES ARE ALLOWED DURING ACTIVITY TIMES.

NUTRITION ROUNDS OUT THE TRIPLE PLAY PROGRAM. THE CLUB STRIVES TO SERVE HEALTHY SNACKS EACH DAY AS PART OF TAKING CARE OF THE SOUL.

“THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION HELPS US PROVIDE THE TRIPLE PLAY PROGRAM,” SAYS RON NIXON, DIRECTOR OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB DENISON. THE CLUB HAS SERVED YOUTH IN THE DENISON COMMUNITY AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES SINCE 1966. THEY OFFER PROGRAMS THAT IMPROVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS, HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, GOOD CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP. RON WATCHES AN AVERAGE OF 287 YOUTH BENEFIT FROM THE CLUB EACH DAY, AND UP TO 1,531 ANNUALLY. AN ADDITIONAL 3,000 ARE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES WITH SPECIAL EVENTS AND SPORTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

RON HAS SEEN YOUTH GO FROM FAILING IN ACADEMICS AND CONSTANTLY BEING SENT TO HIS OFFICE, TO THE MOTIVATION OF SPORTS CHANGING ATTITUDES AND GRADES. THEY ARE RARELY SENT TO HIS OFFICE AGAIN. “THAT MAY SEEM MINOR TO SOME, BUT IT’S HUGE TO THAT KID AND THAT FAMILY,” RON SAYS. “I THINK THESE KINDS OF PROGRAMS ARE SO IMPORTANT. THE KIDS ARE NOT JUST PLAYING A GAME, THEY ARE DEVELOPING ACCOUNTABILITY. THEY’RE DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS AND DISCIPLINE. ALL THOSE THINGS CARRY OVER INTO THE CLASSROOM AND THEIR DAILY LIVES.”

THAT IS WHY THE TRIPLE PLAY PROGRAM REMAINS AT THE CORE OF THE CLUB, DEVELOPING YOUTH IN BODY, MIND, AND SOUL. "THEY DEAL WITH SO MANY CHALLENGES EVERY DAY," RON SAYS. "THAT'S WHAT IS SO GREAT ABOUT HAVING THEM HERE, TO SEE THEM GROW AND BATTLE THROUGH THOSE CHALLENGES. OUR RELATIONSHIP AND THE HELP WE'VE GOTTEN FROM THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION IS CRITICAL TO OUR SUCCESS, ESPECIALLY OUR TRIPLE PLAY PROGRAM. WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THAT."



# 1,331

YOUTH WERE SUPPORTED  
THROUGH THE  
AFTER-SCHOOL SUMMER  
FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM  
AND TRIPLE PLAY AT THE  
BOYS AND GIRLS  
CLUB OF DENISON



**MY HUSBAND AND I CAN CONTINUE  
TO WORK AND PROVIDE FOR OUR  
FAMILY KNOWING THAT OUR  
DAUGHTERS ARE IN A SAFE PLACE**

**-MOTHER OF CHILDREN  
ATTENDING BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**



# PREVENTION & HEALTHY LIVING

BY THE NUMBERS IN 2022-23

1

NURSERY/SICKROOM BUILT  
FOR THE MADILL  
COMMUNITY DAY CARE TO  
HELP KEEP WELL BABIES WELL

15

ATTENDEES RECEIVED 70  
CLASS HOURS OF THE  
“GETTING AHEAD” PROGRAM  
WHERE PARTICIPANTS LEARN  
THE CAUSES OF POVERTY  
AND RESOURCES NEEDED  
FOR STABILITY

1

BASKETBALL COURT AND  
ONE NEW HOME  
CONSTRUCTED FOR THE  
GEARY GIRLS RANCH

1

INDUSTRIAL REFRIGERATOR  
AND SMALLER APPLIANCE  
PURCHASED TO SUPPORT THE  
NUTRITION PROGRAM AT  
THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB  
IN SHERMAN

14

GIRLS WHO HAVE AGED OUT  
OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM  
ENROLLED IN A MENTORSHIP  
AND LIFE SKILL PROGRAM AT  
J127 MINISTRY

15

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GIRLS TO  
ATTEND AFTER SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS THROUGH  
GIRLS ON THE RUN

1

COMMUNITY-WIDE  
WELLNESS CAMPAIGN  
ADMINISTERED BY BLUE  
ZONES IN DURANT

# NURSING: DAD-MODE PUSHES STUDENTS FORWARD IN THEIR ACADEMIC GOALS



THE FRONT AND BACK DOORS OF THE OLD PRESIDENT'S HOUSE PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO STUDENTS WHO COME BY WHENEVER THEY NEED.

SITTING AT THE END OF A ONE-LANE ROAD BEHIND THE BASEBALL STADIUM'S RIGHT FIELD ON THE GRAYSON COLLEGE CAMPUS IN DENISON, THE OLD PRESIDENT'S HOUSE IS A HOME BASE WHERE STUDENTS CAN APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH THE GRAYSON COLLEGE FOUNDATION. THE STUDENTS CAN EVEN USE THE KITCHEN TO COOK A MEAL—SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS WHO WANT TO PREPARE TRADITIONAL DISHES FROM THEIR HOMELAND.

"THERE'S ONLY ONE RULE," SAYS RANDY TRUXAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GRAYSON COLLEGE FOUNDATION. "YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE THE KITCHEN AS NICE AS YOU FOUND IT. IF YOU DON'T, THEN MY DAD-MODE WILL KICK IN." RANDY ALSO ENACTS DAD-MODE TO HELP STUDENTS IN THEIR ACADEMIC CHOICES. HE WANTS TO EQUIP THEM IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO SEE THEM SUCCEED. "WE HAVE STUDENTS THAT COME IN ON THE VOCATIONAL SIDE, AND THE MAJORITY OF THOSE STUDENTS STAY IN TEXOMA-LAND," HE SAYS. "STUDENTS THAT MOVE ON TO A UNIVERSITY AND COMPLETE THEIR 4-YEAR DEGREE ALSO RETURN TO WORK HERE. OF OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS, ABOUT 60-70% OF THEM RETURN OR STAY IN TEXOMA-LAND."

THE GRAYSON COLLEGE FOUNDATION WAS CREATED TO FACILITATE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING TO ALLEVIATE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON STUDENTS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE FOR NURSING STUDENTS.

"HOSPITALS IN TEXOMA ARE GROWING AND THEY NEED NURSES," RANDY SAYS. "RNS, BSNs, LVNS. THOSE ARE THE THREE CLASSIFICATIONS OF NURSES WE'RE PRODUCING IN GREAT NUMBERS. THEY ARE HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER BECAUSE OUR NURSING PROGRAM IS OUTSTANDING. BUT TO GET THEIR CLINICALS DONE, THEY OFTEN HAVE TO CUT BACK ON THEIR FULL-TIME JOB. A SCHOLARSHIP HELPS THEM A GREAT DEAL."



WHEN THF WAS FORMED IN 2007, THERE WERE ENOUGH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NURSING STUDENTS, BUT LACK OF FACULTY AND SPACE CREATED A LONG WAITING LIST OF STUDENTS TRYING TO ENTER THE COLLEGE'S NURSING PROGRAM. STRATEGY MEETINGS WITH THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION AND THE COLLEGE LED TO THF FUNDING NEW FACULTY POSITIONS. THE GROUP ALSO ADDED PRIORITY FOR LOCAL STUDENTS TO ENTER THE PROGRAM AND THF HAS SEEN THESE NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES INCREASE DRAMATICALLY.

COVERING THE COST OF FACULTY REMAINED A CONSISTENT PIECE OF THF'S GRANTS TO THE COLLEGE, AND THE FOUNDATION WOULD LATER FUND ADDITIONAL PROJECTS INCLUDING INVESTMENT IN A NEW BSN PROGRAM AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAINING MANNEQUINS. "THE MANNEQUINS REACT AS A HUMAN WOULD," RANDY SAYS. "THEY BLEED, THEY SAY 'OUCH,' THEY REGURGITATE. IT'S THE NEXT BEST THING TO WORKING ON A HUMAN BEING. WITH FUNDING THROUGH THF, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THEM UPDATED AND UPGRADED. THAT IS INDISPENSABLE TO OUR NURSING FACULTY."

IN ADDITION TO SUPPORTING GRAYSON COLLEGE THROUGH GRANTMAKING, THF'S TEXOMA GIVING PARTNERS PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE NEWLY EXPANDED CLASSROOMS. THE ROBERTA POND, JAQUELINE VANDIVER CHESSE, AND DR. MAX & SHIRLEY CHAM FUNDS HAVE ALL HELPED COVER THE COST FOR LOCAL STUDENTS TO OBTAIN HEALTHCARE DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AT GRAYSON COLLEGE.

RANDY'S GOAL IS TO CONTINUE GROWING THE GRAYSON COLLEGE FOUNDATION'S ENDOWMENT TO MATCH THE GROWING NEEDS OF STUDENTS. HIS DAD-MODE IS ALWAYS ON TO REACH THE GOAL OF SOMEDAY FUNDING EVERY SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST. STUDENTS WHO COME INTO THE OLD PRESIDENT'S HOUSE CAN SIT DOWN WITH A GRAYSON COLLEGE FOUNDATION STAFF MEMBER WHO WILL HELP THEM FILL OUT THEIR APPLICATION, ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND SHOW THEM AROUND THE KITCHEN. THE REFRIGERATOR IS STOCKED WITH BOTTLED WATER, AND THERE ARE SNACKS ON THE COUNTER. RANDY SAYS, "WE LIVE TO SUPPORT THE STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY OF GRAYSON COLLEGE."

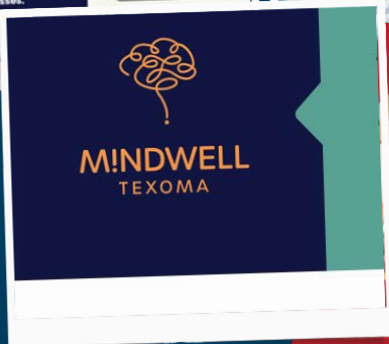
73%

OF NURSING GRADUATES STAYED  
WITHIN THF'S SERVICE AREA FOR  
EMPLOYMENT

Before Stage 4 social  
sign to bring awareness to  
screening options for  
health illnesses:

Sample 1: Break the chain! Support  
identification, prevention, and  
recovery. People do recover.  
#B4Stage4

Sample 2: Intervening effectively  
in the early stages of mental illness  
can change the trajectories  
of lives and change the trajectories  
of living with mental illnesses.  
#B4Stage4 and embrace #B4Stage4





**I WANTED TO HELP THF FIND WAYS TO  
MAKE MENTAL WELLNESS “DINNER TABLE  
CONVERSATION” FOR EVERYONE AT THF,  
AT MCCRAW OIL, AND IN THE COMMUNITY.**

**-BILL WILSON**



# BUILDING A CULTURE OF MENTAL WELLBEING: LEAVE EM' BETTER

IN BONHAM, TEXAS, BILL WILSON DRIVES INTO THE PARKING LOT OF MCCRAW OIL. A SHOP AND WAREHOUSE SIT NEXT TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES WHERE GUESTS ARE GREETED THROUGHOUT THE DAY BY SMILING FACES. “LEAVE EM’ BETTER” CAN BE FOUND IN BOLD TEXT ON COMPANY POSTERS THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING. “WE WANT TO ALWAYS LEAVE OUR CUSTOMERS, OUR TEAMMATES, AND THE COMMUNITY BETTER EVERY TIME WE MEET THEM”, SAYS BILL. THIS SIMPLE MESSAGE EXEMPLIFIES BILL’S PASSION TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE ON ALL THOSE TOUCHED BY HIM AND HIS TEAM.

SHORTLY AFTER BILL JOINED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TEXOMA HEALTH FOUNDATION (THF), CLOSE FRIENDS OF BILL AND HIS WIFE, ROXANNE, TRAGICALLY LOST A WONDERFUL CHILD DUE TO MENTAL ILLNESS. HE LATER LEARNED OF ADDITIONAL HEARTBREAKING LOSSES TO SUICIDE TIED TO AREA SCHOOLS AND THF TEAM MEMBERS. THROUGH HIS WORK WITH THF HE SOON DISCOVERED THAT FANNIN COUNTY CARRIED SOME OF THE HIGHEST SUICIDE RATES IN THE STATE OF TEXAS. AS HE BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND NEEDS, AND WORKED WITH THF ON MENTAL WELLBEING, HE FULLY CONNECTED TO A PASSION AND PURPOSE TO CHANGE THESE STATISTICS AND SAVE LIVES.

HE HAS SINCE DEDICATED HIMSELF TO THF’S COLLABORATIVE WORK. COLLECTIVE IMPACT EFFORTS BETWEEN MCCRAW OIL AND THF BEGAN WITH FINDING PARTNERS TO CREATE A FORMAL COLLABORATIVE FOR MENTAL WELLBEING, TO LAUNCH A COMMUNITY-WIDE ANTI-STIGMA CAMPAIGN AND FIND SOLUTIONS TO MENTAL AWARENESS AND CARE. THIS LED BILL, THE THF TEAM AND FANNIN COUNTY LEADERS TO ACTIVELY IDENTIFY, RECRUIT AND IMPLEMENT EVIDENCE-BASED SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMMING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AREA SCHOOLS.

EVEN WITH EARLY SUCCESSES IN THE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY, BILL FELT THAT THE MESSAGING WAS PRIMARILY RESONATING WITH THOSE PREDISPOSED TO A POSITIVE, PROACTIVE APPROACH TO MENTAL WELLNESS, AND HE WANTED TO FIND WAYS TO MAKE MENTAL WELLNESS “DINNER TABLE CONVERSATION” FOR EVERYONE AT MCCRAW AND IN THE COMMUNITY. MCCRAW OIL AND THF JOINED WITH PASSIONATE ORGANIZATIONS, ALONG WITH THE TEXOMA AND FANNIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP TEAMS TO ROLLOUT A WORKPLACE MENTAL WELLBEING PILOT.



THE PROJECT'S BROADER FOCUS ON COMMUNITY CHANGE, AND THE DEDICATION OF BUSINESS LEADERS, LIKE BILL, REPRESENTING NONPROFIT AND FOR-PROFIT BUSINESSES ALIKE, IS CHANGING THE WAY WE TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES AND THOSE AROUND US – "TO LEAVE EACH OTHER BETTER".

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE LEADERS WHO HAVE HELPED DREAM, TEST AND IMPLEMENT THE MINDWELL TEXOMA PROJECT. YOU ARE CRITICAL HEROES DEDICATED TO TRANSFORMING TEXOMA INTO A PLACE WHERE ALL CAN THRIVE.



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BUSINESS CHAMPIONS  
PILOTING A MENTAL  
WELLBEING INITIATIVE  
IMPACTING RESIDENTS  
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE  
WORKPLACE

4

PILLARS OF MENTAL  
WELLBEING INCLUDING  
STIGMA, PREVENTION,  
EARLY DETECTION &  
ACCESS AND CARING FOR  
THOSE AROUND US

1

BASELINE SURVEY COMPLETE  
BY THIRD-PARTY  
ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE  
COLLABORATIVE TO TRACK  
CHANGE OVER TIME



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