



LOVING HEARTS

HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY NEEDS COUNCIL

FALL 2011

Fredericksburg, TX

Volunteer Opportunities for the Holidays!

- Give Warm Winter donations -- Coats, Blankets & Heaters
- Adopt a Family or a Senior for Christmas
- Donate to the Needs Council for Christmas

Helper Elves are Needed!

- Dec. 13 - 16 to help coordinate Christmas Families Program.
- Dec. 16 & 19 - 22 to deliver the Angel Tree gifts to seniors.

New Website

Check out our newly-designed website at:

www.needsCouncil.org



You will soon be able to donate electronically through the website.

A special thanks to Ken Weatherford for his time and talents in redesigning the website.

Christmas Families Program

Christmas is a time of sharing and celebration. Our Christmas Families Program is an opportunity for your family or group to share with a family in a very practical and enjoyable way. The staff selects approximately 100 families that have been assisted throughout the year and invites them to fill out a wish list for each member of the family. The families are encouraged to list practical gifts such as clothing, shoes and personal need items. They also fill out a household wish list for items such as towels, laundry detergent, bedding and small appliances.



Pictured with gifts for a Christmas Family are left to right: Lori Lehman, Lyn & Bob Linka.

Last year when one group leader read the family's list she said, "Laundry detergent, how can that be a Christmas gift?" We told her that almost every family had listed it because it is expensive and everyone needs it! We actually had a woman break out in tears of joy as if she'd won the lottery when she received a 5 gallon bucket of laundry detergent with a big red bow on it.

We assign a number to each family; this protects the confidentiality and dignity of our clients. As the gifts arrive at the Needs Council the parents are notified to pick up at their convenience. This allows parents the option of hiding the gifts until Christmas, and no one, especially their children, need know the origin of the gifts.

Angel Tree

As this newsletter goes to print Paaton Reeh's elementary art students are beginning their work to decorate over 100 paper angels for our ANGEL TREE at Chase Bank.

Each of these beautiful angels holds the wishes of a home bound senior or disabled adult who doesn't have family to celebrate Christmas with. Their wish lists are fairly simple, two or three items to bring a smile on Christmas morning. Some common requests are slippers, chocolates, lotions and plants. The Fredericksburg Food Ministry will be providing a Christmas Dinner to each of these seniors.

You can imagine how appreciated these gifts are! Please consider dropping by Chase Bank on November 17th to adopt a senior for Christmas.

From a Client's Thank You Card:

"Thank you - just doesn't seem to be enough to express the way I feel. This past year has held a lot of change for my daughters and me. I'm uncertain what next year will bring. Simply trying to make ends meet as a single mother of four was hard enough, then adding the costs of a medical emergency made it impossible to plan anything more than Christmas Cookies with my kids this year. I hope you can imagine the faces of my children when they woke up Christmas morning to witness the kindness you had given our family!"



HELP A SENIOR -- HAS!

Consider being a volunteer in the new "Help A Senior" program (see page 2). It only takes a little time each week and is a blessing to you and to the senior.



Coats for Kids - St. Barnabas Sunday School class brought in a big pile of coats to be given out this winter.

Food 4 Kids

Below is a note from elementary school counselor, Kelli Rode: *“Thank you for coordinating the Food 4 Kids program and making it all come together! This is the first year that I have personally worked with the program, and I love it. Seeing the smiles on the kids faces is priceless ... what a way to end each week.”*

Presently the Food 4 Kids program is providing supplemental weekend food to 93 Gillespie County school children. Volunteers from several area churches collect nutritious snacks, collate the bags and deliver to the schools on Fridays. The children are identified by teachers and counselors as coming to school hungry on Mondays. Many of these children’s families work throughout the weekend and the children are left to fend for themselves. All the snacks are ready to eat with no can openers or stoves needed. As Kelli’s note above states, this program is appreciated both by the children and the school personnel.



Warm Winter

In an effort to help keep our neighbors warm this winter the Needs Council is collecting new and gently used coats, as well as blankets, gloves and hats. Clients in need of coats will receive a voucher from the Needs Council for the free coats at St. Vincent de Paul.

Many of our clients live in under-insulated older homes and trailers where space heaters provide their only heat. We need approximately 100 space heaters to help these clients. The space heaters must be new & have the tip over safety switch. All “warm winter” item donations may be brought to the Needs Council at 209 South Acorn.

Drivers Needed for Medical Transportation

If you have been looking for a way to volunteer in our community, consider being a Medical Transportation driver. There are many folks needing a ride to their doctor’s appointment. Call the Needs Council at 830-997-9756 and volunteer to be a driver.



This November when you shop at “red”, you can choose for 10% of your purchase price to be donated to the Needs Council. F|D Luxe has rated “red” as one of the 50 best stores in Texas! The “red” store is located at 307 East Main in Fredericksburg. They are open Mon-Th 10 - 5:30 and Fri-Sat 10 - 6:30.

New Program: Help A Senior - HAS



Help a Senior volunteers Jeanne Axberg (back left), DG McCoury (back center), and Berlee McCoury (right) stand with senior Elsie Kizer (front center) by new handrail built and installed by volunteer Ray Christenson (not pictured).

If you have a bit of spare time and like to help the elderly, we have a great new program that may interest you. The HAS program is basically one of “friendly support.” We have many seniors who live alone and have no family nearby to check on them. The seniors who have benefitted from the program to date are comforted with the knowledge that “someone cares about me.” The stories volunteers relate about the developing friendships with their seniors can be heartbreaking. One senior

said, “I never thought I’d hear those words again”, after her volunteer told her that she loved her.

Each partnership is different. A male volunteer reports they do a lot of “man talk!” Although this is a visiting program, as volunteers get to know their senior they may discover other needs. Volunteers are encouraged to let the Needs Council staff address those needs. Seniors and volunteers are given the program guidelines which are in place

to protect the volunteer from going beyond their comfort zone.

We started the HAS program this summer and already have a waiting list of seniors wanting to join the program. Feel free to call the office if you are interested in being a HAS volunteer. We will be happy to meet with you, go over the guidelines and, when you are ready, introduce you to your senior partner. We can only promise that they will steal your heart!

MEMORIALS, HONORARIUMS & DONATIONS TO THE NEEDS COUNCIL

June 1, 2011 through October 26, 2011

In memory of Clara Ahrens
Alton & Florine Bruns
Albert & Shirley Keyser
Gertrude Land

In memory of Wanda Ahrens
Vernon & Linda Treibs

In honor of Voy Althaus
Joseph Financial Partners

In memory of Mrs. Harry Barsch
Erline Grona

In Honor of Marc Bennett's Birthday
James & Estela Avery

In memory of Clara H. Coffin
Anne & Joe Sanchez

In memory of Tracey Craig
Jean W. Pressler

In memory of Julia Crenwelge
Anonymous

In memory of Calvin Davis
Ruth P. & Elizabeth M. Welch Davis

In memory of René Durst
Lillian Wissemann

In honor of Betty & Sidney Ellebracht
Carlton & Lou Ella Sieckmann

In Memory of O. Kepler Johnson, Jr. & C.W. Rust
John & Grace O'Malley

In memory of Ruby Klein
Erline Grona

In memory of Ethel Larson
Sandra Weinheimer

In memory of Dorothy Merz
Alton & Florine Bruns

In memory of Harvey Meyer
Erline Grona

Guido & Harriet Klett

In memory of Tom Newman
Charles & Mary Ellen Andrews

In memory of Mrs. Victor Nixon
Guido & Harriet Klett

In honor of Kelly Olfers
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

In Memory of Sweet Pea
Vernon & Linda Treibs

In memory of Emrie (Reenie) Peese
Genevieve E. McCaffrey

In honor of Anne Plueneke's Birthday
Paul & Nancy Lochte

In honor of Clint & Anne Plueneke's Birthdays
Darrell & Deanne Moellering

In memory of James Rains, Wanda Ahrens, & Emmie Rusche
Emeline Stubblefield

In memory of Clarence "Rusty" Rust
Marie Itri

In Memory of Pete Salinas
Richard & Judith Hoopman

In memory of Peggy Scarborough
Mimi L. Fox

In memory of Ted Scherer
Barbara Scherer

In memory of Gretchen Seale
Brainerd & Kathleen Parrish

In Memory of Ervin Segner & Ima Jessie Hobbs
Myrtle C. Hohmann

In memory of Michael Stein
Guido & Harriet Klett

BUSINESSES

Bethany Lutheran Church
Bethany Lutheran Church Women
Bethany Lutheran Church Sunday School
Bierschwale Credit & Lending Co.
Dietel & Son Printing, Inc.
Eleven Eleven Interior Finishes
First Baptist Church, Heaven's Harvesters Class
First Baptist Church, Ruth Class
First Christian Church

Fredericksburg Art Gallery
Fredericksburg United Methodist Church
Hill Country Antique Tractor & Engine Club
HEB Employees
Hill Country Evangelical Free Church
Holy Ghost Lutheran Church
Hominick Custom Builders
P.E.C. United Charities
Patrick L. Moore, CPA

Peachworks, LLC
Six Stone Jars Ltd., DBA House Wine
St. Anthony's Catholic Church
St. James Lutheran Church
Sunnyside Lawn & Landscape
Trinity Lutheran Church
Trinity Lutheran Church - WOW

INDIVIDUALS

Kenneth P Adams
Rose Marie Behrends
Stephanie Behrends
Michael Bembenek
Cleo A Benson
Walter & Sue Biddle
Kyle K. Biedermann
Sascha Blom
Stephen J Bodnar
Mr & Mrs Kermit B Boos
Martha Walton & David Bowers
Evelyn & Barrett Burns
Larry & Kathleen Burson
Maxine O Bush
Sherrie Campbell
L.D. & Charlotte Casey
Candelaria & Silbestre Chapa

Mrs. Annie Cornehl
Mark & Karen Cornett
Lavern & Janice Courtney
Mrs. Leroy Cunningham
Don & Robbyn Dodd
E.J. & Shirley Faske
Sue Ford
K.C. & J. M. Friedrich
Jason & Joan Fry
Tim & Marsella Fults
Douglas Gamble
Joseph & Dorothy Gordon
James & Norma Grace
Patrick & Gail Gribbin
Mr. & Mrs. Elgin Grona
Thomas & Bunni Hoefel
David & Diane Holke

Jeryl & Ruthann Hoover
Michael B. Hubler
John R. Hutcherson, PhD, CFP
Cody & Gabriela Huffman
William Irwin
Lynn & Sylvia Izard
Laurie Jenschke
James & Alicia Kidwell
Charles & Zala Koym
Jo Ann Krauskopf
W. Steve & Nicole Kroeger
Jack E. Lee
Emily M. Leland
Irma Lentz
Amparo Lopez
Alan & Pam Matthies
David & Audrey Mayer

D.G. & Berlee McCoury
Ward & Patricia Miller
Alicia Niemeier
Lorene M. Nocker
Col. Charles & Susan Noe
Raymond T. Nolin
Terry L. Owen
Paul & Dorothy Panaceck
Maxine Parker
Kathryn Parsley
Kevin & Harriet Pickard
Danny & Mary Beth Richardson
Rick & Vicki Ristau
George & Mary Ann Sanchez
Ruth M. Sarnecki
Robert C. Schmidtke
Vernell Scott

Mr. & Mrs. William A. Scripps
Betty J. Sears
David Seidensticke
Carol Foyt Shepherd
William Robert Slivka
Rodney & Sharon Smajstrla
Carol B. Smith
Lyle & Jo Ann Spaeth
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Stech
June Steinbring
Rod & Lori Travers
Wayne & Keri Utley
Helen Vinson
Frederick & Phyllis Lea Vogt
Troy & Ellen Wadzeck
Alva Wagner
Carey H. Weinheimer
Arthur & Janet Wesman
Margaret & Terry Wittenberg

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Agarita Creek Farms -
Tom & Beverly Carnes
Broadway Bank
City Cleaners
Engel Farms - John Engel
First Baptist Church, Christian Neighbors
Sunday School Class
FISD Transportation
Fredericksburg United Methodist Church
Fredericksburg Food Ministry
Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge
Global Plumbing
H.E.B.
Hill Country Outfitter
Hill Country Pest Control
Itz Gardens

KNAF
Memorial Presbyterian
Oak Hills Church
Pro Build
Spinning Guild
St. Barnabas Church
St. Barnabas Church - Sunday School
The Telephone Man - Doug Sundheimer
Wal-Mart
Woodforest National Bank

Leticia Adams
Jan Beckmann
John & Sherilea Brown
Betty Buchmeier
Stephanie Camfield

Matt Cavin
Ray Christenson
Willis & Myrt Collins
Mary Ann Faubion
Sarah Fontenot
Sue Ford
Steve & Tallulah Furtney
Pat & Gail Gribbin
Ann Heifner
Cindy & Bob Heifner
Terri Immel
Pete & Alice Jensen
Connie Jordan
Mimi Lodowski
Lavern Loving
Doris McCreder

Sondra McKelvey
Gabi & Don Murray
Meg Musselman
Babs Parrott
Linsey & Carrie Pyka
Gertude Roos
Pat & Bill Sadd
Faye Schkode
Maureen Seals
Lance Tatum
Linda & Vernon Treibs
JoAnna Troppy
Mac & Barbara Turner
Wayne Utley
Jamey & Teri Vogel
Alva Wagner

★★ Honor A Birthday ★★

Thinking about a way to honor that special someone in your life?
Donating to the Hill Country Community Needs Council is a great way.



HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY NEEDS COUNCIL

209 South Acorn
P.O. Box 73
Fredericksburg
Texas 78624

Tel: 830-997-9756
Fax: 830-990-2652

E-mail:
info@needsCouncil.org

Newly Designed Website
www.needsCouncil.org

Board Members

D.G. McCoury - President
Pat McGowan - Vice Pres.
George Keller - Treasurer
Gayle Long - Secretary
Patricia Bosquez
Sherilea Brown
Brad Hardin
Alice Hester
Alan Matthies
Mark Peterson
Linda Treibs
Mac Turner
Carol Wichman

Mission Statement

With loving hearts and helping hands, the Needs Council identifies, establishes, and administers services that address the basic unmet needs of people in Gillespie County. Our mission is accomplished through the mobilization of a core of community volunteers, the utilization of community resources and services, and the establishment of programs.

Director's Corner



Cindy Heifner, Director

One of Steve Jobs' quotes a few days before he died was, "Love is like a puzzle, hard to piece together, but beautiful when all the right pieces are put together."

I believe the Needs Council is an excellent example of that puzzle of love. This organization attempts to put some very intricate pieces together on a daily basis. Clients come to us with broken pieces. Staff and volunteers listen and guide them in mending the repairable and gathering new ones to replace the broken.

We can give out resource guides, budgeting advice, checks for utility bills, vouchers for clothes etc., etc., but if we don't do all this with love, it is meaningless. We need each other, in good times and in bad. The string that holds life together is our connections to other people.

Love is like a puzzle, hard to piece together...we are often in short supply of medical transportation drivers. Maureen and Priscilla do an excellent job keeping the constantly changing appointment schedule up to date. Volunteers like John Haebig, rarely say no to a request, but the need is growing! How do we keep enough volunteer drivers on call for all those seniors who depend on us? The only answer is love. When we get a call from a senior who raves about a board member who just took time away from his business to bring her to the doctor, we know... **all the right pieces are put together!**

The fact that you are reading this newsletter means you are a part of The Needs Council Puzzle. Remember, in order to remain beautiful we need your piece!

Cindy Heifner



FEST NACHT



A FESTIVE NIGHT FOR CHARITY
FREDERICKSBURG TEXAS

Vegas, Baby!! The Party of the Year! - February 11, 2012

A grateful thank you to all who supported the first annual Fest Nacht Charity Event last January. Over \$12,000 was raised for the Hill Country Community Needs Council and the Fredericksburg Food Pantry. It was a rousing success.

Now it's time to get ready for next year's festive night, which promises to be better and certainly bigger.

Where & When: Gillespie County Fairgrounds, February 11, 2012, from 7:00 p.m. to Midnight.

Entertainment: Featuring Music by "The Grooves". Theme: 'Vegas, Baby!!'

Tickets: \$450 per table and each table seats 10 guests - \$45 per person. Don't wait, tables are limited! First come, First served!

Tickets information: Kyle Biedermann - 830-998-7111; Doug Gamble - 830-998-2601; Stacey Gardner - 830-644-8400



*Hill Country Community Needs Council
PO Box 73
Fredericksburg, TX 78624*

**Non-Profit
Organization
Postage Paid
Permit #222
Fredericksburg
TX 78624**