



Needs Council 2019 Board Members

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78624

Director's Corner



"Thank you...you have no idea how much it means to be needed!"

I could not even begin to guess the number of times our volunteers have said this. They collectively seem to have no limit on the time and caring they are willing to offer complete strangers. One of the most precious components of this work is connecting volunteers with our clients in need. One of our weekly volunteers said just last week, "These women right here, they are family to me. To be honest I know very well that I receive far more than I give here, it is a blessing." Her wisdom is embraced by our staff, we humbly recognize the blessings we receive daily and the incredible importance each of us – volunteers, staff and donors has in keeping this COMMUNITY organization running

smoothly. The article about Bill Lange and his wonderful "second career" as a medical transportation volunteer reminds me of just how many lives our agency touches in one year – over 3,000! Like Bill's riders many of those in need will be served in one way or another by a volunteer.

"To heal is to touch with love that which was previously touched with fear".
-Stephen Devine

May the Holidays bring you much
JOY & PEACE,
Cindy Heifner
Executive Director

needs council.org



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HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY



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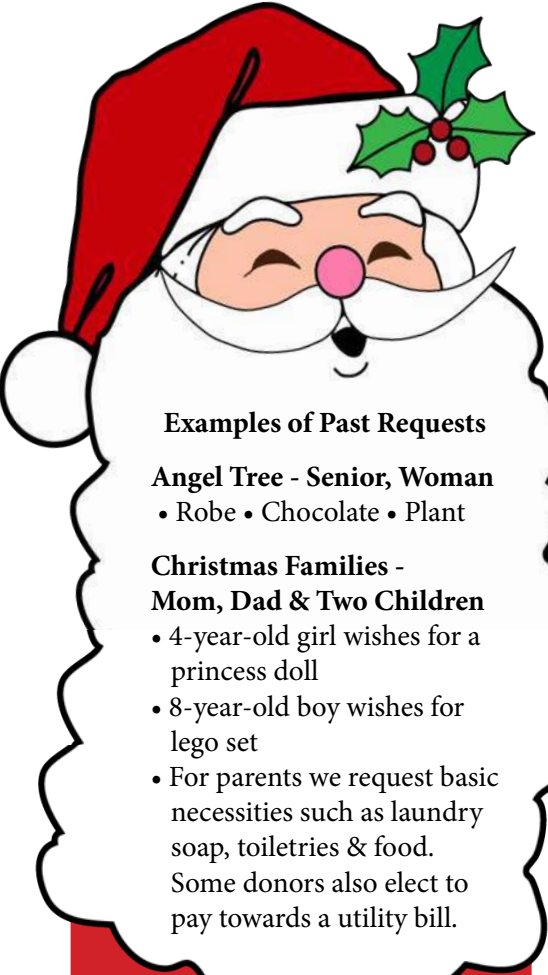
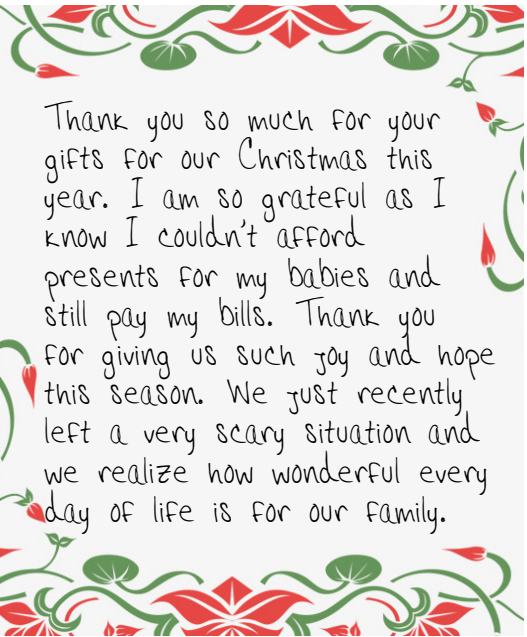
Fall 2019

The holidays are an exciting time of celebrations and traditions for many people. For many families and seniors however; it is an especially challenging time of year. For those who are struggling to make rent, pay for prescriptions or even buy enough food, gifts are more fantasy than reality.



The good news is you can help!
Angel Tree and Christmas Families programs were born from a desire to help fulfill un-granted wishes and provide basic necessities for approximately 500 deserving members of our community.
Give online at needs council.org/donate or check out Santa's beard on how you can get involved. Grocery gift cards are another great option and are always needed appreciated.

thank you



Examples of Past Requests

Angel Tree - Senior, Woman
• Robe • Chocolate • Plant

Christmas Families - Mom, Dad & Two Children

- 4-year-old girl wishes for a princess doll
- 8-year-old boy wishes for lego set
- For parents we request basic necessities such as laundry soap, toiletries & food. Some donors also elect to pay towards a utility bill.

To adopt a family call 997-9756. For our seniors, stop by Chase Bank and choose an angel wishlist off the tree!



Icing on the Cake!
Are you at least 70 ½?
If so, you can now make tax-free gifts directly from your IRA! Your gift will not be counted as income but will make a huge difference for our *Neighbors in Need*. Talk to your tax advisor to see if this win-win is right for you!



Ready! Set! Learn!
School Supply Distribution sent over 750 children in PreK - high school home with a new backpack and school supplies to start the school year off right. Big thanks to the hundreds of donors and volunteers that made it a success -- we couldn't have done it without you!



So Sweet!
A very talented local pastry chef wanted to do something special for our counseling clients. Each week she brings in personal cakes for their birthdays and other special occasions. She is even baking Thanksgiving pies for 50 families!

On the Road Again

"I was cheap, well I've always been cheap, and booked a late-night flight into Dallas at 1am." After leaving Harper to earn his Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Engineering, Bill Lange had accepted a job at an aircraft company in California and was headed back to Texas for Christmas with his brother. "I met my Judy and that was the end of it there. We went to a fancy dinner and that worked out fine, we've been married 51 years."

The Needs Council and the clients Bill has driven to medical appointments for over 10 years know he is far from "cheap". In March of 2008, after being back in town for a few years, he and his sister Annie saw a need for volunteers and signed up to help. Since then they have both done a great deal for our *Neighbors in Need*. "I wanted to do something and it got me out of town," he said. Bill alone has made hundreds of trips taking seniors to their medical appointments in Fredericksburg, Kerrville and San Antonio.

Most of us take for granted that we can drive anywhere we need to go. But for a growing portion of the elderly population, once routine outings like going to doctor's appointments have become monumental challenges. To compound the problem, many elderly find themselves with limited or no family nearby, seemingly nowhere to turn. This is where kind volunteers like Bill become knights in shining armor for



seniors in our community. Not only do drivers fill a tangible need, they fulfill an interpersonal one as well; oftentimes this "ride" provides the only conversation a homebound senior may have during their day.

When I asked Bill how long he saw himself driving clients he said, "Let's be realistic. I'm 77, I won't be able to drive forever but I'm going to do it as long as it's safe. At least another five years or so."

Bill is not just a top medical transportation driver, he and Judy are two of our most generous donors. When asked what motivates him to donate he gave his typical straightforward response mingled with some humor, "Can't take it with me,

nobody promised to stick it in my casket when I'm gone." Transitioning to a more serious tone he added, "There is a need and I know you all are trying to fill it. If we can't support that, then we're in bad shape."

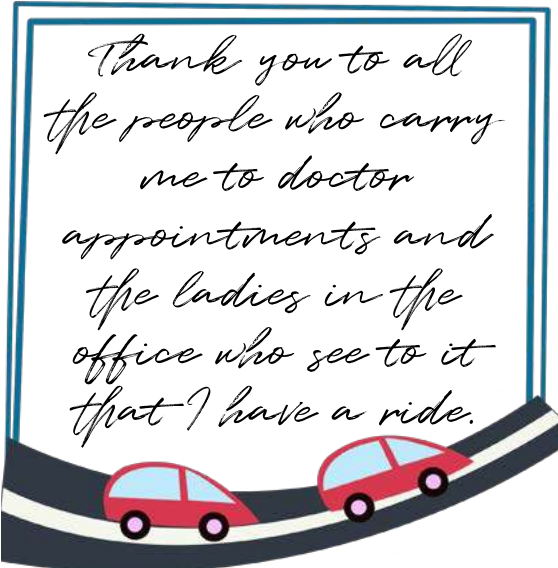
Just as we were finishing our interview, our director popped her head in, "Can I offer you a cookie?". Bill with his quick wit replied, "Just one?". We laughed and then this kind man invited us to lunch his treat. "Cheap" may be the word Bill jokingly used to describe himself but we know the opposite is true. Bill is one of the most generous people we know with both with his time and treasure, and we couldn't be more grateful.



Showing support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month is the Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church Visioning Committee. They chose our counseling program to receive a significant gift from an anonymous parishioner who desires to have a lasting impact on our community. This gift will positively influence many lives; whether the individual needs restoration from abuse, trauma, substance abuse, grief/loss or self-harm, our five gifted counselors will guide them along their journey towards healing. Pictured left to right: Rev. Jeff Hammond, Pris Williams, Cindy Scroggins, Bud Parrish, Frances Money and Jane Good. Not pictured: Evelyn Washburne.



Drop items off at the Needs Council during business hours



We Need Your Help

Can you spare a few hours a month to drive homebound seniors to their medical appts? Choose your availability!

Call 997-9756 or visit needsCouncil.org/volunteer