



Needs Council 2020 Board Members

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Director's Corner



Vulnerability is key to meaningful relationships. When we share our fears it not only lightens our load, it reveals that no life is easy. We've all been forced into vulnerability this year...rationing toilet paper! We are confronting uncertain futures and are left submitting to this vulnerability; learning new ways to love ourselves and our neighbors.

I'd hesitated to share mom's diagnosis, I asked for their prayers as they had so often of me. I now realize how empowering it was for them to pray for the health of another.

"Vulnerability is not winning or losing; it's having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome. Vulnerability is not weakness; it's our greatest measure of courage." Brené Brown

Our clients are confronting their own uncertain futures, without the safety net many of us have newfound appreciation for. It has been humbling for our staff, to witness daily the bare bones gratitude of people desperate for hope. Your response during this crisis has been remarkable and yet not surprising. No sooner would a request for flour or toilet paper be expressed and it would arrive at our door. By working together and supporting each other our great community will stand tall.

May we all find the courage to risk vulnerability,
Cindy Heifner
Executive Director

During my mother's recent illness, no visitors were allowed for several days after surgery. As I waited, I thought of the immense pain families separated from loved ones dying of Covid-19 must have felt. When I finally saw her I was reminded - make every minute count. During her hospitalization, I was held up by friend's messages of hope. Two women with their own critical health issues texted daily "uplifting" my spirits. Although



needsCouncil.org



P.O. Box 73
Fredericksburg, TX 78624



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Summer 2020

1904 North Llano Street • P.O. Box 73 • Fredericksburg, Texas 78624 • 830-997-9756 • info@needsCouncil.org

COVID-19 Emergency Response

- Shopping for Seniors
- Food 4 Kids Delivery
- Rent/ Utility Assistance
- Counseling via Video Calls
- Crisis Food Bags
- Well Check Calls for Seniors
- Additional Covid Assistance

"Non-essential" businesses were closed for six weeks forcing unemployment in Gillespie County to triple from one month to the next. This unique time has called for unprecedented action. Conventional client needs have continued to be met; albeit in an electronic manner to minimize both client and staff exposure. Services such as shopping for seniors and crisis food bags were added to help minimize senior public exposure and to provide basic food items for families in need of supplemental nutrition.

It is an alarming time, people in the margins are more frightened than ever. Sadly, many people are still not back to work full-time leaving our neighbors scrambling to make ends meet. We are extremely thankful for donors and volunteers who have allowed us to respond to the increased needs our neighbors are facing.

The Needs Council is a beacon of hope for our county's most vulnerable because of your continued support. **Thank you!**



Board member Kelli Olfers helps pack Crisis Food Bags with Cindy and Maricela to distribute to at-risk families. Bulk items were donated by Auslanders, Rustlin' Robs, Fredericksburg Pecan Company and an anonymous donor.

\$75

Average cost of school supplies for a Gillespie County student



The Covid public health crisis may be forcing some changes to our school supply drive this year, but we're confident our community of supporters is up to the challenge!

We are requesting supplies be ordered/shipped directly to our office which limits exposure for everyone. **Visit tgt.gifts/needsCouncil to order directly from our Target Charity Registry or facebook.com/needsCouncil to see our Wishlist and order from your favorite online retailer!**

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Welcome to Our Team!



Ginger and Maricela joined our staff not long before the Covid Pandemic and they hit the ground running! They have served as tremendous assets to our team on the front lines.

YOU MADE

this happen with your gifts

I truly do not have the words to say for how thankful I am for you all. Your kindness and love the last almost year has been such a blessing to me and the kids. I can't thank you enough! One day when this storm is over, I hope to pay you back in some way. You are all such special people to me and I'll never forget everything you have done for us. Thank you all again!

thank you!



Lean On Me

Seniors advised not to leave their home in the wake of Covid-19 Epidemic receive essential items from helpful strangers



Greg Kaderli

An 85-year-old woman named "Sally" received news that she had spots on her lungs and was told to wait indefinitely for further information. The Covid Pandemic hit and non-emergent doctor appointments were canceled for fear of patients contracting the novel illness that lead to devastating outcomes, especially for seniors. Sally's story is not unlike many others in our community and in our world. Uncertainty surrounds this virus but one factor appears to remain true; the elderly and those with pre-existing illnesses are at much higher risk for serious complications. To protect our county's most vulnerable, the Needs Council began pairing these clients with volunteers willing to grocery shop and run other essential errands.

Caroline Eidson and her daughter Sadie are among those who help provide this valuable service; splitting the shopping but delivering together whenever they can. "We love it and I just love the people I've met," Caroline said. A typical shopping trip consists of 8-10 necessities, so it doesn't take volunteers long, but our elderly clients are most grateful. "I really believe you are saving our lives," Sally said. Caroline believes she gets more out of the exchange than our seniors do. "I really have enjoyed the opportunity. It's nice to have a positive outlet when things are so negative and out of control in the world. The next best thing isn't always earth-shattering but it can make a difference for one person."



To Our Beloved Volunteers...

We Miss You!!!!

We know this has been a challenging time for many reasons. Thank you to those who have reached out to offer help during these last few months! We are saddened that we do not have our traditional volunteer opportunities inside the office and very much look forward to inviting you back as soon as is safely possible.

We appreciate everyone's understanding as we continue to navigate this new normal of serving our clients with our community's health at the forefront of all we do.

Most-needed volunteer service at this time is

Medical Transportation

Seniors continue to need drivers to transport them to their medical appointments. If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a senior, please complete an application online or call 997-9756.

needsCouncil.org/volunteer



Terry Collier



Sadie & Caroline Eidson



Mike Barr

WISH LIST

1



2



3



Give Monetarily
mail or online
needsCouncil.org

This is how you can help out & keep everyone safe!

Visit our Target Charity Registry at tgt.gifts/needsCouncil to purchase items directly for School Supplies and Food 4 Kids that can be shipped to us! Monetary gifts allow us to purchase most-needed items in bulk for these programs.



Our Food 4 Kids program has been extended through the summer to help alleviate some of the financial burden on parents.

Thank you to our extremely dedicated Food 4 Kids volunteer coordinators and their teams who work tirelessly each week to ensure over 260 children receive supplemental nutrition. These children are identified as "undernourished" by school personnel and oftentimes are left to fend for themselves on the weekend while parents work to make ends meet.

Geneva & William Baccus | Cynthia & Larry Berkman
Jacque Clements | Karen & Dwight Oestreich

thank you!