



Needs Council 2021 Board Members

Laurie Jenschke - President
Kelli Olfers - Vice President
Bea Aldrich - Treasurer
Elizabeth Rodriguez - Secretary
Jade Browning
Rev. Bur Dobbins
Sarah Fontenot
Shirley McCarty
Peter Mear
Tom Musselman
Mark Peterson
Ray Tiemann
Keith Whited



Director's Corner

The Common Good – Love of Neighbor

Christmas is a celebration of family, community and faith. It also is a time for giving of ourselves and finding gratitude for the little things. I'm often asked why I love this work so much. I believe it started with my mother's influence, teaching the seven of us to help others, and to work as a team for the common good. When we look beyond our own desires toward the needs of others our lives are enriched in a way that pales in comparison to pursuing personal desires.

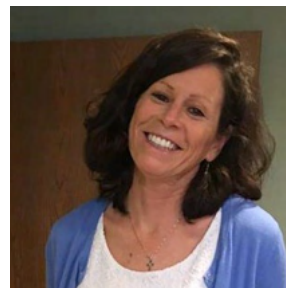
"Suzy" was extremely distraught because she didn't understand how she had accumulated \$250 in late fees; she had never missed her twice monthly payments. She didn't realize that months with five weeks altered the twice-monthly schedule. When we called the company, a woman who is a former

client answered, and after hearing what happened she offered to personally pay Suzy's late fees. She had no idea who this woman was but was adamant about helping someone who was struggling, just as she once had.

It was a beautiful reminder that a rising tide lifts all boats. She wanted to give back: the ultimate common good.

Let's all give the incredible gift of unconditional love to someone in need this Christmas. You'll be glad you did.

Merry Christmas,
Cindy Heifner
Executive Director



HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY



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

Spreading Christmas Joy!

Created to bring Christmas joy and provide necessities, our Angel Tree and Christmas Family programs benefit over 100 homebound seniors and 120 families. We invite you to consider adopting a senior or a family.

This quote from a 2020 recipient family says it all:

"Such a beautiful gift to receive this holiday season. Our family has endured a lot of suffering and loss this year and we are extremely grateful for the love you have shared."

How it works: To adopt a senior or a family, call 830-997-9756. You'll be provided with the family or senior's wish list, instructions & delivery deadline. Want to help without adopting? Consider donating online at needs council.org/donate, or purchasing grocery gift cards which are always welcome and can be delivered to our office at 1904 N. Llano.

A senior wrote about the gift she received last year:

"We don't often hear laughter and see people eager to give of their time. My peace lily will be a constant reminder to know that there are wonderful people in this world."



Only Santa (aka Mark Peterson) can bring the Magic of the Season to a drive thru Christmas Party! Each child told Santa their Christmas wish, as he handed them a beautiful Usborne book specially selected for them, during last year's distribution.

Christmas Families

Families receive a laundry basket filled with household goodies & food. Children receive two wrapped gifts from their wish list. You may choose to "gift" the parents with a utility payment or gift card. Family baskets and gifts are due back to the NC by Dec. 13th, just in time for Santa's Distribution.

Angel Tree

Seniors receive three simple wrapped gifts from their wish list, which are due back at the Needs Council on Dec 15th, in time for Elf Delivery.

These programs are only made possible with your support! We are very grateful to our many donors and volunteers who keep our 28 programs running all year long. *Thank you!*

Fall 2021

needs council.org



P.O. Box 73
Fredericksburg, TX 78624



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

Food 4 Kids Program Takes a Village

Four Coordinator Groups Shop, Bag & Distribute Food for 317 Children Each Week at Gillespie County Area Schools



Karen Oestreich (photo, right) loads up milk and other food items from the Needs Council office to take back to Bethany Lutheran Church for packing. Above photo represents one of 10 teams she organized to rotate filling bags for the Middle School each week. Bethany Lutheran Foundation supports F4K through their grant program and the church supplies monetary and in-kind donations as well to offset costs for the Needs Council. Karen has been coordinator of Middle School distribution for five years.



Photo, above-right: Larry and Cynthia Berkman deliver 85 bags to counselor Kim Wilson (right) who ensures students identified as undernourished take home a food bag each weekend. Hill Country Church has supported the F4K program by making donations of cash or food items, helping stuff bags and more. The Berkmans have been involved with the program for five years and two years ago became official coordinators for the Primary School's distribution.



Photo, right: Jacque Clements tip-toes to reach the tuna kits on her routine shopping trip to the store. She has been with the F4K program since its inception in 2007 and handles all aspects of the program from shopping to distribution. Fbg United Methodist Church has assisted with monetary and food donations as well as space to fill all the bags each week for 125 elementary school students.

The following nutritious, non-refrigerated, individually packaged items are needed year-round to provide supplemental nutrition to 317 children.

- Tuna kits
- Beanies Wienies
- Granola Bars
- 100% Juice Boxes
- Nuts
- Beef Jerky
- Cheese/Peanut Butter Crackers
- Individual Servings of Peanut Butter
- Pudding Cups
- Applesauce
- Protein Bars
- Fruit Cups
- Trail Mix
- Breakfast Bars



Photo, above: Geneva and Bill Baccus load up their cart with food for 48 kids in Harper. Devoted to the program for 12 years, they handle each aspect of the process together. They pick up items from Needs Council, pack the bags and distribute to Harper schools each week.

There's Something About Barry

Barry could teach a variety of business classes as his career has included many successful ventures in multiple states. One would imagine a great deal of his success was due to his wonderful personality. Like many of our volunteers, when Barry and his lovely wife Joyce retired to Fredericksburg, they soon looked for opportunities to share their talents and compassion. In 2009, Barry joined our medical transportation volunteer team. He was soon recruited for newsletter assembly, school supplies and Angel Tree gift distribution. He has even played ol' Saint Nick during the Christmas Family celebration.

“Barry is such a joy to work with,” Cindy Heifner says. “His radiant smile and ‘can do’ attitude lift the spirits of everyone in his presence!” Medical Transportation volunteers are in high demand as some seniors have multiple appointments per week. Volunteers like Barry provide the rides but also lessen the anxiety of these seniors who can no longer drive. “We’ve had a really good life,” Barry said. “It’s a nice feeling to take care of the needs of other people.”

Not only is a Barry a top notch Needs Council volunteer and donor, he also gives a great deal of time and resources to other non-profits. Joyce and Barry enjoyed working with Meals on Wheels in San Antonio so it was a natural fit to join the Meals on Wheels drivers at the Golden Hub delivering meals, then becoming a cook. “I get more out of it than I give,” he said.

Helping Our Neighbors in Need is not just the Needs Council’s mission statement, but a belief system in Gillespie County. “It’s great this community – people



"I am writing to thank you all of the help provided to my mother. Particularly the many people who provided transportation for her over the years. You all helped her to remain in her home until her death and she truly appreciated and enjoyed all of you."

over 100 are still living in their own homes,” he said. Community Agencies and loyal volunteers all doing their part make that possible. “Our community prospers when agencies such as ours are gifted with the expertise and HEART Barry and other volunteers deliver in abundance,” Cindy said.

When Barry isn’t volunteering, he and his wife of 58 years love to travel and spend time with their children,

grandchildren and great grandchildren. They have frequently traveled to visit their daughter’s family in Singapore and New Zealand.

No matter where Barry is, one thing is certain: he is looking for a way to help people and always gives his all. “So many lonely people in the world,” he said. “If you can make it a little bit friendlier, you should.” Barry, you certainly do.

