



## Needs Council 2022 Board Members

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## Director's Corner

Like the father in the front-page story – Christmas brings out the giving spirit. We all enjoy doing a bit extra for our family, friends, co-workers or employees and neighbors during the holidays. Here at the Needs Council we are delighted to be in the “front row” watching Santa’s magic while he endeavors to give each child his undivided attention as they tell him their gift list during the Christmas Families Distribution.

The “Elves” that deliver gifts to our homebound seniors come back to share their excitement as they tell us of the gratitude and joy each recipient shares with them. For many, this may be their only gift and only social engagement during the Christmas season.

“Everyone can experience the Joy & Blessing of generosity; because everyone has something to give”

-Jan Grace

Throughout the year we are continually blessed with your generosity. Over and over again, clients break down as they attempt to put words to their gratitude. They know and we know just how close they came to losing their home, their job, their vehicle etc.... but because of their neighbors caring they didn't! Please rest assured your gifts of time, talent, and treasure are never wasted at The Needs Council.

*Cindy Heifner*  
Executive Director



HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY



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*Tidings of  
Comfort & Joy*

Our Angel Tree and Christmas Families programs are offered to ease the burdens of our neighbors who have struggled immensely this year.

adopt a family in need, he smiled and said, “You’ve Got a Deal! My kids have felt the drastic cut-backs on everything they enjoy; it’ll be great to see them have a nice Christmas.”

“John” was injured at work and unable to obtain workers’ compensation. With three children, including a special needs student, the mother “Jennifer” works full-time and obtained a second job to help them stay afloat. John learned that surgery is not an option; therefore, he must receive job retraining since his current occupation is no longer possible. This was not the life he envisioned for his family so he began seeing one of our counselors to deal with this new reality. With credit card debt mounting, they asked the Needs Council for help with utilities. The Christmas Families program was also offered, and John initially said no. “We’ve always done that kind of thing for other folks – I just can’t imagine being on the receiving end.”

After we explained the program was completely confidential and promised that in the future they could return to

A young Christmas Family recipient props her foot on Santa’s as she shares her Christmas wishes along with her little sister.



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

# Hungry to Support Kids

*HEB Gives \$7,000 in Support of Food 4 Kids; Volunteers Shop, Bag & Distribute Weekly to 200+ Children*

As with most everything these days, food costs have increased, so our friends at HEB responded with a generous \$7,000 gift that will help provide supplemental nutrition to over 200 children identified as food insecure by teachers, nurses, and counselors during the school year.

The Needs Council Food 4 Kids program addresses weekend hunger in children who are identified as "under-nourished". Sadly, Feeding America reports that 1 in 6 children do not have sufficient food in Gillespie County.

Food 4 Kids provides non-refrigerated individual serving-sized nutritional snacks each Friday that children can open and eat. No can opener, microwave, or stove is needed. Some of these children are home on the weekend while their parents work so having "mini" meals that cover the basic food groups and are easy to eat is vital.

Marilyn McNabb, Top Store Leader at H-E-B Fredericksburg, has been a great partner and advocate for the Needs Council. "It's hard to imagine anyone going hungry in a country with an abundant food supply, especially a child," she said. "One of HEB's Pillars of Giving is to provide hunger relief. The backpack program is a great opportunity to ensure support for our community's most vulnerable, our children."

Food is only part of the Food 4 Kids equation. Equally vital is having a dedicated group of volunteers who shop, organize, bag, and distribute these items to area schools each and every week. Fortunately, we can count on our community to provide everything we need to reach the underserved. On behalf of the kids,

*Thank you!*



Marilyn McNabb visits with volunteer Karen Oestrich as she purchases food items for middle school students.

We continue to rely heavily on donations from the community to provide 65,000+ food items throughout the school year.

Below is a list of food items needed:

- Tuna Kits\*
- Beanie Wienies\*
- Trail Mix/Nuts
- Apple Sauce
- Peanut Butter (singles)
- Protein Bars
- Breakfast Bars/Granola Bars
- Fruit Cups
- 100% Juice Boxes
- Crackers with cheese or peanut butter

\*most needed items



**Helping Here**



There is simply no way we could serve over 4,000 Neighbors in Need without our community's donation of their time, talent, and treasure. Weaver Technologies is one such company that we are fortunate to have in our corner, providing software and help desk computer support at no cost.

In our nearly 40-year history, the number of individuals served continues to grow and Weaver is committed to ensuring our infrastructure grows as well. Donnie Weaver, Founder/CEO, approved migrating the Needs Council to Microsoft M365 as well as other software to ensure we are operating with the most current technology to best meet our client needs. They also repaired a computer that was thought to be unsalvageable! Thank you!



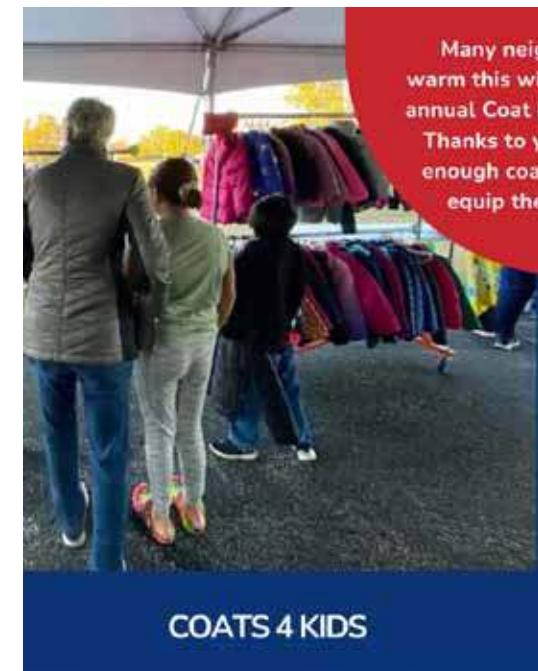
KEN WEATHERFORD  
SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT

"We care about the community where we live and give back to this community in many ways. The Needs Council is an important part of our community and we're happy to support them."

DONNIE WEAVER  
FOUNDER/CEO

**WEAVER**  
Right IT Solution. Right Time. Right Reason.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Many neighbors will stay warm this winter thanks to our annual Coat Distribution event! Thanks to your help we had enough coats in each size to equip the entire family!

THANK YOU FOR  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE FOR OUR  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Over 240 families were able to start the school year off right with backpacks, supplies, and haircuts during our annual School Supply Distribution event!



You can make a dramatic impact on homebound seniors simply by driving them to a medical appointment.

A few longtime San Antonio/ Austin volunteer drivers have hung up their keys. [We need your help!](#)

No matter how much time you have to spare, we can get you on the road to making a difference!

**APPLY ONLINE!**  
[needscouncil.org/volunteer](http://needscouncil.org/volunteer)

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I have found another family in the staff and volunteers at the Needs Council. I've always been able to support myself but as I get older, it's much more difficult to do so. They have helped me with utilities and rides to see my doctors. I'm not sure how I would make it without them.

GRATEFUL SENIOR

