

Mary Sturdevant

From: Mary Sturdevant <sturdevant.mary@swbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2017 5:26 PM
Subject: November and December What's Happening at Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministries?



We want to be sure you continue to know what is happening at TEAM! Please feel free to share any sections of this newsletter with your congregation in your church newsletter and/or bulletin you so choose. Please also help us by forwarding this email to others in your church who would be interested and let me know if this should go to others on an ongoing basis.

The Miracle Next Door

We toss the word “ministry” around a lot. It’s even in our name, Tomball Emergency Assistance *Ministries*. But what does the “ministry” at TEAM actually *look* like? Most readers know that on the “ministry” side of TEAM, we attend to the financial and physical needs of our clients. We often have the privilege of providing comfort, reassurance, and prayer for them as well. And there are many with whom we have developed long term relationships on a much deeper level, where healing and change really take place. To me, Relationships + Healing = Ministry. Having said that, I’d like for us to turn our attention to *The Ministry Next Door...* to the TEAM Resale Store. Ministry happens there every day, too, and on so many levels... physical, emotional, mental, and vocational. I’d like to share just a few of the many, many stories that illustrate The Ministry Next Door.

Angel came to TEAM to work off some time for skipping school. At 15, she already seemed to be developing a hard edge, and heading down the road to trouble. Our store manager, Randall, asked her what job at TEAM she would like to do. She expressed an interest in learning how to work the cash register. So Randall took Angel under his wing to begin her training, not only in how to work a cash register, but in how to handle herself with the public, how to dress appropriately, and the importance of being dependable and honest. Lacking a father figure in her life, Angel responded well to Randall. And with his guidance, she did a 180 degree turnaround. With supervision, Angel became one of our best cashiers, rarely making mistakes. Her enthusiasm was infectious. And volunteers, staff and customers loved working with and just being around her. Even after completing her hours, she would practically run from school every day, and on Saturdays, to volunteer at TEAM. Through guidance and friendship, TEAM made a difference in Angel’s life in so many ways: She learned a skill that she used to get a “real” job later as a cashier, her self-esteem improved right along with her grades, she has not had any more problems at school, and is actually now actively involved in school activities. In essence, Angel turned off the road to trouble, and is now headed down the road to a positive and productive life. We still have customers ask how she’s doing, and all the staff and volunteers at TEAM really miss their little Angel. But she’s busy now with making good grades in high school, working, and participating in extra-curricular activities. And *that* brings a smile to everyone’s face!

Marie came to TEAM to serve Community Service Restitution hours. When she first arrived she was unkempt and extremely nervous. Upon reading her volunteer form, Randall noticed that her hand writing started out

neat and legible, then became almost illegible when the form asked about medical conditions. You see Marie, even though only 21, suffered from severe anxiety attacks and PTSD. She had been a victim of crime not once, but twice, in her young life. And with what she went through, it was perfectly understandable that she would be very anxious among strangers. Understanding her fear of strangers and new settings, Randall immediately explained that we are all family at TEAM, and told her if she began to feel anxious, all she needed to do was let him know, and she could take a break. Still being very tense, Randall suggested she talk with Johnny and Delton. Johnny is a retired Youth Pastor and Delton an ordained Minister. They, and others, all assured her that God would take care of her, and so would her new friends at TEAM. A birthday was being celebrated that day, and everyone asked her to join in the fun. She did, and Marie went from being very tense and nervous at the beginning, to relaxed and happy at the end of that day. She was made to feel safe, which is exactly what she needed. Randall shared that the transformation was absolutely one of the most incredible things he had witnessed in a long time. The following day everybody was astonished. Marie's clothes were ironed, her hair was neatly combed, and she had makeup on. She was hardly recognizable. *And* she had a smile on her face!

Angel and Marie are only two chapters in the ongoing story of "The Ministry Next Door." So to answer my original question, "what does ministry *look* like?" It looks like inclusion, acceptance, kindness, and unconditional love.

Stay tuned for more stories from "The Ministry Next Door."

God's blessings to and through you,

Becky Loving, Executive Director TEAM

TEAM is full of Thanksgiving Gratitude for support from these generous people:

Multiple food drives enabled TEAM to be very generous at Thanksgiving and to prepare for Christmas: TEAM is beyond grateful to these organization who held successful food drives in support of TEAM:

- **The Cypress Texas Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:** a donation of 150 turkeys and 50 chickens for the clients' Thanksgiving baskets. They have made this generous donation for many years and we are so grateful for their support! Here are some church members making the delivery; **TEAM is grateful!**



- **Klein Trail Girl Scout community**, coordinated by Susan Huff, service project coordinator: provided almost 90 Thanksgiving sacks
- **Tomball United Methodist Church**: provided over 100 Thanksgiving sacks (containing food for a family of four); here are some of their volunteers and the wonderful sacks coming in the door:



- **Decker Prairie Elementary, Lakewood Elementary, and NorthPointe Intermediate:** these three Tomball ISD schools held food drives, and wow! See what they delivered!



- **Graceview Baptist:** delivered 4 carloads of canned food and paper goods
- **The Villas at Lakewood Park:** had a food drive for TEAM collecting almost 800 cans; it was organized by Carla McCarty, one of our stalwart Food Pantry volunteers

- **Cypress Woodlands Junior Forum:** had a food drive for TEAM (the organization also has 4+ volunteers at TEAM every Thursday to assist in the food pantry)
- : held a food drive for TEAM
- **Blackshear Elementary:** held a school wide food drive for our food pantry for Thanksgiving; and now these wonderful kids are currently collecting toys for Christmas gifts and these will be delivered in December!
- **Covenant United Methodist Church,** the Woodlands: delivered over 400 cans of food
- **Parkway Chevrolet:** sponsored the Tomball Chamber of Commerce’s benefit for TEAM and collected food and paper goods for TEAM. Here are Neil, a volunteer caseworker in our assistance ministry, Becky Loving, TEAM’s executive director, and Melba, a 30-year volunteer in our resale shop alongside the contributions



- **Church of the Good Shepherd and all the parade participants who gather there:** The church was one of the staging areas for the Tomball Holiday Parade. Float participants that gather and set up there to join the parade are encouraged to bring food contributions for TEAM. Here’s Fr. George McGavern blessing the contributions after they were loaded (the backseat is full, also):



Walgreens: Walgreens in Tomball spent a day in TEAM's assistance ministry area providing free flu shots, tetanus shots, and blood pressure checks for clients, customers, and volunteers. TEAM and all the recipients really appreciated these important health protections!

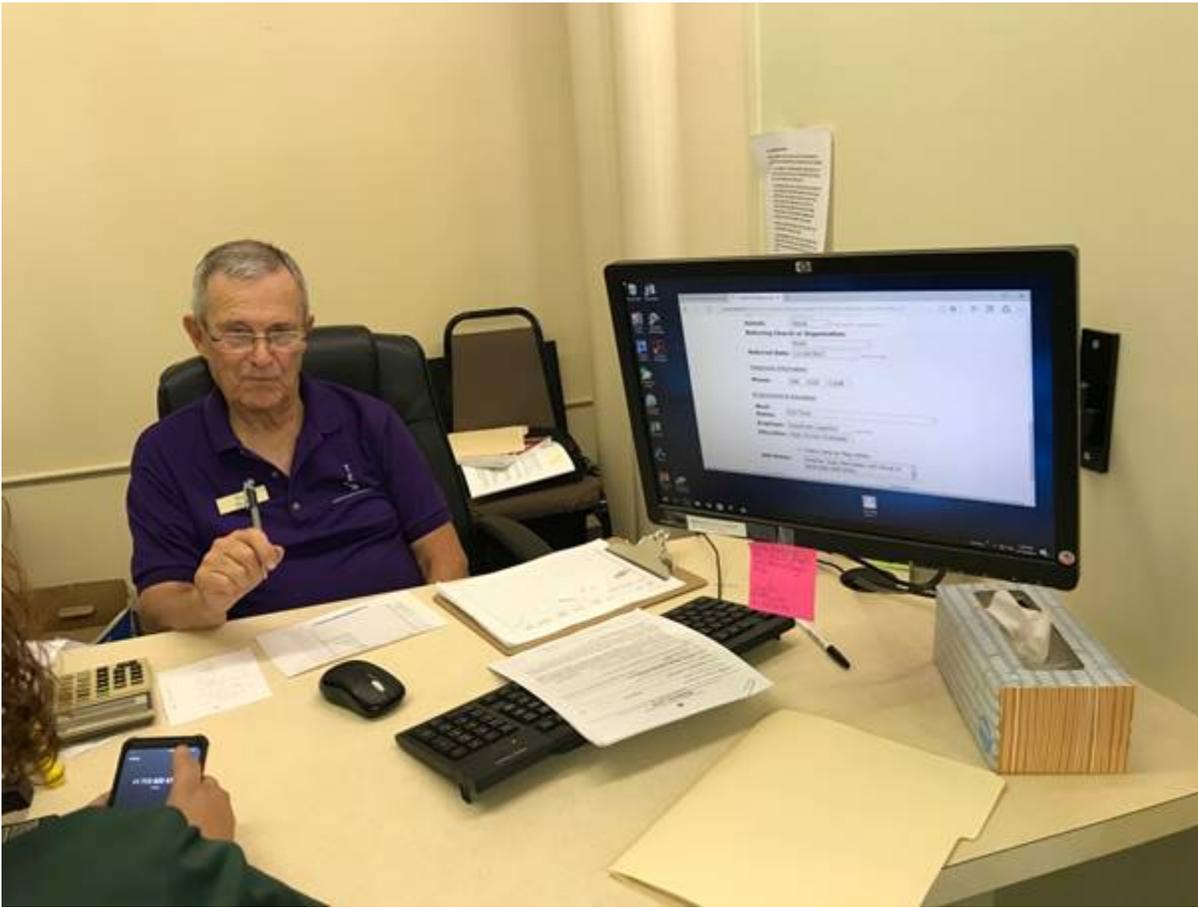
Jacalyn Wilburn: Jacalyn recently donated 25 children's Christmas stockings and jewelry to TEAM. All are much appreciated!

TEAM partnered with Sponsoring Churches to support Harvey victims

TEAM was blessed with over \$64,000 in donations designated for Harvey recovery efforts. These funds were first used in the assistance ministry area providing help directly to clients. When we realized we still had funds available, we reached out to sponsoring churches to see if they still had members needing help. We heard from six churches and provided a little over \$14,000 to their members in donations ranging from \$450 to \$1500. Churches mentioned how much they appreciated that we had reached out to them in partnership to help.

GRACE, TEAM's new computer system, is up and running in the ministry area!

TEAM is very pleased to report that its new custom built client management system, GRACE (God's Resource and Community Exchange) is now in full operational use in the assistance ministry area. It was designed and developed so that TEAM's client information could be maintained in a web-based system, with data recorded in real-time as caseworkers talk with clients. Harvey slowed our implementation down a bit, but now all caseworkers are using it and, as existing clients return to TEAM, their paper files are recorded as needed into GRACE and then shredded. And no new paper files are being created. Before too long most of our bank of file cabinets will be history and the client records much more easily accessed, securely, online. Here's a picture of one of our caseworkers, Neil Guiles, assisting a client with the GRACE screen active and in use:



Work is currently going on testing the second version of GRACE which will enable TEAM to communicate seamlessly with its future TBN (Tomball Benevolence Network) partners (other non-profits, companies, schools, churches, and others) who will be collaborating with TEAM throughout the community to provide broader services to those in need in the Tomball area.

Please keep TEAM in mind for your end-of-year donations!

Here we are near the end of the year. Please prayerfully consider TEAM in your end-of-year giving. The holidays are especially stressful and difficult for TEAM’s clients and your donations will help TEAM make a positive difference for them. You can mail a check to TEAM or go to TEAM’s website to make a donation online: <http://www.teamtomball.com/>

Follow us on social media:    And when you see posts from TEAM, please like and share!

Many churches deliver to TEAM non-perishable food collected from their congregation. TEAM has been blessed with many, many donations of non-perishable food items, but it is all quickly going out to storm victims and others in need in Tomball and elsewhere. Please consider have a food drive if you don’t currently. Here is information for your Newsletter/Bulletin/church communication timed with your next food collection:

TEAM In-Gathering

[insert date], is our next TEAM in-gathering. Please remember to bring some non-perishable food items for our collection in support of TEAM’s (Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministry) food pantry. Especially needed at this time are canned sweet potatoes, instant potatoes, cake mixes and icing.

Thank you for your generous support to those families in our community currently suffering food loss from the floods, food scarcity and other hardship. Your help makes a difference, especially at this holiday time!

These Special Volunteers are still needed:

TEAM is looking for individuals to fill these special volunteer leadership positions:

Volunteer Development Coordinator

A Volunteer Development Coordinator is needed to visit churches and recruit resources, to support the department leads in coordinating with the volunteers. Through the use of media, social media, visits to churches and other organization, or other creative means, this person will promote volunteer opportunities available at TEAM; and will develop a working knowledge of all the volunteer opportunities available. The ideal candidate will have a working knowledge of social media, have initiative, be available to respond to volunteer inquiries on a regular basis via phone, email, and on-site tours, and have good communication skills. The position will require approximately 15 hours per week.

Fundraiser(s)

The individual(s) will plan and assist in the implementation of fundraising initiatives both large and small that can include one-time and annual events; will be able to develop good working relationships with other volunteers, staff, and board members; will be creative, dependable, adaptable, organized, and have the ability to think outside the box. Experience with social media preferred. Time requirement will vary depending upon project(s).

Grant Writer

A volunteer Grant Writer is needed to research grant opportunities and draft grant applications with direction from the Executive Director. The hours for the position will vary from week to week, but would average to approximately 15 hours per week.

Please contact Becky Loving at becky.loving@teamtomball.com or 832-221-6572 if you are interested or know of someone who could fill any of these positions, thanks!

Shop at Amazon and help TEAM!

Please pass the word on: Support TEAM by shopping Amazon's charity link, at no cost to you! *Amazon Smile* will give a portion of your purchases (some exclusions apply) back to TEAM, and it doesn't cost you a penny! Remember to always start your Amazon shopping through this special link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0195526>. Thanks!

Everyone at TEAM hopes all of you had a blessed Thanksgiving celebration and will have a Holy and joyful Christmas! Thanks so much to all of you for supporting TEAM during 2017!

A big THANK YOU to every one of you! We appreciate your being one of TEAM's backers and for all you do to support TEAM in our community!

Please let us know at TEAM if you have questions about our ministry services or if you have needs we could support. You can contact TEAM at 281-255-6967 or visit our website at <http://www.teamtomball.com>.

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