

Mary Sturdevant

From: Mary Sturdevant <sturdevant.mary@swbell.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 4:53 PM
Subject: February 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 Tomball Benevolence Network activities continue!

Positive momentum continues with The Tomball Benevolence Network (TBN) under the leadership of Karen Guiles. Informative meetings were held in January with Lone Star College, Tomball ISD, and Harris County Precinct 4, resulting in their becoming supporting TBN members. Through these meetings terrific resources have been uncovered and then added to GRACE, the computer software system that retains all the information for caseworkers. Lone Star College is a gold mine of educational resources for the community, and TBN is in the planning stages with LSC in a pilot project to reach out and assist young people who have difficulty 'launching' in life.

Also, Karen recently introduced TBN at the Tomball Lion's Club. She met Mary Trenkle at that meeting and now Mary is a TEAM ministry volunteer!



January 26, 2018

Then on February 7th, TBN welcomed a prominent Tomball automotive and tire store as its very first TBN Service Provider! Tomball United Methodist Church and Windwood Church have officially joined the Network as well.

Karen continues to focus on meeting with TEAM supporting churches, as well as businesses, to share the Network details and bring them on board as TBN service providers and/or members. She will no doubt knock on your office door soon!!! Or, you can contact her at karen.guiles@teamtomball.com to schedule a time to meet. Trust us, she won't turn you down!

A Powerful Partnership!

Billie Ann Dio is a Speech Teacher at Tomball High School, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if many of you already know her. Billie Ann is one of those rare people who becomes a friend to everyone she meets. And she quickly becomes not just a friend, but your new best friend....to students, teachers, the cafeteria staff, janitors, city officials, people on the street, and me. I met, and immediately became fast friends with, Billie Ann last March when she called me one night and told me that she had organized a *district wide* food drive for TEAM, *and* that they would be delivering the food the next day. Again, that was *district wide*, so there was a *lot* of food! She had the two high school football teams, several coaches, teachers, and even the District Superintendent all joining in the party. And several of the football players even came back after the delivery, during their Spring Break(!), to unpack and meticulously sort and shelve all the items. It was an amazing thing to behold. And then Billie Ann was off to what, I'm sure, was another good deed somewhere.

Over the following months we touched base a couple of times, and *then* there was Harvey. On the first day of the recovery effort Billie Ann showed up again with coaches, football players, cheerleaders, student council members, and many other students in her large group of dedicated followers. They all threw themselves into the task of loading, unloading, and sorting thousands of tons of disaster relief supplies. Then at one point in the midst of the chaos, Billie Ann was contacted by a teacher whose sister and brother-in-law had lost everything in the storm. They were in a shelter – in Dickinson - and in desperate need of a special baby formula for their newborn, which they had been unable to locate or get to. Billie Ann immediately reached out to TEAM for help. And, yes, it meant sorting through hundreds of pounds of baby formula that had been donated during Harvey, and through our own food pantry as well. But she had a family in distress and both Billie Ann and TEAM were determined to answer the call. And we were actually able to find enough special formula to give them, which allowed them the time needed for the water to recede and stores to reopen. Crisis averted and problem solved. And all in a day's work for TEAM and Billie Ann.

Since then, Ms. Dio has referred many "special" cases to TEAM, which has resulted in a wonderful and genuine partnership for helping those in need in the extended family that is Tomball. The latest referral made, just two few weeks ago, involves a young lady Jocelyn (19) and her brother, John, (15). There has been no father on the scene for many years and, tragically, their mother passed away this past Christmas. Because of their mother's long-term illness, there were no assets or money left behind for the children, and Jocelyn had been her mother's primary caregiver, so she didn't even have a job. And John had to be reported as "homeless" in order to qualify for food stamps. John is one of Billie Ann's students and when she heard about this terrible situation, I'm pretty sure you can guess that she was all over it. TEAM was her first call, and we will be seeing Jocelyn this week. I know for sure we will help her pay the bills on their apartment, provide them with food and clothing, set John up for the grief counseling he really needs during this time, help with gift cards, gas vouchers, and job referrals for Jocelyn. We have also recently begun a new partnership and initiative with Lone Star College and local churches to reach out to young people struggling with career choices who are in need of assistance and direction (see the Tomball Benevolence Network article above). And I have a hunch that Jocelyn will be at the top of the list, as she embraces her desire to begin to get a college education and begin to move forward in her life.

If you would be interested in helping with a specific type case or cases, like Jocelyn's, consider joining our Client Partnership Program as described below.

Blessings,

Becky Loving, Executive Director TEAM

The Client Partnership Program...

**Wouldn't you like to know just *exactly* where your donations go?
Now you can, through our new
"Client Partnership Program."**

**With a tax deductible gift of \$100, you can partner with us in *real time* on a *specific* client case,
and you can even specify what type of need you have a heart for.
Is it victims of domestic violence? Single moms? The elderly?
Homeless families?**

You decide when to help, how often, and with what particular case.

**Simply email mark.miles@teamtomball or
becky.loving@teamtomball.com and tell us you'd like to be a
Client Partner.**

No long term obligation. And *you* determine when and with what specific client situation you'd like to help.

**On behalf of those we serve,
Thank You!**

**"TEAM...
In the HEART of Tomball"**

www.teamtomball.com

TEAM is grateful for support from these generous people:

- **Tomball Regional Health Foundation:** A HUGE thank you to the generous Board and staff at Tomball Regional Health Foundation who responded to a grant application from TEAM with a \$50,000 donation to provide comprehensive dental care to those TEAM clients in need of this service. What a blessing for clients who have not been able to afford any dental services.
- **Church of Jesus Christ in Pittsburgh, PA:** Karen Scott, who is a realtor with Texas Star Realty Professionals, dropped by TEAM recently with a donation for \$10,011.43 from The Church of Jesus

Christ in Pittsburgh. Karen had organized donations for hurricane relief and said that it took them some time to get things together. She said that while the funds were gathered for hurricane relief TEAM could use the money for assistance as we deem appropriate. TEAM is so grateful to Karen for organizing this and to the very generous church community in Pittsburgh!

- **Resale With a Purpose:** Resale with a Purpose makes generous donations throughout the Tomball community and TEAM is very grateful to receive a recent donation of \$7,250 to provide financial assistance to clients in need. This gift will enable TEAM to provide more financial assistance to those with significant needs.
- **Tomball Boy and Cub Scouts:** Several Tomball Boy and Cub Scouts recently held a door-to-door food drive and delivered a huge amount of food to TEAM for our food pantry. Their efforts organizing and carrying out this drive yielded wonderful results for TEAM's clients!
- **Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum:** Here are Debbie, Beth and Mary Lou from the Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum. They spent a recent Thursday sorting, organizing, and restocking toiletry items that will be given to our food pantry clients. These ladies are
- frequent volunteers at TEAM and we are so appreciative of the time they spend with us.



You are invited to Eat, Drink and Do Good!

After 33 years of serving Tomball, TEAM will be having its **first** fundraiser this spring. We would be honored if you'd join us for the event.

Purchase your tickets [here](#).
Seating is limited.



Checkout TEAM's new website!

The link hasn't changed, but the website has been completely redesigned. Please take a look!

<http://www.teamtomball.com/>

And follow us on social media:   

And when you see posts from TEAM, please like and share!

Lucy Harvell is back at TEAM as Volunteer Development Coordinator!

I am so excited about the opportunity to work at TEAM again. Many of you know that I have had a time of sadness in losing my Frank. It will feel wonderful to be able to serve others again in the capacity of Volunteer Development Coordinator. This is my calling.

To all of you who are regular volunteers who work so very hard, so consistently--I applaud you. You keep TEAM open; you are doing the Lord's work.

If you have not volunteered in a while, please contact me and we will explore all the volunteer opportunities to find the spot that is just right for you. Our greatest need at this time is resale shop volunteers.

Whether or not you are able to volunteer your time, if you could help us by promoting volunteerism at TEAM, it would be greatly appreciated...please tell your neighbors, friends, and fellow church members, and try to share the news when you are at school, shopping, work, Scouts, clubs, etc. Your testimonial is the best recruiting tool we have, and the people who depend on TEAM really need your help now.

If you do connect with someone who wants to volunteer, please have them contact me. I will meet with them to find the right fit, give a tour of TEAM, tell them about what we do, and help them through the paperwork.

We serve others at Christ's command, and serving alongside you is my blessing.

Lucy

409-673-1058 or harvelllucy@gmail.com

And a big shout goes out to Laurie Lazear from Lucy for editing, adding to and generally making a wonderful product of the information and form for the New Volunteer Packet.

Many churches deliver to TEAM non-perishable food collected from their congregation.

Please consider having 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 crackers and rice. Always appreciated: plastic and paper grocery bags!

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:

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 10 - 15 hours per week.

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

Shop at Kroger and Amazon and help TEAM!

Please pass the word on: TEAM is now a participant in The Kroger Community Rewards Program. You can support TEAM when you use your Kroger Plus Card. Visit www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com to register your Kroger Plus card, and select organization #73618 (Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministries) as your charity of choice. If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at any Kroger customer service desk, or you can create an account online here: <https://www.kroger.com/account/create/>.

You can also 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!

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>.

If you wish to be removed from future distributions of this email, please reply to me with that request.

Mary Sturdevant

Cell: 713-256-3625

Email: sturdevant.mary@swbell.net