

Mary Sturdevant

From: Mary Sturdevant <sturdevant.mary@swbell.net>
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Subject: March What's Happening at Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministries?
Attachments: Good Eats Program Food list.docx



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!

The Tomball Benevolence Network (or TBN) is a beehive of activity. Windwood Presbyterian, First Baptist Church of Tomball, and First Presbyterian of Tomball have recently officially joined the Network. We welcome them as TBN members! Karen is continuing to schedule appointments with all TEAM supporting churches. If you haven't heard from her yet, feel free to give her a call at 517-648-4159 or email her at karen.guiles@teamtomball.net to schedule a date. TEAM currently has 19 supporting churches, so it's taking a little time to reach each one. She looks forward to linking with every church to share the details of TBN and how each church can join in partnership.

In discussions with various churches the following question inevitably comes up: "Since we already have support ministries within our church, why would we need to join the Benevolence Network?" Great Question! Although churches may already have their own 'internal' caring ministries for church members, TBN brings a new perspective on outreach by opening up avenues of sharing the individual church resources and programs to others within the Tomball community. For instance, a church might have Financial Peace University, MOPS, or Parenting with Love and Limits that could be accessed by others not attending that specific church. Or, a church may have a group of men who help the elderly, widows or singles with car repairs, oil changes, etc. There may be business owners in the church family who would offer to assist in specific areas (i.e., car repair, plumbing, electrical, HVAC) for a low-income situation. Secondly, churches can send their own members to TEAM for caseworker assistance should the church not have an available resource within their own church. TBN is basically a two-way street that opens avenues through Service Providers (who are embedded in the churches) to assist others (primarily low-income) in the community, as well as using TEAM's caseworkers and GRACE software system to help a church member should a need arise.

As TBN continues to develop in its growth, the financial need will also increase. TEAM oftentimes pays for car parts or other necessary project supplies when low-income clients have a serious need, with thankfully free labor provided. We anticipate that as the Tomball community continues to grow, so will the needs. Since TEAM is not funded by any governmental source, dollars will always be sought to fund the TBN ministry through TEAM. We are extremely grateful to all our current financial supporters because it takes a TEAM effort to enable TEAM and TBN to meet the needs of the community.

How the Parts Work Together

Tim, one of our wonderful food pantry volunteers, spoke with me recently about Ryan, a young man who works with a friend from Tim's church, Christbridge Fellowship. Tim was very eager to tell me about Ryan, a young man whom he was very concerned about. Ryan is in his early forties and was born with total uncorrectable deafness in one ear and partial deafness in the other. He recalls when he was young being called "stupid" by his mother because of his undiagnosed deafness and inability to understand or communicate fully. After being diagnosed, Ryan's hearing was improved through the use of a hearing aid in his partially deaf ear. However, the damage was already done in the relationships with his family and they are still not close today. Another challenge Ryan has faced is a battle with cancer. Yet the challenges he has faced have not kept him down or made him bitter. He maintains a cheerful attitude, and holds a responsible position installing cell phone towers.

However, recently the hearing aid in his partially deaf ear was damaged in an accident. And as Ryan has no family to fall back on, he became very worried about his ability to maintain his job with such difficulty hearing, as well as being able to save enough money to replace the broken hearing aid. That's when his friend at work reached out to share Ryan's problem with his Christbridge family. The pastor and several members of the congregation were moved by Ryan's need. They were eager to help in any way they could, but were apprehensive about their ability to raise the \$2,365 he needed to replace the special type of hearing aid. As a member of the congregation, Tim heard about the story and turned to TEAM to request our assistance in partnering with Christbridge to help Ryan.

And I'm so glad Tim reached out to TEAM on his behalf! Our caseworker, Debby, met with Ryan recently and reported that, "He is such a sweet guy!" Debby committed \$500 from our medical fund from Tomball Health Coalition to assist Ryan, then contacted TOMAGWA to see if they could also make a contribution to the total cost. They agreed and matched our \$500. But \$1,365 was still needed. Meanwhile, the word had gotten out among the Christbridge congregation and they did a special offering for Ryan, raising the remainder of the funds he needed for a new hearing aid.

What an awesome example of a community working together to support and bless a young man who is doing all *he* can, but who needed a hand up to help him through a really tough time. So in the end, Tomball Health Coalition, Christbridge Fellowship, TEAM, and TOMAGWA had all come together, as a "Hometown with a Heart," to restore not only this young man's job security, but his faith in humankind and in God.

God is so good. And what a privilege to be part of His work for those in our community who need just a little hand up!

"If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."

I Corinthians

12:26

We rejoice with you, Ryan. We rejoice that God has answered your prayers and met your needs through His body in Tomball.

With blessings at Easter and always,
Becky Loving, Executive Director, TEAM

In Memorium: It is with deep sadness that we say goodbye to our fellow "TEAM" member, Mike Sanborn, who went to be with the Lord on March 12th. Mike volunteered at TEAM for 3 years, and did a little bit of everything. He picked up and delivered furniture, helped in the food pantry, did intake for the resale store, and even collected excess vases from TEAM and delivered them to a local florist every week in exchange for an arrangement of fresh flowers for the store. Mike also often delivered clothes and food to the homeless living under the bridges on I-45, and was a frequent volunteer at his church. His compassion for those in need was profound and genuine, and he will be greatly missed. Here's a link to his obituary: <http://www.tributes.com/obituary/show/Michael-Mike-Sanborn-105912531>

Ministry occurs all over at TEAM: We want to regularly share stories of people helping people at TEAM

On November 15th, a woman came to TEAM’s Warehouse to bring a donation. The Lord sometimes impresses upon me to ask a donor if there is anything that I can come in agreement with them in prayer. She said “yes, my daughter. She has a spinal problem and has been bed ridden for a year and a half.” I asked Johnny Taylor/Team Volunteer, if he would come and stand in agreement with this woman and her daughter. He willingly came alongside me as we petitioned the Lord on her behalf. We could feel the presence of the Lord and knew that He would move. As we prayed , this woman’s heartfelt desire was surely before the throne of God. We all gave thanks to the Lord and said “Amen.”

On January 6th, this same woman brought another donation. I asked her if she would like a receipt. She said “yes, can you bring it to the car?” I said, “sure.” As I opened the door to come outside, a young girl ran to me and grabbed my neck tightly. She was weeping and saying, “Thank you for your prayers.” The mother was weeping too and said, “God healed my daughter.” I ran and got Johnny.... I said “Johnny, this is the girl we prayed for,” and he came and saw her. We all began to weep with tears of joy! The presence of the Lord was so sweet in the building and all knew that our God is a healer. We praised Him and said “Thank you Lord for answering prayers.”

In His Service,
Pastor Delton Stewart
TEAM Warehouse Manager

GOOD EATS: SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM FOR KIDS

Since there are no free or reduced breakfasts or lunches during summer break for our Tomball children, TEAM and Tomball ISD have developed a program to support the children receiving these meals during the school year. Please help us keep our kids healthy and ready to learn when they return to school in the fall. School’s not out until late May, but we need to stock the Food Pantry up now to be ready when it is. Thanks for your help!

LIST OF KID FRIENDLY FOOD:

JELLY for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (we’ve already got the peanut butter, but you’ve just gotta have it with jelly!)

CANNED MEATS: Potted ham, tuna, Vienna sausage

CANNED OR MICROWAVE MEALS: Spaghetti Os, Microwave Mac & Cheese, Stew, Soup

CEREAL OR MICROWAVE OATMEAL

HEALTHY SNACKS: Granola or protein bars, juice boxes, Sunchips, peanut butter crackers

CANNED OR DRIED FRUIT

We’ve attached a flyer you can print and share at your church or organization about this program.

TEAM is grateful for support from these generous people:

- **Tomball ISD:** A HUGE thank you to TISD, its wonderfully successful second annual district wide food drive, and to Ms. Billie Ann Dio who organized it! Trucks driven by Tomball HS and Tomball Memorial HS students made the rounds picking up the collected food from schools all around the district and brought them to TEAM March 9, right before spring break. What a great partnership, and what a wonderful blessing! Here they are bringing in the donations, a picture of a portion of the food items delivered, and then the great group of kids who made the delivery:





- **Manna, Bread of Heaven:** Manna, Bread of Heaven is a newly opened business on southbound 249 just north of NorthPointe Blvd. They now generously provide their day old products (bread, rolls, etc.) for TEAM's Food Pantry. TEAM's clients are very grateful for their delicious items! Please stop in and thank them for these donations. Here is a picture of their store front and another one of the owner, Kristin, and her son Joseph:



- **National Honor Society students:** A group of National Honor Society students (and parents) volunteered in our Resale Shop on February 23. They all really pitched in and worked hard. These are a few of them, shown here with our volunteer coordinator (center):



- **Junior Guild:** Members of the Junior Guild of Texas stopped by TEAM to make a generous \$2,600.00 donation. Thank you, Junior Guild!



- **NCL Texas Roses:** The National Charity League Texas Roses group is now volunteering at TEAM. These mother-daughter teams volunteered in our Resale Shop in late February and were extremely helpful in making our Dollar Day sale a great success. We thank you for all of your hard work and we look forward to working with the Texas Roses again!



- Windwood Presbyterian: a new TEAM sponsoring church and new member of TBN donated 62 jars of jelly to the Food Pantry. Many thanks to them for getting the Good Eats Summer Program(see above) off to a flying start.

You are invited to Eat, Drink and Do Good!



Volunteer Corner

Wow!!! Information on how to become a volunteer and the application are now on TEAM’s web site. Please feel free to send friends who might be interested in volunteering to take a look. Thanks, Laurie, for all the work on this.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have given time in February. The volunteer hours, at \$10.00 an hour (volunteers are worth *much more* than 10 an hour but it made the math easy), translates into more than \$18,000.00 a month if it was a monetary donation to TEAM. Amazing!

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

Lucy
409-673-1058 or harvelllucy@gmail.com

Follow us on social media:    when you see posts from TEAM, please like and share! And check our recently revamped website: <http://www.teamtomball.com/>

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 you can use for your Newsletter/Bulletin/church communication timed with your next food collection:

TEAM In-Gathering

[insert date of your drive], 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, ramen noodles, and freezer quart ziplock bags. Always appreciated: plastic and paper grocery bags! And now throughout the summer help supply the Good Eats program for Tomball school kids in need with breakfast and lunch items for kids,

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:

Public Relations Manager

This individual will be responsible for developing and maintaining the public image of TEAM. This will involve promoting and issuing press releases, overseeing digital marketing, coordinating fundraising initiatives, attending community meetings and functions, and promoting TEAM's mission and programs within Tomball. Experience is preferred. Please contact Becky Loving at becky.loving@teamtomball.com or 832-221-6572.

Marketing Manager for Resale Operation

This individual will provide expertise in retail sales of clothing, furniture, housewares, and toys to support the TEAM Resale Shop.

Experience in pricing, display, promotions, etc. needed. Please contact Jim Gattis at retiredjim@earthlink.net or 713-248-4809

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). Please contact Becky Loving at becky.loving@teamtomball.com or 832-221-6572.

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>.

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