

## Mary Sturdevant

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**From:** Mary Sturdevant <sturdevant.mary@swbell.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 11:13 AM  
**Subject:** May 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 organization or friends and to publish any portion(s) that you wish. Please also help us by forwarding this email to others who would be interested and let me know if this should go to others on an ongoing basis.



### *The Tomball Benevolence Network continues to grow!*

May has been a busy month thus far. New TBN partnerships include New Life Adoptions, TOMAGWA, the Tomball Pregnancy Center, and The Renewal Center. Our new church TBN partners are Redeemer in Tomball and Iglesia Taller del Alfarero in Hockley. The Hockley church is our first Spanish speaking church, and we are delighted to have them as both a new TEAM sponsoring church and TBN member. Both Redeemer and Iglesia Taller del Alfarero participants in the TBN presentations were very enthusiastic! We look forward to working with all these partners.



Aaron Edwards, with Karen Guiles (TBN Community Liaison on the right), Debby Miles and Renae Cotton (TEAM caseworkers on the left) are shown collaborating recently at The Renewal Center. TEAM and The Renewal Center are tightly connected in ministry. The Renewal Center serves the community, facilitating hope, healing and restoration. Drop in at 416 West Main Street on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm. Enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation with others who are sitting around the tables.

Volunteers are continually sought for participation in the Tomball Benevolence Network. Roofers, electricians, plumbers, HVAC and general handyman volunteers are a vital part of TBN. Add to those categories many others, i.e. lawn mowing for the elderly/disabled; helping students with homework; teaching ESL; sharing budget strategies with those who are struggling financially; connecting someone to Lone Star for continuing education, supporting someone who has lost a loved one, pro bono legal help, and so much more. If you have an interest in serving the community on your own time and schedule, please contact Karen Guiles at [karen.guiles@teamtomball.com](mailto:karen.guiles@teamtomball.com). As far as we know, TBN's model of partnering with businesses, churches, organizations and individuals to provide resources and support to those in need in the Tomball community is the only one in the country!

Together We Serve,  
Karen Guiles, TBN Community Liaison

### *Who our clients are*

Chris is one of the nicest, most generous guys you would ever want to know. But only in his thirties, he has had a rough life. Chris was raised by his grandparents because his mother suffered from bi-polar disorder and was unable to care for a small child. His early childhood was relatively happy and stable, despite learning disabilities which made school a challenge. He did fairly well academically, though, until his grades began slipping in high school. As his academic abilities diminished, however, his talent in graphic arts began to emerge. After graduation, he held down jobs at several local newspapers, creating and selling ads. He had steady employment and was independent. Yet as his skill in the arts grew, his struggle with a different problem began: in his early twenties Chris was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, which presents with symptoms of both schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder. At 23 the symptoms became severe enough for him to be approved for disability.

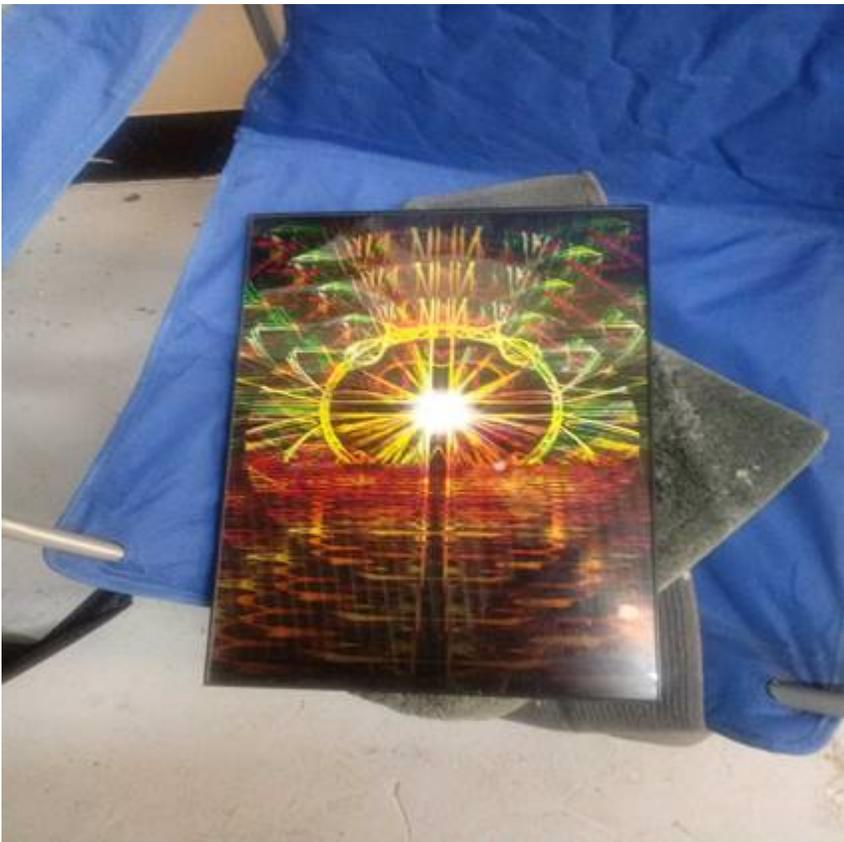
After years of adjustments to medications, Chris was finally able to accept who he was – in Christ – and ready to try again. He moved to Arizona, found employment, and lived in a Christian group home where he could participate in support groups and even volunteer in a local church. After several months, he had saved enough money to get his own apartment. All was going well until he was randomly attacked while playing basketball and his jaw broken in two places. He was hospitalized and his jaw wired shut. While hospitalized he lost his job and no longer had enough income to maintain a car and an apartment. The group home, where he had found strength and healing, now had a long waiting list. So, he figured his best option was to live in his car until he could find another job and save the money to rent another apartment. Then, apparently due to a

schizophrenic break, he was involved in a serious auto accident which landed him, once again, in the hospital for several weeks.

Defeated and broken, Chris decided to move back home. That was in late 2016. His grandparents were glad to have him back. But shortly after his return his grandmother was diagnosed with cancer. That's when I met Chris. His friend, Bruce Hillegeist, referred him to us because what Chris needed more than anything was a support system. He wasn't really asking for us to *do* anything for him, so we just chatted about job possibilities, his grandmother, his artwork, and a few other things about his journey. Only a few minutes into our conversation I could tell that he was deeply concerned about his grandmother's condition and was hurting. After a time, our conversation finished and he departed, but I was hoping I would get the chance to see him again.

And about three months ago, I did! I was in need of a graphic artist to do an ad for our fundraiser. I remembered Chris and, through a set of Godly coincidences, I found him. Like old friends catching up, he shared that his grandmother had passed away and that his grandfather, too, had been recently diagnosed with cancer. It had been a struggle for him to keep his emotions from getting the better of him, but he had gotten a job working for a small local newspaper and was there until it recently closed. But he had been able to buy a car while working there and found a job as a delivery driver. He has once again gotten his own apartment and is working hard to establish his independence. He even has his art displayed at a local gallery! He also now attends church at Real Life Ministries and has recently reached out to Lone Star college to pursue his education and career.

And, after working *very* patiently with me to create that ad copy, he also insisted on donating a piece of his artwork to help out with our fundraiser (see below). And it sold! What a generous and courageous person Chris is. I am so proud of him.



Thank you for letting me share his journey with you. It may not have been easy to read – and I know it hasn't been easy for him to live. He still has challenges with mental health and medication adjustments and still faces the possibility of losing his grandfather. But Chris knows if he ever needs anything, TEAM will be there for him, just as we are for so many people. Good people who, like Chris, have mental health challenges *and* circumstantial challenges. People who truly *want* to work hard, be independent, and give back...against all odds. People who just need a hand up. Please join me in praying for Chris. And the next time you're in Spring, go to the Rodon Gallery Studios and look for the most amazing and beautiful piece of graphic art there. It will probably be Chris'!

Blessings

Becky Loving, Executive Director, TEAM

***TEAM is grateful for support from these generous people:***

- **Gaddis Air & Heat:** Justin with Gaddis Air & Heat has been a huge asset to both the TEAM Resale Shop, and the Ministry for the last four years. He was at TEAM immediately after we opened up after hurricane Harvey, to advise us that our power was bad and that we needed to shut down all our AC units and the industrial freezer. His actions saved us literally thousands of dollars in repair cost. If we had left everything on, we would have burned up all the compressors to our AC units (6) and the compressor on the freezer. The next morning, he was back, in the rain, to replace capacitors to all our units outside.

When we have any issues with our units, Justin will rearrange his schedule to take care of us as soon as possible. Recently one of the resale shop's AC's froze up. I called him at 10 am and he was at the store by 2:30! He had to get equipment to fix the problem, and came back at 8:30 the next morning. Problem fixed 2 hours later. Justin has a great appreciation for what TEAM does for the community, and his incredible service is his way of giving also. Thank you Justin, from all of us!

- **Brownie Troop 15219:** The girls of local Brownie Troop 15219 certainly have big hearts! They wanted to help with our Good Eats Summer Food Program (see later story) and held a food drive to collect kid-friendly food for TEAM. They also sold lemonade and donated their earnings - all \$237! - to us. The food and donations we received from the Brownies will help us to supply children from Title 1 schools, who receive free/reduced-priced meals during the school year, with healthy foods and snacks this summer. Thanks again to Brownie Troop 15219. You are amazing!



- **Churches' VBS programs helping TEAM's Good Eats program:** Both Salem Lutheran Church and John Wesley Methodist Church have developed VBS projects for their kids to help TEAM's Good Eats program (see later article): Participants in Salem's VBS will collect food items and make 400 placemats to give to the kids; at John Wesley they will make up "goodie bags" of snacks and juice boxes. Both of these projects will make such a positive difference for the kids getting food through TEAM's Good Eats collaboration with TISD.
- **Lone Star College:** Take a look at this great group of volunteers from Lone Star College – Tomball. They spent a recent Friday working in our resale shop - and even did some painting for us. Great job, LSC!



- **Tomball ISD:** Tomball ISD recently held an event to thank several organizations for their efforts during Harvey. They honored TEAM and presented to Becky Loving, our Executive Director, a plaque recognizing our relief efforts during the storm and its aftermath.
- **Junior Guild:** TEAM was also honored recently by the Junior Guild at their annual tea. Karen Guiles, our TBN Community Liaison, attended the tea and was presented a generous check from the Guild to TEAM for \$625. Karen is the fifth from the right in this picture taken after the tea:



- **Salem Lutheran Church:** Members of the Discovering God class from Salem Lutheran Church recently volunteered to spiff up TEAM's building – inside and out. This hard-working crew washed windows and shopping carts, collected trash, cleaned out a refrigerator and cupboards, scrubbed chairs, cleaned computer monitors, dusted, mopped, vacuumed and more. Whew! They accomplished a lot – and we are so grateful. What a blessing!



- **Tomball UMC's Community Garden:** The Tomball UMC community gardens supplied us with a variety of produce this week. These vegetables are distributed straight from the garden to our neighbors in need. Thank you to the volunteer gardeners who make this possible!



- **Potpourri Club of Tomball:** Such a fun afternoon! The Potpourri Club of Tomball and Magnolia recently had a British tea to raise money for TEAM and SOS (Society of Samaritans). Held at the Decker

Prairie Community Center, the authentic tea was prepared by Brits (and one Scot), and included scones, finger sandwiches, and other dainties. Many attendees wore fascinators which are popular headpieces among British women. The fascinators were made by Roberta Young, one of TEAM's "crafty" volunteers. Thank you to the Potpourri Club for holding this special fundraiser for TEAM and SOS!



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

This is a message dictated over the phone by a volunteer to another volunteer (as he is staying with some other friends, not nearby): To The Folks at TEAM,

I have been having a hard time finding a place to live and finding a job as well as finishing high school. When I started volunteering at TEAM, I was overwhelmed to find so many wonderful people willing to help me with clothing and food. Thank you so very much. I hope to come back and help at TEAM someday soon.

Sincerely,  
Evan

## 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 Needed This Month:

### JUICE BOXES

**CANNED MEATS:** Potted ham, tuna, Vienna sausage

**CANNED OR MICROWAVE MEALS:** Stew, Soup

**CEREAL OR MICROWAVE OATMEAL**

**HEALTHY SNACKS:** Protein bars, juice boxes, Sunchips, peanut butter crackers

Note: we have plenty of jelly for right now

**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, soups, and ramen noodles. 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!

### Volunteer Corner



In the last three months the volunteer hours have increased by approximately 650 hours per month. Thanks everyone for the help in encouraging new people to come and work with us. Please, don't stop, because we still need more volunteer hours to keep things running smoothly.

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

Lucy

409-673-1058 or [harvelllucy@gmail.com](mailto:harvelllucy@gmail.com)

***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](mailto: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](mailto:retiredjim@earthlink.net) or 713-248-4809

### **Fundraiser Specialist**

This individual 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](mailto:becky.loving@teamtomball.com) or 832-221-6572.

***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/>

### ***How to save even more money at TEAM's Resale Shop!***

There are always wonderful deals at TEAM's Resale Shop; but here is information on how to save even more money. You can sign-up online to get advance notice of sales and promotions!



Would you like to be the first to know about sales at TEAM's Resale Shop? Sign up online to receive emails about upcoming sales and promotions. As a bonus, we'll send you a coupon in your first email.

**Sign up at [teamtomball.com/resale-shop](http://teamtomball.com/resale-shop)**

### ***Shop at Kroger and Amazon and help TEAM!***

**Please pass the word on:** TEAM is a participant in The Kroger Community Rewards Program. You can support TEAM when you use your Kroger Plus Card. Visit [www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://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.

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