

Mary Sturdevant

From: Mary Sturdevant <sturdevant.mary@swbell.net>
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2018 2:53 PM
Subject: September 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.



More Often than You Know

Recently I was on my second trip to Walmart to shop for school supplies with the \$1,000 donation from Tomball Bible Church for that purpose (thank you TBC!). Not surprisingly, my cart was loaded to – and beyond – the brim on both top and bottom. There were scores of backpacks, composition books, glue, scissors, notebook paper, pens, pencils, markers...you get the picture! Embarrassed and apprehensive, I approached the checkout line, feeling bad for both the cashier *and* those folks who might line up behind me. As I unloaded, however, it was a relief when those shoppers who pulled up behind me decided that a different line – *any* line – must be better. But I was still nervous that the cashier would think I either had 20 children, or grandchildren in my case, or that I had a screw or two loose.

But I was wrong. My cashier, Stephanie, was remarkably sweet and so patient, making me feel neither judged nor feared! And fortunately, about halfway through the ordeal, she asked with kindness and sympathy if I was a teacher. Relieved for the opportunity to explain myself, I told her that I was the Executive Director of TEAM and on a mission to provide school supplies for our giveaway program. When she discovered I was with TEAM, she eagerly shared that *she* had once been a TEAM client.

She told me it was the lowest point she had ever been in her life. She, her husband, and their *six* boys had just moved here from Oklahoma when their small business there went under. Neither of them had jobs when they arrived and the whole family was fearful and stressed. Shortly after they arrived they were able to rent a mobile home, but had no funds left to get the utilities turned on. A kind neighbor referred them to TEAM, where they found not only the help they needed to get the utilities turned on, but school clothes for the boys, enough food for several weeks, and a big dose of Texas – and Tomball - hospitality. Stephanie couldn't say enough about how kind, caring, and understanding their caseworker was. She said it was the first rung up in her personal ladder of hope, and was a true Godsend in their lives. She said it literally changed her attitude toward life and people. The whole family loves Tomball, and Stephanie's mom even moved here because, as Stephanie says, "We love Texas, but Tomball is just special."

More often than you know I run into people who are former TEAM clients. They are responsible citizens who are just experiencing a tough life situation. They are people whose lives have been deeply touched by their experience at TEAM; moved not just by the check or bag of food they received, but by the compassionate hearts that reached out to them.

And that reminds me of the former client who came to TEAM a few weeks ago, bursting with joy and smiles. He went to each caseworker's desk and the food pantry folks and excitedly thanked and shared with them that he had just secured a job at NRG. But that's a story for another time. :)

We are indebted to our supporters for helping us to help *them*. What a blessing!

With gratitude,
Becky Loving, Executive Director, TEAM

The Tomball Benevolence Network (TBN) Update

Over the past 6 weeks meetings have been held with Habitat for Humanity, Springwood Marketing, TOMAGWA, Lone Star College C.L.A.S.S. (Center for Leadership, Academics And Student Success), Neal's Wheels, A Future and a Hope Ministries, Senior Rides and More, several churches, Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Workforce Solutions and H-E-B. In addition, Becky Loving and I went on a fact gathering tour to Between Jobs Ministry to better understand their process for clients seeking employment. These meetings bring about strong relationships, as we share TEAM's mission and vision and partner with them in various ways: i.e. educational opportunities, transportation and employment resources. Through TBN we continue to focus on the pressing needs of our low-income families by offering them a "hand up" through our growing resources.

On Saturday, October 13th, Chip Fenner, owner of Christian Brothers in Tomball and Cypress, will provide free oil changes to single moms, single dads, widows and low-income families at his two locations. A Magnolia location under another management is also participating. [Click on this link to view or download a copy of a flyer on this event: Free Oil Change Day](#) Please encourage folks who qualify to schedule an appointment at one of these locations:

24155 Tomball Parkway, Tomball – 281-351-6161
13333 Grant Road, Cypress - 281-370-9191
6872 FM 1488, Magnolia - 281-205-8272

Servants Together,
Karen Guiles, TBN Community Liaison

TEAM is so grateful for support from these generous people:

- **Cypress Creek NCL:** Just take a look at what the Cypress Creek National Charity League's TEAM Food Drive brought it - INCREDIBLE!! What a difference these donations will make for TEAM's clients. And they collected cash donations as well. Thanks to this NCL and to all of the people who donated through them!



- Tomball First Baptist Church:** First Baptist has generously offered TEAM space to coordinate and distribute our Christmas Toys this year. This will be a HUGE help to TEAM’s volunteers who sort through and organize all of the Christmas toys donated to provide gifts for TEAM’s clients. Last year they had to squeeze into a bit of space carved out of the Resale Shop show floor, reducing the Resale Shop’s space while giving them a real challenge as toys arrived. TEAM is grateful!
- New partnership with Habitat for Humanity:** TEAM will be partnering with Habitat for Humanity to help Tomball residents who are in need of restorations due to damage from Hurricane Harvey. In addition to restoration help, Habitat for Humanity has plans to build six homes in our area and TEAM will be able to assist clients who need help with the application process.
 Shown left to right: TEAM's executive director, Becky Loving, Felicia Best (seated) with Habitat for Humanity, TEAM volunteer Susan Schaeper, and Lisa Berry, also from Habitat for Humanity.



- **Redeemer Church:** Redeemer has stepped up to support and maintain the successful Tables & Tacos ministry, sharing food, fellowship, prayers and connection with clients awaiting the opening of the ministry area each Tuesday and Thursday. Clients love this time to get a bit to eat and share time with the volunteers and TEAM appreciates Redeemer's willingness to sustain this ministry.
- **Berkeley Eye Center:** Nick Rama of Berkeley Eye Center is organizing a Benefit at 403 Eats Food Frenzy and chose TEAM this year as the beneficiary. The benefit will be on Friday, November 2nd.

Please meet Mike and Karen Halbach

Mike and Karen both volunteer in TEAM's intake warehouse. They felt called to volunteer in the aftermath of hurricane Harvey and have been loyal volunteers ever since. Here's a link to learn more about what they do and why they volunteer at TEAM: <https://teamtomball.com/meet-resale-volunteers/>

How about holding a TEAM food drive in your organization: Many churches and organizations deliver to TEAM non-perishable food collected during regular or occasional food drives. Please consider having **one** if you don't currently. Here are items TEAM particularly needs now: crackers, soup, toilet paper, and always appreciated: paper and plastic grocery bags!

Volunteer Corner - These Special Volunteers are still needed:

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

Prayer Warriors

TEAM's president, Rocky Alexander, is putting out an all-call to individuals to sign up for prayer time with clients, in one or two hour shifts per month, on ministry days. You choose the time slot each month and just show up ready to pray with our sweet neighbors who are struggling and who are open to a Word from our Lord *and* a word of encouragement from you! Email Rocky at rocky.alexander@teamtomball.com for more information and to sign up.

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

Caseworkers

Additional caseworkers are needed in the Assistance Ministry area; being bilingual is a plus! After a period of training, caseworkers will work with clients to assess their needs and provide food, clothing, financial, and other assistance to them. Caseworkers volunteer one or more days a week. Please contact Becky Loving at becky.loving@teamtomball.com or 832-221-6572.

Resale Shop Cashiers and sales floor personnel

Additional cashiers and sales floor personnel are needed in the Resale Shop to ensure good shopping experiences for our customers. Any needed training is provided. Please contact Sandi Sollinger at sk sollinger@yahoo.com or 713-419-1049.

Grant Writer

This individual will research grant application opportunities and assist in developing the grant application and related materials. Please contact Becky Loving at 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 out our website: <http://www.teamtomball.com/>

Community Events now available on the TEAM website!

Is your church or organization hosting an event that is open to the community? You can now include the TEAM website in your promotional activities! Here's the link to see events currently posted and to find a link for sharing your event: <https://teamtomball.com/community-events>

Want to save even more money at TEAM's Resale Shop?

There are always wonderful deals at TEAM's Resale Shop. Sign up online at <https://teamtomball.com/resale-shop> to get advance notice of sales and promotions!

Shop at Amazon, Kroger and Randalls and help TEAM!

Please pass the word on: TEAM is a participant in rewards programs from all three of these. See details on our website: <https://teamtomball.com/shopping-rewards/>

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: teamtomball.com.

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