



*TEAM is a Christ-centered non-profit serving our neighbors in the Tomball community who are in crisis. We provide food, limited financial assistance, and other vital support as we help them achieve stability.*

**November/December 2019**

### *From Our Executive Director*

*"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" --Luke 2: 8-14*

We are entering a special time of the year, our holiday season centered around Christmas. This year Tomball's Holiday Parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 23. The parade theme is "Christmas TV Classics." With that in mind, TEAM's parade float designer Janet McVey has chosen the theme, "A Charlie Brown Christmas". I gave Janet an enthusiastic "Yes!" when she picked that theme. If you recall this TV classic, Charlie Brown is struggling to understand the meaning of Christmas as he receives psychiatric help from Lucy, scribes for his sister Sally a lengthy Christmas wish list to Santa, and watches as his dog Snoopy receives the neighborhood's grand prize for decorating his dog house. In desperation, Charlie Brown finally cries out "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about!?" Linus, blanket in tow, takes the challenge and, quoting the passage above out of Luke, concludes "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." Very poignant, and an important reminder to us all.

How appropriate that we lead up to the celebration of Christmas with our Thanksgiving Holiday. We thank God for the many blessings He has poured out upon us, but most importantly the blessing of his Son "...who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2: 6-8). What mystery there is in the incarnation! We serve a glorious God!

I invite you to join me in serving the Tomball community through our efforts at TEAM. Come celebrate Christmas with us on November 23. Most of all, may you have a wonderful celebration of the God of heaven: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Assistance Ministry*

## Food Pantry Wish List

TEAM relies on donations from the community to keep our **Food Pantry** stocked. Below is a current list of our most needed items:

- **Peanut butter (!)**
- Soups
- Spaghetti sauce

Thank you for helping us provide food and other necessities for our neighbors in need.



**New TEAM Ministry Hours**  
Tuesdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Thursdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
*Clients asking for financial assistance must check-in no later than 1:00 pm*

[teamtomball.com/assistance](http://teamtomball.com/assistance)

## Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program



Have you ever known what it feels like to not be able to provide Christmas gifts for your family? Many of our clients struggle just to provide their children with necessities, much less with something extra like Christmas gifts.

Many years ago, TEAM created a program to help these families. Last year, we had 144 families adopted by outside groups!

So, once again, TEAM is providing the opportunity to churches, groups and individuals to adopt a family or families and provide them with Christmas. Beginning November 5, each adopting group will need to come into TEAM on Tuesday or Thursday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm and choose who they would like to adopt. Each adopting group will provide gifts for the family members under the age of 18 and a gift card for the family to a grocery store so that they may purchase food for a Christmas meal. It is the choice of the adopting group whether or not to provide any gifts or gift cards for the adults. The adopting group is then responsible for delivering everything to the family.

We hope you will consider participating! If you have questions, please call TEAM at (281) 351-6700.

## Potpourri Club Fundraiser



### *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner*



We enjoyed a special event on the evening of Friday, October 18. In the Parish Hall of Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, more than 95 TEAM volunteers and guests

celebrated an evening of fun, fellowship, and culinary enjoyment at TEAM's annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

The evening began with an icebreaker devised by Karen Guiles that resulted in much mingling and getting to know one another before gathering around tables for continued fellowship and the enjoyment of a delicious meal catered by local restaurant The Patch. Karen Guiles and Wanda Bamberg put on a wonderfully humorous skit about the daily antics of TEAM volunteers and staff. TEAM's Executive Committee was presented, outgoing TEAM marketer Laurie Lazear was honored, and a few TEAM Resale Shop treasures were given away as door prizes. Capping off the evening was a keynote address by TEAM volunteer and former Tomball ISD Superintendent Huey Kinchen.

The 2019 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was a huge success, and we look forward to surpassing this year in 2020 as we celebrate TEAM's 35 years of ministry in Tomball.

### *Spy A Job?*



*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."* We have all heard those lines before, but to our Hand Up Ministry volunteers they have a special meaning in this job market. After visiting with interested clients, job advisors offer suggestions and share contact information from a growing list of local employment possibilities, from entry-level to specialized fields. Clients seeking employment will find many openings, but competition and hiring requirements today are stiff.

To offer the best information, keeping our job listings current is an important part of the program. Volunteers are encouraged to email [bill.fort@teamtomball.com](mailto:bill.fort@teamtomball.com) when they learn of a new hiring situation in the area. If you would like to be a "job spy", watch for "help wanted" and "now hiring" signs and listen for news of local businesses that are hiring. The more information you can include in the email, the better. Other volunteers mentor job seekers attending the quarterly Unlocking Your Potential workshops to build supportive relationships. If you know someone looking for work, tell them about the workshops and volunteer to go with them to a presentation. With our advisors, job spies, and mentors all helping, this new TEAM program strives to make our clients' job search experience the best of times for them.

### *Chili Cook-Off Success*



The first annual Tomball Chili Cook-off took place under sunny skies at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd Saturday, October 19. Eight teams competed and delighted attendees loosened their belts after filling their bowls multiple times with delicious chili. Brisket sliders, hot dogs, sodas and water

were also available and consumed in quantity. No one left hungry! There were also pumpkins to color and a wonderful bouncy house to entertain the kids.

The Tongues of Fire team from Covenant United Methodist Church won the Judges' Choice award and The Spice Queens from The Church of the Good Shepherd won the Fan Favorite award. Many thanks to the eight teams, coming from Covenant United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian, Good Shepherd Episcopal, Klein United Methodist Church, and Tomball United Methodist Church for their tasty entries - and to Mark Bollinger, Carlin Tedesco, and Denise Nance from Good Shepherd for organizing the event. Best of all, as a result of the generosity of the teams and those attending, TEAM will receive \$2,000.39 from the proceeds to assist clients with their challenging financial needs.

### *Giving Thanks*

Think of November and we think of Thanksgiving, but how many times do we say or hear "Thanks" throughout the year. Not long ago, Bob, a volunteer for TEAM's Hand Up Ministry, received a handwritten thank you note from a woman he had counseled about employment. This was not just a "Thanks, I got a job" sort of note. This was her detailed description of the suggestions Bob had given her, how she had acted on them, and the day she connected with someone who offered her a great job. She ended her note with the most important thanks we can give. She wrote, "Praise God! God takes care of us in Grand Style!"

This is a wonderful example of giving thanks and reminds us how many times we hear "thank you" at TEAM. "Thanks for the food", "thanks for your help", "thanks for holding the door", "thanks for volunteering to translate for another client", and even "thanks for unjamming the copy machine". We help each other and thank each other for that help.

November will come and go, but the spirit of Thanksgiving lives on at TEAM. Thank you for your spirit of volunteerism, for your financial help, for your donations, and most of all...for saying "Thanks". You're so very welcome.

### *TEAMing Up With The Red Cross*



On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 103 people displaced by Hurricane Imelda remained in a

Red Cross shelter in east Houston. They were in desperate need of clothing, and Dennis Hightower, Government Operation Liaison for the Red Cross, reached out to TEAM for assistance. Mr. Hightower knew those people were outside of TEAM's support area but time was of the essence because many of these people were trying to get back to work.

Aside from serious rainfall, Imelda was basically a non-event for Tomball. Having been spared local emergency response needs, TEAM's leadership readily agreed to supply, from our existing inventory, whatever items Mr. Hightower identified. Within 48 hours of his call, TEAM's Resale Shop gathered two bags of clothing items and readied them for pick-up.

On September 27<sup>th</sup> Mr. Hightower met Sandi Sollinger and Cheryl Jordan at TEAM's Resale store to pick up the clothing along with backpacks for children returning to school. We were blessed to be able to share with the Red Cross and our neighbors.

### *Thank Yous*



On October 5, **Alex Linder, from Thrivent Financial**, hosted a Game Night to benefit TEAM. **Salem Lutheran Church's** Men's Ministry donated the gift baskets for the prizes, and the event was held in the Krahn's barn. It was a wonderful event, everyone enjoyed themselves, and \$3,545 was raised for TEAM! We are grateful for Alex, Marty Paluch, Allen Krahn, and all of the supporters who put on the event.



Bruce Hillegeist presented TEAM with \$7,500 from Resale with a Purpose designated to the Tomball Benevolence Network. These funds will be used to assist clients with car and household repairs. Thank you, **Resale with a Purpose**, for this significant funding!

A great big thank you goes to **Northwest EMS**. They responded to our **Facebook** post requesting cereal donations by delivering many (many!) bags of cereal to our Food Pantry.

A special thanks goes to Coach Richardson from **Tomball Junior High** who recently held a food drive for TEAM. Thank you to all who participated!

In October the **National Charity League (NCL)** Wildflowers chapter donated boxes of rice and beans, which

they pre-portioned into family-sizes for our Food Pantry clients. The NCL Wildflowers are longtime supporters of TEAM, and we appreciate all that they do for us!



## Volunteer



Make a difference in your community! We are in need of volunteers in our Resale Shop and Assistance Ministry. Applications are available on [our website](#) or at the TEAM Resale Shop. We look forward to working with you.

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