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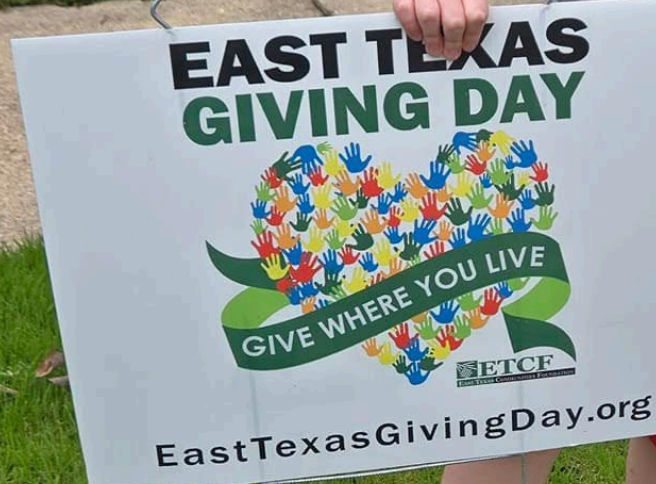


MARCH/APRIL 2025

PARENT MAGAZINE

COMMUNITY ISSUE

- > Local families making a huge impact in their communities.
- > Use the Volunteer Guide to find out how you can make a difference.
- > Celebrate 80 years of the Four States Fair!



ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR



Cost: \$15

U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



Guest Speakers



Dr. Laura Hendrix

Professor - Personal Finance &
Consumer Economics



Ben King

Attorney



Brittney Yeldell

Financial Advisor

Location & Time

The Estate Planning Seminar on April 14, 2025 will be located at Farmers Bank & Trust Workforce Center @ 3501 U of A Way, Texarkana, AR 71854.

The seminar will be from 10AM-2PM and a light lunch will be provided.

Topics to be presented:

- Getting Started On An Estate Plan
- Wills, Assets, & Trusts
- Foundations of Investing



tluker@uada.edu



870-779-3609



uada.edu

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact 870-779-3609 as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

REGISTER NOW

https://uada.formstack.com/forms/estate_planning_miller

REGISTRATION DEADLINE 04.09.25



I can hardly believe we are already three months into 2025! This year is already flying by so fast and it will be summer before I know it. This is always one of my favorite issues. The Community Issue where we feature community members making a difference, and opportunities where you can make a difference too!

I love helping others through volunteerism. It is so incredible to me how many organizations there are in need of volunteers. Whether its with hospice patients, animals, children, or even those who need help with research. The possibilities are endless! Figure out what means the most to you and your family, then look through our Volunteer Guide to find the right fit. You will be so glad you did.

-Katie Stone

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TEXARKANA PARENT MAGAZINE

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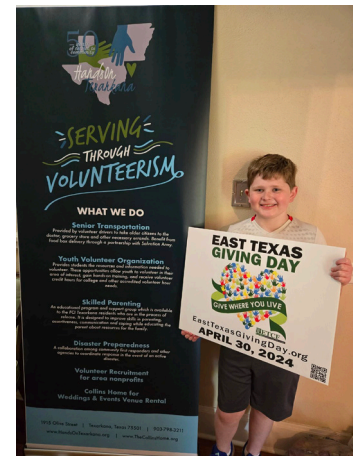
Texarkana Parent Magazine is published by 360 Media Publishing Company. It is a bimonthly publication dedicated to promoting healthy living to those who care for the children of Texarkana and surroundign areas by encouraging a balanced family life and the enjoyment of parenthood. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. All copy and content is copyrighted.



Service and the mindset of giving back are at the heart of strong families and strong communities. Volunteering has always been an important part of our lives, whether it's through our kids' schools, their extracurricular activities, or serving on local boards and civic organizations. We believe that when children see their parents and family members giving their time and energy to help others, it teaches them lifelong values of compassion, responsibility, and leadership. More importantly, it instills in them a heart of service that they can carry forward as a foundation for their own families one day.

There are so many ways to make a difference in our community and beyond. Every act of service—big or small—has an impact. Whether you're coaching a team, reading to kids, serving meals, or simply lending a hand to a neighbor in need, you will make a difference and your example can inspire the next generation to carry on the spirit of giving. As crazy as it may sound, the greatest reward may not be known until years down the road when someone tells us the difference we made in their lives. Or, we may change a life that we never knew we touched. We hope this issue encourages you to find ways to get involved and experience the joy that comes from serving others!

-Ben and Amy



ON THE COVER: Malakai McCool is 9 years old. He volunteers for HandsOn Texarkana.

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Events FOR THE family

A Taste of Ireland

March 26 | 8:30 p.m.- 10:30 p.m.
Perot Theatre | 221 Main Street Street, Texarkana, TX
Cost: \$42-\$72

After premiering Off-Broadway last season, 'A Taste of Ireland' The Irish Music & Dance Sensation' returns to stages across the USA in 2025, performing the show that has entertained thousands around the globe. Laugh, cry and jig into the night with a production that is Celtic, for this generation. Performed by former World Irish dance champions, and featuring dancers from Lord of the Dance and Riverdance, 'A Taste of Ireland' transports the audience through the story of Ireland's tumultuous history delivered with a pint of Irish wit. Watch world-class performers blend melodic folk mash-ups, live jaw-dropping acapella tap battles and heartwarming story telling. Featuring revamped classics of Danny Boy, Tell Me Ma, Wild Rover, and many more well known songs, the show's reimagined contemporary score blossoms alongside the brash Irish charm of the live dance cast. 'A Taste of Ireland' merges cultural traditions, modern flair, and craic galore, to deliver a performance that has been leaving audiences across the globe jiggling on their feet for the last decade. With over one hundred and fifty 5-star Facebook reviews, 'A Taste of Ireland' is exactly what it promises: a taste of everything you love about Ireland with a generous helping of more! 'A Taste of Ireland' is a show with 100% live singing and dancing that bridges the gap between storytelling, modern Irish dance, tap and contemporary dance to tell a historic story, live on stage.



Opportunities, Inc. presents 4th Annual Sunday Funday

Tickets: \$100
March 30 | 4:00 p.m.
Crossties in downtown Texarkana

The 4th annual Sunday Funday features a DJ and barbecue. A baggo competition will also be taking place if you choose to be a part of the bracket! All proceeds benefit children and adults with disabilities in our community.

Visit <https://www.oppinc.org/event/sunday-funday/> for more information.



Bingo Night! benefitting For the Sake of One

Sponsored by Ledwell & Son

April 3 | 6:30 p.m.
Texarkana Convention Center | 4610 Cowhorn Creek Rd
Texarkana, TX
Cost: \$30 Individual

General admission tickets are available to purchase, as well as sponsored tables. This year will include Hors D' Oeuvres, a full cash bar, and extra bingo booklets for purchase. There will be prizes to win donated by local businesses. Get your tickets/ tables before they sell out! Play bingo with local non-profit, For the Sake of One, while supporting local children and families before, during, and after foster care! Visit www.forthesakeofone.com for more information.





3rd Annual FFA Booster Club Auction

April 19 | 5:30 p.m.
Atlanta High School | 701 Rabbit Blvd, Atlanta, TX

Stop by the Atlanta High School Cafeteria for BBQ, student made projects, and more! Help support the Future Farmers of America booster club! For more information, contact ffaboosterclub@atlisd.net.

Shrek: The Musical- *Sponsored by Micah's Jewelry*

Performance Dates: April 24-28th
Ticket sales start: April 10, 2025

Silvermoon on Broad |
217 W. Broad Street,
Texarkana, TX

"Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek...." And thus begins the tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Throw in a short-tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand... and his name is Shrek.

Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film, Shrek The Musical TYA is a Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure featuring all new songs from Jeanine Tesori (Thoroughly Modern Millie; Caroline, or Change) and a sidesplitting book by David Lindsay-Abaire. Shrek brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on stage and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears.



CASA & Texarkana Children's Advocacy Center present Coloful 5K

Tickets: \$15-\$35
April 26 | 8:30 a.m.
Spring Lake Park, Texarkana, TX

Join us for CASA & TCAC's Colorful 5K on Saturday, April 26th at an exciting new location - Spring Lake Park! All proceeds benefit CASA & the Texarkana Children's Advocacy Center.

Register online at runsignup.com/casacac5k

EIGHT-OH!

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Adults

\$5
Kids

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Truck Rally**

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AMMP Motorsports

SAT. 4/5
**Demolition
Derby**

Presented by
Texarkana Mack
& Volvo Trucks

**THURS. 4/10 -
SAT. 4/12**

**Four States
Rodeo**

Presented by
Farmers Bank & Trust

ARENA EVENTS:

\$25 Box Seats (Reserved)
\$20 Adult (General Adm)
\$15 Child 6-12 years
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and regional funds

10 TIPS

FOR A SAFE & FUN FAMILY DAY!

STICK TOGETHER & SET A MEETING SPOT

For their safety, kids 15 and under must stay with an adult at all times. Pick an easy-to-find landmark as a meeting spot in case anyone gets separated.

KNOW THE CURFEW RULES

After 11 PM on weekdays and midnight on weekends, kids under 18 must be with a parent or guardian to avoid a ticket. These rules help keep everyone safe while they enjoy the fun.

PARK SMART & STAY SECURE

The main lot near the rodeo arena is well-lit and patrolled by security, making it the safest choice. Lock your car and stash valuables out of sight.

PACK LIGHT & DRESS RIGHT

Bags will be checked at the entrance, so travel light. Fair rules prohibit sagging pants or inappropriate clothing. Comfortable shoes and layers will keep everyone happy as the day goes on.

PLAN FOR TRAFFIC & ARRIVE EARLY

Peak fair hours mean delays, so expect some wait time. If you're dropping off, use U of A Way and follow staff directions to keep things moving smoothly.

With a little preparation, your family can enjoy a stress-free, fun-filled day at the Four States Fair. Stay safe and make memories!

FUEL UP FOR FUN

A long day of rides and excitement means hungry kiddos! Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and grab a fun fair treat to keep everyone happy.

CAPTURE THE MEMORIES

Between the rides, animals, and sweet treats, there are so many fun moments to capture. If you share your photos on social media, make sure to tag the Four States Fair & Rodeo!

RIDE SMART

Check height requirements before getting in line to avoid disappointment. If you have little ones, scope out the kid-friendly rides first to make sure they get their turn at the fun.

BEAT THE CROWDS

Weekends and evenings get packed! For a more relaxed experience, visit earlier in the day or on a weekday when lines are shorter and space is easier to navigate.

EASE THE EXIT WITH A FUN SEND-OFF

Leaving can be tough, especially with tired kids. Plan a fun final stop, like a sweet treat or a favorite ride, so heading out feels like part of the adventure instead of the end of the fun.



Kids' day at the Fair

Q & A

with Kristen Larey, *Director of AG Learning Center*
at the Four States Fair & Rodeo

When did Kids' Day at the Fair start?

Kids' Day has been celebrated in various forms for over 30 years.

Who is it primarily for?

The event is primarily designed for children, including school groups, homeschoolers, and families, offering them educational and entertaining experiences focused on agriculture. We are also welcoming guardians who are home with their children during scheduled school breaks to join in as well.

What happens during this event?

On Kids Day at the fair, children can enjoy a variety of fun and educational activities. N.B. Finley's Barnyard features interactive animal exhibits, allowing kids to explore and learn about different species. Live demonstrations by rodeo experts, Game & Fish employees, civil service groups and local agriculture experts and 4H agents provide exciting and educational entertainment. The Ag Learning Center offers hands-on agricultural simulations and visual displays to promote learning as well as free ice cream samples. While the carnival rides are not operating during this time, there are still plenty of activities to enjoy, including bounce houses and classic fair games that encouraging fun and teamwork.



Can others join?

Absolutely! I am always looking for local businesses and organizations willing to contribute to this event. It's a fantastic opportunity to get involved in children's educational outreach while also gaining valuable exposure and advertising. This can be done by setting up a game or demonstration, handing out fun promotional items, or even just volunteering to help. If you're interested in joining, we'd love to have you be a part of Kids' Day at the fair! I would encourage you to email alc@fourstatesfair.com to inquire about this further and to discuss details further!

How is it changing?

Kids' Day is always evolving as we continually seek new partnerships with local companies and organizations that want to be a part of this special event. Our goal is to introduce fresh experiences each year, ensuring that children stay engaged with exciting new displays and games. By bringing in new partners and updating activities, we strive to make Kids' Day more interactive, educational, and fun for everyone involved.

Why is Kids' Day at the fair important?

Kids' Day at the fair is a free opportunity for area schools, homeschool groups, educational organizations, and childcare centers to experience the fair. Not all families have the chance to attend traditionally, so this event ensures that more children get exposure to some of what the fair has to offer. Beyond the fun, it also provides valuable agricultural education. Our rodeo company presents a detailed demonstration, introducing many children to an experience they may have never seen before. N.B. Finley's Barnyard allows for up-close animal interactions, with educational signage to enhance learning—something that can be

To participate in Kids' Day, simply complete the registration form. You can fill it out ahead of time to make check-in quicker upon arrival or do so when you get here. The forms are available on our Facebook page or at our office if you'd prefer to complete them before the event.



Submitted Photo

Small Acts of Kindness Make a Big Difference

by: Amanda Bowers

Small acts of daily kindness can have an immense impact. Rendi Wiggins and her sons, Sanders (17yo) and John Henry (11yo), believe that finding small ways each day to serve their community is their way of serving a higher purpose. “Service for us is more an outpouring of our faith in Jesus than anything else” said Mrs. Wiggins and believes that God places people in her life for higher purpose. The Wiggins family does not limit their service to one organization, rather has an ongoing relationship with volunteering in their community.

At Christmas, the family goes caroling to several organizations to share their faith and spread joy to so many who may otherwise be forgotten during the holiday season, but Mrs. Wiggins points out that small everyday acts of service are just as impactful. Sanders and John Henry saw an elderly neighbor in need of help with his trash cans at home and took it upon themselves to help each week, even ensuring their neighbor is taken care of when they are unavailable. “We are called to love others as ourselves” said Mrs. Wiggins, who strives to instill this value in her sons.

“I serve because it is what my creator calls me to do and it is one of the most joyous things in life” said Sanders, who is a junior at Texas High School.

As a member of the Student Council, Sanders will log 500+ hours of time in service to his community before graduating next year. Most recently, Sanders delivered handmade Valentine’s Day cards to local nursing homes along with his fellow Student Council members.

Mrs. Wiggins not only serves on the St. Michael’s hospital foundation and the Texarkana Independent School District foundation board and is also a partner at Pettiette Armand. She still finds time to teach a weekly Sunday night Bible study group for Sanders and other TISD Juniors along with her husband, Dr. Randy Wiggins.

Volunteering together as a family is how the Wiggins demonstrate their faith and show the love of Jesus Christ to their community. The family believes everyday acts of service as small as putting back a shopping cart or picking up a piece of trash are all for the betterment of humanity, because as John Henry so aptly puts it, “it is the right thing to do.”



Submitted Photos

REACHing out Brings in JOY!

by: Amanda Bowers

City Councilwomen and Texas High School teacher, Christina Page, places great importance on paying it forward. She spends her limited free time volunteering with her 11yo daughter, Katie Jo Alcorn, and her students. Mrs. Page teaches the R.E.A.C.H. program – Rigor Encourages Academic & Career Heights. The REACH class encourages academic excellence, emphasizes good citizenship, and encourages volunteerism in many forms, particularly among underserved and underrepresented populations.

Katie Jo is a prominent figure in many of the service projects for Mrs. Page's R.E.A.C.H. students. She spearheaded a project with the Texarkana Independent School District (TISD) Student Lighthouse team to raise more than \$10,000 for improvements to the city animal shelter. "In a small town, every little thing makes a big difference. When people volunteer, they make new friends, help their community stay strong, and show others how to be kind," said Katie Jo.

Annual Trunk or Treats, visiting nursing homes, picking up trash along Texas Boulevard, and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Christmas are just a few of the ways Mrs. Page, Katie Jo, and the R.E.A.C.H. students serve their community each year. A popular annual volunteer project for the R.E.A.C.H. program benefits the Randy Sam's Outreach Shelter. The students gather new or gently used hoodies for the unhoused citizens served by the shelter. Katie Jo is there to volunteer alongside her mom every step of the way.

"Luke 6:38 - Give and it shall be given unto you" is a scripture that Mrs. Page says she tries to live by and has instilled in her daughter.

As a councilwoman, full time teacher, and mother of two, Mrs. Page is grateful to be a part of so many volunteer projects throughout the city with her students and Katie Jo and to give back her to community. "Life is not always about receiving" Mrs. Page and Katie Jo find reward in the joy their volunteering brings.

For more information on the R.E.A.C.H. program offered at TISD, please contact Lakesha Taylor or Brittney Brooks at 903-794-3651.



Submitted Photos



Feeding Children & Feeding the

Soul

by: Amanda Bowers

From humble beginnings in Conway, Arkansas, the first Tacos4Life restaurant opened in 2014 with the mission to feed starving children around the world. Toney and Sandy Livingston quickly fell in love with the mission to end childhood hunger after meeting with founder Ashton Samuelson. Once they tried the delicious Tex-Mex food the restaurant offered, they were hooked. In December of 2018, the Livingston family has been feeding Texarkana, body and spirit, and giving back to the community since opening their very own Tacos4Life.

Tacos4Life, or T4L, are partnered with the non-profit organization Feed My Starving Children, or FMSC. For every meal purchased at any T4L location, a meal is donated to FMSC by creating healthy MannaPack meals that are vegetarian and culturally accepted around the world. FMSC donates rice, soy, vitamins, and veggies to the packed meals while volunteers come together to fill the MannaPack Rice packs. The nutritious ingredients are packed during a MobilePack event. This event brings volunteers alongside the Livingston Family, to pack together what will ultimately become a MannaPack.



Tacos4Life Texarkana has hosted eight MobilePacks. With the help of countless local businesses, churches, schools, and selfless individuals donating their time to these MobilePacks, FMSC and T4L have undoubtedly saved the lives of countless children across the globe. Grounded in a belief that hope begins with food and their Christian values, T4L and FMSC have donated more than 100 million meals this year alone according to FMSC. Mrs. Livingston estimates that more than 1 million of those children were fed by the efforts of the T4L in Texarkana and their local volunteers alone.

In April of 2024, Mr. Livingston had the opportunity to travel with FMSC to the Dominican Republic and distribute some of the MannaPacks that were packed right here in Texarkana to experience the lifesaving relief it brought to so many starving children in the region. “It was life changing for me to see the end result of what we do every day at the restaurant in Texarkana! I no longer view the food coming down the line as tacos, burritos, quesadillas, rice bowls, etc. I see the faces of the children I got to see and meet while handing out MannaPacks. It gave me even more passion for the mission. Kids around the world are depending on us to work hard right here in Texarkana so FMSC can ship meals out. What we do at Tacos4Life is so much bigger than what we can imagine in our small world (home town). It’s global!” said Mr. Livingston.



When asked about her purpose, Mrs. Livingston said simply to “feed the hungry.” Remembering her and her husband’s days as youth leaders in their church, the Livingstons have always been passionate about feeding children in need. “Now I get to go to sleep every day knowing we are part of an organization that has fed millions of meals all across the globe,” said Mrs. Livingston.

To learn more about Tacos4Life and their partnership with Feed My Starving Children, you can visit www.fmsc.org or stop by T4L today to find out how you can volunteer in Texarkana to make a global difference.



Submitted Photos

VOLUNTEER GUIDE

IN THE COMMUNITY

Altrusa International of Texarkana

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to serve as members who commit to serving their community through service projects, mentoring to children, collection donations for projects, and identifying needs within their community.

CONTACT altrusatexarkana@gmail.com

WEB www.altrusadistrictnine.org

American Red Cross Northeast Texas

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to answer phone, forward calls, write thank you notes, and other office tasks. They are also in need of Blood Donor Ambassadors that register donors, answer questions, provide support, and engage with them. Other volunteer opportunities include Blood Transportation Specialist, Disaster Action Team, and Disaster Health Services. They provide all necessary training. Please contact for more information on age requirements.

CONTACT Linda Edwards- 903-581-7981

WEB www.redcross.org

Domestic Violence Prevention

OPPORTUNITIES Needs caring and empathetic individuals to help at the administrative office with clerical task such as answering the phone, etc. They also need volunteers to help sort, and work at the resale shops located in Atlanta, TX & Hope, AR. The organization also has group meetings where one to two volunteers could be beneficial for assisting with attendees children. These meetings are typically around 2 hours long. A great way to have children assist is by hosting a household supply drive. The shelter is always in need of bath towels, toiletry items for women, household cleaning supplies, and other maintenance products. Volunteers can also assist with fundraising, collecting toys at Christmas for their Christmas store, assist with community events and outreach, as well as, assisting with sexual assault victims at the hospital in Texarkana. Any information or training that is needed will be provided

CONTACT 903-794-4000 or volunteers@dvptxk.org

WEB www.dvptxk.org

Habitat for Humanity of Texarkana

OPPORTUNITIES Needs multiple volunteers with and without specific talents to help with building and repairing homes, construction leaders, and ReStore Support. As a build & repair volunteer, there is no experience required and you can volunteer as an individual or a group. They are in need of construction leader volunteers for project management and teaching volunteers. Their ReStore sells used and new building materials to help fund our mission. ReStore volunteers help with donation sorting, customer service, and more. Volunteers must be 16 years of age.

CONTACT 903-832-1746.

WEB www.habitattexarkana.org



First Choice Pregnancy Resource Center

OPPORTUNITIES Needs multiple volunteers to work directly with clients as peer counselors, class facilitators, and spiritual support. Other areas of need include helping in the 'Mommy Store,' assisting with mail-outs, offering handyman or gardening services, or helping with special projects.

CONTACT 903-792-5735

WEB www.firstchoiceprc.com

Main Street Texarkana

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers in the areas of promotion, organization, design, and economic restructuring for the preservation, repurposing and revitalization of Historic Downtown Texarkana. This could include, but is not limited to, volunteering for events downtown, such as Octoberfest or the Annual Christmas Parade. These events take a great deal of planning and operational endeavors. Every person has a unique skill or ability that could benefit the Texarkana community through this organization.

CONTACT 903-278-6441

WEB www.mainstreettexarkana.org

Junior League of Texarkana

OPPORTUNITIES Needs women volunteers committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

CONTACT 870-772-9948

WEB www.jltxarkana.org

Just Love and Kindness

OPPORTUNITIES Needs women volunteers who will mentor to young people, veterans, and the underserved members in the community.

CONTACT Contact form on website

WEB www.justloveandkindness.org

Pathway Resource Center

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to help receive, sort, price general merchandise and clothing donations, greet and assist customers, post to social media, as well as, assisting in fundraising events, newsletters, grant writing, networking, and promotions.

CONTACT 870-779-2229

WEB www.pathwaytxk.org

The Damascus Home Resale Store

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to help receive, sort, price general merchandise and clothing donations, greet and assist customers, post to social media, as well as, assisting in fundraising events, newsletters, grant writing, networking, and promotions.

CONTACT 903 824-2134 or 903 794-7875- Donna Cooley

WEB www.damascushome.org



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GirlScoutsDiamonds.org/join

The Literacy Council of Bowie & Miller Counties

OPPORTUNITIES Needs a variety of people who are willing to volunteer their time, talent, and skills to serve. Volunteers are needed for teaching and tutoring, marketing and social media, event planning, case management, strategic and innovative thinking, and writing. There are also opportunities where many students do not have transportation and rely on the T-Line in order to use our services. If you are interested in sponsoring tickets for the students, you can purchase them at the T-Line office and drop them by the Council located on Texarkana College Campus. They also have a need for office/cleaning supplies. Hosting a donation drive could be fun and beneficial for younger aged children as well as the whole family. Find their wishlist on their website.

CONTACT 903-823-3470 or info@habitattextarkana.org

WEB www.literacytxk.org

The Salvation Army

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to greet customers, help sort, straighten the merchandise donated clothing at the family thrift store Monday—Saturday, 9am to 6pm. They have one-time opportunities that are perfect for those who want a quick and easy way to make a difference. These include activities like serving a meal any day of the year or ringing a bell during the holidays. They have multiple locations where their ministry is carried out giving individuals and families an opportunity to be a part of something big.

CONTACT 870-774-2701

WEB www.southernusa.salvationarmy.org

We Are Washington

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to assist with various classes, events, games, and fundraisers. The Washington Development Center houses several non-profits with several opportunities to help with children, families, and more.

CONTACT 430-455 HERO (4376)

WEB www.wearewashington.org

WORKING WITH THE HOMELESS

Mission Texarkana

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to help provide daily meals to those in need. Volunteers can help supply food pantry items, vocational assistance, and the gospel message of grace found in Christ Jesus.

CONTACT 903-792-1301 or choward@tfc.org

WEB www.missiontextarkana.org

Randy Sams' Outreach Shelter, Inc.

OPPORTUNITIES Needs a variety of people who are willing to volunteer their time, talent, and skills to serve. Volunteers are needed for teaching and tutoring, marketing and social media, event planning, case management, strategic and innovative thinking, and writing. There are also opportunities where many students do not have transportation and rely on the T-Line in order to use our services. If you are interested in sponsoring tickets for the students, you can purchase them at the T-Line office and drop them by the Council located on Texarkana College Campus. They also have a need for office/cleaning supplies. Hosting a donation drive could be fun and beneficial for younger aged children as well as the whole family. Find their wish-list on their website.

CONTACT 903-823-3470 or info@habitattextarkana.org

WEB www.literacytxk.org

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

East Texas Food Bank

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to help with stocking food pantry shelves, helping neighbors shop for food, sorting produce and cleaning.

CONTACT 903-597-3663

WEB www.easttexasfoodbank.org/texarkana/

Harvest Regional Food Bank

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to help with events, food donations, distribution days, and at the distribution center.

CONTACT 870-601-1543

WEB www.harvestregionalfoodbank.org

WORKING WITH ANIMALS

Animal Care & Adoption Center

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers of kid or adult ages who love animals. Volunteers can help with feeding, watering, cleaning enclosures & litter boxes, playing with cats/dogs to socialize them, & introducing them to potential adopters. Other volunteer opportunities include grant writing, Pet Education Project, Transport Helper, & event/fundraiser volunteer.

CONTACT 870) 773-6388

WEB www.facebook.com/TKARKANIMALS

Runnin WJ Ranch

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers each week that have horse experience to be horse leaders. These individuals lead horses during classes while students are riding the horses. They also need volunteer side walkers (no horse experience required) to walk beside the horse providing assistance to the riders. Volunteers are also needed for events such as their annual barrel race and Big Bass Round Up.

CONTACT 903-838-3223

WEB www.runninwj ranch.org

Texarkana Animal League

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers who love animals and want to help save lives. Volunteers can help with cleaning and caring for cats & dogs. This can include, but is not limited to, feeding, watering, cleaning enclosures & litter boxes, playing with cats/dogs to socialize them, & introducing them to potential adopters. Other volunteer opportunities include grant writing, Pet Education Project, Transport Helper, & event/fundraiser volunteer.

CONTACT 877-525-4825 or info@texarkanaanimalleague.org

WEB www.texarkanaanimalleague.rescuegroups.org



WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Boy Scouts of America- Caddo Area Council

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to be adult role models which provide an ideal learning experience for all youth. On a typical weekend campout, Scouts might work with an adult volunteer who teaches the Fishing merit badge and with a Scout mom to learn orienteering, go on a 5-mile hike with another adult leader, and end the day learning how to clean and cook fresh fish from someone else. They also need volunteers behind the scenes to assist with administrative support, fundraising, treasurer, and more.

CONTACT 903-793-2179

WEB www.caddo.ihub.app or find them on Facebook

The C.A.L.L in Arkansas

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to help with various tasks within the organization as well as groups, such as churches, to host events. Volunteers can help with promoting The CALL's Info Meetings, host an informational meeting, host a foster/adoptive parent training, host foster/adoptive parent support meetings, and provide support to foster/adoptive families.

CONTACT 870-260-2577

WEB www.thecallinarkansas.org

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

OPPORTUNITIES A CASA volunteer gathers information from everyone involved in a child's daily life, including members of the child's family, foster parents, teachers, lawyers, social workers, and other relevant persons to help insure our children are safe and their needs are being met while they are in care. Then they report to a judge to advocate for the child's best interest. Ideally, CASA volunteers will work toward reuniting the child with their family of origin. Volunteers must be 21 years of age, pass a criminal background check, participate in in-depth training, and have a caring, patient, empathetic heart. Volunteers must also be willing to commit 10 hours per month on a case for a minimum of 18 months.

CONTACT 903-792-1030

WEB www.casatexarkana.org


For The Sake Of One

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to organize/run the Blessing Boutique, provide mentorship for biological parents, care for children parents' nights out, encourage caseworkers, and become foster parents. Must complete a background check which is provided. Some tasks are suited for younger children while others are great for teenagers. Contact the non-profit today find out how you and your family can help the foster community.

CONTACT Angela Coston- 903-329-0566 or forthesakeofonetexarkana@gmail.com

WEB www.forthesakeofone.com

Girl Scouts- Diamonds of Arkansas, Okla-



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OPPORTUNITIES Needs multiple volunteers to be an adult role model for the younger generation. This could include being a Troup Volunteer or Leader. Troop volunteers help Girl Scouts become stronger, kinder, and braver than they ever thought possible. Service unit volunteers are the network of support throughout your community. They empower troop leaders and troop volunteers to be the role models that Girl Scouts need and connect them with the resources for unforgettable troop experiences.

CONTACT 1-800-632-6894

WEB www.girlscoutsdiamondsorg

Texarkana Children's Advocacy Center

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers at the center to assist with greeting families, supervising children in waiting areas, helping families complete paperwork, organizing our Rainbow Room, and other office tasks. Volunteers are needed for the Multidisciplinary Team who can provide lunches for case review meetings, as well as support and appreciation for our partners in law enforcement and child protective services. Community Outreach Volunteers are also needed to assist our Education and Outreach Team with trainings, education booths, and getting the word out about our mission and training opportunities. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and not enrolled in a local school district, complete a volunteer application, complete and clear background checks, complete a volunteer interview, attend volunteer orientation, and pledge confidentiality.

CONTACT 903-792-2215

WEB www.texarkanacac.org

WORKING WITH CHILDREN & ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Opportunities, Inc.

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to assist with games, sing-a-longs, Bible devotions, bingo, arts and crafts, painting and reading stories.

CONTACT 903-792-2270

WEB www.oppinc.org

Evergreen Life Services

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to assist with daily living skills programs where volunteers assist with cooking, exercise, and art classes. Volunteers also assist with fundraisers and social events.

CONTACT 870-774-9675

WEB www.evergreenl.org

Texarkana Resources

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to assist with activities that could include exersize class, dancing, singing, painting, gardening, and more!

CONTACT 877-243-4021 or resources@texarkanaresources.org

WEB www.texarkanaresources.org

This is not a complete list of all of the opportunities in our community. For more information regarding volunteer opportunities in our community, contact:

HandsON Texarkana
www.handsontexarkana.org

WORKING WITH SENIORS

Alzheimer's Alliance Tri-State Area/Our Place Day Respite Center

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to assist with games and spend quality time with 'friends' at the respite day center Our Place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. They also need volunteers to assist with their annual fundraising event, Twice as Fine Texarkana Wine Festival, taking place on May 4, 2024. These activities can include but are not limited to, setting up signage, barriers, and tables, or loading and unloading for the vendors.

CONTACT 903-223-8021

WEB www.alztristate.org

Ark-Tex Area Agency on Aging

OPPORTUNITIES The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program utilizes volunteers in each county to respond to and investigate resident complaints. Ongoing training and support is provided for volunteers. Persons interested in volunteering should contact the Managing Local Ombudsman, Kim Palmore, for more information. Volunteers are also needed for benefits counseling volunteers who would advocate to ensure the receipt of benefits for the elderly. Contact Robert Morris for more information.

CONTACT 903-832-8636

WEB www.atcog.org

Chambers Home Health & Hospice

OPPORTUNITIES Needs hospice volunteers to help with small errands, sewing, pet therapy, music therapy, hair styling, nail painting, playing games, reading, and more!

CONTACT 903-572-3777

WEB www.chambershomehealthandhospice.com

Enhabit Home Health & Hospice

OPPORTUNITIES Needs hospice volunteers to help with patient companionship, running errands, playing games with patients, yardwork for patients, administrative tasks, bereavement support, and weekly phone calls to patients.

CONTACT 870-773-2621 or 903-255-0430

WEB www.ehab.com

Gentiva Hospice

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to help with patient companionship, running errands, play games with patients, yardwork for patients, and administrative tasks.

CONTACT 1-888-436-8482

WEB www.gentivahs.com

Heritage Home Health & Hospice

OPPORTUNITIES Needs hospice volunteers to provide relief to family and caregivers through assistance and emotional support. This may include sitting with a patient while the caregiver runs short errands, running errands themselves, and generally helping to relieve stress.

CONTACT 903-793-4900

WEB www.heritagehhh.com



Submitted Photo courtesy of McKee Assisted Living

Retreat Health Care Services

OPPORTUNITIES Needs hospice volunteers to help with patient companionship, running errands, and administrative tasks.

CONTACT 903-793-0282

WEB www.myreatreathealth.com

Senior Transportation Program with HandsON Texarkana

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteer drivers to transport older citizens to the doctor, dentist, grocery store, and other necessary errands. Opportunities are flexible to better serve a volunteer's schedule. This opportunities requires the volunteer to have their own transportation, valid drivers license, registration, & insurance. Through a partnership with Salvation Army, food boxes are now part of an as needed delivery service provided through our Transportation Program. The food pantry at HandsON Texarkana benefits the seniors in the Texarkana community and is in need of supplies often including ready made meals, cleaning supplies, toiletries, etc. This is a great opportunity for children and families of all ages to host a donation drive.

CONTACT 903-798-3211

WEB www.handsontexarkana.org

Brookdale Senior Living

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to assist with activities like singing, bingo, arts & crafts, bible study, and more!

CONTACT 903-838-3562

WEB www.brookdale.com

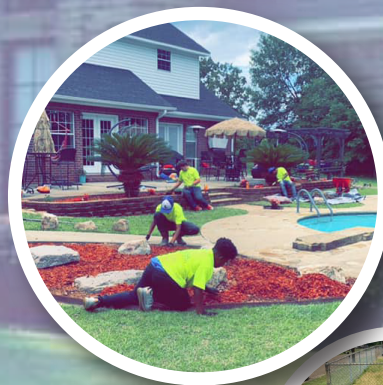
McKee Assisted Living & Memory Care

OPPORTUNITIES Needs volunteers to assist with activities like singing, bingo, arts & crafts, bible study, and more!

CONTACT 903-277-1298 or stacy@mckeealf.com

WEB www.mckeealf.com

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Photo by Katie Stone

LEAVING A LEGACY:

THE ULTIMATE ACT OF VOLUNTEERING

by: Ben King

Volunteering is about giving—giving your time, energy, and resources to help others. Whether it's serving at a food bank, coaching a little league team, or mentoring young professionals, volunteers leave a lasting impact on their communities. But have you ever considered that estate planning is another way to give back and continue that impact for generations to come?

Estate planning allows you to take the values you cherish—generosity, service, and care for others—and weave them into your lasting legacy. Just as you dedicate time and effort to serving your community now, a well-structured estate plan ensures that your giving spirit carries on.

Supporting Charities Through Your Estate Plan

Many volunteers are passionate about the organizations they serve. Whether it's a local church, a nonprofit supporting children, or an animal rescue, you can include these causes in your estate plan. Options include:

Charitable Bequests – Designate a specific amount or percentage of your estate to a charity.

Donor-Advised Funds – Set up a fund that continues to support causes you care about beyond your lifetime.

Charitable Trusts – Establish a trust that provides income to a nonprofit while offering tax benefits for your heirs.

These planned gifts ensure that even after you are gone, the causes you dedicated time to

during your life will continue to receive the support they need to thrive.

Providing for the Future

Beyond charities, estate planning also allows you to give back to loved ones in a meaningful way. By setting up wills, trusts, and powers of attorney, you ensure that your family is protected and provided for, reducing stress and uncertainty for them in the future. For families with special needs children or loved ones requiring long-term care, planning ahead can secure their well-being and preserve their quality of life.

Additionally, estate planning can help avoid family conflicts and financial hardship. Without a clear plan in place, your loved ones may face unnecessary legal battles, expenses, or confusion over your wishes. Just as volunteering fosters peace and stability in a community, estate planning creates a sense of security and preparedness for those you leave behind.

Ensuring Long-Term Care Without Burdening Your Children

One of the greatest challenges families face is ensuring that aging or disabled loved ones receive the care they need without placing a financial strain on their children. Proper estate planning can protect assets and set aside funds for long-term care, ensuring that a parent or family member receives quality medical attention, assisted living, or home care without depleting

family resources. Tools like irrevocable trusts, long-term care insurance, and Medicaid planning strategies can help preserve assets while still qualifying for necessary care programs. By planning ahead, you not only secure your own future but also relieve your children of difficult financial and caregiving decisions down the road.

A Legacy of Generosity

Think of estate planning as a continuation of your volunteer work. It's a way to extend your generosity and ensure that the people and causes you love continue to thrive. By planning today, you create a legacy that reflects your values and supports future generations.

One of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering is knowing that your efforts make a difference. The same principle applies to estate planning—when you take the time to create a thoughtful plan, you ensure that your impact lasts far beyond your lifetime.

If you want to explore how estate planning can be an extension of your giving spirit, contact an estate planning attorney to discuss the best options for you. Just like volunteering, taking the time to plan your legacy is an investment in a better future for those you care about most.

Giving isn't just about today.
With smart planning, you can provide for your loved ones and favorite causes for years to come.

Call Ben King today,
let him help you each step of the way!

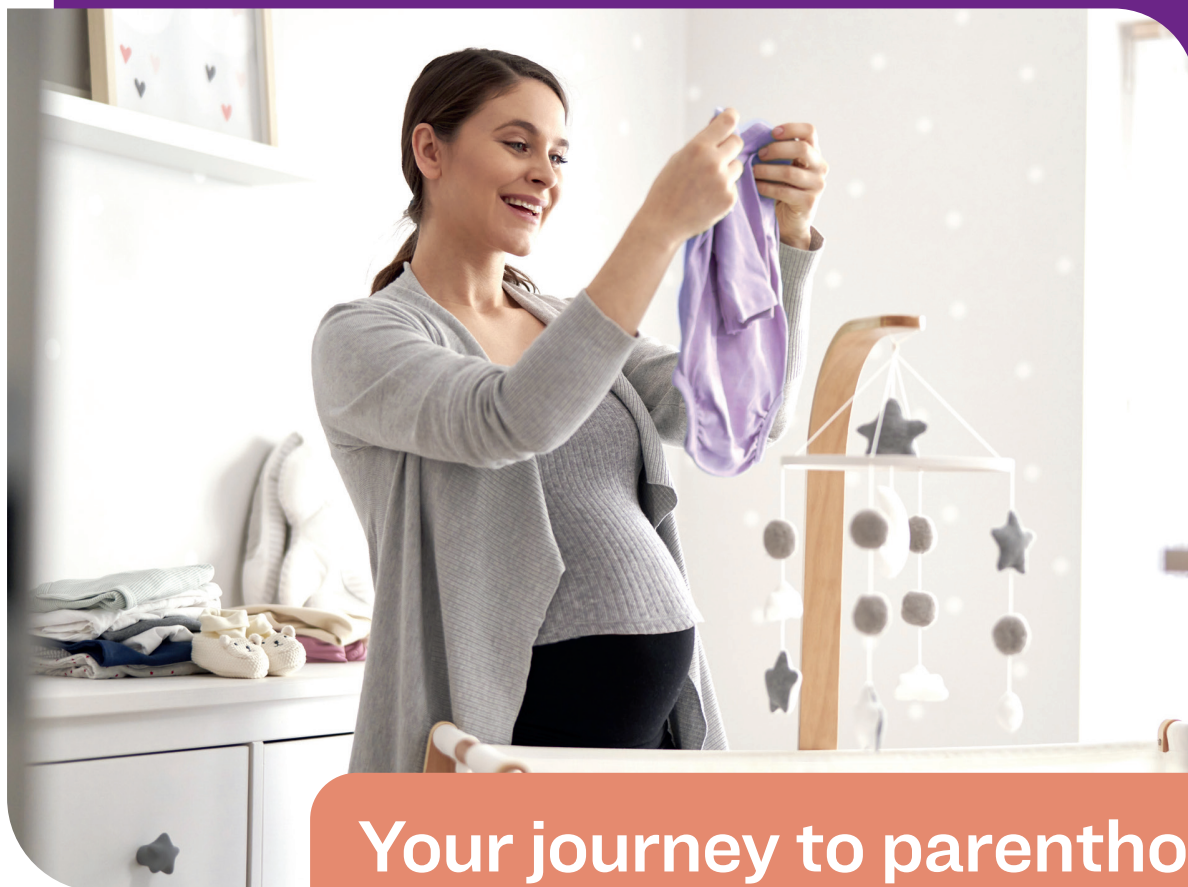


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