

BETWEEN The Lines

by Executive Director Dusti Scovel

Entering 2024 with hope



Winston Churchill said, "Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection."

And he was right about that. A few weeks ago, we experienced a magical celebration of Mission Granbury's 25th anniversary at our annual gala, recognizing those who, years ago, saw a need, put it into perspective and set about to meet it.

Their first hotline phone went live in December 1998. Fast forward to December

2023 and walk with me through our newly renovated Resource Center where thousands are helped every year through nine programs. Stacks of boxes wrapped in bright Christmas paper lined the walls of several offices and dozens of shiny, new bicycles and tricycles were parked and ready. Each stack of gifts and each bike bore the name of a child who would wake up Christmas morning to find his or her requested gift under the tree, the happy result of our Adopt-a-Family project. In another office, boxes overflowed with more wish gifts, purchased specifically for foster children served by our CASA program. Advocates would soon pick them up and deliver them to the children. What a joyful task!

On the other end of the building, the new Education Room looked more like a fancy

department store with big, beautifully decorated tables filled with age-appropriate toys, while parents waited in the lobby for their turn to shop. Thanks to hundreds of personal shoppers, our partnership with Toys for Tots and many donations, more than 650 children would have an amazing Christmas – and our building was overflowing with holiday cheer and happy chatter.

Just when we couldn't imagine the season being more magical, a private donor, known for his surprise gifts, presented us with Secret Santa money to provide for the 17 families from our list who did not get adopted. Just days before Christmas, we got to make 17 of the happiest phone calls ever, letting moms know they could come pick
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From left to right: Board President Marilyn Luton, Executive Director Dusti Scovel, and Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Farris, who provided assistance in securing the gift.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Endowment fund initiated

With receipt of \$400,000, Mission Granbury has established the Kenneth Hill Heart of Servitude Endowment. This is the fruition of work since 2019, when the board of directors adopted a strategic plan, which included a vision to establish an endowment fund to ensure long-term financial stability, according to Board President Marilyn Luton. Marilyn and Executive Director Dusti Scovel announced the gift at the annual gala in December 2023. The Mission Granbury

leadership hopes to grow the fund to \$500,000 in 2024.

"This is the perfect way to honor Ken," said Dusti. "Ken loved this community and had a heart and passion for helping others; it's said that generosity was part of his DNA."

Endowment funds are protected and not spent; the interest and value that accrue can be used in the future to provide ongoing support to the nonprofit organization. □

Laughter and love exemplified

Shirley Ann Hooks, 80, a co-founder and the inaugural president of Mission Granbury, passed away on Jan. 14, 2024. Family, friends and community members celebrated her life, using laughter at the conclusion of the service to remember how Shirley chose joy.



"Shirley worked tirelessly with many other community agencies, as her passion was in helping people," said Mission Granbury Executive Director Dusti Scovel. "We will miss her brilliant smile, her contagious laugh and her genuine, compassionate heart. Our greatest memorial to her is to continue the good work she started over 25 years ago. Her legacy will live on in each of us."

During the celebration of life, Joyce Dorsey described Shirley as "magical in her ability to make things happen."

"Her vision of Granbury was one in which all people received the dignity befitting a child of God, where nobody was abused or neglected, where nobody went hungry, where nobody lacked access to basic necessities and care," said her Pastor Justin Jeter.

For those wishing to honor Shirley with a donation, the family has suggested gifts to Mission Granbury or Ruth's Place. □



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet new board member Justin Jeter

He's lived and worked in Chicago, San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles, received his bachelor's degree in Mandarin Chinese (and speaks the language fluently) from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was Phi Beta Kappa, has a master's degree in Divinity, and is an Eagle Scout. Meet Justin Jeter, pastor of First Christian Church-Granbury and the newest Mission Granbury board member. He and his wife, Jaime, have chosen to live, work and raise their children in Granbury.

"We love Justin and are fortunate to have him," said Board President Marilyn Luton. "He brings a new attitude and fresh perspective. His sense of purpose is a blessing to the board."

Something Justin appreciates most is that Mission Granbury fundamentally and intentionally really sees people, "recognizing each one as a precious child of God, then doing the best they can for each person."

"When people come for help, someone will sit down with them, treat them as human beings, offer love and respect, listen carefully and do the best they can to help," said Justin. "That means a lot. There are a lot of people who don't get seen that way very often. That is invaluable for someone to truly see you and recognize your humanity."

First Christian Church and its members support several non-profits in the community that provide aid to people in need in Hood County. FCC was one of eight churches in the community that assisted in the founding of Mission Granbury 25 years ago. □

Justin believes his service on the Mission Granbury board will extend his ministry, while also helping him better minister to the FCC congregation, as he becomes more aware of needs in this area and serves with others to build a better community.

"Mission Granbury understands and demonstrates the call of Mathew 25 to Seek out and serve the least of these," said Justin. "So, I want to be a blessing to them."

"We're all in here," said Justin, speaking of the commitment he and Jaime have. "I love the community, but am worried about it. The increasing cost of living is making it hard for people. We've got to start here; there is plenty of need in Hood County. Mission Granbury is standing in that gap."



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Marilyn Luton
Vice President, Monty Lewis
Treasurer, Ann Dahlquist
Secretary, Debbie Temple
Past President, Carmine Esposito
 Dan Childress
 Justin Jeter
 Michelle Lucero
 Jerry Prather

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dusti Scovel, *executive director*
 Jean Bondy, *director of development & community partnerships*
 Angela Whiting, *director of training & support services*
 Ayde Perrenoud, *finance manager*
 Justin Rossner, *director of programs*
CASA/family violence
 Rebbecca Freeman, *shelter program director*
 Donna Fletemeyer, *director of IT/operations*
 Jean Cate, *community outreach*
 Andi Luna, *EAN coordinator*
 Kara Dingman, *volunteer/ event coordinator*

MISSION GRANBURY PROGRAMS

- Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children
- Non-Residential Victims Assistance
- C.A.S.A.
- Emergency Assistance Network (EAN)
- Food Pantry
- Veterans Assistance
- Senior Care
- New Beginnings Resale Shoppe
- Disaster Relief

MG Resource Center

3611 Plaza East Court
 Granbury, TX 76049

817-579-6866

info@missiongranbury.org

New Beginnings Resale Shoppe

1204 Waters Edge Dr.
 Granbury, TX 76048

817-964-3445



www.facebook.com/missiongranbury.org/

24-HOUR CRISIS HOTLINE

844-579-6848

Supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault

Entering 2024 with hope

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up gift cards and go shop for their families. There were many tears, a few yelps of joy and a lot of "is this for real?" moments.

At the same time, food pantry volunteers were busy unloading the last of the donations from our annual Pantries of Plenty food drive -- more than 68,000 pounds of food to fill our pantry shelves. This year's drive was the most successful in our history, a testament to the giving nature of this community. And it couldn't have come at a better time. We're serving record numbers of people through our weekly food pantry. In fact, we've seen a 313% increase in the number of individuals seeking food assistance compared to this same time last year. We went from serving an average of 110 people each week to more than 330. In addition, volunteers packed and delivered 30 boxes of groceries to homebound seniors. That's a long way from the tiny closet of canned goods we started with many years ago.

On the other side of the building, a case manager was meeting with a father of four who had been laid off and couldn't pay his rent. In the office next door, her counterpart was visiting with a Vietnam veteran who had been homeless for months and was living in his truck. He asked for one night at a motel so he could take a shower and get a decent night's sleep. Another case manager was pulling resources together to build a ramp for a man who had lost both his legs and has to scoot across the porch and down the steps to get in his wheelchair. In a quiet space behind security doors, the counselor sat with a young victim of abuse until a shelter advocate can take her back to the safety of the shelter. It's what we do.

What our founders established to meet an urgent need has grown into a centralized community hub of services, meeting a wide range of needs for those in Hood County. With that growth came an increased need for community support, both financial and through volunteers, and the community responded with both. In fiscal year 2023, Mission Granbury spent more than \$30,000 to provide emergency shelter for the homeless during dangerous weather or other crisis circumstances, and over \$142,000 in rental and utility assistance. Volunteer advocates served 101 foster children, and the Ada Carey Shelter provided a safe haven and case management support to 332 women and children, through both residential and non-residential programs.

When we ran our end of fiscal year reports in early October, we all took a step back. In the last fiscal year, we served 24,264 individuals in Hood County: 56% of them were children. As leadership studied these figures, we were again reminded of the need to secure the future for Mission Granbury. The community works with us to serve the people who need us. It is our responsibility to the community to forecast the future the best we can and build a foundation that will sustain the organization for many years to come.

At our 25th Anniversary Celebration in December, we finally realized that part of our vision with the announcement of the Kenneth Hill Foundation "Heart of Servitude" Endowment Fund for Mission Granbury. This permanent fund is the seed capital that will accrue interest, which will provide financial stability and ongoing

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Shown above are (from left to right), Volunteer Gena Opella, Emergency Assistance Network Coordinator Andi Luna, and Board Treasurer Ann Dahlquist with some of the 68,000 pounds of non-perishable food and hygiene items donated during the **Pantries of Plenty** food drive.

MISSION GRANBURY
PANTRIES
OF *Plenty*



Healthy Connections collected contributions to the fall food drive, coordinated by Tom Jensen, Lake Granbury Medical Center director of marketing /business development.



Shottenkirk Auto Group was the Presenting Sponsor of the **Pantries of Plenty** food drive this year. "Fill The trucks!!"



All Creatures Animal Hospital donated pet food; ensuring that people in need can also feed their pets.



Tolar FFA students collected collected hygiene items for the drive.

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funding support for Mission Granbury's operations in the future. Establishing this fund has been part of our strategic vision since 2019. Growing this endowment will secure the future for Mission Granbury to continue to be a center of help.

As I ponder the tens of thousands who have been helped by Mission Granbury in the last quarter of a century, I wonder if our founders had any idea what they were starting. We all owe them much honor and gratitude for forging forward, determined and undaunted.

Outside my office door, hangs a framed quote by Nelson Mandela that reads, "It always seems impossible until it's done." I read it often and realize its truth every time.

Dusti

NOTABLE NUMBERS: Number of children served increases

Mission Granbury served 24,264 clients in FY 2022-2023. Looking back to its beginning 25 years ago, Mission Granbury organized in 1998 and provided safe shelter to its first client in April 1999. This year Mission Granbury answered 944 hotline calls and provided services to 150 residential clients, 84 of whom were children, and to 193 non-residential clients, 88 of whom were children.

An additional 20,513 people, including 12,668 children, were served through the **Emergency Assistance Network**.

The **food pantry** served 3,306 clients, which includes 716 children. These numbers reflect a 229% increase in the number of people served through the food pantry from a year ago.

The **CASA** program served 101 children (see complete CASA report on page 6).

LOOKING BACK OVER THE NUMBERS:

2004: 2,464 clients (includes 113 women/children & 23 CASA children)

2012: 10,248 clients (includes 139 Women/children & 116 CASA children)

2019: 14,190 clients (includes 289 women/children & 152 CASA children)

2023: 24,264 clients (includes 332 women/children & 101 CASA children)



More than 250 people gathered to celebrate Mission Granbury's 25th Anniversary during the annual Gala in December.



Executive Director Dusti Scovel, left, and Board President Marilyn Luton, right, thank Hood County News Publisher Sam Houston for serving as keynote speaker at the gala. He described the milestones and growth Mission Granbury has experienced in the last two and half decades.



Founders Toni Brown-Belew, Dr. Bill Boyd and Shirley Hooks were recognized, who along with Norma Wright, started Mission Granbury in 1998.

(Below) Judge Ron Massingill was recognized with the **Heart of the Community Award** for his commitment, compassion and unwavering support for the many hands and feet who work to help the underserved.

Executive Director Dusti Scovel and Board Secretary Debbie Temple presented awards to community partners who played key roles in support of Mission Granbury during the last year.



(Right) **The Foundation Award** was presented to Jake Caraway for his help to renovate the Food Pantry and Resource Center to meet the current and ongoing needs of the community.



(Left) First National Bank was presented with the **Tidal Wave Award** for unprecedented support in Hood County and for giving hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars to support and strengthen the community.

(Below right) Kim and Mark Maurer received the **Foundation Award**, which was presented to them by Board President Marilyn Luton and Executive Director Dusti Scovel.



The **Hopes and Dreams Award** was presented to Hood County Children's Charities in recognition of its invaluable partnership with Mission Granbury and other community nonprofit organizations to help children in need.





Volunteer Cadence Mozingo was one of the participants who registered and named Mission Granbury as their charity, helping push Mission Granbury to receive Second Place in the Visit Granbury Goosebump Jump.



Board President Marilyn Luton helped recognize Texans who were killed due to domestic violence at Mission Granbury's Light the Night event last October.



Congratulations to this year's Ghost Run costume contest winners, who received glow-in-the-dark cups.



Crossing the finish line is Mark Phillips, #881, top male finisher in the 60 and over category. Thanks to on-air personality Phillips and 92.1 Hank FM, which was the media sponsor for the race.



Community members celebrated the renovated Resource Center and the blessings of 25 years of service from Mission Granbury with a ribbon cutting in November.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Nadine Sheeley



Strategizing the steps to take to overcome obstacles, adjusting the plan to solve unexpected problems and developing new approaches as needed to reach

the goal: these are skills used regularly by Nadine Sheeley, both in her career and her leisure time. At work she is direct services case manager at the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children; at play once a week, she is immersed in a game of Dungeons and Dragons with her husband and friends. The complex game uses skills similar to those she employs at work every day and helps Nadine decompress from hearing about intense situations her clients face.

Nadine is happiest when she is helping people. She was a Certified Nursing Assistant before she began working at the shelter part-time as an advocate, accepting any shift where she was needed. In 2021 she became a full-time advocate and was named direct services case manager in 2022, assisting clients who become shelter residents as well as women or men who are nonresidents.

"I just fell in love with it," said Nadine. "It's the most rewarding job I've had."

Clients frequently arrive at the shelter with nothing, according to Nadine, which means they may not even have proof of identity. She supports them as they work through the legal process of completing their identification paperwork and applying for jobs, sometimes arranging for counseling with someone who speaks the client's native language. She problem solves to help the client apply for programs and services appropriate to that person, so ultimately, she/he has an apartment and can become self-sufficient.

Gifts Made in Honor and in Memory

July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

In Memory of

Sally Cleveland
By David Crowley

Patricia Hart
By Shannon Engbrecht

Nancy Lachowicz
By:
Patricia Bauer
W. Keith Jernigan
Sandra Jones
Mary J Lamoreaux
Donna Lisle
Brenda Ritz
Brenda Rockstroh
Cindy Shifflett
Laura A. Tharpe
Melissa Welborn
Lori Goodnight White

Jon Lazarus
By Lorie Lazarus

In Honor of

Dana Collins and Scott Andrews
By Jill Bee

Barbara Doberenz
By Ramon Mendez

Dan Lammers
By Trailer Leasing Solutions

Patsy Leggett
By Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Turner, III

Claudette and Monty Lewis
By Scott and Kathi Myers

Andi Luna
By Samuel Perry

"Each client is on a different path," said Nadine. "We start with a framework: some may have documents, others start from ground zero. We help clients understand what resources are available and what they need to do to achieve independence."

"Nadine is a great employee and case manager who puts her heart and soul into working with our clients," said Rebecca Freeman, program director, Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children. "She is knowledgeable, client-centered and does her best to make sure our clients receive the services that they need to reach their own unique goals."

Although hearing the stories can take a toll, Nadine enjoys supporting the clients as they progress and celebrating with them when they achieve independence.

"They are very proud of themselves," said Nadine. "And we've supported that process, giving people a helping hand up instead of a hand-out." □

CASANews

Court Appointed Special Advocates



When a family is in crisis and children are removed from their home, they need someone who will advocate for their best interest. Court Appointed Special Advocates do just that. During Mission Granbury's 2022-2023 fiscal year, the CASA program served 101 foster children from homes in Hood and Somervell counties.

CASA Statistics for Sept. 1, 2022 – Aug. 31, 2023

- 101 children served in 69 cases; 32 new children from 8 new cases
- 43 cases closed
- 42 advocates provided 3,168 hours of service; attended 152 hearings, and completed 430 hours of continuing education

To become a CASA for a foster child and make a difference at a critical turning point in a child's life, contact Justin Rossner, director of programs, 817-579-6866 ext. 108, jrossner@missiongranbury.org. □

Thank you to our contributors!



Proceeds from the **DeCordova Ladies and Mens Golf Assn.** golf tournament were presented to Mission Granbury Executive Director Dusti Scovel by Jill O'Neal, LGA representative.



Andi Luna and some of her dedicated Pantry volunteers welcomed food donations from **Calvary Church** community ministry.



Thank you for the contribution from **Lakefest**, held on Sept. 30 and sponsored by **92.1 Hank FM** and **KHITS 95.5 Classic Hits**.



Items for children in the CASA program were contributed from the **Rainbow Room**.



Beat the Heat Fan Drive – Thank you to the office of **Jacque Gordon, GRI - Keller Williams Brazos West** for the donation of new box fans!

Below freezing temperatures hit Hood County for multiple days as this fall 2023/winter 2024 issue of the *Mission Advocate* was being finalized. Mission Granbury swung into action to meet emergency needs, collecting and distributing heaters, coats and blankets, and finding emergency shelter from the cold. During the first three weeks of January, Mission Granbury distributed 50 heaters.



Mission Granbury Case Manager and Veterans Coordinator Ken Horton was honored as Veteran of the Year by the Sons of the Republic of Texas: Shown (above) are Ken and his wife Donna with the award.



If you have questions about donating, please call 817-964-3445.

1204 Waters Edge Dr., Granbury
Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday – Friday
and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays
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WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

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- **Donate directly to Mission Granbury:** mail a check or pay online at www.missiongranbury.org/donate
- **Remember Mission Granbury in your estate planning**
- **Contribute securities:** Ask your broker about the tax benefits of donating stock to Mission Granbury

Every gift makes a difference.

To donate online, go to <https://www.missiongranbury.org/donate> and select **GIVE NOW**.

