

Phase I of Resource Center renovation nearly complete

In 2014, the building at 3611 Plaza East Court was opened to house Mission Granbury and its programs. Now almost 10 years later, thanks to foundation grants and several generous donors, the building is being renovated to better meet the changes and growth in Mission Granbury's programs and services.

"To say we are excited is a gross understatement!" said Executive Director Dusti Scovel. "As Granbury and Hood County continue to grow, so does the need for our services. Forty-five percent of the people we helped so far this year are new to us."

Phase I renovated the space that previously housed the New Beginnings Resale Shoppe, now located at 1204 Waters Edge Dr., and resulted in a larger and more efficient space designed specifically for the food pantry, which is serving more families than ever. Instead of two rooms with 14 used freezers and random shelves, there is a new, wide-open space with a commercial walk-in cooler and more than 50 new commercial shelving units, making organization and distribution much more efficient.



Emergency Assistance Network Coordinator Andi Luna said these updates will better serve community members. Plus the new space will provide an improved environment for volunteers, now that everything is visible in one room. Her goal is to create "a bright, shiny, happy place where we can serve our friends and neighbors with joy."

"I am very excited about the possibilities for the future," said Andi, adding with a laugh "And we're excited about how clean we can keep this space!"

In addition to the food pantry modernization, the space was redesigned to provide a classroom for training and a larger conference room with updated audio-visual equipment. The classroom will be used for mandatory trainings, such as CASA pre-service and Sexual Assault Awareness, along with other CEU classes for staff, volunteers, other area organizations and members of the community.

Phase II of the renovation will create larger offices with enhanced soundproofing.

"We have struggled for several years with inadequate office space at our Resource Center," said Dusti. "Our case manager and counseling offices are not

soundproof, creating a confidentiality issue, and our CASA offices are so tiny, it's hard to get desks in them, much less visitors."

According to Board Member and Project Coordinator Jerry Prather, 85 - 90% of the building is being brought up to standards



BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Board Member Jerry Prather

It is fitting that board member Jerry Prather, (shown on left in photo above), is being recognized during Mission Granbury's 25th year, as he has been involved from its inception.

Less than a year after Mission Granbury was founded, Jerry secured the initial grant through Texas CASA and established CASA of Hood/Somervell counties, effectively establishing the organization as an umbrella for what would eventually cover nine programs. That same year,

and will better fit Mission Granbury's programs which have grown and evolved.

A recent \$100,000 grant from the Meadows Foundation added to previous grants and more than \$140,000 from generous community donors made the renovations possible.

"That's just testimony to the good work of Mission Granbury," said Jerry. "People want to be part of it." □

Mission Granbury hired its first executive director, Marianne McCormick, and half her salary was covered through the CASA grant. Jerry provided training for CASA and served as her first volunteer advocate. Over the years, Jerry has organized and taught many CASA pre-service classes and regularly served as mentor to CASA staff and volunteers.

Jerry has been a Mission Granbury board member since 2015, serving as treasurer
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Pantries of Plenty hits high mark

Slightly more than 35,000 pounds of food and hygiene items were collected during the fall 2022 Pantries of Plenty food drive – more than ever before. That means that Mission Granbury will be better positioned to fill the demand for food in the coming months, according to Emergency Assistance Network Coordinator Andi Luna. Requests are increasing every week and have

doubled for the student backpack program, which provides weekend food for kids.

Last fall, 450 tubs were placed in schools, grocery stores, local businesses and civic organizations where students and/or patrons could fill them with food and hygiene items. The tubs were emptied and refilled
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Pantries of Plenty volunteers gather to sort donations.

BOARD SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for half that time. He recalls being on the board in the early days, when the budget was \$125,000 compared to the more than \$2M budget today. He has been present for and instrumental in the steady, but managed growth of the organization, including both financial and physical plant growth.

He found and helped Mission Granbury secure the land for the Ada Carey Shelter in 2005 and later, in 2019, he scouted out and facilitated the purchase of the building

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 Justin Rossner, *director of programs CASA/family violence*
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 Andi Luna, *EAN coordinator*
 Kaylyn Lammons, *volunteer and event coordinator*

MISSION GRANBURY PROGRAMS

- Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children
- C.A.S.A.
- Non-Residential Victim Assistance
- 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

on Waters Edge that now houses the New Beginnings Resale Shoppe & Boutique.

Jerry's background in building and construction has been tapped often, from repairing water/sewer lines at the women's shelter, evaluating HVAC issues, or installing playground equipment.

"I like to fix things and to think outside the box," said Jerry.

"He really is a Jack-of-all-Trades and a true master at most of them, so he's the first call we make when there's a major breakdown at any of our sites," said Executive Director Dusti Scovel. "When we signed the construction contract for

the renovation, Jerry agreed to take the lead on the project. I can't imagine taking on a project of this scope without him. When we have our Open House, a good deal of the credit will go to Jerry."

Jerry is proud of the way Mission Granbury has evolved to meet the needs of the community and gives credit to all those who played a part in figuring out what programs are needed in Hood County.

"My dream to have multiple programs all under one umbrella serving the needs of Hood County has come to fruition," he said. □

BETWEEN The Lines

by Executive Director Dusti Scovel



"Leaders are visionaries with a poorly developed sense of fear and no concept of the odds against them."

– Robert Jarvik

Of the hundreds of quotes about visionaries, I love this one best. And it absolutely applies to the Founding Mothers of Mission Granbury. Don't get me wrong, we had Founding Fathers too. But it was the determination, sheer will and fearless vision of the Founding Mothers that pulled that train.

One of the first people I met when I came to Mission Granbury eight years ago was Jean Cate. It didn't take me long to realize this lady knew everyone and everyone knew her. My first year as executive director included many hours of schooling on the history and evolution of Mission Granbury; from the crisis hotline phone answered by volunteers in the single portable building to the current umbrella agency with nine programs, three sites and more than 30 employees.

We didn't get here by happenstance. We got here, because 25 years ago a handful of visionaries saw a better way to respond to tragedy. They saw a crisis hotline answered 24 hours a day, every day of the year and an actual home that would serve as a safe shelter for abused women and their children – victims who had nowhere to go, except back to their abusers.

People like Shirley Hooks, Norma Wright, Toni Brown Belew, Launi Webb and so many more who marched valiantly forward with their vision, never mind the obstacles. They recruited others in the community to join their brigade to raise funds and build the shelter. Eight years later, that vision became reality when the beautiful Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children opened its doors. Since then, more than 2,600 women and children have found hope and safe haven inside those walls.

In 1999, Jerry Prather brought the first program under the Mission Granbury umbrella when he established the CASA program of Hood/Somervell counties to provide advocacy for foster children in these two communities. Since its inception, more than 2,000 children have been matched with a CASA.

I wonder if our Founding Mothers had any idea their vision for Mission Granbury would evolve into a community hub with integrated programs working together and in collaboration with other agencies to provide the basic necessities for thousands of struggling families. Thankfully, we've been blessed with many visionaries over the years who could see the needs and rose to meet them.

Robin Sharma says "Visionaries see the impossible as the inevitable." This December, we will host a celebration recognizing 25 years of service to the community. We will honor the visionaries, past and present, because the vision is still in focus as we look to the future of Mission Granbury.

Dusti

Mission Granbury honors community contributors at GALA

Three awards were given at the Gala to recognize outstanding contributions to Mission Granbury.

Right: The **Heart of the Community Award** was presented to the **city of Granbury** for their ongoing commitment and compassion to this community.



Mike and Molly Williams, Many Mansions, accepted the **Hope and Dreams Award** for bringing hope to those with none.



The **Salvation Army of Hood County** received the **Tidal Wave Award** for their unwavering support during unprecedented times.

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SAVE THE DATE for Summer Trivia Night July 15 at Wiley Center

Gifts made in Honor and in Memory

September 1, 2022 –
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In Honor of

Elaine Goodner

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Linda Mallon

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David Orcutt

By David Pendergrass

In Memory of

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By Jean Bondy

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By Jason Hodges

Betty Long

By Sandra Tratos

Janey Tonn

By Patricia Andris

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Jean Bondy, Development and Community Partnerships Director

Those who know Jean Bondy know she is a woman of efficiency, dedication, joy and service. She will tell you she doesn't want to waste time; she's about accomplishing goals, serving others and living a joyful life.

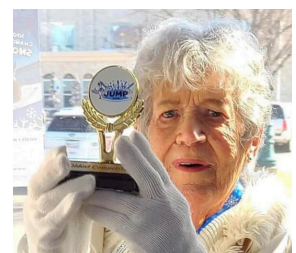


Jean's skill set was recognized by Mission Granbury board members when they asked her to join the board in 2021, just a few months after she moved here. (See the Mission Advocate, Fall 2021 article, pg. 2). Then in January 2022 when Executive Director Dusti Scovel realized the value of Jean's background, Dusti asked Jean to step down from the board and join the staff as Development and Community Partnerships Director.

"It took me a while to convince Jean she was the perfect fit to lead our Development Team," said Dusti, "but after a year on the job, I think she would agree. She brings years of experience working in fund

development and grant cultivation. It's been a genuine pleasure to work alongside her this past year and I'm looking forward to many more."

"What I love about Mission Granbury is that not a day goes by that you don't see someone's life change – we see the impact," said Jean. "Granbury is such a giving community. People give their time, talents and treasure because they see the need. If I can be an instrument to convey the need, I'm blessed to invite them to the table. □



Mission Granbury's Jean Cate, 93, was recognized as the oldest participant in Visit Granbury's GooseBump Jump event in January.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH.

Pantries of Plenty hits high mark CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

multiple times. Dr. David Purczynsky's family led the annual Live Thankfully Food Drive in previous years and handed it over to Mission Granbury in 2022. Mission Granbury expanded and renamed the drive Pantries of Plenty to continue Dr. Purczynsky's efforts.

"It was way harder than I anticipated," said Andi Luna.

Andi said that in addition to the usual nonperishable food, they also collected personal hygiene items, and pet food: local veterinarians collected pet food from families coming to their offices. Students from Heritage Christian School shopped for items needed by 15 homebound senior citizens, then delivered a truck and trailer load of customized bags for each senior that included coats and items for grandkids, in addition to food that would be easy to prepare.

After delivering an award to students at Baccus Elementary who collected the most food, Andi said "I think they were excited



Staff with donations for Pantries of Plenty by YMCA members

to be a part of something bigger than themselves."

"The food collected during this community-wide effort not only feeds people, it gives hope to those struggling to make ends meet," said Andi. "It's the most basic of needs – and this program helps us meet that need."

For more information about items needed for the Food Pantry, go to <https://www.missiongranbury.org/food-pantry-emergency-assistance>. □

Toys for Tots

Mission Granbury distributed toys in December to 470 children and teens from the Toys for Tots program coordinated by the Marine Corps League Comanche Peak Detachment 1297. Toys were provided to children in the CASA program and at the Ada Carey Women and Children's Shelter, and to those who were not participants in the Hood County Christmas for Children program.

This year an anonymous donor fulfilled the wish lists of foster children in the CASA program; she recruited donations and used her own funds, then purchased and wrapped individualized gifts for each child.

"It was quite a sight to see all the boxes of beautifully wrapped packages stacked up and organized by name," said Justin Rossner, programs director for CASA and family violence. "It was almost overwhelming. I wish I could have been at every home to see the joy and excitement this brought to our foster children in the CASA program." □

Thanks to businesses and community for support

Hood County Builders Association donated gift cards.

Woodmen Life contributed \$200.

Southside Bank donated \$1,500.

The Island Girls donated gift cards for the Ada Carey Shelter.

Salvation Army Extension Unit and **Women's Auxiliary of Hood County** donated hygiene bags to be distributed with food pantry boxes.



Instead of birthday presents, 5-year-old Tina Giusti encouraged others to give a present to children at the Ada Carey Shelter. She is the daughter of Dr. John and Janet Giusti who own Chirohabit.

Blanket Drive

Members of Team 24 Fitness, the quilting community at Patti's Last Resort, the Stitching Angels, the Heights Church, Tolar 8th-grade

English class (shown above), the Tolar FFA Chapter and patrons of Porter Title all contributed to the blanket drive.



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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**.

