

New Beginnings Resale Shoppe Celebrates Five Years of Impact and Hope

Helping Others, One Donation at a Time

Nine-year-old Sara’s smile stretched wide with wonder as her fingers traced the shiny sequins on a little purple purse. A sparkling rhinestone clasp caught the light, and inside, she discovered a handful of bracelets and a tiny ring shaped like a heart. Her eyes danced with delight.

Ms. Nan, the kind lady at the shop, had helped her find the purse - just right for a little girl who had been through so much. While Sara explored her new treasure, her mom quietly searched the racks for work clothes. Sara couldn’t remember the last time they’d gone shopping together.

For the past year, they’d been running - moving from place to place to escape Sara’s stepdad, who always seemed to find them. But this time was different. Her mom made the brave decision to

leave everything behind and move across the country. A high school friend, Ms. Katlyn, offered them a spare bedroom and a fresh start.

Within days of arriving, Ms. Katlyn brought them to Mission Granbury, where they met Ms. Nadine - a warm-hearted woman with a gentle voice who talked to Sara’s mom about job opportunities and ways to get back on their feet. Before they left, she handed them a gift card for New Beginnings Resale Shoppe.

Now, as Sara waited just outside the dressing room, purse in hand and bracelets jingling softly on her wrist, she watched the curtain part and saw her mom step out in a new outfit, like she used to before this all started.

And for the first time in a long time, Sara didn’t feel afraid. She felt safe.

This month marks a joyful milestone for one of Mission Granbury’s most beloved and vital programs: New Beginnings Resale Shoppe is celebrating its fifth anniversary as a stand-alone store. More than just a resale shop, New Beginnings is a cornerstone of Mission Granbury’s work, directly supporting the agency’s mission of moving individuals and families from crisis to self-sufficiency.

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Honoring a Legacy of Service

Mission Granbury Breaks Ground on the Marilyn Luton Annex



When Marilyn Luton joined the Mission Granbury Board of Directors in 2016, she had no idea how deeply it would change her - or how much she would change Mission

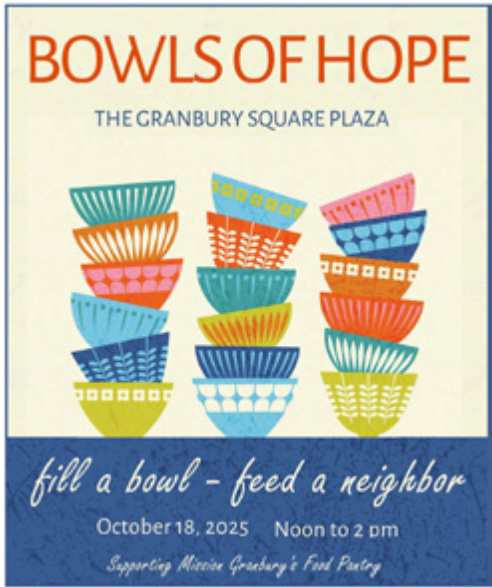
Granbury. Though she brought years of board experience with several other organizations, she quickly discovered this board was different. Here, serving as the community’s “hub for help” wasn’t just a motto - it was a shared passion. At Mission Granbury, staff, volunteers, and board members weren’t there just for a paycheck, to fill time or boost résumés; they were united by a mission to make a meaningful difference.

In 2019, Marilyn stepped up as President of the Board, only to face the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside the Executive Director, staff, volunteers, fellow board members, and other community partners, she worked tirelessly to support Hood County families through the crisis.

Today, as Hood County grows and needs continue to rise, Mission Granbury is planning to meet those needs by building a 50’ x 80’ Annex to store vital disaster supplies and shelter agency vehicles. Earlier this year, the Board voted to name it the Marilyn Luton Annex, honoring

Marilyn’s unwavering dedication and her heart for “moving adults and children from crisis to self-sufficiency.”

Groundbreaking for the Marilyn Luton Annex is set for mid-July, with completion expected by early fall - a lasting tribute to a woman whose commitment has made our community stronger. □



Savor the flavor, share the hope! Join us for the first annual **Bowls of Hope** on the Granbury Square Plaza - gourmet soups, hand-made bowls, with a mission to fill our food pantry.

2024 Gala Award Winners



The Heart of the Community Award was presented to Steve Berry and his Auction Crew for their commitment and compassion to our community.



The Tidal Wave Award was presented to the Kenneth Hill Foundation for unwavering support during unprecedented times.



The Hope and Dreams Award was presented to First Christian Church Silent Servants for bringing hope to those with none.



Jerry Prather received the Foundation Award for decades of service to foster children in Hood and Somervell counties.

From Corporate Leader to Community Builder

Board President Monty Lewis Guides Mission Granbury with Vision and Purpose

When you meet Mission Granbury Board President Monty Lewis, one thing becomes immediately clear: his leadership is grounded in humility, service, and a deep commitment to the mission of helping others.

Monty and his wife Claudette have called



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Monty Lewis
Vice President, Debbie Temple
Treasurer, Ann Dahlquist
Secretary, Carmine Esposito
 Dan Childress
 Terri Harmon
 Ashley Heyen
 Justin Jeter
 Michelle Lucero
 Grant Wood

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Marilyn Luton, *interim executive director*
 Cheshe Langford, *director of development & community partnerships*
 Angela Whiting, *director of people & culture*
 Ayde Perrenoud, *finance manager*
 Justin Rossner, *director of programs and impact/CASA/family violence*
 Rebbecca Freeman, *shelter program director*
 Donna Fletemeyer, *operations/IT manager*
 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

Granbury home since April 2001, after he persuaded Pfizer Animal Health that he could better serve their customers from the DFW area rather than New York City. During his 30-year career with Pfizer, Monty held key leadership roles, including Director of U.S. Poultry Business and Director of Sales for the Western U.S. and Canada. Although he retired in 2004 at age 57, he continues to draw on the leadership skills he honed at Pfizer to serve Mission Granbury today.

Monty will tell you the most important lesson he's learned from serving Mission Granbury isn't about business, it's about humility. "No single person is more important than the whole of Mission Granbury and our mission," Monty says. "I am humbled daily by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and donors who give so selflessly to help others."

Over the next five years, Monty envisions Mission Granbury continuing to "grow and adapt to the needs of our glorious community," guided by three priorities:

- Updating and following the Strategic Plan,
- Recruiting passionate staff, volunteers, and board members, and
- Ensuring donor support directly impacts Hood County families.

Since joining the Board in 2017, Monty has served as Secretary, Vice President, and

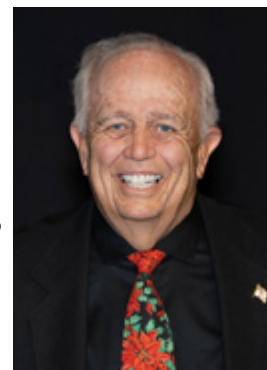
now President. He is especially proud of the milestones the team has achieved together: expanding the Resale Shoppe into a new building, upgrading the Resource Center and Ada Carey Shelter, renovating the food pantry, enhancing CASA and Emergency Assistance programs, and advancing the new annex building for disaster relief and future growth.

Through it all, Monty hopes he is seen as a positive, humble leader and listener, a decision-maker, a peacemaker, and above all, a champion for Mission Granbury and the people it serves.

"I am hopeful that the team sees me as someone who is fully committed to lifting up this mission," he says, "because I am truly honored to serve alongside them."

Monty and Claudette recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and have built a strong family legacy with three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

His deep love for family and this community fuels his vision for Mission Granbury's future. □



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New Beginnings Resale Shoppe plays a powerful role in funding Mission Granbury's nine critical programs, which serve over 15,000 individuals annually; from domestic violence support and emergency shelter to food assistance, senior and veteran services, CASA advocacy, and more. The Shoppe's proceeds help keep these programs running strong - and its impact extends far beyond financial support.

New Beginnings is also a resource for survivors of domestic violence and others in need, offering gift cards that allow individuals to shop with dignity. Survivors can pick out what they need in a safe, welcoming environment - often the first step in rebuilding a life of independence and healing. This simple, yet powerful approach ensures that every person is treated with the respect and autonomy they deserve.

The journey to New Beginnings' current location came with unexpected twists. In 2019, the Executive Director and Board of Directors began plans to build a new resale shoppe on a vacant lot next to the Resource Center. But in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted everything.

Amid the uncertainty, then-Board Treasurer Jerry Prather noticed a building for sale on Waters Edge Drive. With better location and visibility, the Board decided purchasing the property would be more cost-effective than building new. It was a bold move - especially during a pandemic - but one that proved to be the right call.

Since opening, New Beginnings has become a local favorite and a critical resource, distributing tens of thousands of dollars in clothing and household goods to families in crisis. Every item in the Shoppe is donated by the community, and every sale helps Mission Granbury continue its mission of serving those in need.

As New Beginnings Resale Shoppe celebrates five years in its current home, it's also celebrating five years of community generosity, volunteer dedication, and life-changing support. Every item donated, every dollar spent, and every hour volunteered has a community impact.

So, Happy Anniversary to New Beginnings Resale Shoppe - and heartfelt thanks to everyone who shops, donates, and supports this vital mission. Together, we truly are making a difference. □

Gifts made in Honor & in Memory

Sep 1, 2024 – Aug 1, 2025

In Memory of

Bonnie Arlington
By Maria Rodrigues
Raymond and Lesbia Rodriguez
Bobbie Bostick
By Stephanie Bostick

Dick Carey
By Patricia Bauer
Gerald and Kelly Delgado
Jerry Don
Jean Hensley
Sandra Jones
Randall and Jo Kopsa
Mary Lamoreaux
Brenda Ritz
Brenda Rocstroh
August Saxe
Marilyn Shiffman
Mike and Dusti Scovel
Cindy Shifflett
Laura Tharpe
Eddie Welborn
Doris Dinkel
By Auxiliary of Lake Granbury
Medical Center
Janet Greener

Linda Kearby
By Dave and Linda Anderson/Vitale
Hannah Burgess
Gail Case
Lisa Clover
Molly Isbell
William Monroe
Carl Raifsnider
Jenelle Semar
Victor S. Mercado
By Shawali Chaudhury
Rose Thomas
By Port Ridglea Property Owners
Association

In Honor of:

Bill Freitag
By Patricia Andris

Bringing Heart, Energy, and a Splash of Fun to Mission Granbury Meet Cheshe Langford



If you’ve spent any time around Granbury, chances are you’ve seen - or met - Cheshe Langford. She’s hard to miss, often spotted in a colorful costume, a big smile, and an even bigger heart.

“I half-expected her to show up for her job interview in costume,” laughs former Executive Director Dusti Scovel. “I don’t think I’d ever seen her dressed ‘normal’!”

After retiring as Director of Outreach and Events at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Cheshe traded the coast of Galveston for the charm of Granbury four years ago - and fell in love at first sight. Wasting no time, she poured her

boundless energy and eclectic style into opening Southern Star Market, a boutique brimming with new, vintage, and antique treasures that reflected her vibrant spirit.

But a store wasn’t enough to contain Cheshe’s passion for community. She soon became a familiar face across town, serving on boards like the Granbury Arts Alliance and Leadership Granbury, and stepping up as President of the Historic Granbury Merchants Association. Her heart was full - and so was her calendar.

In November 2024, Cheshe made a leap that felt meant to be. She accepted the role of Director of Development and Community Partnerships at Mission Granbury. Knowing she couldn’t give less than 100% to the cause she now cared so deeply about, she made the bittersweet decision to close her beloved store in December - and has never looked back.

Jumping into one of Mission Granbury’s busiest seasons, Cheshe didn’t miss a beat. Between wrapping up Pantries of Plenty, and helping orchestrate Toys for Tots and the annual Christmas Gala, her event planning expertise and high-energy style were just what the team needed.

“She’s the kind of person everyone wants to work with,” says Scovel. “She brings fun to the task, but she’s just as committed to getting the job done right. I knew she was the perfect fit within minutes of meeting her.”

Looking ahead, Cheshe is already stirring up excitement for 2025, with a new twist on the always-popular Trivia Night this July (yes, costumes will definitely be involved!) and an exciting fall event in the works. Stay tuned - you won’t want to miss what she’s planning next!

For more information about tours, getting involved or donating, contact Cheshe at clangford@missiongranbury.org. □



Volunteer Spotlight Feeding More Than Bodies, Nourishing Hearts

Our Food Pantry volunteers make up one of the largest teams at Mission Granbury, faithfully serving over 1,150 individuals each month. But what they give goes far beyond food. With every box they pack and every neighbor they greet, they share kindness, compassion, and dignity. For many, that smile or word of encouragement is as nourishing as the meal itself. We salute this extraordinary group of volunteers who embody what it means to joyfully make a difference in the lives of others.

Want to join an incredible team? We’re always looking for caring hearts and helping hands to serve alongside our Food Pantry volunteers. Whether you have an

hour a week or a day a month, your time can help feed families and brighten lives. To find out more about volunteering, contact Kara Dingman at kdingman@missiongranbury.org.



THE NUMBERS

How You've Helped

Food Pantry/Emergency Assistance

- Our Food Pantry placed **29,782** units of food into the hands of our neighbors - through weekly distributions, emergency bags, and senior deliveries - bringing hope and nourishment to an average of **400** households every week.
- Our Emergency Assistance Network, Mission Granbury's largest and fastest-growing program, is based at the Resource Center. In June alone, staff answered **1,608** calls for help. By June 30, case managers had assisted **7,518** individuals - including veterans, seniors, and at least **200** unhoused neighbors - with vital needs such as rent, utilities, medication, car repair, emergency shelter, food, and clothing.



SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 - MAY 31, 2024

Ada Carey Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Program

- The Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children provided a safe haven for an average of **13** survivors each night - nearly half of them children. Our case managers and advocates answered **631** hotline calls and walked alongside an average of **20** victims each month through non-residential support. Altogether, they delivered **10,629** critical services - from shelter and crisis intervention to safety planning, food, and clothing - bringing hope and healing to more than **200** survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.



CASA

- Our CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) stood by **92** foster children in the court system, including **21** who were new to care this year, ensuring each child had a voice and an advocate on their journey.

Thank you to our contributors!



(Left) We are deeply grateful to **Kroger** for their generous donation to our food pantry. Their support helps us provide essential groceries to families in need.

(Right) Thank you to our friends and partners at **MARA** for stocking our Food Pantry with much needed items!



(Left) Thank you to the **Granbury Garden Club** for their support of our Christmas Box distribution.

(Right) We were honored to be the beneficiary of this year's fundraiser for the **Brazos River Corvette Club**!



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
Donations accepted:
From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesdays - Saturdays



3611 Plaza East Court
Granbury, TX 76049
www.missiongranbury.org

Moving adults and children
from crisis to self-sufficiency

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76712

Make a difference. Get involved!

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- **Become a volunteer:** contact Kara Dingman at KDingman@missiongranbury.org
- **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**.

