

You know there is suffering you don't see... Choose to see. Choose to help.

Celebrating 25 Years of Service

Many Hood County residents were instrumental in the establishment of Mission Granbury in 1998 and hundreds more helped it grow over the next 25 years.



Thanks to their compassion, commitment and unwavering vision, Mission Granbury's Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children opened in 2006. Today, Mission Granbury has grown into a multi-site, many layered humanitarian services organization that touches every segment of Hood County. It all started in 1997 following the brutal murder of Sarah Patterson and the beating of her brother, Cody, which gave community members the impetus to come together and form this pivotal organization.

"Our community gathered around 100 folks 25 years ago, who had a passion and had enough of the violence in our county," said Shirley Hooks, one of the initial organizers. "We worked tirelessly; when we saw a need, we desired to help."

A year later, Mission Granbury hired its first executive director, Marianne McCormick, and received grant funding to create the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program for Hood and Somervell counties. Today the CASA program advocates for more than 200 foster children annually.



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"Through grant writing, an active Chamber of Commerce and help from local churches, we created the beginning hub for Mission Granbury," said Marianne.

In 2001, the board launched a capital campaign to build a women's shelter.

"We were short of our goal and we really needed contributions," said Patti Carey. "My husband, Dick, wanted to honor his mother in some way, so I asked him to help, and he thought it was an awesome idea." Patti spent many hours making curtains, decorating and fundraising for furniture and supplies before the grand opening in August 2006.



Additional programs have been added as needed, including non-residential services for victims who are not shelter residents and a long-term stabilization program for shelter residents called the Wings Program, established by Patti and Dick Carey in memory of their son, Cory Campbell. The Wings Program provides extended stays at the shelter and financial assistance for residents who meet qualifying criteria.

Mission Granbury has become the first stop for people in crisis, those affected by disasters such as fires, and those struggling through economic downturns. Anchor programs include the shelter, CASA, Emergency Assistance, a weekly Food Pantry, Veterans Assistance, Senior Care and the New Beginnings Resale Shoppe. The Resale Shoppe generates revenue to support Mission Granbury programs and

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BETWEEN The Lines

by Executive Director Dusti Scovel



She's carried the tiny piece of paper tucked away for months. The last time he knocked her to the floor in front of their two year old son, her sister Emma was visiting and saw everything. Before Emma left, she wrote the local hotline number on a small piece of paper and slipped it into her sister's wallet. "Call them," she pleaded, "before he kills you. They can help." With trembling fingers and an anxious heart, she dialed the number. The voice of hope on the other end of the line calmed her trembling hands and she breathed a sigh of relief for the first time in months. She and her son were finally going to be okay.

Twenty-five years ago, a local pastor, a handful of concerned citizens and three determined women paved the way for the first crisis hotline in Hood County to

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Celebrating 25 years of service

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provides free clothing and small household items to victims of disasters. All Mission Granbury programs work collaboratively with other community nonprofits.

Extraordinary growth required Mission Granbury to move its offices several times over the years. What started in a loaned residence evolved to two mobile homes and then a strip mall setting. Today, Mission Granbury operates in two other locations in addition to the shelter. Offices are in the



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Marilyn Luton

Vice President, Monty Lewis

Treasurer, Ann Dahlquist

Secretary, Debbie Temple

Past President, Carmine Esposito

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dusti Scovel, *executive director*

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Angela Whiting, *director of training & support services*

Ayde Perrenoud, *finance manager*

Justin Rossner, *director of programs*

CASA/family violence

Rebecca 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



recently remodeled 9,800 sq. ft. Resource and Education Center at 3611 Plaza East Court, which was purchased in 2014 and houses emergency assistance case managers, a drive-through Food Pantry, CASA and a large training classroom. The New Beginnings Resale Shoppe is at 1204 Water's Edge Drive: that facility was purchased in 2019.

Mission Granbury has grown to 300 volunteers and 32 full and part-time employees. Roughly 40% of the \$2.3M budget is funded through state and federal grants, while 15% is generated from Resale Shoppe revenues. The balance comes from private donations, with more than 80% of those donations used for direct services to individuals in crisis.

Mission Granbury has provided stability for thousands of community members in need.

But the need is always on the rise as Hood County grows.

Board President Marilyn Luton hopes that in the next few years Mission Granbury will reach a level of financial security, perhaps through an endowment fund, to ensure the agency will always be here to help.

"We're well on our way," said Marilyn. "We've made great financial decisions and our donors are so giving. Our board is phenomenal, and everyone works together. Mission Granbury was started by a concerned and caring community and I believe it will be sustained the same way."



"We are blessed from the efforts it took to create Mission Granbury, adapt it to the needs in the everchanging community and develop it into a stable organization that can be relied upon," said Jean Cate, longtime community leader and Mission Granbury employee. "And now to endow it for the future." □

BETWEEN The Lines

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by Executive Director Dusti Scovel

serve abused women and their children. It all started with one phone line in a borrowed office, answered 24/7 by a handful of brave volunteers. Soon, other volunteers and concerned citizens joined the cause and in April 1998, Mission Granbury, Inc. became a 501(c)3. Two donated mobile homes, hundreds of volunteers and a major capital campaign later, Mission Granbury broke ground on what would become the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children. In 2006, the shelter welcomed its first resident. More than 2,500 victims later, the shelter is still the only facility of its kind in Hood or Somervell counties.

Seven-year-old Melissa clutches her fuzzy blue backpack and stares ahead wide eyed as the lady with the clunky shoes drives to her new foster placement. The few clothes she has are stuffed in the backpack along with the worn, pink bunny she sleeps with. She's pretty sure her parents aren't coming back this time. She's trying to be brave but inside, she's confused and terrified. Within weeks, her foster mom introduces her to Cindy from Mission Granbury's CASA program. Cindy is going to be Melissa's person. She will visit her, listen to her, ensure her foster home is a good fit, and talk to Melissa's teachers, medical providers, biological family members and foster parents. Over time, Melissa is placed with her grandmother and eventually adopted by her. The case is closed and Cindy moves on to another case. A few years later, Melissa's grandmother passes away suddenly and Melissa is once again placed in foster care. Now a teenager, Melissa stands in the door of her new foster home and weeps as the familiar figure steps out of the car. "You found me," she says through tears, as the two embrace. Her person was back and all is better.

As those programs grew, other support services were added to help our neighbors get re-established and become sustainable. A tiny closet of food has evolved into a large, modern food pantry that serves more than 350 individuals every week. An equally tiny clothes closet is now the 5,200 sq. ft. Resale Shoppe that generates extra revenue to support our programs and provide clothing gift cards for shelter residents and others in need. Together, Mission Granbury's humanitarian programs help more than 15,000 individuals and provide \$1.5M in services to the community every year.

And it all started with a pastor, one phone line and three very determined women.

Dusti

SAVE THE DATE

GHOST RUN OCTOBER 7

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Marilyn Luton

It's the perfect fit for Marilyn Luton, serving as president for the Mission Granbury board of directors. She had served on non-profit boards and volunteered before, but when she joined the Mission Granbury board seven years ago, Marilyn said she "got goosebumps!"

"I get great joy from Mission Granbury," said Marilyn. "We do so much more than the shelter and food pantry. We fill many needs."

If you've spent any time around Marilyn, you know she can tell a good story and make people laugh, the latter she honed while volunteering at the Senior Center. She wears her Mission Granbury name tag all the time, "because I like it when people ask me about Mission Granbury," and because she wants everybody in Hood County to know about it.



"It all makes me feel good," said Marilyn. "People have stories to tell. That's when you learn how we can help them. We have the resources to help almost anyone."

"I am so blessed to have a husband who encourages me to do this and has given me the resources to make a difference," Marilyn said.

Marilyn is both a leader and day-to-day volunteer, getting down and dirty (literally), helping meet needs on a regular basis.

Board Vice President Monty Lewis describes Marilyn as "extraordinary," referring to her involvement from crisis situations to helping with food distribution at the Resource Center.

"She not only talks the talk, she walks the walk," said Monty. "She is a very loving, caring person. She's been a great leader."

The board's goal is to achieve financial security and stability, and Marilyn believes they are "well on their way."

She isn't finished yet; she hopes to continue making more contacts that will help ensure Mission Granbury is sustainable for the future. □



CHOOSE TO HELP THIS FALL

Volunteers honored

Volunteers were recognized at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in April for their contribution of more than 22,000 hours in 2022.

Shining Star Awards were presented to Wanda Green, Kathy Miller, Travis Lowrance, Faye Landam, Tawne Cruise and Diane Hudson. Gwen Mabery, Shirley Wright, Brenda Bair and Christine Sonego received **Heart of the Mission Awards**. Suzanne Tewell was honored with the **Servant's Heart Award**.

Highlights of the evening included the fun awards that supervisors created to recognize volunteers for their help, such as: "I'll Get My Husband to Do That;" "I Know A Guy;" "Go With the Flow;" "I Got This;" and more. □



Donna Fletemeyer, operations manager, presented Suzanne Tewell with the **Servant's Heart Award**.



Justin Rosner, program director for CASA/Family Violence presented **CASA Amy Larkin** with the "I Got This" award for her positive attitude and support.



Rebecca Freeman, shelter program director, recognized **Carol Holmgreen** for moving from place to place to help as needed.

Gifts Made in Honor and in Memory

February 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

In Honor of

Larry Garnett
By Judy Brociek
Peggy & Rob
By Pat Thomas

In Memory of

Betty Atkeisson
By Anita Garlington
Bea Bondy
By Jean Bondy
Bob Boone
By Pecan Plantation
Woman's Club
Linda Conkel
By Patricia Andris
Hugh Gary Darr
By Pat Murphy
Randy Garlington
By Walter Garlington
Scott Gerloff
By Walter Garlington

Nancy Lachowicz
By:
Shirley Ball
Patricia Bauer
Frank Bohlmann
Doris Brunner
Colleen Earl
John Falke
Nicole Gosser
Nicki Gosser
Donald D Harris
Sandra Jones
Greg Karol
Bess Lachowicz
Mary J Lamoreaux
Laurie Lee
Annie Murphy
Monet Nathaniel
Roger Nauta
Brenda Ritz
Brenda Rockstroh
Roy Schultz

Nancy Lachowicz cont.
By:
Cindy Shifflett
Lisa Story
Laura A. Tharpe
Tawana Sue Thompson
Shawkat Toorawa
Lisa Tunstall
Melissa Welborn
Shyrlee Stanley
By:
Danny Adler
Charles P. Geer
Mark Nelson
Barbara Taggart
By Walter Garlington
Brenda Wilkinson
By:
Tricia Campbell
Phyllis R. Craig
Arlette F. Hatch

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Rebecca Freeman



Rebecca Freeman has always had a passion for helping people. Today as program director for the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children, she is sharing that passion,

working to find the right option to best meet the needs of the women, while embracing the message that ‘we work where they live.’

“Rebecca is very client focused and centered,” said Justin Rossner, director of programs for CASA / Family Violence. “She is a remarkable critical thinker; she has this uncanny ability to hear what’s happening and to match resources, skills and approaches to help each person succeed.”

Her five years of previous experience at Mission Granbury as an advocate and case manager for non-resident victims and shelter residents prepared her well to do the work today, helping the women (and men in the non-resident program) navigate out of and beyond the abusive situation.

Rebecca is not afraid to look at something and creatively adjust the standard plan as needed to meet the needs of clients,

according to Justin. Assistance ranges from providing victim services for filing protective orders, police reports and custody arrangements, to helping clients take steps to prepare for an independent future, including resumé preparation, jobs, housing and more. Rebecca’s favorite experience is watching the community and Mission Granbury pull together to help

community members get the help they need, followed by the reward of seeing the success of clients a year or two later.

“I have always had a heart for people who may need that extra bit of help,” said Rebecca. “It’s a joy to offer them a hand up, not a hand out. It is something I can pour my whole heart into.” □

Team Trivia Night 2023 a big hit



Teams pictured are (left) The Boom Box Bunch, (below) Caddyshack Know It Alls, and (bottom) Joy of Trivia.

Community members formed teams, dressed like it was the 1980s, and brought decorations, knowledge and enthusiasm for the Second Annual Team Trivia for Technology night

The **Joy of Trivia** team edged out The Rancho Rebels by one point in a tiebreaker to capture the coveted “Brainiac Award.”



The **Boom Box Bunch** tried really, really hard, but had the least points so received the not so coveted “Ya Bombed Award.”

Competition was tough for the “Spirit Award” and the judges had a hard time deciding, but the **Caddyshack Know It Alls** received the trophy.

Thank you sponsors, teams, volunteers, staff, BREW Aleworks and The Wiley Center staff for an “awesome” night, raising funds for technology needs at Mission Granbury. □



Thank you to **Renew Home Health-Granbury, Texas; Granbury Rehab & Nursing; and Alvecare Hospice** for their Beat the Heat Fan Drive to collect new box and oscillating fans in support of Operation Cool Down.



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:

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Wednesdays - Saturdays



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Granbury, TX 76049
www.missiongranbury.org

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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**.

