

Donate Your Vehicle to The Arc of Fort Bend County

An Easy Way to Turn Cars into Cash for Charity

Save the Date

**Celebrating
Abilities**

Saturday,
March 24, 2012

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sugar Land
Town Square

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About Donating

Donating is as simple as filling out a form online or speaking with a friendly operator. The program accepts cars, vans, trucks, boats with a trailer, and recreational vehicles from anywhere in the country seven days a week, 24 hours a day. All you need to do is provide the year, make and model of a vehicle, the general condition, the vehicle identification number, and have the title and lien in hand. The Arc takes care of the rest and arranges a convenient time for free auto towing. The appropriate tax form is mailed within four to six weeks.



Partnership

The Arc partners with Melwood Charity Car Donation Center, a non-profit agency, to manage and operate our vehicle donation program. Since 1963, Melwood has provided job training and employment for over 2,000 individuals with disabilities.

Hours (EST):

Monday-Thurs: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Donating is easy!

- Tax-Deductible
- Free Towing
- No Hassle
- Call 1-877-Arc-Car0 (1-877-272-2270)
- Or Donate Online at www.thearc.org

OUR MISSION

The Arc of Fort Bend County ensures opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to maximize their quality of life within our community.

**The Arc of Fort Bend County
Board of Directors 2011-2012**

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Program Director

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Committee Assignments and Job Descriptions are available on our website

CORE VALUES

1. Awareness: greater awareness about individuals with disabilities increases understanding about the abilities of individuals with disabilities, and greater understanding increases opportunities for individuals with disabilities, so we work to achieve greater awareness to achieve greater understanding to expand opportunities.
2. Diversity: we must serve all individuals with intellectual and related developmental disabilities and their families in this county.
3. Respect: we must be understanding of and sensitive to the concerns of individuals with disabilities about their identity and how we describe them.
4. Ownership: it is important to have community members serve on our committees and board, and support our association, but our association should remain an "individuals with disabilities and their families" organization.
5. Advocacy: with limited resources, if we become primarily or solely a provider organization, our association will never do more than make only a limited impact on the quality of life of a few individuals with disabilities.
6. Cooperation: advocacy and programs that benefit individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families in many cases will also benefit individuals with other disabilities.
7. Good Stewardship: as an association, we must be fiduciaries of the talent and resources that our volunteers and community supporters entrust to us.

OUR GOALS

The Arc's goals were chosen to be directed toward Mission and Vision and build on our strength and success.

- I. The Arc will maintain an effective leadership team to ensure the accomplishment of The Arc's vision and mission.
- II. The Arc will deploy outreach strategies that will increase community awareness of the needs of all Arc stakeholders.
- III. The Arc will collaborate with existing transportation systems in Ft. Bend County to provide transportation that is reliable, safe and affordable.
- IV. The Arc will collaborate with providers of job training and placement programs to improve quality and quantity of programs.
- V. The Arc will provide programs and services which will directly improve the quality of life for its clients and their families.
- VI. The Arc will implement sound fiduciary strategies that will increase financial stability and growth of the organization.

To Send a Special Tribute

In Memory of or In Honor of

Pay tribute to a friend or family member while also supporting services and programs that benefit the Arc of Fort Bend County with your donation.

Person's Name

Occasion

Send acknowledgement to:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Please make checks payable to:
The Arc of Fort Bend County
123 Brooks Street, Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Chair's Corner

Karen Daly



As the mother of Emma, my 19-year old daughter who has Down Syndrome, I live in an "alphabet soup" world and so do all parents of children with intellectual disabilities. We first learn about the diagnosis our child has and the shortcut names and terms for it. Then, we meet other parents and learn about their children's diagnoses and the names and acronyms for them. When we go off to school, we are bombarded with more terms like IEP's, ARD's and EYS. For those who are still in the school system, I just want to warn you that it doesn't change when your child graduates. You just get to learn more terms! For example, some of the most important acronyms all of us need is HCS and CLASS. These are the programs (Home and Community-Based Services and Community Living and Assistance Support Services) that provide the safety net for our children in terms of services and support for when we, as parents, aren't around anymore. We placed Emma on the waiting list for HCS when she was one year of age. We were fortunate that Emma became eligible for HCS when she was 14 but we didn't really see any need for it until she completed high school. We then found that the HCS program we had enrolled in did not fit our goals for Emma so we moved from using an HCS provider to Consumer-Directed

Services (CDS). Not many families are using the CDS option but it has been a real blessing for our family. We decide on the activities that Emma participates in and we hire the people to support Emma. Emma takes exercise classes, volunteers at a food pantry, goes grocery shopping for her lunches and makes her lunches as well as visiting the library, museums, and parks. While we are still missing some essential components for Emma's life, we are well on the way to making sure that Emma is a contributing member of the society that has embraced her.

If you aren't on the waiting list for either of these programs, please make an effort soon to do this. As a parent, it is one of the best ways to protect our children's future.

Editor's note: See pages 4 & 5 for a description of DADS waiver programs

The Arc Family Matters

Frank "Bob" Penrod, 79, passed away December 24th, 2011. He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Karen Penrod, his son Randy Penrod, his daughters Teri Moomaw and husband Billy, Jill Greer and husband Richard, Karen Penrod, his step children Amy Zost and husband Don, Erik McKay, 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Carrie Lynn Jennette, age 25, passed away Thursday, December 22, 2011. Survivors include her parents, Michael Jennette and Teresa Hudnall Jennette, her sisters, Shawna Niver and Danielle Childs, and seven nephews.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

Madelyn Jo Bakus, daughter of Special Olympics swim coach Susan Bakus and her husband Matt Bakus, was born on 11/14/11. Weighing 5 lbs, 14 oz, and was 18 inches long. Maddy's proud grandparents are Special Olympics volunteer Jeanette Ries and her husband, Deacon Don Ries. Her proud uncle is Special Olympics athlete Danny Ries. Congratulations to the happy family!

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Waiver Program Services and Eligibility Requirements

Go to DADS website to view similarities/differences among the DADS waiver programs in detail
http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/waiver_comparisons/index.html

DADS home page:
www.dads.state.tx.us

<p>Mental Retardation Authority-General Revenue Programs (MRA-GR) “General Revenue Funds” or “GR”</p> <p>There is no age limit to access this funding. Individuals must not be enrolled in or receiving funding from another Medicaid Waiver program. To qualify, persons must have an intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder. Medicaid eligibility is not necessary but a sliding scale fee may be charged by the local MRA (Texana Center/MHMRA-Harris County/etc.).</p> <p>Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) Centers operate as local Mental Retardation Authorities (MRA). MRAs provide or contract with other providers to provide an array of services for persons in the intellectual disability, autism or pervasive developmental disability priority population with general revenue funds. State general revenue funds may pay for the following services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavioral Support Day Habilitation Nursing Service Coordination Supported Employment Community Support Employment Assistance Respite Specialized Therapies Vocational Training <p>For additional information refer to the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services website: http://www.dads.state.tx.us/news_info/publications/legislative/ltssqr2008/3programresults-adult-mra-gr.html http://facilityquality.dads.state.tx.us/qrs/public/qrs.do</p> <p>DADS’s Consumer Rights & Services:</p> <p>Local MHMR Authorities and MRA Community Centers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Texana Center (Austin/Colorado/Fort Bend/Matagorda/Waller/Wharton) 281-342-0090 ● MHMRA of Harris County (Harris County) 713- 970-7000 ● Gulf Coast Center MHMRA (Brazoria/Galveston) 888- 839-3229 ● Tri County MHMR Services (Woodlands/Conroe) 936-756-8331 	<p>Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP)</p> <p>To qualify for this service, individuals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be under 21 years of age; - be eligible for Medicaid based on their income and financial resources; - meet the medical criteria for admission to a Texas nursing facility; - meet the Supplemental Security Income medical disability criteria; and - have an individual plan of care, signed by a practitioner, that falls within specified annual spending levels based on the Texas Index Level of Effort for nursing facility services. Annual spending level range from \$11,900 to \$25,000. <p>If the individual is 18 years of age or younger, he or she must reside with a family member or with a foster family that includes no more than four children who are unrelated to the individual.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reference “Rider 28”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Contact local DADS office 713-692-1635 713-767-2155</p>
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Information compiled by Cheryl Sewell at The Arc of Fort Bend cbsewell@arcoffortbend.org 281-494-5924
Updated 12/2011

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Waiver Program Services and Eligibility Requirements

Go to DADS website to view similarities/differences among the DADS waiver programs in detail http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/waiver_comparisons/index.html

Texas Home Living (THL or TxHml)	Home and Community Based Services (HCS)	Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)	Community Based Alternatives (CBA)	Deaf Blind With Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)
<p>There is no age limit for enrollment. To qualify for this service, individuals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have an intellectual disability (IQ 70 or below) and meet the criteria for a Level of Care 1 in an ICF-MR facility - Is a current Medicaid recipient - Does not require intensive 1:1 supervision to prevent dangerous behavior - Has an Individual Plan of Care approved by the TDMHMR - Is not enrolled in or receiving services from another Medicaid Waiver program (ie: CLASS or MDCP) - Chooses to participate in TxHmL program instead of an ICF-MR program - AND lives in his or her own home or family home. <p>Fort Bend County: Texana: 281-342-0090</p> <p>Harris County MHMRA: 713-970-8383</p>	<p>There is no age limit for enrollment. To qualify for this service, individuals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have either mental retardation or a related condition that results in deficits in adaptive behavior and full scale IQ of 75 or below; - be eligible for Medicaid; and - have a service plan that does not cost more than \$86,313.38 for Level of Need (LON) 1,5, or 8, \$98,773.56 for LON 6 or \$173,876.88 for an LON 9 annually for initial enrollment. <p>Fort Bend County: Texana: 281-342-0090</p> <p>Harris County MHMRA: 713-970-7000</p>	<p>There is no age limit for enrollment. To qualify for this service, individuals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a related condition; - be eligible for Medicaid; - reside in the CLASS catchment area; - have an initial service plan that does not exceed \$63,369; and - require habilitation and case management services, as determined by the individual's service planning team. <p>CLASS Interest List 1-877-438-5658</p> <p>Or FBC-Texana: 281-342-0090</p> <p>HC-MHMRA: 713-970-7000</p>	<p>To qualify for this service, individuals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a need for skilled nursing care; - meet at least two nursing facility risk criteria; - be eligible for Medicaid; - be age 21 or older; and - have a service plan that falls within specified annual spending levels based on the Texas Index Level of Effort for nursing facility services. Spending limits range from \$26,353 to \$55,422. Individuals needing ventilator care may have annual service plans ranging in cost from \$55,418 to \$84,487. <p>Contact local DADS office 713-692-1635 713-767-2155</p>	<p>To qualify for this service, individuals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be deaf-blind and have another disability that impairs independent functioning; - have either mental retardation or a related condition; - be eligible for Medicaid; - be age 18 or older; and - have an initial service plan that does not exceed \$59,750. <p>For more information call 512-438-2622 or 1-877-438-5658</p>

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Updated 12/2011

My Medicaid Matters



Background

Medicaid is the federal-state partnership that provides health care for low-income children and expectant mothers, as well as both basic health care and long term services and supports for people with disabilities and low-income seniors. In 2014 Health Reform will allow the parents of kids on Texas Medicaid today to get coverage, too (only a few qualify today).

Over 58 million Americans and 3.5 million Texans rely on Medicaid services and supports every day.

When we think about it, we all know people who benefit from the Medicaid program. For example:

- Do you or someone you know use Medicaid long term services and supports to live in the most integrated setting, with appropriate services?
- Do you or someone you know use Medicaid to cover prenatal care to ensure a healthy pregnancy and baby?
- Do you or someone you know have kids who are getting the health care they need because of Medicaid or CHIP?
- Do you or someone you know work as a direct care attendant, providing critical support services?

How We Began: My Medicaid Matters in Texas

On September 21st, 2011, National ADAPT organized the **MY MEDICAID MATTERS** rally in Washington, DC, co-sponsored by 94 national organizations representing people with disabilities, seniors, children, labor, civil rights, women's rights, gay and gender rights, the religious community as well as other human rights advocates. The purpose of the Rally was to send a message to the "Super-Committee," Congress and the Obama administration that Medicaid is a critical safety net program for millions of Americans.

In Texas, over 35 organizations organized by ADAPT of Texas, CTD, Texas Advocates and The Arc, held a press conference that same day to support the goals of the rally in DC. Today, our Texas organizations continue to work together to provide a unified voice in support of a strong Medicaid program that will continue to meet the needs of millions of Texans.

"My Medicaid Matters" Texas – Outreach and Education Campaign

Our Goals:

- Educate Texans, Texas legislators, policy-makers and Congress about the real people whose health, independence, families and jobs are supported by Texas Medicaid: children, mothers, Texans with disabilities, seniors—and the workers and professionals who assist them every day.

My Medicaid Matters Cont'd

- Monitor and STOP damaging cuts, block grants, waivers, or caps that will harm Texans and our families in our communities.
- Advocate for access to decent health care and community-based services and supports.
- Tell our leaders that deficit reduction and sustainable budgets MUST use a balanced approach that includes revenues and does not rely on cuts alone. Without new revenues in the mix, Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare cannot avoid devastating cuts.

Mission:

- Inform policymakers and the public about the benefits of Medicaid and what could happen to Texans if Medicaid were reduced or eliminated.

What does Medicaid pay for?

Many Texans don't know that Medicaid pays for hospital and physician services; medical and surgical care; nursing facility services; lab and x-ray services; check-ups, dental, and shots for kids; mental health care, physical and speech therapies, and nurse practitioner services.

It also pays for critical community services and support, like:

- Home and community-based waiver services; home health; personal attendant services; rehabilitation services and therapies; and other services that allow seniors and people with disabilities to live and receive services in the community.,
- Prescription medications, optometrist services and eyeglasses, prosthetic devices, and other community-based services and supports.

Every Texan relies on Medicaid, because it is such a major support to our health care system.

What's happening in Washington and Austin?

The Congressional "Super Committee," comprised of six Senators and six Representatives, were unsuccessful in their attempt to reduce the federal budget by \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years. Though Medicaid funding was not part of the automatic cuts that may occur, Medicaid funding cuts and program restructuring are still very much on the table. The reason this threat remains is that many members of Congress refuse to consider any increases in revenues that will be necessary to fund the needs of the growing population of those eligible for Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare services. All these programs are vulnerable to deep cuts that would harm people by reducing critical health care and community-based services and supports.

In Austin, the 2011 Texas Legislature imposed roughly \$2 billion in Medicaid-CHIP cuts, and left the Medicaid program under-funded by another \$5 billion, which will have to be made up in 2013—or cut even deeper.

The legislature also passed two new laws proposing major restructuring of Medicaid. One new law directs HHSC to seek a capped-funding federal Medicaid waiver, that would exempt Texas from minimum standards in federal law for who Medicaid covers and what health care they receive.

The second law directs Texas state government to seek permission from Congress and the President to "opt

My Medicaid Matters Cont'd

out” of Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP, and to convert all of Texas’ federal health care funds into a single block grant based on 2010 funding levels. If Congress approved, it could **end** federal rules about which children, seniors, pregnant women, and Texans with disabilities get covered, along with rules guaranteeing basic standards for health care benefits.

TALKING POINTS: for Individuals and Families

- **“MY MEDICAID MATTERS”— Describe why the Medicaid Program is important to you and your family.**
- **“CUTTING MEDICAID HURTS PEOPLE”—Describe what would happen to you or your family if you lost your Medicaid benefits.**
- **“CUTTING MEDICAID HURTS BUSINESS” – For every \$1 cut from Medicaid almost \$4 of business activity is reduced.**
- **“PROTECT THE MEDICAID PROGRAM”—Ask Congress, Texas legislators, and policy-makers to protect the Medicaid Program because it matters to you and millions across the country.**
- **“SLASHING MEDICAID” - Means eliminating jobs, which will hurt the economy by pulling billions of dollars in health care spending out of our Texas communities.**
- **“MEDICAID HAS BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT” - According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll, 60 percent of Americans want to maintain Medicaid and only 13 percent support cuts to Medicaid.**

OUR MESSAGE: Health, Independence, Families, and Jobs!

Medicaid is more than just health coverage. Medicaid means:

- **Health!** Medicaid provides hospital, doctor and other health services to low income families, children, people with disabilities, and older Americans.
- **Independence!** Medicaid provides vital home and community-based services that allow seniors and younger people with disabilities to live independently in the community.
- **Families!** Medicaid provides services that support families in caring for their children, including children with significant disabilities.
- **Jobs!** Medicaid provides vital jobs for direct care workers, therapists, health care professionals, and other workers—and helps them to support their families.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bob Kafka, **ADAPT of Texas**, 512 442-0252 bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net

Amy Mizcles, **The Arc of Texas**, 512 454 6694 amizcles@thearcoftexas.org

Boy With Down Syndrome Hits Modeling Big Time

By Michelle Diament

After appearing in a national advertisement for Target, a 6-year-old New Jersey boy with Down syndrome is making it big, attracting media attention from as far away as London.

Ryan Langston, sported an orange t-shirt and casual brown pants on page 9 of Target's Jan. 1 circular, distributed in newspapers and at stores across the country.

But unlike the other child models appearing alongside him, Ryan has Down syndrome. His inclusion is drawing kudos from bloggers across the Web because the boy's diagnosis was not mentioned in the ad and apparently played no role in his selection.

Since Ryan was pointed out in a posting on the blog Noah's Dad, his story has gone viral. It's been featured on the Today Show's website, in Adweek and London's The Daily Mail in recent days.

Read the full story at:

<http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2012/01/09/boy-modeling-big-time/14729/comment-page-1/#comment-9909>

What a Catch!



What a Catch! The Smith family enjoyed some holiday fishing on this grand purchase at The Arc's Best in the West! Thanks to Marlin Home Inspections and Scott McCune for their generous donations.

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 The Arc Parents Support Group SO - Basketball (Thurs teams only)	3 SR - Dance at St. Theresa's	4 SO - Volleyball Practice (state teams only) Kids Group Kids & Youth Group Bowling SR - Monster Jam
5	6 SO - Basketball (Mon teams only)	7	8	9 SO - Winter Games	10 SO - Winter Games	11 SO - Winter Games Bowling
12 SR - Mardi Gras Ball	13 SO - Basketball (Mon teams only) Self Advocates Meeting	14	15	16 SO - Basketball (Thurs teams only)	17	18 Kids & Youth Group Bowling
19 Bowling	20 SO - Basketball (Mon teams only)	21	22	23 SO - Basketball (Thurs teams only)	24	25 Bowling
26 Bowling	27 The Arc Board Meeting SO - Basketball (Mon teams only)	28	29			

2	The Arc Parents support group SO-Basketball practice, Thurs. teams only	9:25 am – 11:30 am 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	HEB – Sugar Land (Hwy 6 & Hwy 90) New Hope Lutheran Church
3	SR – Dance at St. Theresa's	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	St. Theresa's Catholic Church
4	SO-Volleyball practice, state teams only Kids Group Kids & Youth Group Bowling SR – Monster Jam	10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Noon – 1:00 pm 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm 2:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. TBA	New Hope Lutheran Church Athletic Revolution Russo's for lunch Stafford Lanes Reliant Stadium
6	SO-Basketball practice, Mon. teams only	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	New Hope Lutheran Church
9-11	SO-Winter Games	TBA	Austin
11	Bowling	2:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Stafford Lanes
12	SR - Mardi Gras Ball	12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Galveston
13	Self Advocates Meeting SO-Basketball practice, Mon. teams only	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Sugar Land Branch Library New Hope Lutheran Church
16	SO-Basketball practice, Thurs. teams only	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	New Hope Lutheran Church
18	Kids & Youth Group Bowling	9:30 am to Noon 2:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Gatti-Town Stafford Lanes
20	SO-Basketball practice, Mon. teams only	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	New Hope Lutheran Church
23	SO-Basketball practice, Thurs. teams only	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	New Hope Lutheran Church
25	Bowling	2:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Stafford Lanes
27	The Arc Board Meeting SO-Basketball practice, Mon. teams only	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	The Arc Office New Hope Lutheran Church



The Arc of Fort Bend County ensures opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to maximize their quality of life within our community.

Membership Form

Date: _____

Please indicate New Member Renewing Member

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Cell Phone: (____) ____ - _____

E-mail Address: _____

I am a:

- Family Member Person with Disability
- Interested Citizen Professional who works in the Disability Field

Indicate the age of person with a disability: 0-12 13-22 23-54 55+

Optional:

* Solely to help us know if we are serving our entire community, please check below:

American Indian/ Alaskan Native Asian/ Pacific Islander Black/ African American

Caucasian Hispanic Other _____

Preference for Volunteer Opportunities:

- Committee Member Fund Raising Office Support Special Olympics & Bowling

Membership Levels:

Individual with Disability Membership	\$10.00
Individual Membership	\$25.00
Family Membership 2 nd Member Name _____	\$40.00
Corporate Membership	\$100.00
Additional Tax Deductible Donation	\$ _____

If you wish, you may donate to a specific program:

- Bowling
- Education/Employment
- Self-Advocacy
- Social Recreation
- Special Olympics
- Transportation

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail form and payment to:
The Arc of Fort Bend County
123 Brooks Street
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

OR Join Online at www.arcoffortbend.org.

The Arc of Fort Bend County is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

The Arc of Fort Bend County
123 Brooks Street
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Phone: 281-494-5959
Fax: 281-494-5960

Non-Profit Org
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Achieve with us.



Add us as your friend and
keep in touch with all
events at The Arc!
[facebook.com/arcoffortbend](https://www.facebook.com/arcoffortbend)

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word 'facebook' in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Thank you to our Donors

The Arc received donations totaling \$2311.18 in January from the following people. Your donations directly fund the services and programs we offer every day!

Ben Bono	Office Depot
Christine Coulter	Sara & Carl Rowe
James Dennis	Shayron & Lee Treichel
Fluor Giving Campaign	Trinity Industries, Mary Henderson
Virginia Hodges & Debbie Bruce	Truist Non Profits
Long Meadow Farms	Commissioner James and Mary Jo Patterson
Gringo's Mexican Kitchen	Mary Jo Voitle

"Generosity is giving more than you can, and Pride is taking less than you need."

-Khalil Gibran