GET INVOLVED

Sometimes a simple thank you isn't enough to honor the extraordinary individuals who go above and beyond to help others. These volunteer legends who make our Central Texas community shine deserve recognition and celebration.

If you know someone for whom a simple thank you isn't enough or want to tell the world about someone who changed yours, let us know so that we can help illuminate the upstanding citizens who make our community special.

NOMINATE A LEGEND

Legend Nomination Form

Legend Name

Your Name

Your Phone

Your Email

I grant to RecognizeGood the unrestricted right to use and publish the contents of my submission for promotional purpose, in any manner or medium. I hereby release RecognizeGood from all claims and liability relating to said submission.

SEND A THANK YOU

Thank You Note Form

Your Name

Your Email

Your Thank You Message

Turn in your thank you to a RecognizeGood staff member or post your thank you online at recognizegood.org/post-a-thank-you.

CONNECT WITH US

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RecognizeGood® Legend 2026

SHASTA BRUCE

HOPE HOUSE

LEGEND CEREMONY

October 24, 2026 | 5:30 p.m. | Hope House

Shasta Bruce has spent more than 5 years volunteering her time and resources to help build new homes for foster children with special needs at Hope House, and so far her efforts have saved over $750,000 in costs.

Visit Shasta's Legend Page

The Haute Spot | 1501 E New Hope Dr, Cedar Park, TX 78613

Shasta Bruce

Legendary Volunteerism

SHASTA'S STORY

Shasta Bruce has spent more than 5 years volunteering her time and resources to help build new homes for foster children with special needs at Hope House, and so far her efforts have saved over $750,000 in costs.

Since 1966, **Hope House** has been a sanctuary for profoundly disabled children. Rose McGarrigle — a resilient mother and immigrant from pre-war Berlin — saw a heartbreaking gap in care for children with disabilities in Austin, Texas. Fueled by compassion, she turned her West Austin garage into a safe haven and drove her red Volkswagen bus across the city, welcoming these children into her own home. With the support of churches, friends, and foundations, and following a land donation near Liberty Hill in 1976, the first official Hope House was built. Her blended family grew into a thriving community—offering not just care, but unconditional love. Rose's legacy continues to live on, and people like **Shasta Bruce** are the ones carrying it out.

Shasta's journey with Hope House began when a team member from the organization spoke at her daughter's school. Inspired by what she learned, Shasta's daughter shared Hope House's initiative at home, and the rest was history. With divine timing, Shasta entered the picture just as Hope House staff were building a new home – and it was not going particularly smoothly. Between countless delays stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic and a shortage of supplies, the housing project was

Each Volunteer Legend receives their own commemorative brick placed along the Lady Bird Lake.

virtually dead in the water. Then came Shasta. Using her resources from working at Pacesetter Homes, Shasta and her team took over the reins of the home in progress, willing the project to a successful completion. Because of her passion, eight kids now have a forever home, where they each get their own room and receive the care they deserve. Her work didn't stop there though, and Shasta aided in the addition of two brand new homes for Hope House!

"She understands one of the deepest truths of Hope House: a home is not just a building. A home is where you belong," shares Dave Gould, Executive Director at Hope House. "Shasta's boundless joy draws people together, her single-minded determination makes the impossible real, and her love has permanently changed our community and the future of Hope House. I am deeply honored to know her and profoundly blessed that she chose us."

Each year, RecognizeGood's selected Legends are celebrated during its Say Thanks, Austin Campaign.

This mural was presented during the 2022 Say Thanks, Austin Campaign

Shasta receives RecognizeGood's 158th Legend Award

ABOUT US

RecognizeGood®

RecognizeGood: THE Foundation (commonly referred to as simply RecognizeGood®) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization designed to create three-sided partnerships between businesses, their employees and the communities in which both reside. RecognizeGood is branded as a partner and advisor to forward-thinking businesses, an advocate for the employees of those businesses, and an imaginative champion for all community nonprofits. Though each of the identity programs listed below is entirely unique, the common theme is simple – the illumination of GOOD in our community.

WE RECOGNIZE

RecognizeGood.org

A platform for the illumination and sharing of everyday GOOD. At work or home, opportunities to show gratitude are endless, but by making a Thank You public at recognizegood.org we have the chance to inspire others.

- RecognizeGood Legends
- RecognizeGood Lighthouses
- Ethics in Business Award

WE CONNECT

- Printing With Purpose
- Speaker & Book Series
- Nonprofit Partnerships
- Business in Community

Illuminating **GOOD** *in Our Community*

See the back of this program to see how you can help us find our next Legend!

Today's Featured Program

RecognizeGood Legends

The RecognizeGood Legendary Volunteer Award presented ten times a year, highlights ordinary individuals who go to extraordinary lengths for others. Includes a $1,000 pay-it-forward donation to the nonprofit of award recipient's choice, in their name.

"Legends" are eligible to enter the **Say Thanks, Austin** campaign, in which the community expresses its gratitude and appreciation for these incredible individuals by casting Thank-Yous. The team receiving the most Thank-Yous earns a $10,000 pay-it-forward donation, presented at City Hall during a closing ceremony as part of almost $20,000 in total pay-it-forward donations.

Say Thanks Austin!

Say Thanks, Austin 2026

After a Central Texas gratitude campaign running throughout January saw more than 40,000 acts of appreciation toward a group of ten incredible, selfless givers from the area, the community's collective attention was drawn to the 17th annual Say Thanks Austin Closing Ceremony.

Teenager **Remmer Machamer** finished the campaign with the most Thank You votes, and a $10,000 pay-it-forward donation to **Wreaths Across America** was presented in his name at City Hall.

Pay-it-forward donations were also made to the following area nonprofits: Hays County Food Bank, Seedling, Capital Area Master Naturalists, The Charlie Center, RBI Austin, Foundation Communities, B.I.G. Love Cancer Care, Carrying Hope and Austin Habitat for Humanity.

LEGENDS CLASS OF 2025

Danny Martin
With nearly 170 volunteer hours, **Danny Martin** has supported **Capital Area Master Naturalists** through restoration projects, research, leading clean-ups and training other volunteers. Full Story Online!

Ann Barlow
Ann Barlow has been serving the unhoused in Austin through **The Charlie Center** every Wednesday for several years now, serving hot meals to nearly 16,000 clients. Full Story Online!

Mike Metschan
For over 25 years, **Mike Metschan** has devoted himself to a hidden population of Austin – children who have an incarcerated parent. As a volunteer mentor, educate and trusted advisor Mike has helped raise more than $500,000 for **Seedling** and has been a constant support over the years for the children they serve. Full Story Online!

Delysia Moore
Delysia Moore has been volunteering with the **Hays County Food Bank** for more than a decade, logging nearly 3,000 hours of driving for food pickups and drop-offs, sorting food for their clients, and sharing a smile everywhere she goes. Full Story Online!

Andy Harris & Matt Price
For 15 years, **Andy Harris** and **Matt Price** have been serving Austin's youth through both baseball and mentorship, building to 91 total teams throughout underprivileged communities in Austin through **RBI Austin**. Full Story Online!

Peggy Wilson
For several years, **Peggy Wilson** has been volunteering with **Foundation Communities** – implementing new programs for students, mentoring, tutoring and even recruiting her own colleagues to volunteer. Full Story Online!

Tiffany Huerta
For several years, **Tiffany Huerta** has volunteered with **B.I.G. Love Cancer Care** dedicating hundreds of hours to help over 1,000 children and families who have a child with cancer cope with their diagnosis. Full Story Online!

Karen Clayton
Karen Clayton's legacy of giving lives on in her grandchildren, who learned about service as she volunteered for several years serving children in the foster system through **Carrying Hope**. Full Story Online!

Gerard Van de Werken
For 25 years, **Gerard Van de Werken** has volunteered with **Austin Habitat for Humanity** and has assisted in building 50 houses to date for members of our community while empowering others to give back as well. Full Story Online!

Remmer Machamer
Teenager **Remmer Machamer** has raised over $130,000 for **Wreaths Across America**, sponsoring thousands of wreaths to adorn the graves of veterans at the Texas State Cemetery and across the state. Full Story Online!

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