

THANK YOU



RecognizeGood® NEWS

Dell Diamond Appearance

From: *Jeanne*

... to the **Round Rock Express** for the tickets that you provided to the Foster Families of the San Gabriel Foster Care Association.

From: *Alisha*

... **Scott** for making kung-fu so fun, especially for my sisters. I love coming home and hearing them rave about how much they've learned and the fun they had.

From: *Adrienne*

... to **my parents** for everything they have done for me, and for showing me how to love and live.

From: *Ben*

... Congressman **Lamar Smith** for making dyslexia a priority. Congressman Smith is constantly looking for ways to better outcomes for kids with dyslexia in Congress. He supports HR456.

From: *Jessica*

... to **my husband** for being so patient with me and the kids on our 18-hour road trip last week!

From: *Andrew*

... **Elisa Rodriguez** for being so helpful communicating in Spanish. She was so patient and kind!

From: *Ashley*

... **Ms. Seidl**, my biology teacher, for making me fall in love with the subject.



On the first day of August, as the Round Rock Express kicked off its Alumni Weekend and inducted its first-ever Express Hall of Fame member (former manager Jackie Moore), RecognizeGood® was proudly represented as the game's official community partner. A steady stream of Express fans stopped by the RecognizeGood® booth just inside the Home Plate gate, which was draped with RecognizeGood® banners and lots of great ways for Express fans to learn about the program. Most fans got involved by saying Thank You to family members, teachers, co-workers and even a congressman! RecognizeGood® staff collected all the Thank You cards that were filled out, and drew one at random to receive a gift card to the Railyard - the official team store of the Express. Legends Program Coordinator George Mihalcik was also interviewed on the field just

before the first pitch, and the public address announcer told fans how to get involved with RecognizeGood® during the third inning. The appearance was made possible by the Chasco Community Partnership, a program which allows a different area nonprofit organization to be represented at each Express home game, free of charge. We are so grateful for this amazing opportunity to spread our message to thousands of people. Thank you to the Express, Chasco Constructors, and the RecognizeGood® staff who set up and served at the event!



Legends For Life Updates

Hannah Nussbaum

Our June 2013 Legend is off to grad school! The volunteer all-star who transformed the programs of Youth2Seniors (Y2S) was accepted into a neurobiology program in Allentown, Pennsylvania, which begins in late August. Hannah was sent off in style though, with a “crafty” goodbye party hosted by Y2S executive director Adelle Connors. While the organization, which connects children of all ages with area seniors through fun, creative art projects, will undoubtedly miss Hannah’s innovative spirit and dedication to developing new projects, she will remain on the board and continue to help plan, schedule and create remotely. Hannah has made Y2S volunteers promise to send her photos of every single project created while she’s away.



Erin Kiltz

The citizens of Brookwood in Georgetown (BiG), a vocational program for special needs adults founded by our April 2013 Legend, are proud to announce that their handmade greeting cards are now being sold by none other than Whole Foods! Three hundred and sixty total cards were made available at the Whole Foods located in The Domain, and the citizens will be doing “pop-up shows” on-site in the store where they will sell their handmade pottery. Congrats to Erin and BiG!



Ruby Martinez Zgabay

Our August 2013 Legend is excited to have secured an IBM Corporate Grant for Austin Partners in Education (APIE), and is working hard to recruit more IBMers for APIE’s Classroom Coaching program.



RecognizeGood Board Members

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- John Bosch, Jr.** - Vice Chairman
- Andrew Cooper** - Secretary
- Earl Maxwell** - Board Member
- Nancy Blaich** - Board Member

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- Paul Holguin** - Photographer
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RecognizeGood Sponsors



Recent RecognizeGood® Legends



Your Ride Is Here
Melissa Duclos

Securing rides to and from treatment can be one of the most mundane parts of life for those diagnosed with cancer. **Melissa Duclos** works with Your Ride Is Here to turn simple rides into exhilarating experiences for those who need them most. In addition to regularly providing cancer patients with rides in vehicles from exotic brands like Aston Martin, Lotus and Rolls-Royce, through sheer will (and a lot of phone calls) Melissa enabled one terminally-ill teenage patient to become the first civilian EVER to ride in a 2014 SRT Dodge Viper. Truly, that's more than just a ride!

Ken Adams, founder and executive director of Your Ride Is Here tells us, "Those that know her refer to her not as a volunteer but as a friend, and those bonds are as strong today as they were the first day they met. Many of them remain in touch and some have become ambassadors and volunteers for our organization."

\$1,000 was donated to **Your Ride Is Here** in Melissa's name.

WOW!

Melissa enabled one terminally-ill teenager to become the first-ever civilian to ride in a 2014 SRT Dodge Viper.



TownLake YMCA
Ed Myers

Our June 2014 RecognizeGood® Legend award winner has been making waves for over 60 years! **Ed Myers**, pictured at left with his wife, will turn 84 years old this November, and has spent the majority of those years giving back to his community by teaching in the water. But if you ask those who know him best, it's immediately evident that swimming lessons aren't all he gives.

"Swimming is just the connection," says TownLake YMCA Pool Manager Jay Remson. "Mr. Ed brings people joy. There's never a day when he doesn't come in with a smile on his face, joy in his heart, and a joke ready to tell. Rain, snow or shine he is always there, bringing people joy." Jay tells of students young and old who arrived with a deep psychological fear of the water, often due to traumatic experiences, only to be seen weeks later swimming laps after lessons with "Mr. Ed". "People have gone out of their way to tell me to either hang onto him or to clone him," laughs Jay.

\$1,000 was donated to the **TownLake YMCA** in Ed's name.

WOW!

Ed has taught people to swim at the Y for over 60 years.



Therapy Pet Pals of Texas
Kathryn Lashmit

Kathryn Lashmit planted the seed for Therapy Pet Pals of Texas (TPPT) over 30 years ago, when she visited a local nursing home with her little Pekingese, Chi-Chi. The smiles on the faces of those first residents kept her pushing forward as she ran the organization out of her home for the first seven years, driving to nursing homes and intensive care wards all over Texas. Today, Kathryn has volunteered more than 12,000 hours (that's 500 days!) and driven over 30,000 miles – longer than the circumference of the Earth – to keep those in need smiling.

TPPT has grown to over 225 certified volunteers, serving in at least 90 different facilities. Collectively, TPPT volunteers have donated over 250,000 hours of their time, resulting in over two MILLION smiles. "A lot of nonprofits don't make it thirty years," says TPPT Deputy Director Kathy Grosch, "And because of this lady, we have made it thirty years."

\$1,000 was donated to **Therapy Pet Pals** in Kathryn's name.

WOW!

Kathryn has volunteered more than 12,000 hours and driven over 30,000 miles to bring smiles to those in need.



Board Updates



John Bosch, Jr.

Co-Founder & President
RecognizeGood®

Principal & Partner
TyRex Group, Ltd.

The idea of RecognizeGood® found its origin on a drive back to Texas from my boyhood home in rural North Central Kansas. I had just put my dad and brother into the same nursing home, in the same room. My dad's mind and body were both rapidly diminishing. My brother Jim, who has lived with cerebral palsy from birth, was living in a semi self-sufficient assisted living facility in Wichita, and then out of the blue suffered a stroke that cost him the use of his remaining functional limbs. My being 716 miles away and spinning out of control, two angels came to my aid.

I owe my eternal thanks to Barbara and Sheryl as well as my family, for their support and angel-like involvement with my dad and brother. How do you thank someone when your 1,000th thank you

is still not good enough? I bet everyone has experienced a feeling of inadequate gratitude at some time in their life. The answer: RecognizeGood®, initially a public social media program which provided anyone the ability to give a special, personalized thanks - to announce to the world, "This person is special."

RecognizeGood® has grown from that inspiration in August 2007, and is celebrating its seventh anniversary this month. Our Legends program has recognized over 40 ordinary, extraordinary individuals (Page 3), and we continue to say thanks to each of our Legends for Life (Page 2). RecognizeGood® has sprouted into six (6) unique programs, all contributing to our mission of illuminating the GOOD in our communities and encouraging others to contribute.

I have personally met many special people who support RecognizeGood, and I would like to tell the world that each of them deserves a RecognizeGood THANK YOU!

About Us

We are a local nonprofit that provides a means for individuals, businesses and other nonprofits to illuminate selfless volunteers, charitable acts and community service throughout the greater Austin area. Our mission is to elevate the spirit of community by catalyzing a movement of good deeds and unselfish charity through recognizing, rewarding and promoting good in our businesses and the communities in which they reside. RecognizeGood® has several active programs that work toward this mission from different angles, but the common theme is simple – illuminating GOOD in our community and encouraging others to contribute.

There's plenty of good happening all around us, right here in the Austin area - all you have to do is shine a light! Go out of your way to say thank you to a courteous driver, salute the volunteerism of a co-worker or give kudos to a local business for their corporate citizenship. Opportunities to show both large and small acts of gratitude are endless, but by making your thank you public at recognizegood.org you have the chance to inspire others. To learn more about us and our programs, log on to recognizegood.org, sign up for our e-mail newsletter or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Pinterest or Instagram.

Recognizing good in your daily life is easy and only costs a few moments of your time – help us illuminate the GOOD in our community by joining our "Community Reporters" and reporting the GOOD you see at recognizegood.org.



RecognizeGood
Programs

RecognizeGood.org

Legends



Speaker / REG Book Series



Nonprofit Partnerships



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