

THANK YOU



RecognizeGood[®] NEWS

RecognizeGood Chairman Bobby Jenkins Named “Austinite of the Year”



From: *Anonymous*

... **Eliana Brant**, Thank you for an amazing job communicating, updating and organizing volunteers for Insure Central Texas.

From: *Andrew Cooper*

... **Rick Peloquin**, Thank you for ALWAYS being ready to solve the IT issue of the day.

From: *Eugenio Gusto*

... **Thien Truong**, Thank you for your hard work and dedication. I always give you challenges and you always make it work.

From: *Anonymous*

... **Jim Letchworth**, Thank you for volunteering with Wonders & Worries for MANY years now. We are so thankful for your continued dedication to our organization and the families we serve!

From: *Brandon Herrera*

... **Jon Roesch**, Thank you for being such a great mentor. I have learned so much and would not be able to do my job as well without you.

From: *Anonymous*

... **Jordan Ruch**, Thank you for offering me your +1 membership at a yoga studio...you know how much yoga provides a respite for me.

To post a RecognizeGood Thank You, visit recognizegood.org.

RecognizeGood co-founder and executive board chairman **Bobby Jenkins** was named “Austinite of the Year” for 2017 by the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. This prestigious award, the highest honor of the Chamber, recognizes Bobby’s three decades of small business success as well as his distinguished community membership and volunteer service.

Bobby is the CEO and owner of ABC Home & Commercial Services, as well as the co-founder of the Moss Pieratt Foundation, which raises money for research efforts in Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) in honor of his grandson.

Additionally, Bobby is involved with numerous boards and organizations in the Austin area, including serving as the chairman of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He is also a past board chairman of the Better Business Bureau, Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse and the Alzheimer’s Association. “I firmly believe it is good business for all business to be leaders in philanthropy,” Bobby says.

“There is tremendous benefit for so many people when business takes a leadership role in giving back. The community wins both internally and externally.”

“Bobby Jenkins is an authentic Austin treasure,” says Ellen Wood, chairperson of the Chamber. “He leads through personal example, rallying others around a wide variety of issues that are good for Central Texas. He embodies the philosophy that ‘good community is good business’ and is an exemplary business leader who truly cares about our community and prioritizes giving back.”

Bobby will be honored at the Chamber’s Annual Meeting, where RecognizeGood Executive Director Joel Coffman will also be recognized as the Chamber’s Austin Gives Volunteer of the Year.

RecognizeGood® Lighthouses



100 Black Men of Austin

We were proud to recognize **100 Black Men of Austin** with a RecognizeGood Lighthouse award in November! This inspiring group of leaders, who call themselves “The 100”, mentors young Black American men in the Austin area, specifically those young men who participate in the XY-Zone at LBJ High School and other AISD schools. The group recently extended their mentoring to collegiate young men from all around Texas at Camp Champions Collegiate Black Men Retreat. 100 Black Men of Austin is also passionate about engaging with the community through town forums with the Austin Police Department (APD). In fact, they were instrumental in encouraging APD to go through Implicit Bias training and are leading the Implicit Bias training with the Travis County Sheriff’s Office this year. To date, the group has also raised \$10,000 to fund their very first scholarships to graduating young men of color in May of 2018. With a recognition plaque and a \$250 donation from program sponsor iRex, we thank 100 Black Men of Austin on behalf of the entire community for their powerful efforts over the last four years and we look forward to a big future as the group continues to evolve with new efforts to improve the quality of life for African Americans and other minorities.



The answers to some of our community's biggest issues can be found in the people who love this community and want to do more GOOD. When those people talk, amazing things can be learned, and for years RecognizeGood has been in a unique position to discover this simple truth through conversations about GOOD across all sectors. Unfortunately, over those years many helpful, innovative insights have been left “on the cutting room floor”. **RecognizeGood’s GOODTalks** are designed to collect and record this type of insight, then to present findings to the public for free; creating a more effective community by creating a more informed community. This invitation-only meet-up is built for community leaders who are willing to offer their perspective and experiences to create better, deeper and more GOOD in Central Texas.

RecognizeGood Board Members

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

RecognizeGood Officers & Team

- John Bosch, Jr.** - President
- Judy Rock** - Vice President & Secretary
- Reina Wiatt** - Treasurer
- Keith Smith** - Asst. Treasurer
- Joel Coffman** - Executive Director
- George Mihalcik** - Program Director
- Dr. Jack Allen** - Program Director
- Scholley Bubenik** - Program Director
- Karolyn Knaack** - Legal Counsel

RecognizeGood Endorsers



Recent RecognizeGood® Legends



Doing good can be contagious, and **Ricky López-Galindo** has experienced first-hand how once we start doing good it can prove impossible to stop. Ricky recently filled four full semi-trailers with supplies for Hurricane Harvey relief and delivered the load himself – but that’s just one of the ways he’s helping make our communities stronger. A few years ago Ricky was an ACC student who wanted to coordinate a school supply drive for the kids in his neighborhood. Using his charismatic personality and the power of social media, Ricky and a few friends were able to fill 800 backpacks full of school supplies. Since then he’s orchestrated successful events for kids at Dell Children’s Hospital and even launched a scholarship foundation that’s raised over \$10,000.

\$1,000 was donated to **Apoyando a un Angel** in Ricky’s name.

WOW!

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In 2003, **Kerri Oswald** began volunteering with AGE of Central Texas, helping adults with early memory loss through the Memory Connections program. In the 14 years since the program launched, Kerri has dedicated every Friday morning to helping people experiencing symptoms of early-stage dementia with cognitively engaging activities ranging from discussions on current events to creative writing and music therapy. Through that volunteer connection, Kerri discovered the transportation frustrations of the seniors she worked with – simply getting from place to place for these seniors could be complicated, expensive and sometimes even impossible. Kerri dug into the problem and before long, became a founding director of Drive A Senior Southwest, which allows seniors who no longer drive to live independently by offering free rides for groceries, doctor’s appointments or just about anything else.

Drive A Senior Southwest received \$1,000 in Kerri’s name.

WOW!

For over 14 years, Kerri has given her time and dedication to Austin’s senior community, helping sharpen their minds and personally putting in over 3,200 hours to ensure their safe transportation.



When 14-year-old **Carissa Mallory** first learned from her aunt that children in Tanzania had trouble pursuing a high school education due to a lack of English language skills, she decided to actually do something about it. She successfully pleaded with her parents to visit a school affected by the issue, and quickly realized the problem – the school had no books. Even at only 14, Carissa decided to start an organization to help the Tanzanian children and the Reading Around the World Literacy Initiative was born. Carissa recently graduated from Vandegrift High School and her efforts have single-handedly provided more than 12,000 books, 350 desks and chairs and an educational app to help Swahili-speaking students learn English.

\$1,000 was donated to **Reading Around the World Literacy Initiative** in Carissa’s name.

WOW!

In the past three years, Carissa has worked to provide schools in Tanzania with resources to help Swahili-speaking students learn English and thereby advance to secondary school.



With Appreciation



Joel Coffman, Executive Director

There's a lot to remember about 2017, but the thing I'll remember most is all the good. Almost daily we're witness to anything from unrest and protests to ugliness and destruction - and time after time we witness good shining through.

Whether it's the empowerment to fight for our beliefs, or the service to a community, or the compassion for a stranger, good is constantly endless - shining through each and every black cloud we might be tempted to dwell on. This focus on the positive isn't a matter of rose-colored glasses, it's science! When our minds focus on something negative, like fear, our minds narrow and our options disappear. Once we're in an argument and seeing red, we literally no longer have the capacity to think of anything constructive or helpful. Me? I like options, but maybe I'm in the minority.

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, while becoming **the voice for socially responsible businesses.**

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.

We at RecognizeGood recently launched a discussion group where we invite trusted leaders in the business and nonprofit worlds together in small groups to talk about how to do more good together. We're calling this pilot program GOODTalks, and the goal is quite simply to build understanding through honest discussion in a safe space. We talk about existing problems, but we don't FOCUS on those problems - we focus on understanding, with the hope of leading to solutions.

Sure, we and our distinguished do-gooder friends could easily spend the time griping and complaining about how hard it is to build a great business-nonprofit relationship - no doubt, it is extremely hard! But the people in those rooms are there to lend their voices, their experiences and their expertise to others in order to build a stronger community through education.

We could look at some of the bad stuff going on and spend lots of time discussing why others didn't do more good in 2017 - but that's not what we're here for. We're here to show as many positive examples as we can, to connect as many good people as we can, and to teach as many as we can how GOOD makes us all better. That's what I'll focus on when I think back on 2017 - what about you?



RecognizeGood
Programs

WE ILLUMINATE

THANK YOU Notes

Legends

Lighthouses

*Ethics in Business
& Community*

WE CONNECT

*Business in
Community*

WE EDUCATE

Speaker Series

*Ethics in Youth
Education*



RecognizeGood
Contact Info

Mailing Address:
12317 Technology Blvd., Ste. 100
Austin, TX 78727

Phone & Website:
(800) 232-4810
recognizegood.org



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