

# BRIDGE UPDATE

February 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 1

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## What a great feeling...

By Karen Pruitt

Honestly, volunteering started out to be a way for me to meet new people and yes, even to meet guys. But it's turned into so much more and I share this story with you so that you too might get the personal satisfactions that I do by getting involved.

The first step is either stumbling into a situation that involves a charity and you start saying, "I'll help do that." Or you are diligent and decide to research cause(s) that mean the most to you, fit your strengths and you attend a meeting. You attend your first meeting and start doing what they tell you to and the next thing you know you are the veteran telling others how to do the tasks involved and you become the leader. Time truly flies when you are having fun or just becoming involved. People start relying on you, expecting you to help and then the kudos come and you realize you're getting involved and all your hard work really impacted someone other than yourself. That's truly when you realize how gratifying it is to volunteer regardless if you started doing it for selfish reasons.

I have been involved in many charitable causes beginning when I was a child and watching my grandmother with her "Daughters of the British Empire" ladies group. And then in college where I found I had something in common with people who enjoy horses. I found myself helping handicapped children learn to ride and care for horses. Then during my professional career I got involved with the Houston Livestock

Show and Rodeo (again to meet men...no luck yet) and now lead the team in designing, and hosting a Wine Auction and Dinner for 1,500 that raises \$1.1 million in one night! The numbers are huge but what's even bigger is that you realize you are sending 20 – 30 kids from Texas to attend a university in



Texas and that is a humbling feeling.

I tell you these stories because I hope you too will get involved in a charity or cause that you will enjoy and get the same gratifications I do. Knowing our company recognizes these efforts and supports them is just icing on the cake!



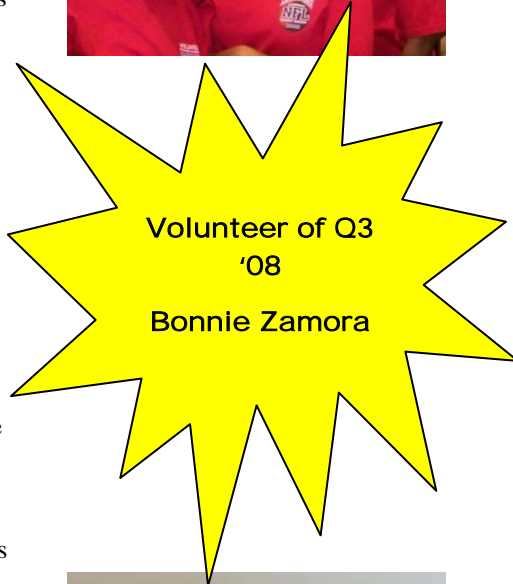
# Planting Seeds for Tomorrow...

By Ra Caldwell

Volunteering has always been an active part of my life. My parents raised me with the ideals that I should be grateful for all I have been given and use my gifts to give back to the community. Volunteering gives me the satisfaction of knowing that I am somehow making a positive contribution to society. I am not merely a taker; but I am sowing back into the community that which has given me so much.

I currently spend most of my free time volunteering. I use my spare time to work with the youth at my church. I also serve on a committee that brings events to Austin that will benefit local charities. So far we have held the NFL Celebrity Weekend which has helped benefit Dell Children's Hospital, Woman Called Moses Battered Woman's Shelter and Boys and Girls Club of America. I continue to volunteer with this group as we prepare for our Second Annual NFL Celebrity Weekend to benefit these charities.

Getting involved with volunteer work is simple. Find something you like to do and help out. Many organizations are looking for volunteers on a regular basis and will gladly welcome you. Start volunteering little by little, pretty soon you'll be begging for more. No matter who you are we have all reaped the harvest of those that have come before us and planted the seeds of prosperity. When we volunteer we are making sure that the harvest will be replenished and plentiful for future generations.



*No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.*






























*~ Aesop*

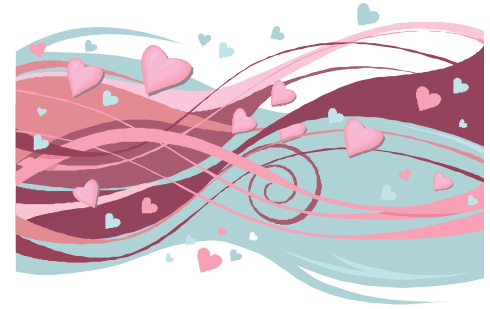
## BRIDGE Volunteers

- ✚ Belinda Longoria
- ✚ Bonnie Zamora
- ✚ Denise Cole
- ✚ John Jackson
- ✚ Ra Caldwell
- ✚ Jennifer Maydon
- ✚ Janet Hornsby
- ✚ Dennis Sutherland
- ✚ Jonathan Duong
- ✚ Adrienne Melton
- ✚ Norma Sutton
- ✚ Amanda Dayton
- ✚ Destiny Pugh
- ✚ Virgil Roel
- ✚ Steve Cobb
- ✚ Amy Dove
- ✚ Ashley Fischer
- ✚ Pat McColloch
- ✚ Alton Wilder
- ✚ Kelley Hempson
- ✚ Deb Brennan
- ✚ Betsey Pittard
- ✚ Lauren Allen
- ✚ Erin Kriynovich
- ✚ Carol Palmer
- ✚ Chris May
- ✚ Kim Cannon
- ✚ Scott Schneider
- ✚ Gail Parks
- ✚ Sue Abraham
- ✚ Mark Nolen
- ✚ Chris Cooper
- ✚ Dave Beaudoin
- ✚ Bryan Dawson
- ✚ Karen Pruitt
- ✚ Denise Stana
- ✚ Carla Fachtmann Fuschillo

Breaking down barriers  
 Respecting others  
 Investing our resources  
 Dedication to the Community  
 Giving ourselves  
 Everyone makes a difference

## Charitable Organizations We Have Helped Thus Far...

-  *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society*
-  *Cedar Park FFA*
-  *Humane Society of Williamson County*
-  *Leander High School*
-  *Boy Scouts of America*
-  *Unity Church of the Hills*
-  *Toys for Tots*
-  *SafePlace*
-  *Baylor Women's Council*
-  *USO- Metro*
-  *Southwestern Youth Association*
-  *B-CC Crew Boosters*
-  *Presbyterian Church*
-  *A Wider Circle*
-  *Laura Welch Bush Elementary*
-  *Special Olympics*
-  *Forest Lake Presbyterian*
-  *American Hungarian Federation*
-  *Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo*
-  *Fellowship Bible Church*
-  *New Life Church*
-  *Hope's Door*
-  *Heroes for Children*
-  *St. James Baptist Church*
-  *The Thrift Shop Charities*
-  *Dell Children's Hospital*
-  *Boys & Girls Club of America*
-  *Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints*
-  *Woman Called Moses Battered Woman's*



## A Mother's Legacy

*By Bryan Dawson*

My mother was wounded fighting Soviet troops in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. She escaped across mine-laden fields and Soviet troops only to return and cross again to help her mother and father reach freedom. I grew up in a home where I was constantly reminded how lucky we are living in the United States. The freedoms we enjoy and the opportunities presented to us are never to be taken for granted. The sacrifices of our fore fathers leaves us with the responsibility to ensure the democratic ideals they fought and died for are fully realized anywhere they are challenged. My involvement with the American Hungarian Federation (AHF) is my way of honoring her memory and my heritage.

Founded in 1906, AHF has sought to develop closer ties between the U.S. and Hungary and has acted as a watchdog on Human Rights. It was instrumental, among other things, in the anti-Nazi movement in the 1940's; in assisting the tens of thousands of refugees fleeing after the communist crackdown in 1956 Hungary; working to ensure NATO expansion; helping victims of Katrina and devastating flooding in Transylvania (yes, a real place); exposing Human Rights abuses in Serbia, Slovakia, Rumania and

elsewhere; and educating the public on current issues, historical events, and the contributions of Hungarians to the United States.

Volunteering allows me to make a real impact on promoting the democratic process both in Hungary, which threw off the communist yoke only in 1989, and here in the United States through educational and outreach programs. The divisions we face in the United States are multiplied a 100 fold as Hungary emerges from 50 years of totalitarian regimes where civil discourse, community service, and government accountability were unheard of. In addition to my duties as Chair of the Executive Committee, I am responsible for PR materials and programs, designing and managing our Website and eNewsletter and much of its content. See [www.americanhungarianfederation.org](http://www.americanhungarianfederation.org) for more information.



## The Truth about Cats and Dogs...

By Denise Cole

I've been volunteering at animal shelters since well before I moved to Austin in 2005. At the time I lived in New Orleans, where I organized the monthly offsite adoption events for my local animal shelter. After Hurricane Katrina, I relocated to the Austin area and sought out a place for affordable vaccinations. That's when I discovered The Humane Society of Williamson County. I

started volunteering there in 2007, when the shelter became a no-kill, and I've been there ever since. Volunteering at a no-kill shelter is such a gratifying feeling. I've worked in almost every area of the shelter and have fostered kittens and puppies that were too young to be adopted. When I look at those little furry faces I know I'm making a difference in each animal's life, whether I'm just hanging out with the kitties or I'm taking one of the dogs for a walk. I get to know each animal individually and I love matching them up with the perfect new home.

Every time an animal gets adopted from our facility, not one but two lives are saved, because space frees up for a new animal to be rescued from a kill shelter. With this in mind I'm always asking people if they want to adopt an animal I know from HSWC. At this point I've personally placed 10 cats and dogs with friends and neighbors, a feat which has given me a new title: "Kitty Pimp." In fact, I was able to match two pets with colleagues at IE Discovery: a cat named Halo found a "forever" home with Keith Daniels, and a puppy named Custer now lives with Jen Maydon. If only I worked on the second floor I'm sure I'd beat my own record many times over. People often ask me how I can volunteer at an animal shelter and not bring all of them home. I love animals and would adopt all of them if I could, but 5 furry creatures in my home is certainly enough to handle. Besides, it's even more rewarding to know that my friends and I at HSWC take great care of all of the animals, and that they are safe with us until we can match them with a "forever" home.



## Get the Kleenex ready...

By Karen Pruitt

Denise Stana, an Account Manager in Frisco, Texas has been involved in a variety of charitable causes all of which have very moving purposes so I warn you now....get some Kleenex! Living in the city of Frisco Denise had visited the City of Frisco volunteer Web page which lead to her involvement in these causes. (If you are still looking for a charity that is nearby your home do some searching on local city or town sites and you might be surprised what you find!) Denise focuses her passions on helping women and children overcome challenges and she believes strongly that there is a huge need out there for more assistance with programs such as these.

### Heroes for Children -

<http://www.heroesforchildren.org> provides services for families who have children suffering from cancer. Proceeds go toward helping families pay mortgages, utilities and health insurance premiums while they are focused on being with their hospitalized children and are often away from home and work. Many children are not able to continue to socialize with their friends due to their illnesses so laptops are offered to the children so they can email and stay connected to their friends. An upcoming fundraiser that sounds promising to many women who indulge in designer handbags is the Heroes and Handbags fundraiser in Houston on 4/16/09 at River Oaks Country Club. Vintage and new designer bags are auctioned off and all for a great cause!

### Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep -

<http://www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org/home> is an organization that helps families overcome one of the most heartbreaking situations any parent could face...losing a newborn baby. When a baby dies, a world is turned upside down. There is confusion, sadness, fear, and uncertainty that cannot be explained. There is sorrow where there should have been joy. During this time, it might be impossible for families to know what they might need in order to heal in the future. *Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep Foundation* gently provides a helping hand and a healing heart for families overcome by grief and pain, the idea of photographing their baby may not immediately occur to them. Offering gentle and beautiful photography services in a compassionate and sensitive manner is the heart of this organization. The soft, gentle heirloom photographs of these beautiful babies are an important part of the healing process. They allow families to honor and cherish their babies, and share the spirits of their lives.

**A Date with Santa** (just the name got me intrigued!)

<http://www.adatewithsanta.org/fwl.ht>

[ml](#) This is an event Denise and the Frisco Women's League started to help raise donations for Hope's Door (see below). Mothers and daughters attend this fundraiser where they get to spend time with lots of Santas!



### Hope's Door -

<http://www.hopesdoorinc.org/contact> was an organization Denise learned about while working with other charities. Denise's son has a coffee catering business and when Denise found they had 20 gallons of extra milk left after the holidays she knew just who could use it. Because she had heard of this organization through other charity work she was able to make an impact on abused families' lives by giving



them the milk.

What a great heart...instead of tossing out the milk Denise chose to put forth the effort to take this overage of food and give to others in need. Way to go Denise!

Check out BRIDGE  
on the Web at  
[www.BRIDGE1.org](http://www.BRIDGE1.org)

## BRIDGE Funds

# \$3,980

Volunteer at your  
favorite charity &  
help us reach our  
goal of

# \$10,000

by  
May 31, 2009

### BRIDGE Area Coaches

Austin: Amanda Dayton  
D.C.: Carla Fachtmann Fuschillo  
LTSC: Dave Beaudoin  
Remote: Karen Pruitt  
Head Coach: Destiny Pugh

[BRIDGEcommittee@iediscovery.com](mailto:BRIDGEcommittee@iediscovery.com)

*We are very proud to be a part of  
such a great company that is filled  
with so many passionate and caring  
people. ~ BRIDGE Committee*

For volunteer opportunities in your  
community visit

[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)  
and [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)

Newsletter Editors  
Karen Pruitt & Destiny Pugh

**discovery**  
ie discovery, inc.