

# NEWSLETTER

**Dear Friends,** Opportunities, Inc. continues making significant progress towards its vision to be the premier provider, advocate, and leader in creating a community, which recognizes the value and abilities of all.

Our Supported Employment Program is growing as it assists individuals with disabilities to earn and retain competitive employment in integrated work environments. The overarching goal of supported employment is to obtain jobs for individuals with disabilities and help them keep those jobs through consistent training and coaching.

We are proud that Opportunities, Inc. is one of eight organizations in Arkansas selected to participate in the 2019-2020 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Customized Employment Mentoring Program. Our staff will receive on site mentoring and technical assistance over the next year through the Griffin-Hammis Consulting Firm, which specializes in developing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Our services are ultimately about empowering individuals to attain a full life in the community. People with developmental disabilities have talents. They can be valuable and dependable employees. They want to contribute just like you and me. We hope that employers will participate and partner with us in connecting them with individuals in our community who have developmental disabilities and want to contribute in the workplace.



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Our community-based initiatives have also flourished as we expand opportunities for engagement in the broader community. Our partnership with Texas A&M University-Texarkana offers experiential learning projects for their students while bringing in new ideas and fresh approaches to Opportunities, Inc. We are also working with the local Boy Scout office to begin a scouting program for children and adults with disabilities.

Opportunities, Inc. touches lives in profound ways, as it has since its founding in 1966. Your support is a critical part of our success. We look forward to continuing to provide the services that allow individuals to live meaningful lives as members of our community.

I invite you to come to Opportunities, Inc. to see first-hand how you are genuinely making a difference in the lives of our clients. Please visit our website at [www.oppinc.org](http://www.oppinc.org) to find information on how you can become involved with Opportunities, Inc.

With great appreciation,



Sherry Young  
Executive Director

# NASH STUDENT COUNCIL



On May 3rd, the Nash Elementary Student Council visited Opportunities, Inc. to learn about the services we provide, and tour our campus. This group of leaders took a day around Texarkana dedicated to learning about community service, and how they can be aware of what goes on beyond the classroom. The students worked year round doing various fundraisers so they could contribute to



each organization they visited. We were presented with a \$300 check, and couldn't be more grateful for these students and their sponsor, Sonya Freeze.

## EAST TEXAS GIVING DAY

### April 30, 2019



Amount Raised: \$13,273

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

Katie Andrus  
Brian Brandt  
Joe Crane  
Rebekah Drennon  
Sonja Hubbard

Frances Mitchell  
Judy Morgan  
Glen Moses  
Kim Murray  
Leah Orr

Danielle Patterson  
Clay Roberts  
Joy Sandefur  
Deborah Schimming  
Megan Schroeder

Lisa Shoalmier  
Sherry Young  
Adam Velez



## DONUTS WITH MOM



In honor of Mother's Day, Arkansas Children's celebrated by hosting Donuts with Mom. Our students loved the chance to celebrate their strong and courageous mothers, and definitely loved the donuts too. We are grateful for all of the wonderful moms who are a part of Opportunities, Inc!





# MARJORIE NORTON THROWS FIRST PITCH AT TWINS GAME

On May 29th, Marjorie Norton threw the Texarkana Twins Opening Night first pitch along with Mayor Bruggeman at the Texarkana Twins Baseball game. Marjorie is one of our adult services clients, and has been part of our family since 2006. She was selected because she demonstrates excellent skills in helping others, as well as doing all tasks that are assigned to her during the day. She is also a part of our “Slammers” softball team that plays in a league at Hobo Jungle. Marjorie’s sister, Ruth Ann, drove in from Dallas as a surprise. Thank you to the residents, staff, and board members from Opportunities, Inc. that were there to support her!



## TEXARKANA ALUMINUM

On May 30th, Amy Bowers from Texarkana Aluminum presented an iPad to our Housing Opportunities Addition group home clients. At Opportunities Inc., our mission is to empower individuals in attaining a full life in the community. For non-verbal individuals, this is a huge stride forward in fulfilling our mission. So, how does an iPad change lives?



### 1. As a communicator:

There are apps available to download that can be customized with photos or pictures, and the clients are able to use this as a communication board. With just one touch, clients can communicate their needs and thoughts with more ease.

### 2. Socialization

As a non-verbal client, it can often be hard to interact consistently with your peers. The iPad provides a way for individuals to play games and do activities with others.

### 3. As an Educational Tool

Applications can be downloaded that reinforce skills a non-verbal individual is working on such as Math or English. Our clients will be able to move at their own pace, and repeat tasks they are struggling with the most. There are also apps available to help strengthen memory for seniors with Alzheimer’s or memory loss.

Renettia Keel, Director of HOA says “It’s adding more excitement to the program by enhancing communication in our clients daily activities.



We have a very diverse group of diagnosis within our client base, and this iPad is useful to everyone.”



## ANGEL GUILD GIFTS



Each year, 90% of the Angel Guild dues go to provide a gift for a department at Opportunities, Inc. This year, they chose Arkansas Children's. Teachers were gifted items such as arts and crafts supplies, diapers, sippy cups,



dress up clothes, books, toys, and more.

Jill, a toddler and pre-school teacher said, "It means so very much that the Angel Guild donated these things to our children.

We get lots of use out of every item, and the kids were absolutely thrilled." Moneta, a teacher in the infant pod said, "Knowing we have the support of dedicated community members who want to better our programs means a lot to our staff."

## ABERNATHY EASTER EGG HUNT

Each year, the Abernathy Company sponsors an Egg Hunt for our children. Our dedicated board members and Angel Guild helped hide eggs, serve cupcakes, and hand out stuffed bunnies. We also had a visit from Mr. Peter Cottontail himself.



# VETERANS MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

The Opportunities, Inc. Senior Day Center hosted its annual Veterans Memorial Day Service on May 23rd. There were attendees from the community, Veterans Associations, and special guests. The service included patriotic music played on the bagpipes by Dr. George English, placing a wreath at the

base of a flag pole, Taps in honor of the fallen, and a Wall of Honor Display for our veterans. Howdy and Melinda Smith brought their horse Cielito, whose name means "Little Heaven" to stand in homage to those we have lost. It was a wonderful ceremony, and we thank everyone who attended.



OPPORTUNITIES, INC.  
30th Annual

2019 INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 | TEXARKANA COUNTRY CLUB

Join the Corporate Sponsors and Special Guests for the 30th Annual Golf Tournament.

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\$15,000
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Please complete form and return to Opportunities, Inc., 6101 North State Line, Texarkana, TX 75503 • 903.791.2270

# MEMORIALS

## JAY BREWER

Mr. & Mrs. James Humphrey

## SHIRLEY FINN

Edwin Finn

## TERRI LUMMUS

Doris Wise  
Alicia Schroeder  
Rhonda Sikes  
Alcie Griffith

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Linda and Harrison Grace  
Lance and Ashley Lee

## MARTHA MORRISS

Houey and Jean Clement  
Sylvia Seibold  
Randy and Prissy Hickerson

## BEN SANDEFUR

Dennis and Junie Young



## KYLEE SULLIVAN

Jewel and Barbara Sullivan

## MARY WILLIAMSON

Houey and Jean Clement

## NANCY YOUNG

Mr. & Mrs. James Humphrey

## TEXARKANA FUNERAL HOME

Joseph Anthony Cole  
Helen Williams  
Sharon Adcock  
Jonnie Belle Harris  
Andres Morales  
Frances Stevenson  
Ludie Rachel  
Dave Kacos  
Martha Lee Morriss  
Elaine Landry  
Jay Edward Skilling  
Kathleen Virginia Stephens  
Keith Edward Carpenter  
Alice Fay White

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Nettie Gloria Morphew  
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Diane Stille  
Herbert Randy Killian  
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Peggy Maureen Miers

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Kathey Sue Rochelle  
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Lincoln Gauge Dalby  
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Doris Steitler  
Lyndal Lane Yother  
James Gray  
Van Henry Permenter  
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Geraldine Sue Lynn  
Khoa Nguyen  
Vivian Steward  
Michele Lee Barentine

Wilta Lonetta Cozart  
Samuel Dale Smith  
Jason Alan Collmorgen  
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John Henry Kipfer  
Bettye Lynn Whiseant  
Betty Meyers  
Carol June Basket  
Evelyn Anita North  
Rhonda Kay Lopez

## CHAPELWOOD FUNERAL HOME

Peggy Jean Richardson  
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Charles Haydon Elliot  
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Carolyn Diane Gilmore  
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## BATES-ROLF FUNERAL HOME

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Barbara Louise Sutherland  
Woodrow Wilson Fleet  
Patricia Kestler Kingery  
Carol Fern Erwin

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Helen Jeannette Smithson

Herschel Henderson Burgess  
Lynn Dale Ogle  
Nellie Melba Saatkamp

# HONORARIUMS

## INEZ KEMP

Eunice Kreher

## CAROL DALBY

Bill and Martha Bean



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Danielle Patterson  
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Leah Orr  
Brian Brandt  
Joy Sandefur  
Rebekah Drennon  
Sherry L. Young  
Nash Elementary Student Council

Adam Velez  
Deborah Schimming  
Alexander's Jewelers  
Joe Crane  
TDS Erectors  
Wholesale Electric Supply  
Sonja Hubbard



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT: *Lisa Shoalmire*

I am a passionate advocate for those in our community who need a little “extra” support to live their best life. Opportunities Inc. is the perfect organization for me to pour into with my time, talents and financial support because Opportunities is that something “extra” to so many – infants, preschoolers, disabled adults and seniors.

I grew up in Shreveport with a twin sister with developmental disabilities. As a child, this was just my ordinary life. As a teen and young adult, I realized how special the experience was growing up with Liane and I know it formed me into the advocate I am today. Texarkana is home now since I

have lived here for twenty-two years. My husband, John Ross and I, have raised four children here: one is serving in the U.S. Air Force, two are in college and one is a high school senior.

After a short time as a Certified Public Accountant, I went back to school and became a lawyer, specializing in elder law and special needs law. My law practice takes me from El Dorado to Sherman, and from Benton to Tyler. In talking with families, it is clear that the need for the services like those offered by Opportunities in this area is immense. Texarkana is so lucky that the foresight of Texarkana families in 1965 in founding a special needs kindergarten has resulted in the crown jewel of an organization that we get to call out own in 2019. Many communities are not so blessed. However, the challenges Opportunities faces in serving our community are real and are felt by every similar organization in these tumultuous times of managed care, government budget cuts and increasing costs. As President, I plan to make sure the jewel of Opportunities Inc. continues to shine for families in our community for years to come. I welcome every supporter of Opportunities and thank you all for your passion in serving our children, our disabled and our seniors.

8 counties | 26 Buses & Vans | Where there is traffic, there's a sale! Funds stay local & help support children & adults with disabilities.



## OPPORTUNITIES, INC BUS ADVERTISING

*Your Billboard on Wheels!*

Production Cost: Covered by Advertiser  
\$125-200 (Depending on Artwork)

Placed on rear driver side | \$250 per month | 48" x 22" size | 12 month contract

OPPORTUNITIES, INC.  
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Texarkana, TX 75503  
903-791-2270  
www.oppinc.org  
Contact Rebekah:  
rdrennon@oppinc.org  
Contact Micayla:  
mstanley@oppinc.org



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**THANK**



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