

## SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

- **Volunteers needed for Spirit of Taos! See page 4 for details!**

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## Volunteer Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Volunteer Voice! This newsletter will be sent out twice a year to all of our wonderful volunteers. The goal of the Volunteer Voice is to acknowledge all of the volunteer support for Wilkinson Center, keep you informed of upcoming opportunities, and to share with our volunteer family new programs and initiatives with Wilkinson Center. In addition, we will be sending out more regular e-blasts with information on upcoming volunteer opportunities. The Volunteer Voice is meant for YOU - our volunteers! So let us know what you think and what you would like to see in future editions.

## Stock Up For Summer Results

### The 2nd annual **Stock Up For Summer**

campaign was a huge success, thanks to the support of numerous individuals, groups, and corporate partners. We exceeded all of our goals!

Stock Up For Summer was vital in keeping kid-friendly items on the Food Pantry shelves. During June, we served 200 more children than usual in the Pantry, which demonstrates the great need for this campaign.



A big thank you to the 35 organizations and 24 individuals who supported the Stock Up For Summer campaign this year through food drives, volunteer days, and financial contributions. We especially

want to thank **Nicholas Residential** for their generous financial gift, which was instrumental in reaching our goals. Their gift came after the Pantry lost food in the June power outages. We look forward to another great campaign in 2020!

# A Carnival of Shoes



Volunteer Randy Patterson

The 33rd Annual **Carlin Morris Shoe Distribution** took place over the weekend of July 26th to 28th. Because of the bankruptcy of Payless Shoes, our home since the beginning of this distribution, we were hosted this

year by the **Shoe Carnival** location in Whiterock Marketplace. The drive raised over \$16,000 and 70 volunteers worked together to distribute new school shoes to 409 children. New socks were provided by

**Coldwell Banker Residential Lakewood**, led by supporter Nancy Wilson. **Eastminster Presbyterian Church** continued their tradition of sponsoring 50 children for the event. Thank you to everyone involved with this meaningful day!

*Prudential volunteers also gave back in July by conducting Mock Interviews with Adult Education students at our Arcadia Park site. Busy summer, Prudential!*



## Thank you to:

- ◆ 21 volunteers who served at the White Party on June 8th
- ◆ 8 volunteers who served at the annual GED Graduation Ceremony on June 20th

## Backpack Distribution

Excited children gathered on August 3rd for our annual Backpack Drive and Distribution event. Volunteers from Prudential handed out 233 backpacks filled with school supplies, helping students get

ready for the upcoming school year. The backpacks were donated by **Highland Park United Methodist Church, Dallas HR, and Prudential**. What a wonderful way to support children in our Dallas community!





## Spotlight on...

### Volunteer - Laura Steen-Patterson

For more than 18 years, volunteer **Laura Steen-Patterson** has been a huge asset to Wilkinson Center. A licensed counselor and former crisis counselor at Parkland Hospital, Steen-Patterson volunteers 2 to 3 days a week at Eastfield College Pleasant Grove.

She assists the Wilkinson Center staff with many tasks, including talking with clients and helping with case management. Steen-Patterson says that Wilkinson Center's mission really resonates with her. "I like helping people regain control of

their lives," she states. Steen-Patterson's favorite part of volunteering is being part of a team that is really committed to the clients and their success. Wilkinson Center is very lucky to have Steen-Patterson as part of our team!



Steen-Patterson

### Church Partner - Highland Park United Methodist Church

From backpack to toy distributions, food drives to financial gifts, the members of **Highland Park United Methodist Church** continuously support Wilkinson Center's mission and programs. The partnership is so strong largely because many of HPUMC's members live near

Wilkinson Center's service area and because the congregation likes to see strategic plans to improve the community. **Stephanie Berry**, the church's Outreach Manager for Education Partnerships, believes "As Christians we follow the command from Jesus to love our

neighbors. This means serving others. It's an extension of our faith and important for our own personal growth." According to Berry, the members' favorite event is the Toy Drive, but their Day of Service during Lent was also very popular this year. Thank you HPUMC for all of your support!

### Corporate Partner - IBM

Come by the Food Pantry on the last Tuesday of each month and you will find a dedicated group of **IBM** employees volunteering. This monthly service project was set up almost 2 years ago by **Ryan Greenberg**, a Technical Account Manager for IBM Watson and Cloud Platform. Greenberg discovered Wilkinson Center through an internet search of local pantries and was drawn in by the website. IBM encourages volunteering by allotting each employee 4 hours every month to spend in service. "It's important for IBM



Greenberg restocking shelves at the Pantry.

employees to volunteer because people can get caught up in their work and forget about those struggling in our community," Greenberg says. "Volunteering helps reinforce the perspective that there are people in our city that can use our help and reminds us that we should always try to help the less fortunate in our community if we are able to."

Since starting at the Food Pantry, IBM has expanded its support to food and toy drives and volunteering with the Senior Program.

# Volunteer Opportunities

WILKINSON  
CENTER

## Events and Distributions:

### Spirit of Taos Set Up - **URGENT NEED**

- ◆ Saturday, September 14th from 10 AM to 12:30 PM
- ◆ Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/yApHfXB>



### Spirit of Taos - **URGENT NEED**

- ◆ Saturday, September 14th with 2 shifts (6 to 9 PM or 8:30 to 11:30 PM)
- ◆ Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/jwArCZz>

### Adult Education Orientations

- ◆ Various dates/locations between September 3rd and September 10th, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- ◆ Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/sgsDhjJ>

### Turkey Distribution

- ◆ November 20th, 25th, 26th, & 27th, with various day and evening shifts available
- ◆ Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/fGGVisa>

### Toy Distribution

- ◆ Sorting and moving days on December 17th & 19th, with Distribution Day on December 21st
- ◆ Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/aXwafVN>

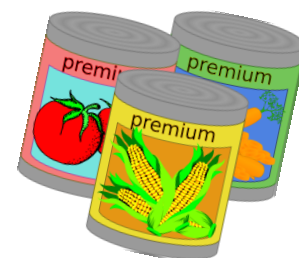
## Ongoing Opportunities:

### Food Pantry Assistant - 3402 N. Buckner Blvd, Suite 302, Dallas

- ◆ Mondays and Thursdays from 9 AM to 12 PM, Tuesdays from 1 to 4 PM

### Small Business Speaker - Various locations in Dallas

- ◆ Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday from 6 to 7 PM; one-time volunteer opportunity
- ◆ Share your personal experience in starting a business with the Entrepreneurship class



### Bilingual Spanish Guest Speaker - 911 N. Morocco Avenue, Dallas

- ◆ Tuesday or Wednesday between 9 AM and 11 AM; one-time volunteer opportunity
- ◆ Share your personal experience learning English as inspiration to ESL students

**Questions, comments, and more! Please contact:**

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