



Labre Society 2015 Annual Report



The Mission of the Labre Society is to provide basic items of necessity to the homeless of Tarrant County

BOARD MEMBERS 2015

President Shawn Myers / Anna Gaines

Vice President Anna Gaines

Secretary Joan Wells

Treasurer Roger Gilley

At Large Board Members

Terms Ending 1/31/2017

Amanda Bellomy

Becky Flores-Keasler

Delinda Driver

Patrick McKeon

Michael G Bennett

Megan McClinton

Terms Ending 1/31/2016

Matt Hamlin

Doug Condie

The Labre Society
P.O. Box 470153
Fort Worth, Texas 76147

board@labresociety.org
www.labresociety.org



Message from the President

2015 was another successful year for the Labre Society. Through generous grants from Lockheed Martin Aero Club and the Junior League, along with private contributions from caring donors, 1,220 relief bags were distributed to the homeless including 40 children's bags.

As the all-volunteer board grew and set bigger goals for the organization, our greatest sorrow and deficit was the loss of a stellar board member, Mike Bennett. Mike brought a gravitas to the board that challenged each member to strive for excellence and to explore new avenues of fund raising and marketing never attempted. His passing is still a fresh source of grief and the loss of his boundless compassion, pragmatic problem-solving and biting wit will affect the Labre Society for some time. We send prayers to his family, and our gratitude for his service to the board and his stalwart belief in helping those in need. One was just not able to fail to do the right thing if Mike was involved, and he is sorely missed.

As always, our goals to provide basic items of necessity to the homeless of Tarrant County are only met with the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who help each year. They remain the backbone of the organization and we simply cannot accomplish our mission without them. From those who show up each time to pack bags, to the newcomers brought to us by recently seated board members, to families teaching children the love of serving others, to those who provide for our needs year after year, we are blessed to have a strong volunteer base which sustains us.

Looking forward to 2016, the Labre Society will form a new partnership with *When We Love* to use their facility to store our stock for the relief bags, pack them and distribute them. We are excited to find a "one-stop" place that meets all our needs, as well as an organization which feels as strongly as we do that the homeless must be served with dignity and a sense of worth. We salute When We Love Executive Director Gary Wilkerson for his beautiful ministry and are honored to work with him and his staff.

Last, but not least, we remember those we serve. Our hopes are for a better life with safe and secure housing, comprehensive medical care and mental health/substance abuse treatment, the ability to become self-sufficient and life lived in freedom from want. In the meantime, we will dedicate ourselves to providing what little we can to ease the day to day reality of living on the streets or in a shelter.

Anna Gaines

Board President

HISTORY OF THE LABRE SOCIETY

The Labre Society began in 1999 as an individual act of kindness. The very first delivery of gifts consisted of one person distributing 20 gift bags filled with heavy duty socks and gloves to workers seeking day labor on East Lancaster in Fort Worth. Since that time, the organization has grown to include approximately 35 volunteers and several local businesses, all working together to provide gift bags filled with basic items of necessity to the homeless of Tarrant County.

In January 2009 a board of directors was formed, and the organization received recognition from the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) Public Charity in May of that year. The Labre Society is a charity whose mission is to provide basic items of necessity to the homeless of Tarrant County. The organization takes its name from Benedict Joseph Labre, the patron saint of homeless.

The Labre Society Board of Directors increased its giving in 2011 by distributing 480 Summer Relief Bags filled with items specifically designed to give respite from the sweltering Texas summer. The board voted in September 2011 to increase the Christmas Gift Bags to 700 adult bags, as well as 40 bags for children temporarily housed at the Presbyterian Night Shelter's Lowdon-Schutts Building for women and children.

The Board of Directors operates the Labre Society with very little overhead, and any indirect or administrative costs are covered by annual board dues. Because of a committed Board of Directors and an all-volunteer workforce, the Labre Society is proud to report that 100% of donations go directly to the cost of the service provided. In addition, core donors have demonstrated continuing support through in-kind donations of food items, bus passes, storage, sponsorship of items for the bags, and venues to pack the bags for distribution.



Many homeless are women with children who find it hard to find work and child care. The many agencies that help with training and child care are making a difference in Fort Worth. Many have found homes within the past two years.



2015 Highlights

The Labre Society met in January 2015 to review the 2014 Bag projects. At that meeting two new board members were introduced after being approved by the board. Michael Bennett and Megan McClinton were selected as At Large Board Members.

- The Summer Relief Bag project was held June 7, 2015. 480 sports bags were distributed to the homeless of Fort Worth. Each sport bag contained 2 bus passes from the T (500 were donated by the T), a baseball cap, two pair of socks, sunscreen, insect repellent, bandana, lip balm, hand sanitizer, shampoo/body wash, razor, toothbrush, toothpaste, and deodorant. Roger Gilley donated bottled water for each bag.
- The society's web site, www.labresociety.org, has continued to help the society get its message and information out to the public. Katie Cole continues to assist in getting the latest information posted on the Web.
- The Community Food Bank has been our location for our office and storage of donation items. They have grown greatly over the past three years and now serve a large population of needy families. Their facility is full of donated food stuffs, furniture, office supplies, pet supplies and other miscellaneous items. Because of that, the Labre Society has had trouble finding a space to pack bags and find our items. We have found another location that will provide us with a storage space, loading dock and a space to pack bags twice per year. We welcome *When We Love* as our new partner in 2016.
- The T has now totally phased out its bus pass grants to all agencies in Fort Worth. Their reduced rate passes are for only two hours per ticket. Therefore, the Labre Society, along with all other agencies who help the homeless and needy in Tarrant County, can either not offer passes to their constituents or pay the full price for a full day bus pass - \$3.75. Due to generous donations in September, the Labre Society was able to purchase a few full day passes at the reduced rate before the program was phased out on September 31, 2015.
- The Labre Society applied to the Junior League of Fort Worth for a grant to help us provide the items needed for Relief Bags. They granted \$2,000.00 to assist in our quest to acquire bus passes and socks to donate to the homeless.
- The Labre Society participated in the 2015 Texas Giving Day, held September 18, 2015. This project encourages people from around North Texas to select their favorite charities and donate through the Donor Bridge web site. All monies donated above \$25.00 received matching money from the Community Foundation of Texas. The society was successful in raising more than \$1,400.00.
- Due to the increases costs of items for the bags and the need to purchase bus passes, the Labre Society applied to LM AERO Club for a grant. The employee-managed group donated \$5,000 to help us with socks and bus passes.
- On Monday, December 22, 2014, the Labre Society distributed 700 sports bags to homeless of Tarrant County. Forty children of homeless persons received children's bags filled with items of necessity and a toy.

Craig Foye sported a placard during the NTGD kickoff at the West Side Auto Group.



Summer Bag Items 2015 – 480 bags

Sports Bags with Labre Society Logo
2 all-day Bus Passes
Gimme Cap
2 pair of socks
tube of sunscreen
Insect repellent
Bandana
2 Large Zip Lock Bags
Lip Balm
Hand Sanitizer bottle
Bottle shampoo/cream rinse/body wash
Razor
Tube of toothpaste
Toothbrush
Deodorant
2 bottles of water
2 Snacks
Fresh Fruit



The personal hygiene items are sorted into bins to enable quick packing as the bags are passed from volunteer to volunteer on our production line.

Winter Bag Items 2015 – 700 bags

Sports Bags with Labre Society Logo
Hand Towels
2 pair of socks
Gloves
Scarf
Wool Cap
Band Aids
Shampoo/Body Wash
Toothbrush
Tube of Toothpaste
Deodorant
Comb
Lotion
Lip Balm
Razor
2 Large zip lock bags
2 Bottles of Water
3 Snacks and Breakfast Bars per bag
Fresh Fruit



Volunteers come in all ages and children are encouraged to help. They usually help with the kid's bags in the winter and helping to move bags to bins for loading.

Financial Statement - 2015

**2015 Yearly Income Statement
Labre Society**

Income:

Board Dues.....	\$ 800.
General Donations.....	\$ 7,956.
Summer Donations.....	\$ 1,400.
Winter Bag Donations.....	\$ 9,760.
In-Kind Donations.....	\$ 920.

Total Income..... \$20,836.

Expenditures:

Volunteer Development.....	\$ 268.
Operating Costs.....	\$ 2,703.
Summer Bag Expenses.....	\$ 4,458.
Winter Bag Expenses.....	\$ 6,793.
Bus Passes	\$ 5,217.
In-Kind Donation.....	\$ 920.

Total Expenditures.....\$20,359.

Total Income Less Expenses..... \$ 478.

Breakdown of Operating Costs

Rent, CFB.....	\$2,400.
Post Office Box.....	\$ 128.
Bank Charges.....	\$ 55.
Postage.....	\$ 20.
Website Maintenance	\$ 100.

Donations Received:

Grants from the *Junior League of Fort Worth* (\$2,000.00) and *LOCKHEED MARTINAERONAUTICS EMPLOYEES' REACHING OUT (AERO) CLUB* (\$5000.00) are included in the General Donations amount.

Also included in Income Donations is \$800.00 in memory of Mike Bennett.

Volunteers 2015

In addition to the members of the board of directors, the following people donated their time to our fund raiser and packing projects.

FBC Crowley School Youth Group
Kristen Bennett
Terri Bennett
Katie Cole
Dusty Coker
Marjorie Creal
Kaye Flores
Doug, Alisha and Jenna Foster
Craig Foye
Kaycee Hamlin
Rachel Ingram
Joe Keasler
Chris Key
Jerry Kimble
Shannon Kimble
Deby Kinkle
Bob and Cindy Lanston

Sarah Long
Alicia Luster
Angel and Bobby Madera
Selarstean and Lee Mitchell
Cassie Morrison
Chris Mosley
Christopher Mosley
Jada Mosley
Daryl Phillips
David Phillips
Anthony Ruggiero
Lisa Tovar
Chaun Vickery and children
Shakira Webb and Family



Donors 2015

Tracy Albone
Robert Bice
David Brawner
Jimmy and Betty Chew
Katie Cole
Cooper Collins, Whitfield J Collins
Foundation
Doug Condie
Connie Dees
Delinda Driver
Roger Eiland
Malcom Fleet
Anna Gaines
Roger and Jennifer Gilley
Bill and Cassie Green
Paula Simmons Grenard
Fredine Helton

Joe and Beckie Keasler
Eva Key
Jeff Kruse
Caitlin Lippert
Rhonda Manuel
Megan McClinton
Matt McEntire
Selarstean Mitchell
Cassie Murphy-Green
John and Kathy Murphy
Leslie Oliver
Louis Ott
Nealana Patton
Patricia Thomas
William Lloyd Walsh
Joan A. Wells

Business Donors

Ben E. Keith Food Division
Community Food Bank
Energy Frontiers Partners, LP
Rahr and Sons Brewery

Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund
Oliver Dyer Appliance
Dickie Carr Sand and Gravel
Shamrock Corner Holding

Grants

Lockheed Martin Aero Club, \$5,000.00
The Junior League of Fort Worth, Texas Inc., \$2,000.00
Lone Star Irrigation Association, \$1,000.00

In Honor of Michael G. Bennett who died in November, 2015

John Fix
Hampton Hegar
Tim McJilton

Thomas Meeker
Rick and Linda Seim
Multilayer Technology

Without the help and support of all of our donors and volunteers, the Labre Society would not be able to help the many who need so much.





The Labre Society
P.O. Box 470153 • Fort Worth, TX 76147
Email: board@labresociety.org
Visit us on facebook @ Labre Society or www.labresociety.org