



# Labre Society 2016 Annual Report





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

**BOARD MEMBERS 2016**

*President Anna Gaines*

*Vice President Doug Condie*

*Secretary Joan Wells*

*Treasurer Roger Gilley*

**At Large Board Members**

**Terms Ending 1/31/2017**

*Delinda Driver*

*Patrick McKeon*

*Megan McClinton*

**Terms Ending 1/31/2018**

*Mick Meyer*

*Chris Key*

*Catharine Thomas*

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

[board@labresociety.org](mailto:board@labresociety.org)  
[www.labresociety.org](http://www.labresociety.org)



## Message from the President

The Labre Society Board of Directors operates in an all-volunteer capacity, and in 2017 we were pleased to have new members join us. All of our board members bring unique talents, insight, and compassion to the table and the organization is truly enriched by their service. It is not hyperbole to say that nothing would get done regarding the relief bags to the homeless if it were not for the dedication and sweat equity invested by our board members. I salute them and the incredible contributions they make year after year in service to the homeless.

Alas, 2016 was the last year Joni Wells was able to act as Secretary of the board. There are not enough words to thank her for her eight years of service, seven of which were as Secretary. As with most organizations, our success lies squarely on the shoulders of a strong and organized secretary. We depended on Joni as she “herded cats”, sent countless reminders, kept us on track with grant submissions, ordered items for the relief bags, and remained as polished and precise as ever. We are fortunate she has agreed to remain on the board for another year in the capacity of an at large member, and will cherish the time she gave to Labre Society. Best wishes in the next leg of your life journey, Joni, and thank you for all you have done!

The Tarrant County Homeless Coalition 2017 homeless count conducted in January released its final count numbers in March 2017; unfortunately, homelessness in Fort Worth increased by 110 people this year. But with new funding sources, continuing grant awards, generous donors and dedicated volunteers, Labre Society will continue to provide basic items of necessity to those we serve. The works of Labre Society will never cure or solve the problem of homelessness, nor do we strive to. Our goal is to simply provide as much relief as we can for as many as we can, while they navigate their way back to a stable home.

I also want to thank our long-term partner, Ben E Keith, for unwavering generosity in donating food and water, The Lockheed Martin Aero Club for a fourth year of granting a significant grant award, and When We Love for a venue to store items and pack and distribute the relief bags. These businesses/agencies have been a lifeline for a small organization with very little overhead, and our success in assisting the homeless is shared with all of them as well.

I look forward to seeing what 2017 brings our way in challenges, new funding, and original ideas for our processes. I also look forward to the day when all people are afforded the basic right of a home, no matter where they live or who they may be. We thank all of those who share this vision and who have kept us going with volunteerism, donations, and encouragement.

*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. Due to rising costs and the necessity of purchasing all bus passes needed, cut backs were needed in 2016. 480 bags were packed and distributed in January 2016. Each bag contained two pair of socks, two bus passes, a cap, gloves and a winter scarf. Water and snacks were also included. 200 ziplock bags were packed with toiletries for those who wanted them.

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.



*Toiletry bags are now optional as we found many were not used in past years.*

## 2016 Highlights

The Labre Society met in February to review the 2015 Bag projects. At that meeting two new board members were introduced after being approved by the board. Mick Meyers, a Denton Lawyer, and Alicia Luster, a Denton Photographer. Two board members resigned in the spring: Alicia Luster and Becky Flores. Chris Key and Catharine Thomas were approved as board members in the fall of 2016.

- The Summer Relief Bag project was held June 7, 2016. 480 sports bags were distributed to the homeless of Fort Worth. Each sport bag contained 2 bus passes, a baseball cap, two pair of socks, and a bandana. Roger Gilley donated bottled water for each bag.
- The society's web site, [www.labresociety.org](http://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.
- We welcomed *When We Love* as our new partner in 2016. They provide us with a place to ship and store bag items. We also pack and distribute the bags for summer relief and winter assistance from their location at 1100 East Lancaster, Fort Worth.
- The Labre Society participated in the 2016 Texas Giving Day, held September 17, 2016. 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 \$2,500.00.
- On Monday, December 21, 2016, the Labre Society distributed 480 sports bags to homeless of Tarrant County. Fifty children of homeless persons received children's bags filled with items of necessity and a toy all donated by American Airlines Employees. The group also helped pack and distribute the adult bags. The children bags were distributed at the Salvation Army Center on East Lancaster.



Pictured above are the board members who packed the bags in 19 degrees in December, 2016 at the WhenWeLove warehouse.

## Summer Bag Items 2016 – 480 bags

Sports Bags with Labre Society Logo  
2 all-day Bus Passes  
Gimme Cap  
Bandana  
Large trash bag  
2 pair of socks  
2 bottles of water  
3 Snacks and Breakfast Bars per bag

## Winter Bag Items 2016 – 480 bags

Sports Bags with Labre Society Logo  
2 all-day Bus Passes  
2 pair of socks  
Gloves  
Large trash bags  
Scarf  
Hand Towels  
Wool Cap  
2 Bottles of Water  
3 Snacks and Breakfast Bars per bag

200 Toiletry ZipLock bags contained were available to those who wanted them:

Band Aids  
Large Zip Lock Bag  
Tube of sunscreen  
Insect repellent pin Hand Sanitizer bottle  
Shampoo/Body Wash  
Razor  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrush  
Deodorant  
Lip Balm  
Fresh Fruit

Band Aids  
Large Zip Lock Bag  
Shampoo/Body Wash  
Toothbrush  
Toothpaste  
Deodorant  
Comb  
Lotion  
Lip Balm  
Razor  
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.*



*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.*

## Financial Statement - 2016

### 2016 Yearly Income Statement Labre Society

**Income:**

Board Dues.....	\$ 800.
General Donations.....	\$ 8,597.
Summer Donations.....	\$ 917.
Winter Bag Donations.....	\$ 4,306.
In-Kind Donations.....	\$ 2,320.

**Total Income..... \$16,939.**

**Expenditures:**

Volunteer Development.....	\$ 567.
Operating Costs.....	\$ 1,419.
Summer Bag Expenses.....	\$ 2,284.
Winter Bag Expenses.....	\$ 7,341.
Bus Passes .....	\$ 6,720.
In-Kind Donation.....	\$ 1,200.

**Total Expenditures.....\$19,531.**

**Total Income Less Expenses.....\$ -2,592.**

**Breakdown of Operating Costs**

Rent, CFB.....	\$ 600.
Post Office Box.....	\$ 128.
Website Maintenance .....	\$ 100.
Membership - CNP.....	\$ 100.
Tax Preparation*.....	\$ 275.
Equipment (Packing Tables).....	\$ 216.

Revised 1/14/2017

\*2014

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## Volunteers 2016

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

Kelly and Tarek Askari  
Bettina Bossard  
Katie Cole  
Nina Condie  
Marjorie Creal  
Rachael Darling  
Angela Dimaico  
Dennis Douds  
Kim Eagan  
Doug, Alisha and Jenna Foster  
Craig Foye  
Heather Gardner  
Jonathon Green  
Sasha, Quincy and Kiyad Holmes  
Karen, Bavonica, Kennedy and Leanna Houston,  
Brandon and Selah Jones  
Chris Key

Jerry Kimble  
Shannon Kimble  
Kennita Kurtz  
Betsy Lewis  
Jim Lund  
Sheila Martinez  
Alysia Meyers  
Kathy and John Murphy  
Cassie Murphy-Green  
Daryl Phillips  
Risha Richardson and daughters  
Kurk Schmedel  
Steve Senisch  
Cory and Zackary Thomas  
Shakira Webb and Family



Summer Packing brought shorts and fans – winter we were in parkas and gloves.



## **Donors 2016**

Tracy Albone  
David Brawner  
Elizabeth Broome  
Vicki Cole  
Cooper Collins, Whitfield J Collins  
Foundation  
Doug Condie  
Delinda Driver  
Megan Exum  
Malcom Fleet  
John Gabriel  
Anna Gaines  
Roger and Jennifer Gilley  
Bill and Cassie Green  
Paula Simmons Grenard

Hampton Hegar  
Chris (Eva) Key  
Brittany Lewis  
Megan McClinton  
Matt McEntire  
Patrick McKeon  
Cassie Murphey-Green  
John and Kathy Murphey  
Cassie Schwartz  
Joe South  
Gary Steinberger  
Catharine Thomas  
Amy Warren  
Joan A. Wells

## **Business Donors**

American Airlines Flight Academy Rec  
Ben E. Keith Food Division  
Brewsters  
Dickie Carr Sand and Gravel  
CASI  
Chuys  
Fort Worth Botanical Garden  
Fred's Texas  
J. Rae's  
Lone Star  
Michael's Cuisine  
Oliver Dyer Appliance  
Omni Fort Worth  
Pabst

Rafain Brazilian Steakhouse  
Rahr and Sons Brewery  
Red Bull  
Small Town Brewery  
Smiley's Studio  
The Social House  
Sweet Tomatoes  
Texas Rangers  
Thirteen Pies (Fireside Pies)  
Thompsons Book Store  
World of Beer

## **Grants**

Lone Star Irrigation Association  
Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund  
Lockheed Martin AERO Club



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