



NAM NOTES

15555 Kuykendahl, Houston, TX 77090 www.namonline.org 281-885-4555

September 2006

Jeans & Jewels honors Kim and Raleigh Jenkins

The honorees for the **2006 Jeans & Jewels...A Texas Size Party** are Kim and Raleigh Jenkins, long-time supporters of Northwest Assistance Ministries.

The Jenkins have participated in many NAM activities, but they are probably best known for sponsoring the ABC Pest, Pool & Lawn \$15,000 Tennis Challenge for eight years. The Jenkins, who own ABC, matched the funds raised by players, community groups and tennis clubs up to \$15,000. The tennis tournament raised over \$224,000 in eight years for NAM.

“NAM has been blessed with such tremendous community support and the Jenkins have been generous with their time, talents and resources for many years,” said Carole Little, NAM President and CEO. “They are deserving of this recognition for their efforts, and they are an inspiration for others.”

Raleigh Jenkins said, “We were very surprised. This is a great honor, but when we heard we were the honorees, we kind of looked at each other and wondered why us. There are a lot of other people deserving of the recognition.”



Raleigh and Kim Jenkins

As the second generation with the family business, Raleigh and Kim started ABC in Houston in 1986 and moved to north Houston in 1990. They first learned about NAM in 1994 when they played in a tennis challenge which then was sponsored by Mundy Chevrolet. “The more we found out about NAM and what it did for the community, the more we wanted to be

a part of it,” Raleigh said.

When the tournament sponsorship became available, the Jenkins took it over with their ABC Pest, Pool & Lawn sponsorship. After eight years, the Jenkins and NAM decided to retire the tournament at the height of its success and shift their support to Jeans & Jewels. The Jenkins sponsored the Jewels of NAM event honoring NAM’s major donors and last year were major sponsors of the gala. This year the Jenkins are Jeans & Jewels partners at the \$25,000 level.

“Our business philosophy is to give back to the communities that help support us,” Raleigh said. “We’ve been blessed and we want to pass that on. You get back what you give and I encourage people to get involved whether it’s with NAM or some other agency.

The Jenkins also support Habitat for Humanity and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The couple has involved their daughters in charitable work at NAM and

Continued on Page 4

Former NAM client enrolls at Rice University

About five years ago, my mom was fortunate enough to find NAM. We were going through a very difficult time, financially and emotionally. Immediately we were embraced by the kindness of NAM and its people. Five years of help encompass too many details and stories...I will just say that I won't ever forget them, ever.

Just now, I would like to describe the role NAM played in one of the most important things in my life: getting into Rice University. I fell in love with Rice since I first began to think about going off to college. The academic renown and proximity to home made it my dream school; however, my family faced many difficulties that would have posed serious obstacles for me to concentrate and dedicate time for school. That's where NAM comes in. It gave my mom help

which directly benefited me and gave us some peace of mind. The rough path NAM helped smooth over removed worries that could easily have distracted me from academic pursuits.

A college education is a vital, key factor in adult life, and NAM's help allowed me to concentrate on this difficult goal...I would like to thank everyone for the kindness they showed towards me.

There are many things I could say about NAM, but put simply, it is a generous organization that offers assistance where it is most needed. I will always be grateful for all the opportunities I was given, and work hard so that someday I will be able to return even a small fraction of what I received.

– Roxana Loza

Community support enables NAM to operate

A little over a year ago the world dramatically changed for thousands of people when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast.

Since those tragic storms, Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) has helped more than 8,000 hurricane evacuees while continuing to



operate its everyday services which benefited over 100,000 people last year. How could NAM quickly rise to the occasion when so many government agencies seemed lost? The simple answer is because of the collaborative efforts of the faith-based community, public and private partners, area residents, volunteers and staff, NAM was here, already operating.

The community at large recognizes the importance of supporting NAM's day to day activities so NAM will be here when a crisis arises. Those day to day programs and services help people deal with their individual crises and maintain or regain their self-sufficiency. An unexpected major financial emergency can send many families into crisis mode so you never know when

you or an acquaintance may need NAM's services.

So how do you access NAM's services? The first step usually begins with a phone call to the specific program (see box below). Some NAM programs provide services within specific ZIP Codes and other programs are open to you regardless of where you live. If you live outside the ZIP Codes NAM serves for basic assistance, staff members will refer you to an agency that serves the area where you live. If NAM cannot provide basic assistance, staff members may be able to help with other NAM services.

To receive help from NAM's Assistance Program or Food Pantry, you must live in one of these 18 ZIP Codes: 77014 – 77032 – 77038 – 77050 – 77060 – 77066 – 77067 – 77068 – 77069 – 77070 – 77073 – 77086 – 77090 – 77373 – 77379 – 77386 – 77388 – 77389.

NAM's Family Violence Center, Counseling Center, Children's Clinic, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Senior Center, and Rotary Learning/Workforce Development Center have no ZIP Code restrictions and are open to families in need regardless of where they reside.

The Meals on Wheels program delivers hot, nutritious lunches to homebound, senior and disabled individuals who live in the following ZIP Codes: 77014 – 77038 – 77064 – 77066 – 77067 – 77068 – 77069 – 77070 –

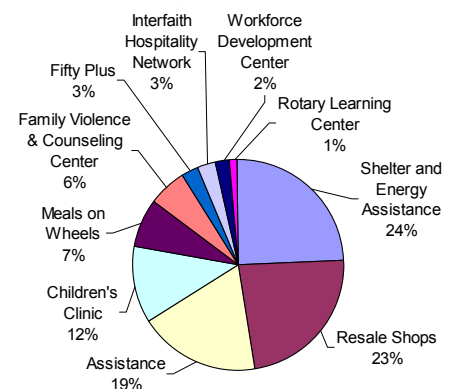
77086 – 77090 – 77375 – 77377 – 77379 – 77388 – 77389 – 77429 and parts of 77065 – 77040 – 77433 – 77484 – 77447. If you are a senior, homebound or disabled, you may qualify for meal delivery. Volunteer drivers also deliver groceries once a month to seniors through NAM's Food for Seniors Project.

A complete guide to accessing services is contained in a new brochure, *How NAM Can Help*. Copies are available at NAM's offices, on NAM's website, www.namonline.org or by calling 281-885-4555. Phone numbers for NAM's programs are listed in a box on this page.

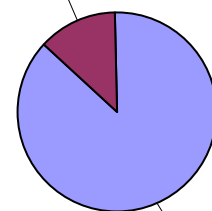
Barole Little

P.S. NAM's annual report contains program information as well as audited financial reports. It is available online at www.namonline.org.

NAM Program Expenditures



Administrative Costs, 13%



Program Costs, 87%

NAM Programs and Services

Assistance Office	281-583-5600	Second Chance Resale	281-880-9000
Children's Clinic	281-885-4630	Corner Resale Shop	281-885-4544
Development	281-885-4608	Senior Services	281-885-4600
Donations Hotline	281-885-4545	Shelter & Energy Assistance....	281-885-4526
Family Violence Center...	281-885-4673	Workforce Development.....	281-885-4506
Interfaith Hospitality Network.....	281-885-4567		
Meals on Wheels.....	281-885-4622	Other agencies at NAM	
NAM Counseling Ctr.....	281-885-4537	Harris County Social Services...	281-885-4591
Rotary Learning Center...	281-885-4616	Harris County Hospital District.	281-587-8596
NAM Resale Shop.....	281-897-8952	Even Start.....	281-586-1888

NAM Weekend is scheduled for Sept. 23-24

NAM Awareness Weekend will feature an array of activities Sept. 23-24 highlighting NAM at participating Covenant Congregations.

Other activities are scheduled before and after the weekend to increase awareness of NAM's programs and services.

NAM staff members have asked the Congregations to feature discussions of NAM's programs and services during the weekend and to host information tables. NAM's new "How NAM Can Help" brochure also will be distributed. The brochure contains information to help families in crisis get assistance.

Before the weekend, NAM's Endowment Board has planned a "toast and roast" of golf legend Jackie Burke on Wednesday, Sept. 20, to raise funds for NAM's Building Maintenance Fund. After the weekend, NAM will host the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce's breakfast meeting Tuesday, Sept. 26. For information, call Alisha Roberts at 281-885-4608.



New Covenant Congregation

NAM has welcomed Fallbrook Church as a new Covenant Congregation. Fallbrook is located at 12512 Walters Road. Rev. Michael Pender is church pastor. NAM now has 49 Covenant Congregations.

FVC offers Family Violence Education class

Northwest Assistance Ministries' Family Violence Center is offering a free Family Violence Education class beginning Nov. 2 at NAM's main building, 15555 Kuykendahl.

The class will meet from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays for six weeks and participants will receive a certificate of completion.

"This program is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues and dynamics surrounding family violence," said Donna Amsberg, FVC director.

Class topics include: History and Definitions of Family Violence, Myths

and Warning Signs, Power & Control, Effects on Children, Substance Abuse and Family Violence, and Leaving an Abusive Relationship.

Clients must commit to the full six-week program in order to receive the certificate. Clients will be referred through the FVC staff/volunteers and through Child Protective Services (CPS); however, the class is open to anyone interested in learning about family violence and its effects on adults and children.

To register for the class call the Family Violence and Counseling Center hotline at 281-885-4673. Childcare services are not available at this time.



Northwest Assistance Ministries
15555 Kuykendahl
Houston, TX 77090

NAM Notes is the newsletter of Northwest Assistance Ministries. NAM Notes is published periodically throughout the year.

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www.namonline.org
281-885-4555

NAM Statement of Activities for the 9 months ended 6/30/2006 (unaudited)

Total Support and Revenues	\$7,661,942
Expenses	
Program services	\$7,245,199
Management and General	\$486,268
Fundraising and Development	\$200,806
Total Expenses	\$7,932,271
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	<\$270,329>

Donations and foundation income that normally would have supported NAM's basic operations were designated to support hurricane relief efforts. Since NAM continued to provide services to its normal client base, a shortfall was incurred.

NAM Counseling Center provides mental health services

Hurricane Katrina and Rita survivors as well as other area families in need can now receive counseling services at Northwest Assistance Ministries' new NAM Counseling Center.

NAM increased counseling services to its Family Violence Center (FVC) clients last winter and changed that program's name to the Family Violence and Counseling Center. Staff members made that change to address the need NAM's clients had for mental health services. The arrival

of people who had lost their homes to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita increased the need for counseling services and NAM responded to that need, said Donna Amtsborg, Director of the NAM Counseling Center.

"The creation of the Counseling Center has been an evolutionary process," said Amtsborg, who is also Director of NAM's Family Violence Center. "The increased need for services as well as the availability of resources to fund the

program made it possible to establish a separate center and expand the counseling services we already had in place."

The Counseling Center staff members are available to help hurricane survivors deal with issues related to leaving their homes, relocating to a new area and dealing with the stresses of everyday life. The center can also help families in need deal with the issues related to their struggles to regain their self-sufficiency.

The FVC will continue to address counseling issues related to domestic violence. The Counseling Center is accepting clients referred from other NAM programs as well as qualifying people who call for appointments. The therapeutic services will include: Adult therapy (non-domestic violence related), Children's counseling, Art and/or Play Therapy, Adolescent counseling, and Family counseling (long-term goal)

For NAM Counseling Center information, call 281-885-4537.

The core services of the FVC will remain the same regarding domestic violence. The FVC has a 24-hour hotline, 281-885-HOPE (4673).

Honorees encourage people to volunteer

Continued from Page 1

through the Cypress Creek Chapter of the National Charity League. Kim and her daughters, Tiffani and Vanessa, have worked in the Food Pantry, the Resale Shop, the Children's Clinic, Meals on Wheels and the Holiday Project.

"It has been an opportunity for our children to see that the world is more than just the life they lead in the Klein area," Kim said. "It's one thing to help with a food drive but it is another level to distribute the holiday gift bags and actually meet the people in need that you are helping. They come away amazed at the numbers of people that NAM can reach and an appreciation of the gifts they have been given so that they can serve others.

"Some people say that they are aware of NAM, but you don't know NAM until you've seen the staff in action. You really have to see it to believe the complexity of NAM," Raleigh said. "The most surprising thing to me is the amount of community involvement and the efficiency of the organization. They can squeeze a dollar out of a dime better than any agency I've ever seen. The number of volunteers and people who really care and the passion within the group is amazing."

Kim said, "I marvel over the diversity of services that NAM provides. It really is a one-stop shop for social services. I've always appreciated the efforts of the community and the congregations who work together to make the programs

successful."

The Jenkins encourage friends and neighbors to take a tour of NAM and to get involved. NAM offers a vehicle for people to contribute in an organized way to help the needy.

Jeans & Jewels...A Texas Size Party is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at the Tomball Grand Pavilion.

For information on Jeans & Jewels, to purchase tables or individual tickets and for sponsorship opportunities, call Alisha Roberts at 281-885-4608.

Look for NAM's new web site

NAM staff members are in the process of redesigning NAM's website to better serve the community, improve communications, enhance the database and add options to extend NAM's presence beyond northwest Houston.

The site should be up and running this fall at the current site address, www.namonline.org, with new features and a new design that will enable us to quickly change site content, post photos, conduct surveys, post forms and educational materials and collect donations online.

"The way people communicate, collect and use information, find volunteer opportunities and even make donations has changed greatly and a big part of that change is due to the internet," said Carole Little, NAM President & CEO. "NAM has to take advantage of this technology in order to grow and continue addressing the community's needs.

"Our website was developed several years ago. Donna Odum, a volunteer, has done a terrific job maintaining the site the last few years, and I want to thank her for her efforts. Now, it is time to upgrade the site to use web technology to its fullest potential."

NAM has contracted with Kintera, a leading provider of software services to the nonprofit and government sectors, for software, design and site hosting.

Luncheon, style show theme is Cowgirls Raisin' FUNds

Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) is hosting the Jeans & Jewels Luncheon and Style Show starting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, at Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road.

The theme is "Cowgirls Raisin' FUNds" and this year's luncheon features a variety of speciality booths open before the luncheon along with a raffle for prizes valued at over \$500 per package. The mistress of ceremonies and guest speaker is Carolyn Davis, an avid proponent of and volunteer in charitable organizations that promote the welfare of children and families. The style show will feature fashions from Scruples.

The luncheon co-chairs are Jackie Riley and Connie Stick. This year the luncheon will also honor Susan Byram and Kristie Campbell for their ongoing contributions to NAM and the community.

The luncheon and style show kicks off the events leading up to NAM's biggest annual fundraiser, *Jeans & Jewels...A Texas Size Party*, Nov. 11 at the Tomball Grand Pavilion. Gala chairs are Merle Rumsey and Raelene Hill. This year's Jeans & Jewels gala honorees are Kim and Raleigh Jenkins.



The gala's top supporting partner is ABC Pest, Pool & Lawn Services. Other major sponsors to date are TGS-NOPEC-Geophysical, Linda and Harlen Martens, Louis and Steve Slater, Continental Airlines/Kathy and Jim Stevens, Pam and Bob Hughes, Anadarko Petroleum, BMC Software, and the Houston Chronicle.

Models include Anita Kirk, Valarie vonBerg, Raelene Hill, Cynthia Stick, Kathie Blinn, Merle Rumsey, Ruth Becker and Suzanne Ellis.

New this year is a marketplace featuring 10 businesses including Debbie Clemens' one-of-a-kind denim jackets. These businesses have agreed to donate 20 percent of their sales to benefit NAM.

Proceeds from Jeans & Jewels will directly support the continuation and expansion of NAM's programs, which helped assist, shelter and feed more than 100,000 individuals and families each year.

Luncheon and Style show tickets start at \$40 and regular tables are \$400. The luncheon also will have special tables for \$500 and \$750 which include priority seating and special favors.

For reservations or more information, call Alisha Roberts at 281-885-4608.

Sidelines with Sarah: Delivering Meals on Wheels

By Sarah Fisk

NAM Volunteer Assistance Counselor

I started delivering Meals on Wheels at NAM over 20 years ago when my daughter Beth was in grade school. And, until she drove off to college, Beth helped me deliver meals every summer. When she was a teenager, she hated delivering those meals. She was a teenager, she hated everything.

Delivering for Meals on Wheels is one of those volunteer jobs at NAM that requires nothing more than a car to drive, a few hours to spare, and a few minutes to talk. My friend Joan and I deliver meals on the same day of every month and to the same people every time.

One of our most memorable deliveries was to Mrs. L. and her husband. Her husband had dementia and she was his only care giver. With a daughter in the military and a son living in another country, she seldom had family visitors. But Monday through Friday she had a noon meal delivered by people who cared about her. Joan and I delivered the day after her husband had wandered off in the middle of the night, brought back by the police at three o'clock in the morning. We delivered the day of her 50th wedding anniversary. She cried as she told us her husband thought she was his sister. Every time we delivered their meals, we listened to Mrs. L's remembrances of her husband before

dementia and her frustrations with her husband's lack of appetite and inability to sleep now. Mr. and Mrs. L. were switched to another route. Joan and I miss them.

NAM's Meals on Wheels program delivers to 417 disabled and elderly people, relying on 25 drivers each day. When I email my daughter about my plans and write, "I have Meals on Wheels today," she knows what I mean. She thanks me for the volunteer work we did together when she was younger. And I thank her for finally understanding why.



Give a little.
Gain a lot.

It's amazing how far a little food can go.

Collected items can be dropped off at the NAM Food Pantry, 15555 Kuykendahl.

Call 281-885-4589 for information or visit www.namonline.org.



Holiday gifts 'In Honor Of' friends, business associates help needy people

NAM individual and business supporters can give a holiday gift that makes a difference by making a donation to NAM in honor of customers, vendors, employees and friends.

Your gift will have a special meaning for those you are honoring while also helping those less fortunate in north and northwest Houston. For each gift, NAM will send a holiday card informing the honoree of your special gift given in their name. Teresa and Paul Mueller have been NAM contributors for many years, and giving gifts honoring family members and business associates is an important part of their holiday season. Paul sent us the following note:

Teresa and I started making "In Honor Of" gifts for the holidays several years ago when it occurred to us that we were spending way too much time looking for gifts for our extended family members that they probably did not need.... We feel this (IHO gift to NAM) is a much better investment than another fruitcake or knick-knack.

I now do the same for many of my clients and business associates in lieu of holiday greeting cards. I keep this list on an Excel spreadsheet and add to it each year with new clients, business acquaintances and newly-born family members.

The first year I did this for clients and business associates, I was amazed at the number of phone calls and thank you notes that I received. That rarely happened with holiday cards or turkeys! Even more amazing is the number of IHO notes I now get...from people who are honoring me. Maybe we've started a new movement. Something like in the movie, "Pay it Forward".

Paul Mueller

UHY Advisors

For more information on making a donation in honor of your family and business associates, please contact Alisha Roberts, NAM Development Coordinator at 281-885-4608 or email aroberts@namonline.org.

NAM's Executive Board names five new members

The NAM Executive Board recently appointed five new members.

Andrew S. Cochrane was reappointed for a second term. Harlan C. Martens is rejoining the board after serving as president, 2004-2005.

Cochrane is Chief Executive Officer of Methodist Willowbrook Hospital and Vice President of Methodist Hospital System in Houston. He has a bachelor's and master's degrees from Trinity University in San Antonio. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce and the American Heart Association, Northwest Houston.

Martens is Chief Attorney for Exxon Mobil Production Corporation. He is a

graduate of the University of Southern California with a B.A. in Economics and holds a J.D. degree from the University of Southern California. He and his family currently are members of Kinsmen Lutheran Church.

Ralph H. Draper is superintendent of the Spring Independent School District. He has a bachelor's degree from Lipscomb University, and a master's degree from Sam Houston State University. He is scheduled to receive his Doctor of Education degree from Sam Houston State this year. He also has been a full-time pulpit minister and host of the television show, "Christ Is Your Answer."

John Leslie Sr., until his retirement, was the President of The Leslie Corpora-

Northwest Assistance Ministries Calendar

October

12 Jeans & Jewels Luncheon and Style Show
23 Trustees meeting

November

11 Jeans & Jewels gala
18 Thanksgiving food distribution
22 NAM closes at noon
26 NAM closed for Thanksgiving

Volunteer Orientation is at 9 a.m. the first and third Thursday of each month except July and December.

Trustees Meeting

6:30 p.m. Oct. 23
Second floor, Fifty Plus area

Save the Date

**Jeans & Jewels...
A Texas Size Party**

Nov. 11

Tomball Grand Pavilion

tion, a consulting and services organization. Following his retirement, he started TLC Management Consultants. He has served as one of five Harris County representatives to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, a NAM trustee, a director of NAM's Endowment Fund Board, and a volunteer in NAM's Assistance Program. He served on the board of Northwoods Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Stephen Sohns is pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church. He has served the Spring community since 1990. He has served on the board of the North Harris YMCA and the Board/Executive Training through Pastoral Leadership Institute. He and his congregation have been active NAM supporters.

NAM's wish list

Development Department

Digital video camcorder

Food Pantry

Commercial scale
Nonperishable food items
Cash Donations always gratefully accepted

Assistance Program

Helpline sponsor - \$12,000
Overhead Projector
Digital Camera and software for computer
Portable fans
Two-drawer file cabinets

Building Maintenance

Indoor/outdoor carpet
Commercial floor mats for the Fifty Plus area
Tile or carpet for FVC hallways
Tile or carpet for 2nd and 4th floor hallways
Ceramic tile
Poly strapping machine

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Fold-up baby playpen
Maternity clothes
Toiletries
Pillows

Family Violence and Counseling Center

Toy vehicles (ambulance, police car, construction vehicles, etc.)
Tool Set
Doctor's Set

Recent grant awards

Discount Tire Company, Inc.
Hamill Foundation
HEB
Hewlett-Packard
Insurance Alliance
The McKenzie Foundation
The National Center on Family Homelessness
Northwoods Presbyterian Church
Office Max
Office Depot
Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Foundation
Rotary Club of Willowbrook
St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities
John T. Shea Charitable Foundation
Simmons Foundation
Swalm Foundation
Madge and Maude White Memorial Gift Fund
United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast

Sand for sand tray - about 40 lbs.
Paint and Manila paper
Legos - Medium size
Dart Set (play set - no sharp points)
Dress-up clothes for girls
Puppet Stage or theatre
Miniature toys for sand tray (people, animals, etc.)
Toy guns and handcuffs

Fifty Plus Senior Center

Van drivers, especially for Fridays
Ride-along volunteers to help the drivers on Wednesday and Friday
Back-up bingo caller
Large microwave for Truffle Project

Shelter & Energy Assistance

Two medium duty paper shredders (8 to 10 sheets)
Labor & parts for refrigerator water connection valve
Electric three-hole punch

Information Technology

New UPS' for workstations - minimum of 1400VA/980W
IT volunteers
Recent HP printer cartridges

Resale shops

Security System
Copy Machine
Bicycle rack
Rolling racks
Shopping carts
Volunteers

Children's Clinic

Spanish Children's books
Spanish speaking volunteers
Books - new and used
New toys for birthday gifts
Table scale
Braun Thermo Scan (Need 3)
Electronic thermometer (need 3)
Rectal probe thermometer (Need 3)
Probe covers (10 cases per year)
Child blood pressure cuff with bulb and valve (Need 10)
Adult blood pressure cuff with bulb and valve (Need 9)
Large Adult blood pressure cuff with bulb and valve (Need 2)
Welch Allyn Oscope/Ophthalmoscope Kit with teaching head

Meals on Wheels

Copy machine
Volunteer drivers
Digital Camera
Portable Scanner
Cell Phone with Minutes



Houston region Discount Tire Co. staff representatives recently presented Northwest Assistance Ministries with a \$10,000 check to help support NAM's Food Pantry and Back-to-School Project. On hand for the presentation were from left, Pam Walters, Kathy Allen, Food Pantry Supervisor Loretta Lang, NAM President Carole Little, Chandra Garcia, Linda Archer, Rhonda George and NAM Development Director Maria Magee. The donation was made on behalf of Discount Tire Co. owners Bruce T. and Diana Halle.



Newfield Exploration employees recently volunteered in NAM's Food Pantry stocking shelves. Newfield employees also have contributed to NAM through grants from the company's Newfield Foundation.



Jeans & Jewels raffle co-chair Sue Adams, left, NAM President and CEO Carole Little and gala co-chairs Merle Rumsey and Raelene Hill discuss the raffle for a trip to Hawaii at the raffle kick-off party. Raffle proceeds help fund NAM programs and services. Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100. Call Alisha Roberts at 281-885-4608 for information. The accommodations for six were donated by Friends of NAM Pam and Bob Hughes. Kathy and Jim Stevens and Continental Airlines have donated two first class roundtrip tickets to Honolulu, Hawaii. The drawing will be Saturday, Nov. 11, at the Jeans & Jewels gala at the Tomball Grand Pavilion. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

NAM's Holiday Project needs donations and volunteers

NAM depends on community support to help give our neighbors in need the gift of joy during the Holiday Season and NAM is again calling for donations and volunteers.

"Our goal is to provide a turkey and food for three to five days to 1,000 families this Thanksgiving and another 1,500 families during the December holiday season," said Carole Little, NAM President and CEO. "We also plan to provide age appropriate holiday gifts to 3,500 children in need."

"Many of our neighbors are struggling to survive and the expense of a traditional holiday meal and gifts for their children are beyond their means," Little said. "Participating in holiday traditions is important to a family's well being and to developing hope for the future."

Volunteers assist with distributing food, sorting and filling toy bags, stocking Food Pantry shelves and filling grocery bags. The Assistance office asks only that volunteers be at least 16 years of age.

"Providing food, gifts and holiday hope for our neighbors in need requires a lot of support," said Lynn Mikhail, NAM Assistance Program Director. "It takes a big group of volunteers to do the Holiday Project effectively."

NAM needs donations of holiday food such as canned fruit, stuffing, brownie or cookie mix, canned peas or carrots, canned soup, tuna, cereal, jello or instant pudding, macaroni and cheese, canned meat items such as chili, ham and salmon, dried beans

and turkeys. NAM's goal is to provide families with not only a turkey or ham, but enough food for three to five days of meals so the holiday food has a meaningful impact on a family's budget.

NAM also needs donations of unwrapped toys and age appropriate gifts for children ranging from babies to 18 year olds.

"We are asking people to please *not* wrap donated gifts because volunteers have to unwrap them so they can be sorted based on the age of the child receiving the gift," Mikhail said.

Turkey, food and cash donations to purchase food may be dropped off at NAM's Food Pantry, 15555 Kuykendahl, one block south of FM 1960. Gift donations may be dropped off at the same location.

Cash donations also are always appreciated because donated funds enable NAM to purchase food and gifts that might not be donated. For information on donating or volunteering, call 281-885-4555.

Your Donations at Work

NAM's Back-to-School Project provided clothing vouchers and school supplies to 2,217 area children in need.
NAM's Shot Blitz served 818 children and provided 2,100 immunizations.

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ASSISTANCE
MINISTRIES**
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