



Pathways to Sustainable Living

Winter 2018

From Outgoing Chairman Frank Walker

When Judy and I first moved to Wimberley 10 years ago we heard a lot about volunteerism, mainly from Bill and MF Johnson. We became involved with the Lions and Civic Clubs and saw firsthand how powerful volunteer service could be in the life of a community. Of course, The Lions Club and Civic Club are only two of the outstanding collection of volunteer agencies in Wimberley. To try to mention others would omit some, and the purpose of this article is not to offend anyone. The purpose is to review my last year as Chair of Barnabas Connection. In my admittedly biased opinion, The Barnabas Connection represents the purest example of service I have seen. Many people know of Barnabas because of our efforts to help those affected by the Memorial Day and Halloween floods of 2015. That was a “game-changer” and it would take hours to explain all that was involved in this mammoth undertaking. The people of Wimberley, together with several social service agencies, non-profit and governmental, countless individuals and businesses stepped in and went to work. The good news is that we are entering the final stages of flood recovery. But Barnabas is so much more than a flood recovery agency. We were there before the floods and will be for many years to come, I hope. Some examples of the selfless service of Barnabas volunteers are the Senior Expo, Back To School Fiesta and the Christmas Store. We also publish a Community Resource Directory listing various social service agencies in our community. The heart of the program is the Referral Help Line, a direct service.

On a personal level the biggest game-changer happened at breakfast on September 28, when Vicki told me that after 13 years of dedicated service, she was leaving. So much for breakfast! The irony is that she did such a good job administering the flood recovery that her efforts were noticed by her new employer, the United Methodist Church. Fortunately, all of our service projects have strong, dedicated cadres to keep those awesome events on track. There is no question that things will be different. Different means different; it does not mean better or worse. Interim Director Roger Quayle is on the job, and the wheels continue to turn. Our Board members have rolled their sleeves up and taken on several of the tasks formerly done by Vicki. We have an incredibly talented Board and new officers who are eager to lead us into the bright future.

The overarching emotion, as I look back on the past year, is gratitude. I am so thankful that I had the chance to witness the Wimberley Way in action, and to have a small part in that. It's been a Hell of a ride!

“The Barnabas Connection represents the purest example of service I have seen.”

Frank Walker

Best Buds Building Understanding and Developing Students

Testimonial from Volunteer Betty Jo Slider

I became a volunteer for the "Best Buds" program in September, 2016. Barnabas has worked with the staff at Scudder Elementary to set up a mentoring program for students who needed a little extra attention. I worked in the schools when my children were students and enjoyed it and found it to be very worthwhile. Since my youngest child is in his late 30's I was a little anxious if I would be effective but I was ready to try.

The Instructional Strategist at Scudder assigned the volunteers to students. I had two kindergarten girls. I would spend 30 minutes with each one. The first day I showed up I spent time getting to know the girls and letting them get to know me. When I took them back to their classroom I told them I would see them the next Thursday. The next week when I walked into the classroom I heard, "You said you would come back and you did!" At that point I was wrapped up in a big hug. Where do you think I was found each Thursday?



I am fortunate enough to have been assigned this year to the same two girls who are now first graders. The plan is to follow them through their elementary school years.

"Best Buds" is one of my favorite volunteer jobs. I may not be the best "teacher" but I can be a "Best Bud." I have been blessed many times over in this program. Let Barnabas know if you are interested in this wonderful, fulfilling program. (512) 847-1664.

Best Buds 2017-2018 orientation

Local Chosen as Interim Executive Director

Wimberley Resident Roger B. Quayle has been selected as Interim Director for the Barnabas Connection. Long-time Director Vicki McCuistion left in October to become the Disaster Recovery Asset Manager for the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Roger and his wife, Nancy, have lived in Wimberley for five years. Quayle previously worked as an executive for engineering companies in Houston and Denver. He has done substantial volunteer work including the United Way and working with therapy dogs at hospices. "I am impressed with the mission and the people of The Barnabas Connection. I will do my best to sustain and nurture the ongoing programs and will work with the Board to plan for the future," said Quayle.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the volunteer phone line and for our programs —> Back to School Fiesta, BEST BUDS student mentoring program, Christmas Store and more. If you would like to learn more about volunteering for Barnabas Connection, please email Barnabasdirector@gmail.com or call (512) 847-1664.

Flood Recovery Wrapping Up in 2018

The Barnabas Connection response to the 2015 and 2016 floods is coming to an end in early 2018. Thanks to Brenda Wolfe at Lock-Tite Storage for donating storage space to support our flood relief efforts! Stay tuned for a complete flood program update and report in the Spring Newsletter.

Barnabas Christmas Store

Barnabas Connection, in partnership with: Cypress Creek Church, United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Unity of Wimberley, Rotary Club and many others, sponsored the Fourth Annual Christmas Store in a space donated by Mr. Todd Routh at Plaza de Sol. The store provided sixty-nine local families the opportunity to purchase gifts, new items, for their family and friends at a very low cost: 75% below retail value. The store offers Christmas assistance that builds dignity and allows parents to purchase the gifts for their children.

The Rotary Club donated books for this event, allowing parents to choose a book for each of their children, free! This year the store purchased items for 188 children. So, many parents thanked the Barnabas workers for making Christmas possible for these children.

Barnabas Connection volunteers for the Christmas Store included Susan Brown, Ana Garcia, Gina Maples, Susan Myers, Barbara Rutherford, Betty Jo Slider and many others.



Christmas Store open for business. The store space was donated by Mr. Todd Routh, owner of La Plaza del Sol on RR 12 South.



La Estancia Bella collected over 30 toys at their December Open House for the Barnabas Connection Christmas Store. Thanks to Lauren Petty and her family!

2018 Board of Directors

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Peg Wolfe, Vice Chair
Sandra Londa, Secretary
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Rev. Wes Cain
Elaine Cardenas

Dorothy Knight
David Miller
Susan Myers
Harold Tannahill
Frank Walker

Roger B. Quayle, Interim Executive Director

2018 Calendar

Volunteer Phone Line	Ongoing
Flood Recovery Program	Completing early 2018
Wimberley Community Resources Directory	May 2018
Back to School Fiesta	August 2018
Best BUDS (building, understanding and developing students)	September 2018
Christmas Store	December 2018

Barnabas Connection

PO Box 145
Wimberley, TX 78676
(512)842-9674 (volunteer help line)
(512)842-7148 (flood/admin)
Barnabasconnects.org



Phone volunteers planning 2018!



The Barnabas Connection assists people in need through advocacy, education and direct services

Please Include Barnabas in Your Giving Options!

All donations are deeply appreciated and tax-deductible. Please donate online at www.barnabasconnects.org or send to:

The Barnabas Connection
PO Box 145
Wimberley, Texas 78676

