



Texas Ramp Project Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2019

Dear Friends,

This month's column will be a potpourri of thoughts that have come to me over a month of driving across Texas.

- 1) Let's do some informal fundraising to make Kay's job a little easier. If we can show a stream of grassroots donations in a region, it certainly bolsters our position as we talk to foundations. These donations can be sought at your local lumber supplier, from churches that regularly participate in builds, maybe from your local Walmart or a bank that you use.

I would say the requests can also be build-specific so that a build that you do for a veteran will likely be a better motivator for Home Depot, since they support many veteran-based causes. The range of folks to talk to can be very wide—from your referral sources to friends and volunteers to organizations like Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis. I am available to speak to groups if you give me about two months' lead time.

- 2) We are looking for a social media person to help us more effectively use those channels to help us find volunteers and funding. The person does not need to be in Dallas to do this, so any of you could be our connection to this person. This is a big resource for the TRP, and we need help ASAP.
- 3) We are trying to improve our reporting of builds. This has always been an issue for us, and my suspicion is that we are at least 5% under-reported annually. If any of you have some suggestions as to actions that we can take to improve build reporting, please let me know. We want to know about ALL of the good things that you are doing out there.

Thanks for listening and have a great month.

John

New 'About Us' on TRP Web Site

The Texas Ramp Project web site has a new section called "About Us." It is aimed at providing better communication with our volunteers and more transparency for outside people. It is a useful resource when potential donors or news media ask for information about us.

You will find the new section at the site (www.texasramps.org) under the tab **About Us**. It contains many documents that you can download and email, or print to use as a handout. Or you can simply direct interested people to the site to get the information or document.

In a nutshell, here's what you will find:

- **Mission & Vision** – These statements have been the bedrock of the Texas Ramp Project since we incorporated a dozen years ago.
- **History** – Provides a brief background of how the Ramp Project started out.
- **Fact Sheet** – Provides key information about TRP, such as EIN (our nonprofit number), referrals received, ramps built, financial information, contact information, etc. Ideal to hand out to journalists when they cover a ramp build.
- **Why Texas Ramp Project?** – Tells how our ramps benefit clients, families and the community.
- **How to Get a Ramp** – Explains the process.
- **Map of Service Area** – Shows all the counties where we built in 2018. Another nice marketing tool. It's very informative and also can be impressive to outsiders.
- **Board of Directors** – Puts faces with the people in Dallas you are communicating with.

We have also placed **Financial Information** and **Important Documents** on the site to provide further transparency. These items include:

- **Revenue Sources** – Demonstrates TRP's heavy reliance on foundation funding and the need to increase funding from other sources.
- **Audited Financial Statements (2017)**
- **Independent Auditor's Report (2017)**
- **IRS Form 990 (2017)**
- **501(c)(3) Letter of Determination** – Official document showing that we are registered as a nonprofit organization.
- **Sales Tax Exemption Letter** – Another proof that we are a nonprofit in the state of Texas. You can use this when you need to purchase something for the Ramp Project and not pay the sales tax.

Finally, we have a section on **Brochure & Logos:**

- **Brochure** – This is the most recently published brochure. This file is printer-ready should you want to have a small number printed out by a local printer.
- **Logo with Tagline** – Use for letterhead.
- **Wheelchair Logo** – Just the wheelchair artwork.
- **Alternate Logo** – Wheelchair and name, no tagline. Ideal for signage. Just send the printer to the web site to get the artwork.

Question & Answer Forum

Texas Ramp Project Insurance

At the recent statewide conference in Austin, several questions were asked about the insurance carried by the Texas Ramp Project. Specifically, the Project has liability insurance, accidental death and medical expense for accidents on site, and directors and officers insurance.

The **General Liability Insurance Policy** gives the Project coverage for up to \$1 million for each occurrence. This is to protect TRP from lawsuits in the event someone, not necessarily our client or a volunteer, slips or falls on one of our ramps. This would cover any type of event which incurs an injury where TRP might be found liable. This policy will also cover damage up to \$50,000 to rental properties such as those rented warehouses where we build modules and store raw materials. The annual cost for this policy is \$5,220.

The Texas Ramp Project has an **Accidental Death and Medical Expense for Accidents Policy** which gives us coverage for any accident on site that results in a death or serious accident. There is a \$100 deductible for any accident. This gives all builders coverage in the event of a serious accident at the building site. Coverage is \$10,000 for loss of life and up to \$25,000 for any single accident, which could also include coverage for any additional dental, orthopedic, or physical therapy expenses associated with the accident. In case of a serious accident during a build, be sure to gather pictures and as much information as possible before the incident is reported to the insurance company. Please note that this policy would not cover any accident that occurs while driving to or from the build site. The annual cost for this policy is \$2,585.

The Directors and Officers Insurance Policy covers all directors and officers of the Texas Ramp Project in the event of a lawsuit being filed against TRP in particular and/or each of the directors and officers of the Corporation individually. In the event that there was an injury accident during or after any ramp build, any lawsuit would more than likely be filed against both the Texas Ramp Project and each of the directors and officers of the Corporation. The Texas Ramp Project is a 501(c)(3) corporation. The annual cost for this policy is \$ 970.

Ramp of the Month Feature

It's always enjoyable and fulfilling to see the results of your labors. In each issue of the TRP newsletter, we'll be spotlighting a build with before and after pictures and a vignette about the person for whom the ramp was built. There are so many success stories, along with great pictures just waiting to be shared. To submit client and/or volunteer stories and pictures, send them to Sandy Knutson at sjkbits@aol.com.

Ramp of the Month for May 2019: Ellis County

Ms. Wanda D., a 69-year-old woman, was referred by Methodist Mansfield Medical Center as she has spinal stenosis and is very overweight. She frequently uses a wheelchair but is able to walk with difficulty when needed by using a walker/rollator. Ms. D.'s new 45-foot ramp was built by six volunteers from the Waxahachie Rotary Club. The volunteers provided 42 hours of labor.



Please Note

You are encouraged to liberally pass this newsletter on to others within your region. Hopefully, you will find that it is filled with useful information, building hints and tips, data collection updates and processes, client stories, special announcements and recognitions.

Quick Stats: To date in 2019, TRP has built 593 ramps throughout Texas for a total length of 15,632 feet, built by volunteers contributing 12,839 volunteer labor hours. We're aiming for 2,100 ramps this year, so we're over a quarter of the way.

If you prefer to **not** receive the newsletter, you can unsubscribe by emailing: sjkbits@aol.com and ask for your name to be removed.