



Texas Ramp Project Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2020

Dear Friends,

February, for all of its annual brevity, was a busy month for me. It started off with a build in Sulphur Springs in Hopkins County with some terrific new volunteers from First Baptist Church on the first day of the month and ended on the 29th with me doing some site prospecting for our annual build blitz with our friends at David Weekley Homes in Houston, which will take place in May.

In between those bookends were builds in San Angelo with volunteers from First Methodist Church and a build in Levelland (outside of Lubbock) with pre-PT students from Texas Tech. And then a week away in North Carolina spending time with my granddaughters, who are high school seniors readying themselves for college. No wonder the time flew by in February.

If my plans hold up, I should be able to talk about working with some of you in the Texarkana, Metroplex and Wichita Falls regions, rounding things out on the border in Laredo (at least it won't be 110 degrees this time). There are only two areas that we have yet to pitch our tent—Del Rio and Corpus Christi. We expect to till some ground in Del Rio in April.

I hope to see many of the rest of you later this year!

John

Sign Up for AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a way for customers to support their favorite charitable organization every time they shop with Amazon. Shoppers who start at smile.amazon.com will find the same Amazon they know and love, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice.

Signing up is easy! Use the following link to sign up with AmazonSmile so a percentage of your Amazon purchases will go to the Texas Ramp Project.

<https://blog.aboutamazon.com/community/how-to-sign-up-for-amazonsmile>

Meet TRP Board Member: Roy Harrington



Roy has been building ramps with both youth and adult teams for the Texas Ramp Project for over six years. He joined the TRP board in February 2018 with the responsibility of connecting youth mission teams with TRP referrals throughout the state.

This allows him to combine his passion for TRP with 17 years of experience working with youth missions in providing meaningful projects that change the lives of both the young people and the recipients. He also serves as a team leader for builds in southeastern Collin County.

Both Roy and his wife, Teri, grew up in Texas. They met at Texas A&M and moved to the Dallas area in 1988, when Roy got a job at Texas Instruments. The Harringtons have two grown children, a daughter living in Angleton and a son in McKinney. Roy has been an industrial engineer supporting several Texas Instruments factories for over 31 years. In addition to TRP, he is an active member of Wylie United Methodist Church, where he serves on the board of trustees and the missions committee. Any remaining free time is spent with family or restoring a 59-year-old Airstream travel trailer.

Youth Mission Trip Teams Gearing Up for Summer 2020

This will be TRP's third year of actively seeking out partnerships with youth mission groups. Last summer's partnerships resulted in building over 60 ramps, with four more completed by a mission group in Spring, Texas, during Christmas break.

Currently, UM Army (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) organizers are finalizing the details on accommodations in the 15 cities they have identified for this summer's mission trips and are working on setting up a few more locations. Currently, the TRP database shows over 200 total open referrals in the areas identified. As we get closer to summer, many of these referrals will be passed along to the adult leadership for consideration by the mission groups.

Each mission organization has site coordinators who will visit the potential clients to confirm the need and identify those that are a match for their youth teams. In most cases, these mission groups will then fund the ramps build. They will also submit database updates for those referrals where a ramp is no longer needed.

Youth mission leaders recognize the life-changing benefits for their young charges as they work to provide a ramp to someone who is isolated in their home because there is no safe way to enter or exit the premises.

We hope to increase the number of ramps built by youth teams every year. If you know of a youth group that might be interested in a ramp-building mission trip, please email Roy Harrington at royh85@verizon.net.

100 Miles of Ramps!

Sometime this summer TRP will hit the 100-mile mark for ramps built across Texas. As of February 1, we were at 94 miles. Last year our volunteers built ramps totaling 57,460 feet—nearly 11 miles. That makes summer our target. Watch for information on how the Texas Ramp Project will celebrate this amazing achievement.

Numotion Rolls Out a Partnership with TRP Dallas

Numotion, a custom wheelchair manufacturing company, was very excited to discover a nonprofit organization with whom they could partner as they saw the value of the Texas Ramp Project and our relationships in the community. In mid-December they approached TRP about a service project that could be done during their annual January meeting in Dallas.

On Friday, January 24, Numotion partnered with TRP in the Dallas Region to build six ramps. Over 60 Numotion volunteers were excited and enthusiastic to build that morning. Due to convention scheduling, the goal was to have all six ramps completed by 11 am. Therefore, the morning was filled with a flurry of activity, with several Numotion volunteers meeting at the warehouse at 7 a.m. to load ramp materials and then off to meet the rest of the volunteers at the build sites by 8 a.m.

Before lunch, all six ramps (over 100 ramp feet) were completed, allowing the families to safely come and go without external assistance. Among the six clients, three lived alone; all used either wheelchairs or walkers. One client was a dialysis patient who had to leave home at least three times per week.



In addition, we were pleased and surprised to receive a \$5,000 grant at the end of February from the Numotion Foundation. Thank you, Numotion, for your generosity.

Walmart Grant Applications Open

TRP is ready to write grants for Walmart stores in your area. Up to 25 grants can be written for those regions willing to contact and then follow-up with their local stores. The Waco region has indicated interest after receiving three \$500 grants in 2019. Jim Hoge paid a visit to each of the stores, and the visits paid off. Jerry Gritter did the same in Bryan-College Station and received a \$500 grant.

If you are willing to do the legwork, please notify Kay Champagne at kfchamp@iit.net with the store number and address and she will follow up with a request. All requests will be for \$1,000.

Grants Received in 2020

- Perry & Ruby Stevens Foundation, \$15,000 for San Antonio Northwest
- CoServ Charitable Foundation, \$10,000 for Tarrant & Denton Counties
- Harold Simmons Foundation, \$5,000 for Dallas
- Numotion Foundation, \$5,000 for Dallas
- HILCO Electric Trust, \$2,000 for Waco North (Hill County)
- Rotary Club of Abilene, \$1,400 for Abilene area
- South Texas Electric Cooperative, \$1,000 for San Antonio South

Ramp of the Month: Hunt County

The Greenville Golden Kiwanis ramp crew got an early start on Monday, February 3, by building a 28-foot ramp in Greenville with a crew of eight volunteers. A very wobbly and unsafe existing structure had to be removed, along with some cinder blocks. As the ground was soft, it was difficult to maneuver the trailer carrying the modules for offload. However, super driving skills won the day. The crew took a cumulative 32 hours to build the first ramp for February 2020, the 17th for K year 2019–20, and 336 total since January 2010. Very well done, guys.



DO: Pass the Newsletter On

We hope you enjoy having the newsletter sent to you directly, as it is filled with useful information, building hints and tips, data collection updates and processes, client stories, special announcements and recognitions.

The newsletter only does its job when it is dispersed and shared with all who might be interested. We encourage you to liberally pass it on to others in your region. Also, do send email addresses of people in your region who should be receiving it, along with their name and TRP region, to Sandy Knutson at sjkbits@aol.com.

Please Note: Corrected name from the February 2020 newsletter: George Swarner

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