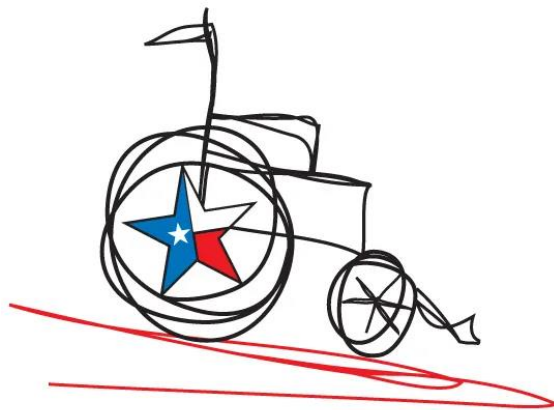




100 Miles of Freedom

Texas Ramp Project

Press Kit



TEXAS RAMP PROJECT
Building Freedom for the Homebound

P.O. Box 832065, Richardson, TX 75083-2065
www.texasramps.org / info@texasramps.org / 214-558-0339

About the Texas Ramp Project

Most of us take for granted the few steps at our front door. But for people who use a wheelchair or walker, those few steps can turn a home into a prison.

The nonprofit Texas Ramp Project's mission is to build free wheelchair ramps for those who find their steps a barrier. Our ramps allow recipients to leave their home safely and independently, especially if there is a fire or other emergency. They provide relief to families and caregivers, and they allow people to remain at home, aging in place surrounded by those who love and care for them.

Ramps are built exclusively with volunteer labor, keeping costs to a minimum. The Texas Ramp Project operates with extremely low overhead and has only one full-time employee. As a result, over 92% of funds received are directed to program expenses.

In 2020, the Texas Ramp Project celebrates *100 Miles of Freedom*, having installed ramps equivalent to that distance for nearly 20,000 Texas residents. Our vision is that no Texas resident shall lack safe access because of financial limitations.



Texas Ramp Project Celebrates ‘100 Miles of Freedom’

Nonprofit’s Thousands of Free Ramps Bring Mobility to the Homebound

RICHARDSON, Texas (Nov. 2, 2020) – Starting November 15, the nonprofit Texas Ramp Project is celebrating the installation of 100 miles of wheelchair ramps, delivered completely free to nearly 20,000 recipients across the state. “100 Miles of Freedom” is a milestone in the nonprofit’s commitment to helping older adults and people with disabilities regain mobility. It was achieved thanks to the dedication of more than 3,500 volunteers. If the ramps were laid end to end, there would be more than enough to travel from Dallas to Waco.

The Texas Ramp Project began operations in 2006 as an evolution from the Dallas Ramp Project. The nonprofit has built ramps across the state of Texas to serve those in financial need. The ramps are provided without regard to age, gender, religion, race or ethnicity. They are always free to recipients.

Every ramp provides safety, independence and an improved quality of life for its recipient, caregivers and family. Most ramps cost from \$700 to \$800 to build, which is about one-third that of a typical retail contractor installation. The Texas Ramp Project is able to keep costs low thanks to an all-volunteer organization with only one full-time employee.

The work of the Texas Ramp Project would not be possible without the generous support of countless foundations, churches, civic organizations, state and local agencies and individual donors. Over 92% of each dollar donated goes directly to building ramps thanks to the nonprofit’s low overhead.

“The Texas Ramp Project is an absolute joy from a human standpoint,” says John Laine, founder and executive director. “It brings us into contact with people we might never meet otherwise, and we can effectively change their life in a few hours.”

Major sponsors for “100 Miles of Freedom” are St. David’s Foundation, State Farm, Toyota USA, H-E-B and Alphagraphics.

MEDIA ADVISORY

- What:** Up to 200 free wheelchair ramps are being built across Texas in celebration of “100 Miles of Freedom.”
- Who:** A low-income older adult or person with disabilities in your area.
- Where:** Most large cities plus towns and rural areas in over 100 Texas counties.
- When:** November 15 to December 15, 2020.
- Why:** Local volunteers provide safe access for local residents with disabilities. Great photo opportunity!
- Website:** www.texasramps.org
- Contact:** Gary Gatzlaff – garygatzlafftexasramps@gmail.com / 214-558-0339. Provide the city and/or county you wish to cover and he will provide your local contact.

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The Texas Ramp Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information about the Texas Ramp Project, to refer a client, or to make a donation, please visit www.texasramps.org.

Texas Ramp Project Fact Sheet

Year Established: 2006

EIN No: 33-1139484

Organization Address: P.O. Box 832065, Richardson, TX 75083-2065

Telephone: 214-675-1230 **Fax:** 972-499-1076 **Email:** info@texasramps.org

Web Site: www.texasramps.org **Facebook Page:** www.facebook.com/TexasRamps

Twitter: @TexasRamps **LinkedIn:** Texas Ramp Project **Instagram:** @tx_ramp_project

Local Organizations: 40 regions incorporating 22 Texas Councils of Government

Ramps Built: 2,105 in 2019 in 109 Texas counties; total builds 19,680 (99.2 miles)

Referrals: 5,075 in 2019 in 190 Texas counties; current rate of referrals 385 per month

2019 Revenues: \$1,211,449

2020 Budget: \$1,427,000 to build 2,300 ramps

Functional Expenses (2019 Audited Financial Statements): Program Service Expenses 92.9%,
Management and General Expenses 7.0%, Fundraising Expenses 0.1%

Approximate Number of Volunteers: 3,500 statewide

Mission Statement: The Texas Ramp Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides free wheelchair ramps to low-income older adults and people with disabilities identified by local health care providers. Ramps are built exclusively with volunteer labor, keeping costs to a minimum. Ramps are built without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, age or gender.

Vision Statement: Our vision is that no Texas resident shall lack safe access because of financial limitations.

Executive Director: John Laine

Mr. Laine spent over 36 years in sales and management for industrial and aerospace products, including 20 years in his own business. A member of the Kiwanis Club of Richardson, he served as volunteer director of the Dallas Ramp Project from 1989 to 2005, when he left to found the Texas Ramp Project as a separate nonprofit serving all of Texas. He has been executive director since 2006. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from St. Lawrence University.

Texas Demographics

Over 3.7 million Texans—12.9%—are age 65 or over, and nearly 24% report an ambulatory disability. More than 1.6 million Texas men, women and children have a disability that may require a wheelchair or walker. Many of them are veterans. With Texas' poverty rate at 13.6%, it is likely that there are a large number of people who need safe access to their homes but lack the means to obtain it.

GuideStar

The Texas Ramp Project has been awarded the GuideStar 2020 Gold Seal of Transparency.

Come Build with Us!

Those who serve with a local Ramp Project team often say it's the best volunteer work they've ever done. Why? It's the joy and satisfaction of literally transforming a person's life in a single day. When a referral is accepted, a volunteer surveys the site and designs the ramp. Then a trained team leader and volunteer crew come together to build it. Within a few hours, the client is no longer homebound. Volunteers come from all walks of life. No experience is required—just willing hands and a servant's heart. For more information about volunteering, please visit www.texasramps.org/volunteer

Make a Donation

The Texas Ramp Project's exclusive use of volunteers helps the nonprofit operate with low overhead costs. That means that over 92% of every dollar donated goes to program expenses—building and delivering ramps. To make a donation, please visit www.texasramps.org and click on the red “Donate Now” button.

Or, you can mail a check to:

Texas Ramp Project
P.O. Box 832065
Richardson, TX 75083-2065

Areas We Serve

Thanks to our grassroots organization, the Texas Ramp Project is able to support local projects in over 100 counties across the state. To find out which counties are supported, please check the service map on our home page, www.texasramps.org, under “About Us.”

The success of the Texas Ramp Project has moved beyond state lines, and now the New Mexico Ramp Project has begun supporting those in need. For more information about the New Mexico Ramp Project, please visit nmramp.org

Ramp Referrals

The Texas Ramp Project selects recipients on the basis of recommendations from social workers and/or health care providers. Priority is given to dialysis and hospice patients, people who live alone, and people with dangerous existing ramps. The ramp referral form is here: www.tfaforms.com/408007

Sponsors

The Texas Ramp Project is generously supported by sponsors that enable our work. For a list of sponsoring foundations and organizations, please visit www.texasramps.org/sponsors

Design Materials

The Texas Ramp Project 2019 brochure and logos are available here: www.texasramps.org/about-us/#tab-2-3-brochure-logos