



# GrayCares


Living at Home

Services for Ages 65 & Up

## ANNUAL REPORT

2020

### 2020 – It's A Wrap!




GrayCares Living at Home, Inc., along with the rest of the world, is glad to say goodbye 2020 and welcome 2021! With that being said, 2020 did bring with it some hidden blessings. We are grateful for volunteers that were ready to step up to meet needs of our older neighbors even amid restricted services and social distancing. Generosity came through loud and clear. People in Gray county truly care about their older neighbors and were ready to help in whatever way they could. GrayCares is once again thankful to be able to provide nonmedical, independent living services for our older neighbors. In fact, we are completing year eleven! GrayCares has grown and remained committed to its vision and mission because of dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and a caring community. As we move forward to 2021, we are excited about the possibilities and opportunities.

#### Mission

*To mobilize volunteers to provide non-medical independent living services for people ages 65 and older in Gray county.*

#### Vision

*A community where neighbors help neighbors remain living in their home as long as possible.*



## Words for the Year

Never before had our Board of Directors faced decisions about services as we did in 2020. Our words to operate by became: **“Be Flexible!” and “Adapt!”** In the spring of 2020, our Board made the tough decision to restrict the services we would provide for our older neighbors in order to protect our volunteers and our older neighbors. Many of our volunteers were in the high risk category for the COVID 19 and our older neighbors certainly were. Therefore, the Board decided to restrict our services to those that would not involve close contact, in-house visits, and transportation. We had restricted services for about eight months out of the year. Our volunteers stepped up to the plate and did go get groceries, pay bills, take out trash, and clean flower beds for our older neighbors. In addition, we stepped up our contact with many of our older neighbors by having telephone volunteers, who contacted a group of older neighbors weekly for about four months. The COVID 19 restrictions even impacted our ability to build wheelchair ramps. We partner with the Texas Ramp Project that was also protecting volunteers for several months. As a result of these restricted services, we did not have as many service requests. We are looking forward to full services again soon!



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**WEBSITE:**

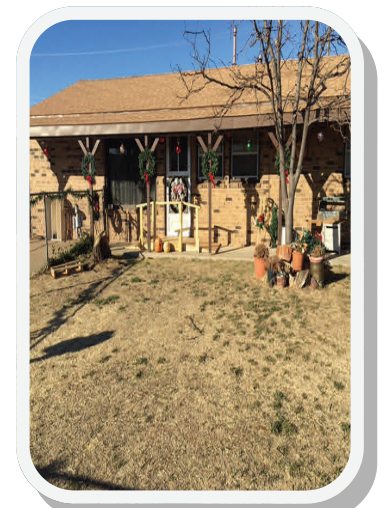
<http://graycares.org>.

**GrayCares Living at Home, Inc.**

## Operation Ramp for 2020

One of our ongoing projects is building wheelchair ramps for older neighbors in need. We once again partnered with The Texas Ramp Project as well as supported the efforts of some other volunteers to build six ramps in 2020. That is about half the number that we usually build. GrayCares pays for the building materials for the ramps. Texas Ramp project volunteers as well as some of our own volunteers do the building of the ramps.

### **Pictures of 5 of the 6 ramps built in Pampa and Lefors in 2020**





## Christmas Blessing Bags – Providing a Merry Christmas to Older Neighbors

The Christmas Blessing Bags delivered to our older neighbors the first week in December may have been more welcome this year than any other year. With many of our older neighbors spending months in their homes without much personal contact, just having a volunteer come to their home and show that the older neighbor was not forgotten and leaving a bag of goodies with them was significant.

The Christmas Blessing Bags this year were filled with ready to eat or easy to prepare food and beverage items, socks, gloves, a flashlight and batteries, hand sanitizer, disposable mask, disposable gloves, tissues, fresh fruit, snacks, and homemade quick breads and cookies. **Twenty-three** organizations, groups, or individuals donated many of the items. Some of the items were purchased through funds provided by local foundations and individuals. **Fourteen** new groups or individuals provided items for the bags.

Because of COVID, the Board of Directors themselves worked in shifts to maintain social distancing and packed all of the 130 Christmas Blessing Bags. Seventeen volunteers delivered the bags.



- ♦ **130** bags packed
- ♦ **150** older neighbors were blessed with the Christmas bags
- ♦ **31** volunteers involved



## **Generosity Prevails**

Adversity many times results in individuals stepping up to the plate to do whatever they can for their fellow man. We saw evidence of that very thing in the fall of 2020. One of our biggest projects and fundraisers happened in the fall. We were amazed at the generous donations to our Christmas Blessing Bags project and to The Panhandle Gives fundraiser! People, organizations, and businesses that had never before participated in our Christmas Blessing Bags Project came forward with material and financial

**Generosity**  
changes everything



### **A New Year – A New Executive Director**

Donna Brauchi has served as the Executive Director of GrayCares Living at Home for all eleven years that GrayCares has been providing services for our older neighbors. She will be retiring as soon as a new Executive Director is found. We know that the right person will come along and that our GrayCares services will continue to meet the needs for independent living for our older neighbors. We have a great Board of Directors that are active and dedicated to the vision and mission of GrayCares. The future looks bright for GrayCares!

### **Special Thanks to our Major Donors!**

Generous donors with a heart for our older neighbors are a valuable part of the GrayCares Living at Home, Inc. success. We want to offer a special thank you to our major donors in 2020:

**M.K. Brown Foundation  
David D. and Nona S. Payne Foundation  
Jeanne M. Willingham Foundation  
Inez B. and H.E. McCarley Foundation  
Mary E. Bivins Foundation  
The Panhandle Gives Donors**



### **2020 Board of Directors**

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