

OFFERING A HAND UP

Not a Hand Out



Meet the Board

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Sam Nunn
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Peggy McGuire
Co-Secretary

Danette Fenstermaker
Co-Secretary

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Homeless Representative

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Lynne Groom
Brian Hoffman
Leeann Overstreet
Tina Ramirez
Sabrina Smith
P.J. Taylor
Rosemartha Tyson

Meet the Staff

Connie Garcia
Executive Director

Teresa Gallagher
Shelter Manager

Mary Kay Kuhrts
Development Director

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A Tribute to Karen Guest by Myrna Raffkind

For almost 15 years Karen Guest has dedicated her heart and soul to Martha's Home. Starting the day she walked through the door of what was then Martha's Home 1 (now the Guest Home), she has transformed the shelter adding beauty and grace. She has touched the lives of countless numbers of women giving them encouragement and hope.

I will never forget the day I first met Karen. It was on a Friday and Melissa Chapman, the Director of Martha's Home at the time, and I were planning our annual meeting that was taking place the next day at the Social Hall at First Christian Church. When I arrived at the Social Hall the morning of the event, Karen was already there moving tables and chairs, decorating the room, and arranging the centerpieces for the tables. I thought to myself, a true angel has come to assist Martha's Home.

Before becoming Shelter Manager, Karen served on the Board of Directors and was also President of Martha's Home for several years. She represented Martha's Home at meetings of the Coalition for the Homeless, the Beans and Cornbread luncheon and civic meetings and events. At a time when computers were relatively new, Karen was knowledgeable and used her skills to write up minutes and record financial transactions.

In all the time I have known Karen, she has never asked for recognition or praise or complained about being overwhelmed. And always at her side has been her loving husband, Jim. Together, the Guests have worked to make Martha's Home the outstanding shelter that it is today. They have left a legacy of selfless devotion that will never be forgotten.



Karen Guest & Myrna Raffkind



Mayor Paul Harpole with
Karen & Jim Guest



Connie Garcia presented Karen with a history collage of her enhancements to Martha's Home during her tenure. It now hangs as a permanent commemoration.



The Board of Directors renamed Martha's Home I as the Jim & Karen Guest Home. An engraved plaque hangs above the door. Board members Cindy Cockerham-Pharris, Sabrina Smith, Peggy McGuire; MH Executive Director Connie Garcia, Jim & Karen Guest, board members Dannette Fenstermaker, Lindsey Murphy, Sam Nunn, Lynne Groom & Tina Ramirez.



Karen Guest with "Royai Cake" donated by DJ Stubben of Welcome Partner! Also want to thank Belmar Bakery, Embers for their chocolate covered bacon, Edible Arrangements for their fruit bouquet, Sonic for their flavored teas, and Enchanted Florist for making the Retirement Reception a beautiful and memorable occasion.



To view more pictures of Karen's reception visit our gallery [here!](#)

Carrying on the Martha's Home Mission is Teresa Gallager, new Shelter Manager



"I have been here in Amarillo for almost 11 yrs. now, and I believe in the saying "it takes what it takes to get me where I need to be". I am a true believer in Jesus, my Lord and Savior. When I became homeless in 2011, I came to Martha's Home and went back to work at an old job. While I was here every week during case management, I would tell Connie, 'I want to work here.' Now after perseverance, volunteering, and prayer, I am now the Shelter Manager, and I truly believe this is what God wants me to do. Thank you Jesus."

High Plains Thunderbirds benefit Martha's Home with "Day of Thunder" Car Show

by Gary Fields, Thunderbirds Member

"Day of Thunder" April 28, 2013 is in the history books. Gene Smith called it right-on weather-wise. We had a perfect day – cool in the morning, sunny all day but not too hot and just a gentle breeze - not the usual Panhandle gale!! This was our 12th annual 'Day of Thunder' car show and 68 beautiful automobiles filled the parking area – 19 Thunderbirds and 49 others.

We had a table full of door prizes. Sam and Ronda operated the Plinko board again. We had a special visit from 'Pokey' the



clown and he brought along his Hot Wheels racetrack and made a contribution to Martha's Home. RVOS Insurance grilled up sausages for lunch for all participants and provided water. Our ladies bagged up their homemade desserts as part of the lunch, also. Jack and Ron handled the auction with excellent results.



I believe that "Easy Street" band members should hold honorary membership in the High Plains Thunderbirds as they have graciously donated their time to provide live music for our shows for the past 10 years! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!

Brad and his committee did a fine job organizing a great show for 2013. All parts worked very smoothly. He procured seven judges for the show this year from the automotive mechanics class at Hereford H.S. and a fine job they did – very professional and timely. They did decide that the job was a lot tougher than expected due to the quality of the show automobiles.

Bill McWeeney also had a group of youth judging for the PCCC trophy, again a tough job. Our compliments to Bill for working to create an interest in car collecting and restoration in the younger generation – I think this is his way of saying many of us that do participate are getting (or losing) too many gray hairs.



All of our proceeds from the "Day of Thunder" go to the support of Martha's Home. A special thank you to June Higgs, who eleven years ago suggested HPT support Martha's Home with the proceeds. This has developed into a very special relationship and with this year's show proceeds, we are pleased to report that High Plains Thunderbirds has donated \$27,360.00 in support of Martha's Home. (Note: 2004 show proceeds went to Special Olympics in the amount of \$1975.00)

THANK YOU, to all who have worked over the years to make our "Day of Thunder" a success. And a special THANK YOU to our sponsor 'First United Bank' for providing a place for our monthly meetings and facilities and financial support for our annual show.

[To view more pictures from the Thunderbird's Car Show visit our gallery here!](#)

Upcoming Events

August 31, 2013 - 6th Street Block Party, presented by Townsquare Media and Buzula Furniture, benefitting Martha's Home.

September 15, 2013 - The Great Armadillo Hunt & Click, a motorcycle photo scavenger hunt at Sunset Center, presented by Martha's Home & The Great Armadillo Printing Company.

Stay tuned for more details to come!

