



offering a hand up

not a hand out

## Happily Married to Homeless and Divorced

RESIDENT STORY - By Cheyenne Black

Every little girl dreams of getting married to the man of her dreams, having children and living happily ever after. However life does not always follow the path dreams do.

Unfortunately, statistics show that approximately 44% of women fall into poverty after a broken relationship or divorce (Fagan 2011). This is the fate of many of the women coming to live at Martha's Home. In the fall of 2013 that is exactly what happened to Cathy (name has been changed), a recent resident.

Cathy married who she thought was the "man of her dreams." However, they were married only a few short months when she realized he was not the man he pretended to be. When confronted, he walked out on their marriage right before Christmas. Due to his deception, she was left penniless and with no job or income. She began selling off possessions in order to live. Her only family was a sister who passed away over a decade ago and a father who died more recently. Eventually, she was evicted and began sleeping in her car. People, who she thought were her friends, began to avoid her. It was as if they were afraid or blamed her for her homelessness. After sleeping in her cramped car for several weeks, she came to the realization that she needed to reach out for help. Cathy went into the Guyon Sanders Resource Center, where she was referred to Martha's Home.

Since moving into Martha's Home, Cathy has received weekly case management and life skills training. She has a support system in the staff and other residents. She is receiving the encouragement she needs to rebuild her self-esteem. Cathy feels more confident and capable and has found a full-time job during the day and an additional part-time job in the evenings. She is not afraid of hard work and with a "hand-up" from Martha's Home she is determined to rebuild her life.

**Women and Homelessness**  
Info by the National Coalition for the Homeless

More than 19 percent of women in Texas live in poverty.

The average length of stay in emergency shelter was 51 days for single women.

**Texas Homeless:**  
In raw numbers, Texas head the nation with 1.4 million women in poverty

**Homeless:**  
People who lack a stable permanent residence

Nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women, and these workers often get zero paid sick days.

People experiencing homelessness do have certain needs, affordable housing, adequate incomes, health care, mental health and/or drug treatment in order to remain securely housed. All of these needs must be met to prevent and to end homelessness.

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## *A Special Thanks to our Generous Community! We have been blessed!*



David Hudson and Connie Garcia

**Xcel Energy Foundation** recently awarded \$387,500 to 77 nonprofits in its Texas-New Mexico service area. David Hudson, President and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company, presented a \$8,500 grant to Martha's Home Executive Director, Connie Garcia. Martha's Home has been blessed to receive a grant from Xcel for several years now. We are truly honored to be associated with such a generous organization.

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The High Plains Thunderbirds have been providing funds to Martha's Home for several years with proceeds from their annual "Day of Thunder" Car Show. The car show is held annually the last Saturday of April and is currently sponsored by First United Bank at 45th and Soncy. The Car Show is open to all special interest vehicles in the Texas Panhandle. Food, door prizes and a live auction are part of the shows festivities and trophies are awarded to the various car classes. Live music is provided by the awesome "Easy Street" band.

The High Plains Thunderbirds were treated to an appreciation dinner hosted by Martha's Home staff and ladies. Thirty-two High Plains Thunderbirds members attended the appreciation dinner held at Tripp's Harley-Davidson meeting room. Mayor Harpole and his wife Jenny also attended. He addressed the unique service Martha's Home provides to the Amarillo area helping women and children in need rebuild their lives and re-enter society as self-sufficient and responsible citizens. Mayor Harpole expressed his and the communities' appreciation to all those individuals, organizations and businesses that help support Martha's Home in their special efforts.

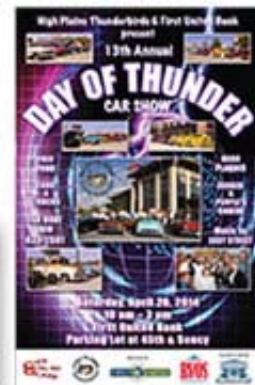
High Plains Thunderbirds used the event to present the proceeds from this year's car show to Martha's Home. Our president, Jeff Meade, presented a check for \$3,500.00 to Connie Garcia, Martha's Home Executive Director. With this check High Plains Thunderbirds has donated a total of \$30,860.00 in support of Martha's Home.



Mayor Paul Harpole with his wife, Jenny



Bud Eaton, Brad Higby, and HPT Pres. Jeff Meade with Connie Garcia, MH Exec. Dir.



Mary Kay Kuhrt, MH Development Dir., presented the High Plains Thunderbirds with a 'replica' of Martha's Home to be used for display at future Car Show events.



High Plains Thunderbirds with Martha's Home staff and board members.

The High Plains Thunderbirds do appreciate recognition of our efforts, but it is we as a club and as individuals that greatly appreciate and support Martha's Home, its staff and directors for the love and hard work that each of them put forth to make Martha's Home the successful organization that it is.

Submitted by Gary Fields, High Plains Thunderbirds Member



# Going Hunting on Your Motorcycle? HOW CRAZY IS THAT!

But that's exactly what we'll be doing! And there'll be lots of shooting, too ...with digital cameras and phones, that is! *So what's Hunt & Click, you ask?*

**GREAT ARMADILLO HUNT & CLICK** is a Motorcycle Photo Scavenger Hunt, and it all starts and ends at **SUNSET CENTER**, 3701 Plains Blvd, Amarillo, Texas on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2014**.

Each biker will be given a list of landmark and business locations in Amarillo and surrounding areas up to a 50 mile radius. The goal is to visit as many of them as possible over a four-hour period, and at each location said biker snaps a picture, and then continues hunting for the next location. Each picture is worth points, and at the end of it all, we'll add 'em up and see who is this year's grand champion of hunters and clickers!

**FIRST BIKES** Check in 11 am Ride 12-4 pm  
**LAST BIKES** Check in 12 noon Ride 1-5 pm

After collecting the desired bonus points within the 4-hour time limit, each rider will return to the Hunt & Click rally point, Sunset Center, and have each of their photographed bonus points scored. It is the choice of the rider to collect as many and which bonus points desired. All riders will be required to return within four hours of their starting time, the last by 5:00 pm to qualify for scoring!

*And the perfect end to a 4-hour ride? A **POST HUNT & CLICK PARTY**, of course! It's from **5:00 to 7:00 pm**, with **FREE** food, drinks, silent auction, vendors, and live music by **VELVET FUNK BAND!** 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place trophies will be presented at the Post Hunt & Click Party! *Don't have a motorcycle? No problem! **NON-RIDERS** can attend and enjoy the **POST HUNT & CLICK PARTY** for just **\$10**.**

Register in advance on-line and pay with PayPal, or download the registration form and send in with your check to Martha's Home, 1204 S.W. 18th Ave., Amarillo, Texas 79102. **HAPPY HUNTING!** [www.huntandclick.org](http://www.huntandclick.org)

**NOTE: If you have a Business and would like to be a Photo Stop Sponsor, please call Mary Kay at 806-367-1757 or email [marykay@marthashome.org](mailto:marykay@marthashome.org).**

*All of the proceeds from the Great Armadillo Hunt & Click will go toward providing homeless women and mothers with children a safe environment, life skills training, and a link to resources necessary to make a successful transition to independence and self-sufficiency. For more information, [www.marthashome.org](http://www.marthashome.org).*

2nd Annual  
**GREAT ARMADILLO**  
Benefiting  
Martha's Home  
2014

PRESENTED BY  
TRIPP'S  
HARLEY-DAVIDSON  
AMARILLO, TX

**Sunday  
Aug. 24, 2014**  
**Sunset Center**

**HUNT & CLICK!**  
**MOTORCYCLE PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT**

CHECK IN 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
FIRST BIKES: OUT @ 12:00 PM - IN @ 4:00 PM  
LAST BIKES: OUT @ 1:00 PM - IN @ 5:00 PM

**Early Registration \$25 Rider, \$10 Passenger**  
PAID 7-DAY WITH EARLY REGISTRATION

**Day of Event \$30 Rider, \$10 Passenger**

**POST HUNT & CLICK PARTY**  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sunset Center Event Room  
**NON-RIDERS \$10 PARTY ONLY**

- FREE FOOD & DRINKS
- LIVE MUSIC BY VELVET FUNK
- SILENT AUCTION
- VENDORS
- PRIZES FOR WINNERS
- **PARKING LOT**
- **SECURITY PROVIDED**

**VELVET FUNK BAND**

For Information Call 367-1757  
[marykay@marthashome.org](mailto:marykay@marthashome.org)  
[www.huntandclick.org](http://www.huntandclick.org)

PROVIDE A HELPING HAND

DONATE NOW

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1204 SW 18th Ave. Amarillo, TX 79102 | 806-372-4035