

Women Helping Others recaps busy 2024

As we embark on a new year, the Women Helping Others ladies kicked off their first meeting in January 2025 by celebrating the club's accomplishments for the previous year.

In 2024 WHO — in conjunction with other organizations — raised a grand total of \$225,797 through their efforts in fundraising, product drives, donations and club dues. The funds benefit Georgetown and Williamson County nonprofit organizations.

As in previous years, WHO invited upcoming 2025 speakers to attend the January meeting. This is an opportunity for the membership to talk and preview the organizations before they are scheduled to speak at a meeting. The speakers for 2025 are Good Neighbor GTX, Operation Liberty Hill, Mommie Network, A Gift of Time, Harley's Angels Res-

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cue, Georgetown Free Bikes, Jails to Jobs, Furrbaby Food Pantry, Yesterday's Gone, and Starry. These charities brought their literature/handouts to promote their organi-

zation and solicit volunteers for their nonprofit.

How does WHO raise so much money? A majority of the money is the result of third-party fundraisers and product drives.

A third-party fundraiser is where WHO takes responsibility for the fundraising task while collaborating with the assigned nonprofit. All funds raised at an event or events go directly into the nonprofit treasury. However, these organizations graciously give credit to WHO for the total donated. For example, WHO partnered with Hounds for Heroes to sponsor a car show in Sun City. A whopping sum of \$67,868 was raised and went directly to Hounds for Heroes. WHO took



WHO's leadership, from left, includes Parliamentarian Joan Douglas, President Maria Tolleson, Vice President Judy Madson and Outreach Liaison Sheri Valdon.

credit for raising the money.

Product drives are another way that contributes to the total. Throughout the year, many product drives are initiated; i.e., books, toiletries, school supplies,

fans and gift cards, etc. for various nonprofits the Club supports. For example, WHO sponsored a bedding drive for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. About \$4,100 was raised.

As you can see, these amounts add up very quickly. It is amazing to see the outpouring of such generosity from WHO members, Sun City and Georgetown folks.

WHO not only raises money, but has a very active outreach program that continues to grow each year. Weekly and monthly volunteering efforts support BiG in Georgetown, The Caring Place, Helping Hands, Georgetown Project, Key2Free, Meals on Wheels, Head Start, ROCK, Salvation Army, Holiday Meals Delivered, and several nursing homes. A monthly field trip is scheduled to the facility before each of their presentations are given to the WHO meeting. WHO will continue to promote volunteering in 2025.

WHO President Maria Tolleson and the membership are excited about 2025 and the plans that WHO has to serve the Williamson County community.

Happy new year!