



## Christmas cookies

**Above,** Volunteers in Sun City take time to pose for a group photo while preparing 500 dozen homemade cookies for the Women Helping Others (WHO) distribution on Monday, December 23.

**Right,** Sun City residents Gil Douglas (as Santa Claus) and Frank B. Rankin take time to visit.

— Photos by Andy Sharp



# WHO helps for a joyous holiday season

The end of 2024 was a busy time for Women Helping Others volunteers, who took on the role of elves for the holidays as the Sun City chartered club supported causes like Holiday Meals Delivered.

Since the 1990s, Holiday Meals Delivered has been providing the Georgetown and Williamson County community with holiday meals during Christmas. Beth Jenkins is the program's organizer.

To support the program, this year, WHO's Elves drove to deliver meals, and gathered donations of toiletries, senior gift cards, cookies and more.

In November, WHO elves initiated their annual toiletry drive. About 440 gallon bags of toiletries were bagged, exceeding the goal the group set out to fill. WHO received enough toiletries to donate 11 boxes

## WOMEN HELPING OTHERS

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each to The Caring Place and Helping Hands, plus two boxes to the Delaney nursing home.

You may wonder why toiletries were gathered as part of Christmas gift distributions. Simply put, many families struggle financially; and fresh toiletries may not be at the top of their budget.

The elves weren't finished. WHO's annual cookie baiting and packing took place December 23. Cookies were requested from all of Sun City; while The Monument Cafe, Rusty's Sunday School Class and Lulu's all donated cookies as well. This year, a whopping 500 dozen cookies were donated and packaged. These cookies are included in the gift bags for Holiday Meals Delivered recipient families.

WHO finished the year off by donating gift cards for seniors, money for food and

volunteer drivers on Christmas morning.

WHO's effort is only a small part of the overall support that is given to Holiday Meals Delivered by Georgetown volunteers, groups and businesses. This community gives back and pays it forward, and has supported Holiday Meals Delivered since the late 1990s. All donations go directly to support this volunteer-driven program.

Previously prepared by The Monument Cafe, The Sheraton in Georgetown under Chef Roberts took over the task of preparing the meals for delivery in 2020. This year, The Sheraton welcomed Executive Chef Daniel Rodriguez, who continued this tradition. Before joining Sheraton, he served as executive sous chef at the Westin River Walk San Antonio.

Since 2020, the Fredrickson Ranch Neighborhood residents Laura Parillo, Jimmy Byrd, and Karen and Keith Fudge

have also partnered with Holiday Meals Delivered by initialing toy drives, donations, drivers and responsibility for organizing volunteers for the Sheraton meal runners on Christmas day. Their toys, as well as a toy drive from LuLu's, provided gifts for 550 children.

In conclusion, the WHO ladies would like to thank the 450 volunteers from Georgetown and Sun City who donated their time and money to make this year's Holiday Meals Delivered efforts a success. We also thank the *Williamson County Sun* for supporting WHO through this column, and readers for helping make our 2024 fundraising efforts a success. Happy new year!

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*Anne Marshall is a member of Woman Helping Others, a Sun City-based club that works to help area nonprofit organizations.*