

Newest chartered club serves others

By ELLEN GREENEY needs.

Women Helping Others started in 2010 with a meeting in the home of Mollie Hoff attended by 12 ladies from Neighborhood 43.

Since that initial meeting, the group has supported a variety of non-profits and made a serious difference in Georgetown.

Membership has grown to 100 strong, including several men, and it is one of Sun City's newest chartered clubs, which greatly increases its visibility and outreach opportunities.

The club's goals for 2015 revolve around four main recipients: Meals on Wheels, The Caring Place, The Georgetown Project's NEST facility for homeless students and Brookwood in Georgetown, a community for adults with special

Plus, they support many other worthy organizations including Spirit Reins, Blue Santa and Silver Bells, Storybook Project, Habitat for Humanity and Austin Fly Fishers' Soldier Kids project.

"One of the most rewarding activities was getting one of our neighbors off the Meals on Wheels waiting list," said Ruthie VanDeMoortel, treasurer and past president of Women Helping Others.

"They had a waiting list of over 20 people in Sun City and we raised enough funds to eliminate that list."

Clients for Meals on Wheels, which delivers nutritious meals to homebound seniors, are not always there for financial reasons, said Nina Stancil,

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Ellen Greeney

Nina Stancil, Women Helping Others president, and Ruthie VanDeMoortel, the organization's treasurer.



Sun photos; bottom right, Ellen Greeney

Volunteers Rick and Peggy Fitzgerald deliver a hot meal to Billy Freeman in February 2014 as part of Meals on Wheels. Sun City's Women Helping Others, which has grown to more than 100 members, donated \$12,000 to Meals on Wheels last year. Below, Gina O'Connor, executive director of The Caring Place, stands inside the non-profit's food pantry. WHO also helps non-profit organizations like The Caring Place and The Georgetown Project. Below right, the club's mascot.

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president of Women Helping Others.

"It's more of a mobility issue," she said. "Perhaps a caregiver spouse is ill or dies; that leaves a person in need. Or, a person living alone has health problems and their health deteriorates."

Last year, WHO raised \$12,000 for Meals on Wheels and it brought in \$25,000 in 2012 earmarked for Sun City residents.

For the last four years, WHO has provided graduation packages to the NEST. The \$100 packages covered the cost of their cap and gown, invitations and a camera.

They donated \$1,000 to Brookwood to help support young adults with disabili-



ties, creating meaningful jobs and building self-respect.

Other fund-raising activities include a golf tournament with Faith Lutheran Church and food drives with almost 700 pounds for The Caring Place. New avenues for fund raising will incorporate crafts: beautiful jewelry, Christmas wreaths, cookie

mixes, hand-painted glassware, knitted scarves and a cookbook.

Nina suggested an easy way for everyone to help: donating unopened toiletries such tiny soap containers, shampoo, conditioner, lotion and other complimentary products provided by hotels and cruise ships.

"Just put them on my



porch," Nina said. Her address is 213 Goose Island Drive.

In 2014, WHO made 160 quart bags using collected toiletries for the Meals on Wheels Christmas Program, which provides small gifts and a hot meal from Monument Cafe on Christmas Day.

The club meets at 11 a.m. on the fourth Monday of

each month at The Oaks, 301 Del Webb Boulevard. If you would like to attend, RSVP by calling Nina at 512-868-1609, Ruthie at 512-864-2384 or Vice President of Programs Celia Olson at 512-948-7382. Members bring a salad to share and a \$10 donation is expected from members.

The monthly donations, along with the \$10 annual membership dues, are used to provide bulk donations. Except for minor petty cash needs, all funds collected are donated to local non-profits by the end of each December.

At the upcoming February 23 meeting, the guest speaker from Spirit Reins will talk about their program to improve the emotional and behavioral health of abused children with the help of horses.