

Gratification from giving

By ELLEN GREENEY

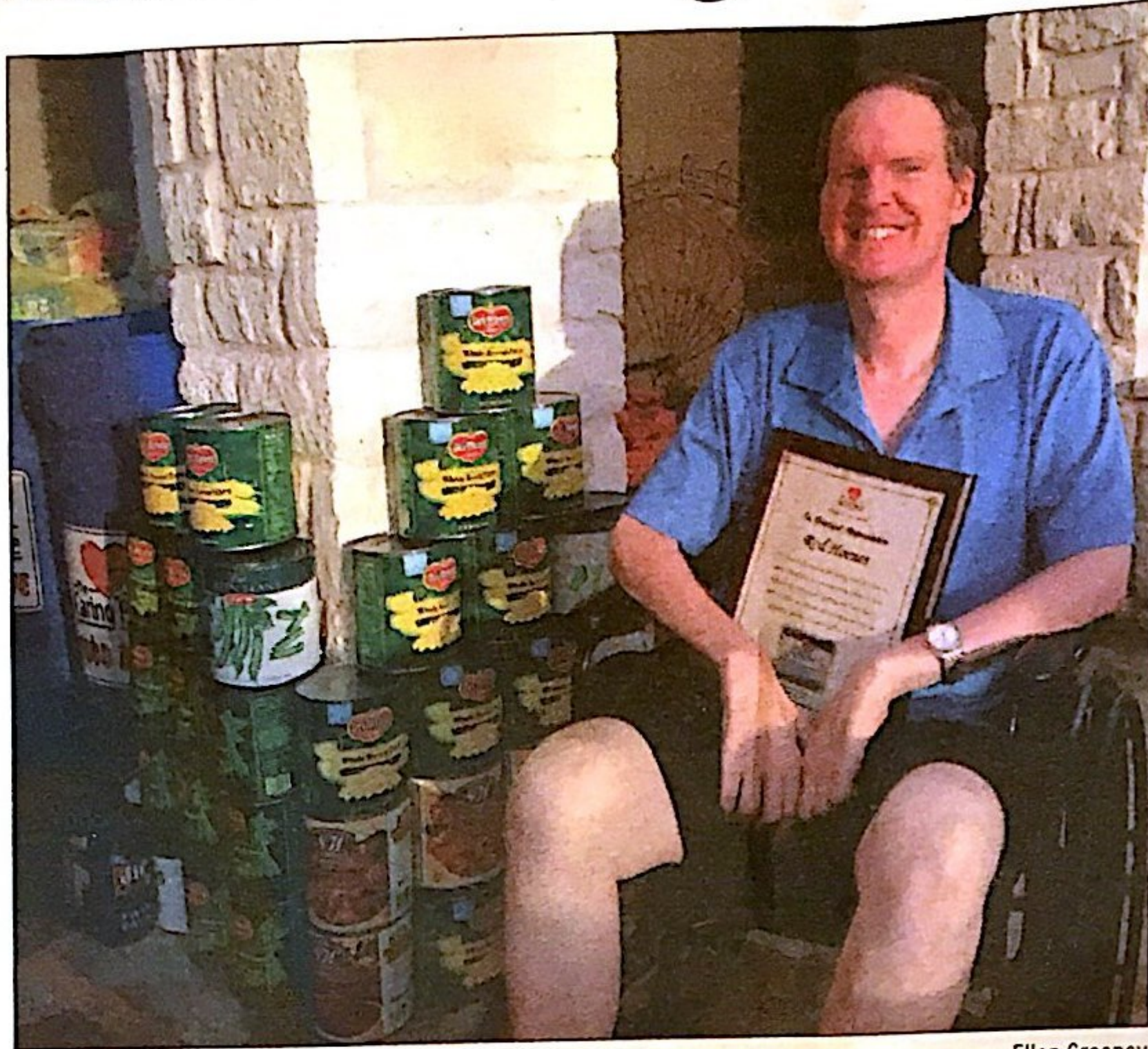
Neighborhood 43 residents combined their annual hot dog party with a Halloween party and a food drive for The Caring Place October 28. One major contributor was Rod Hoenes.

Rod lives with his parents, Earl and Lucette, on Goose Island Drive. He has made a habit of donating to the less fortunate, even after receiving a life-altering medical diagnosis.

While he worked at the H-E-B near Dell Diamond in Round Rock, Rob would buy 15 to 20 cans of vegetables and donate them inside the store.

He was diagnosed with ALS in September 2014 and had to quit working. However, he continues to buy canned goods and now brings them to The Caring Place.

"Rod is a very special person and has always wanted to help others as best he could,"



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Continued on 6 Rod Hoenes and other partygoers donated a total of 637 pounds of food to The Caring Place.

Neighbors gather for party, donate 637 pounds of food

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said Nina Stancil, president of Women Helping Others, a Sun City-based philanthropic group.

"He has not missed a week donating to some food bank in years. Now we take him in his wheelchair to the H-E-B on Williams Drive and donate at least \$30 of food."

In front of friends and neighbors, Ginna O'Connor, executive director of The Caring Place, thanked Rod with a plaque. It said: "In grateful appreciation to Rod Hoenes for your dedication to providing food for those in need. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to help support our mission by keeping our Food Pantry

shelves filled so that we can continue to help the growing number of our neighbors in need."

This year Rod donated 32 gallon cans of vegetables to The Caring Place. He said if everyone donated a few items, we could easily meet the community's needs.

Ms. O'Connor noted that The Caring Place helped more than 700 clients last month and demand is increasing.

Ms. Stancil, Mollie Hoff, Ruthie VanDeMoortel and Nora Booth planned the party at Ruthie's home on McKinney Falls Lane. About 60 neighbors attended, donating \$1,835 and 637 pounds of food to The Caring Place.

The Caring Place has

served families in need in Georgetown and rural Williamson County since 1985.

The food pantry needs canned tuna, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, Jello, pudding, fruit juices, baking mixes, tomato products and boxed dinners. Bring donations to 2000 Railroad Street, south of University Avenue.

Neighborhoods and clubs wanting to sponsor a food drive should contact The Caring Place at 512-943-0710 to arrange for delivery and pick up of the big blue donation barrels.

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From left, Ruthie VanDeMoortel, Nina Stancil and Nora Booth were the lovely party hostesses.