



Reach up • Reach in • Reach out

Winter 2014 Newsletter

Letter from Chairman of the Board, Larry Toon



As the year winds down, we want to take a moment to express our utmost gratitude for your support of Elizabeth Toon Charities over the past eight years. As we approach our ninth year, we find joy in looking back on the milestones achieved and the children and families who we have helped.

Over the years, ETC has helped thousands of children. We have funded education programs, camps for children with disabilities, programs for children that have faced physical and sexual abuse, assistance programs for children facing illnesses, as well as many, many more. This is all a result of your generous gifts of both time and resources. **We have the best group of supporters, volunteers and corporations and we truly can't thank you enough.**

Since the organization's inception, Elizabeth Toon Charities has supported 47 well-deserving charities in the North Texas area. After we delivered the checks from this year's Shootout, we were reminded of the impact we have made particularly to our partner charities. **Since 2007, we have gifted Scottish Rite Hospital over \$370,000! We have also gifted \$295,000 to Camp John Marc, \$200,000 to the Rise School of Dallas and \$125,000 to the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center.** This is in addition to the many gifts made to charities through our annual grant program. Thank you for helping us achieve these phenomenal figures!

We are so proud of what the organization has become in honor of Elizabeth and the children and families we support. It was just eight years ago we lost sweet Elizabeth and today we reflect on the children her life has continued to touch. Through each of your generous donations, you are a part of making a difference in the lives of children suffering from abuse, educational disadvantages, homelessness, foster care, terminal illness and physical challenges.

With your continued support, we look forward to growing our mission in 2015. Please consider making an end-of-the-year tax deductible donation of any size to Elizabeth Toon Charities by using the [Donation Link](#) below. On behalf of our Board of Directors and our extraordinary Shootout Committee, thank you for your support of Elizabeth Toon Charities. On behalf of my family, thank you for your love and friendship.

Have a wonderful Holiday season!

Larry Toon
President of the Board



SAVE THE DATE Spread the Word!

9th Annual Concert and Shootout Thursday, May 7th & Friday, May 8th

This year's concert & live auction promises to be **another great year** with some of **Texas' finest musicians** taking the stage at **The Rustic**. The fun continues with the sporting clay tournament at the **Dallas Gun Club!** Be on the lookout for additional details in the New Year and be the first to sign up your team!

How to get involved with Elizabeth Toon Charities

Join the Shootout Committee – This fun group helps plan the annual concert & shootout by working on entertainment, live auction items, raffle items, sponsorship and ticket sales, and much more! Please contact [Carolyn](#) if you are interested in joining.

AmazonSmile – Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate .05% of all eligible purchases to ETC! Register you Amazon account [here](#).

Matching Gifts – Many companies offer a matching gift program that could double or even triple your gift to ETC! Contact your human resources department to see if your company has a program.

Volunteer Days through ETC – We are happy to help arrange volunteer events for your company, friends or family with many of partner charities. Contact [Carolyn](#) for more information.

2015 Beneficiaries

Selected by the Elizabeth Toon Charities Board of Directors and the Grant Selection Committee

We are very excited to announce the 2015 beneficiaries selected through our grant program! Our team is dedicated to helping children suffering from a variety of issues, such as abuse, educational disadvantages, homelessness, terminal illness and physical challenges.

Each one of these charities carries out the mission and values we strive for at ETC and they work hard to improve the lives of children in North Texas.

- [Bryan's House](#)
- [Buckner Children & Family Services](#)
- [Camp Fire First Texas](#)
- [Camp John Marc](#)
- [Child Study Center](#)
- [Clayton Dabney for Kids with Cancer](#)
- [Dallas Children's Advocacy Center](#)
- [Dallas Furniture Bank](#)
- [Friends of Wednesday's Child](#)
- [Grief & Loss Center of North Texas](#)
- [Hope's Door](#)
- [Interfaith Housing Coalition](#)
- [REAL School Gardens](#)
- [Rise School of Dallas](#)
- [Ronald McDonald House](#)
- [Scottish Rite Hospital](#)
- [St. Simons After-School](#)
- [Suicide & Crisis Center of North Texas](#)

Please click on the names of each organization to learn more about the charity recipients or visit our website at www.elizabeth-tooncharities.org to learn about what programs each of our grants will be funding at the organizations.

Featured 2015 Charities of the Month

Interfaith Housing Coalition

For nearly 30 years, Interfaith Housing Coalition has been a leading resource of transitional housing and empowerment services for working poor families who become homeless, and a haven for homeless children who long for stability and hope. Today, they are even more committed to the mission "to be the hands of Christ helping homeless families transition to self-sufficiency and new hope."

In addition to empowering parents through career and financial coaching, Interfaith has a remarkable children's program that focuses on educating, elevating, and encouraging children as well as teens using a holistic approach with play therapy, arts and crafts, tutoring, and field trips. Interfaith helps homeless children break the cycle of poverty. Research shows that children without stable homes are at higher risk for behavioral, emotional, and academic issues (American Psychological Association). For example, every time a homeless family moves, they lose 3-6 months of education. With approximately **2,750 homeless children in DISD**, it is critical to focus on creating innovative ways to educate these children and fill in gaps that result from their families' instability.

Each year, Interfaith serves 150 children like Mark. Upon entry as a 4th grader, Mark read on a 1st grade level and slated for placement in special education. After receiving tutoring and lots of encouragement, Mark exited the program 12 months later reading on the 5th grade level and was invited to join the school's Gifted and Talented Program! Now, he has a bigger dream for himself, stating, "I wanted to be an apartment mover; now I want to be a scientist." By supporting foundations like Elizabeth Toon Charities, you are helping more kids like Mark have hope and a future.



Clayton Dabney for Kids with Cancer - Medicine of the Heart Program

Clayton Dabney for Kids with Cancer provides families with children in the last stages of terminal cancer with assistance in making everlasting memories by providing last wishes, gifts, special events, family travel and financial assistance with household expenses. The assistance is provided through the parents and is anonymous to the child. Clayton Dabney will serve more than 325 families across the US in 2014 and provide nearly \$700,000 in assistance.

The namesake, Clayton Dabney, was a special and courageous little boy, and everyone that knew him will tell you that he was more than just kids his age. Even after he was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma, a muscle tissue cancer, at the age of just 6, he never complained during long, painful cancer treatments and continued to be a source of joy, courage, and enlightenment to his family and all who knew him. Sadly, Clayton lost his battle with cancer on September 6th, 1995, but his unique spirit and legacy live on through Clayton Dabney for Kids with Cancer.

Clayton was fortunate to have parents, family, and friends who could spend every moment with him right up to the very end. But Clayton recognized that there were other children going through the same ordeal as he was but were much less fortunate, so he took it upon himself to share toys and gifts from his hospital room with those children. This simple act of kindness was the inspiration in forming the foundation that has endured for almost 20 years. The sad fact remains that not all children are as fortunate as Clayton. Many families are struggling long before they are struck with the devastating news that their child is going to die of cancer. Cancer not only destroys life, but it can also destroy the emotional and financial stability of the family as well. It is an almost incomprehensible grief. But the efforts of Clayton Dabney for Kids with Cancer can help ease these burdens and help provide much needed life-long memories. For when it's all said and done, that's all you have—memories.

Annie was diagnosed with a brain tumor just before her birthday. Annie lived with her parents and was an only child. Her father worked as a pipe fitter and her mother was her full-time caregiver. Annie's father had to work a lot of time with her care needs which caused the family to struggle to make ends meet. The family also had car problems that forced them to use public transportation to get to the hospital for treatment. Clayton Dabney had their car repaired, paid their utility bills and provided assistance for food and basic necessities.



St. Simons After-School



St. Simon's After-School's mission is to provide free after-school care for elementary school age children from low-income families in the Dallas Independent School District. Most low-income parents, despite working, cannot afford the cost of after school programs. Approximately 25% of the children in Dallas County live in poverty, and 242,000 of them qualify for free school lunch programs. For these children, their parents struggle with the most basic of needs, such as putting food on the table, and paying for after-school care is prohibitive. They are either single parent families

or dual income families and can barely make ends meet. So their children, no matter what their age, end up alone after school. Without the St. Simon's program, these children would be latch-key kids on the streets and often in dangerous neighborhoods.

St. Simon's After-School provides a safe nurturing environment for elementary school children in the community, thereby keeping them from being unsupervised and giving their parents the assurance that they are cared for while they are at work. The programs are housed at the elementary schools that the children attend, and employ certified teachers. Dedicated and passionate volunteers support the teachers in providing encouragement and assistance along with providing supplies and books for the children.

A typical St. Simon's program consists of a nutritious snack for the children, help with homework, followed by various recreational activities, including computer time, games, gymnasium or outside time, art, reading, etc. Recognizing that an after-school program must do more than just provide care, St. Simon's also focuses on providing more activities for academic and social development.

St. Simon's currently provides after-school care for more than 650 children in 14 different elementary schools, and is the second largest provider of after-school care in Dallas. More than 90% of the children served are African-American or Hispanic. Through cooperative arrangements with DISD, St. Simon's is able to operate very efficiently, providing after-school care at approximately \$300 per student for the entire school year. In addition to the part-time staff, they make extensive use of volunteers, and as a result, approximately 90% of funds raised go directly to support the children in the programs.



St. Simon's gives parents the opportunity to build a better life for their families by being able to work with the peace of mind that their children are being cared for safely.

[Make a Donation >>](#)

For more information, call (214) 438-6445 or e-mail carolyn@elizabethtoon.org.
www.ElizabethToonCharities.org