



onestar
foundation

Building a Stronger Nonprofit Sector for a Better Texas

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QUARTERLY UPDATE

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"For a successful organization that is firing on all cylinders...knowing when to re-tool and re-envision goals, strategies or even one's mission can be a big challenge."

Dear Friends,

This time last year I was asked to write an [article](#) for the NonProfit Times on what keeps CEOs up at night. There was no shortage of content on that subject as OneStar had begun a serious strategic planning process in August 2016 which we completed in April of this year. Such exercises often go one of two ways with either an expensive bound document placed on a shelf (or in Dropbox) or an uncomfortable shift in the business model as the plan is being implemented. I think you will appreciate the path we chose.

This inaugural newsletter fulfills one of the goals in our strategic plan - to better communicate what we do and why we do it. In other words, our purpose for existing! We had hoped to launch this communication in late August of this year, but Hurricane Harvey hit and many well-laid plans were tossed aside in the immediate aftermath of the storm. That little line in our strategic plan that promised we'd "investigate and consider" OneStar's role in disaster services, suddenly took on gargantuan proportions. (I am pleased to relate that we have met and exceeded any goals in this regard).

Year end is always a convenient opportunity for reflection and for thanks. Reflection on what we as an organization have accomplished and thanks for all who have guided and supported and contributed to our success. Of course, there is also a need to acknowledge what we could have done better or differently, for if we are not a learning organization, then we are doomed to repeat the same mistakes with the same marginal outcomes that define far too many nonprofits in this sector.

So, with this newsletter, we hope to encourage and energize all of you who join us in the important work of strengthening the nonprofit sector to more effectively fulfill our varied missions.

Enjoy!



Elizabeth Darling

President/CEO, OneStar Foundation

A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT'S NEW!

New VISION and MISSION

VISION

Every Texas community engages partners and volunteers to address local needs.

MISSION

OneStar equips Texas communities to meet their needs by convening partners across sectors, promoting service and volunteerism, and investing in effective solutions.

Our Goals:

Increase the collective community impact of our AmeriCorps*Texas and VISTA intermediary portfolios, and add new programs to address the priority focus areas of Veterans and Military Families, Disaster Services, and Child Welfare.

Promote the value of National Service in strengthening the resilience of Texas communities in times of disaster, by creating and supporting cross-sector disaster-focused networks, and building volunteer and donations management capacity.

Prepare faith-based and community organizations to partner across sectors to address the challenges within their communities, using the convening power of the Texas Nonprofit Summit Series.

Expand our role in promoting volunteer service and philanthropy across the state.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Activities and Accomplishments

AmeriCorps*Texas Grant

Making Updates

2017-2018 AmeriCorps State Competitive and Formula

On July 3, 2017 OneStar Foundation announced that Texas **received \$14.6 million in federal AmeriCorps funding** from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Funds were awarded to nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and educational institutions following a highly competitive process and will be

matched by \$37.3 million in local resources. These funds will support 2,972 AmeriCorps members who collectively will earn up to \$11.7 million in education awards valued at \$5,815 per member for completing a 1,700 hour term of service. **This represents an increase over last year of nearly \$600,000 and over 600 additional AmeriCorps members serving in the state of Texas!**

Beginning this fall, AmeriCorps members serving in Texas joined more than 80,000 AmeriCorps members serving across the country in 21,600 locations. These members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

Since AmeriCorps' inception in 1994, more than 52,000 AmeriCorps members have served over 70 million hours in Texas alone, earning more than \$156,670,000 in education scholarships.

Click [here](#) to see the full press release.

Click [here](#) to see a detailed description of our grantees with contact information.

2018-2019 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity

OneStar released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the AmeriCorps State 2018-2019 program year. Applications for Competitive funding consideration were due to OneStar on November 7th and applications for Formula funding consideration are due to OneStar on March 29th, 2018. Available funding amounts will not be known until the completion of the federal appropriations process. We look forward to this new grant competition and increasing the presence of AmeriCorps in Texas. 2018-2019 NOFO can be found [here](#).



AmeriCorps*Texas Program Activities

Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response and Recovery Efforts

Our AmeriCorps*Texas members were quick to respond to needs arising from Hurricane Harvey. Across the state AmeriCorps members have proven to be a huge asset to response and recovery efforts, below is a summary of disaster activities:



- American YouthWorks' Texas Conservation Corps Disaster Response Team immediately deployed to Aransas Pass to set up a Volunteer Reception Center. Soon after, a second team (pictured to the above right) was deployed Cabaniss Field FEMA Responder Camp in Corpus Christi. They assisted and served the communities in Nueces, San Patricio, Aransas, and Refugio.
- City Year San Antonio members in teams of 10 were activated September 18th to assist in the State's Multi-Agency Donations Warehouse in San Antonio through October 12.

30-60 members a day from 20 different AmeriCorps*Texas programs were activated on September 16th to take calls through Crisis Cleanup's Virtual Call Center, a nonprofit that connects property cleanup needs of disaster survivors with disaster relief organizations. Our members fielded all Texas calls coming through the Call Center. Additionally, because we have a large number of Spanish-speaking members, this enabled Crisis Cleanup to open up a Spanish Hotline to better serve the Spanish speaking populations in the affected communities. In the first weekend of activation, our members returned over 4,000 calls from disaster survivors. In the initial weeks following the disaster members fielded approximately 400 calls a day from disaster survivors.



AmeriCorps VISTA

Intermediary

AmeriCorps VISTA is a highly professional and rigorous volunteer service program, administered nationally by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), through which national service members serve with organizations full-time for one year. VISTA projects focus on building permanent capacity and infrastructure to help more effectively bring individuals and communities out of poverty, and often is a fit for growing organizations.

OneStar Foundation partners to place members at nonprofit host organizations and government agencies that provide member supervision and develop focused projects. OneStar provides overall project supervision, logistical support, and helps absorb oversight and project management costs. The primary focus of all VISTA programs nationwide is anti-poverty, with five focus areas: Education, Veterans and Military Families, Economic Opportunity, Healthy Futures, and Disaster Services. In 2018, OneStar is committed to placing 48 VISTA members at 25-30 organizations across Texas. This commitment includes an expansion of our partnership with CNCS to place 12 VISTAs focusing on long-term recovery for communities affected by Hurricane Harvey. Learn more about [current OneStar VISTA host sites](#) and how to [apply to host a VISTA member](#) with your organization.



Disaster Services

OneStar Foundation is charged by Executive Order to strengthen the capacity of nonprofits across Texas. One of the ways we fulfill this role is through our work in disaster services, which has never been more important than in response to Hurricane Harvey.

The role of OneStar's Disaster Services team is to strengthen community capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, disaster by promoting the value of National Service in disaster; creating and supporting cross-sector disaster-focused networks; and building disaster volunteer and donations management capacity.

In the days and weeks following landfall, OneStar's Disaster Services Manager staffed the Texas Department of Public Safety's State Operations Center on behalf of Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). VOAD is a membership association of organizations such as Mennonite Disaster Services, Salvation Army, Texas Baptist Men, and many others, that promote cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration to alleviate the impact of disasters. In this role, OneStar works closely with local/state/national VOAD members and partners, state agencies and commissions, the Office of the Governor, and private sector partners to support coordination of mass care, volunteer management and donations management operations.

Once immediate response operations concluded and short-term recovery efforts began, OneStar's Disaster Services team relocated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) / Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Joint Field Office (JFO), where they assumed a lead role working alongside the TDEM Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) to provide strategic direction to numerous Hurricane Harvey Task Forces, including Volunteer Management, Donations Management, Emotional & Spiritual Care, Repair/Rebuild & Unmet Needs, and Long-Term Recovery. These Task Forces were comprised of FEMA VALs, AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams and VOAD members and partners.



Pictured in the left photo are Marcus Coleman and Rev. Jamie Johnson from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, National VOAD President & CEO Greg Forrester, FEMA VAL's from across the country who are supporting Harvey recovery efforts, and ADRT members from Washington Conservation Corps.

Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response and Recovery Efforts

On December 6th – 8th, OneStar co-sponsored a training summit for long-term recovery leaders from Harvey-impacted communities in collaboration with Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Texas Division of Emergency Management, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. This leadership training built and strengthened the capacity of Texas communities to recover from Hurricane Harvey through active sharing of best-practices from governmental and non-governmental subject matter experts, peer-to-peer exploration of innovative solutions, and cross-sector relationship building.



Rebuild Texas Fund

On September 1, 2017 Governor Abbott announced that "...the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation would be collaborating with the OneStar Foundation to form a relief fund for Hurricane Harvey victims called the Rebuild Texas Fund. The Dell Foundation will be contributing \$36 million to the fund with a long-term vision for the recovery of the affected areas." See the announcement [here](#).

Immediately, OneStar began working closely with a team at the MSDF to put policies, procedures and communication strategies in place in support of these efforts. Together, we

plan to raise \$100M in funds that will support the long-term work of recovery and rebuilding, in addition to selected immediate relief efforts. As of December 20, 2017, the fund is at \$89.3 million. Funding through the Rebuild Texas Fund will be provided to eligible nonprofit, government, corporate, and philanthropic organizations working on the ground in Texas communities, big and small, that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. The fund will support organizations that provide services in the following focus areas – housing, small business, education and childcare, health, workplace and transportation, community and economic development.

October 9th the Rebuild Texas Team announced the first round of grant funding to 16 vetted organizations for \$2.15M. The second round of grant funding was announced December 14th totaling \$2.8 million to 11 projects by local organizations. [Click Here](#) to view the recipients. The bulk of the funds will be expended over the next three years for unmet needs related to long-term recovery.

The Rebuild Texas Team will be leading periodic statewide calls for significant funders supporting recovery and rebuilding in the Harvey impacted areas. Foundations were asked to register for the call after completing a survey indicating the amount they expect to expend, focus areas, geographic restrictions, eligibility etc.

For the first time in its history, FEMA has designated a Philanthropy Advisor specifically to work with OneStar in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. This liaison will help us maximize the use of private dollars to address unmet needs – those needs not covered by FEMA, SBA or other public funding sources. In some instances, receipt of private funds may impact access to federal reimbursement.

Capacity Building & Convening

34th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards (GVA)

As part of our charge to support the Office of the Governor, OneStar administers the Governor's Volunteer Awards, now in its 34th year. Awardees were honored in October at an evening reception at the Texas Governor's Mansion hosted by Governor Greg Abbott and Honorary Chair, First Lady Cecilia Abbott. Please click [here](#) to see this year's winners and view the official Press Release on the [Office of the Governor website](#). To see photos from the event visit our [flickr](#) page. Nominations for 2018 will open in late March, 2018.



Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott and Governor Greg Abbott host the 34th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards.

2017 Texas Nonprofit Summit Series

In 2016 OneStar Foundation departed from our forty-year history of hosting a single statewide nonprofit summit, opting instead to partner with communities in rural or under resourced regions of the state.

The [Texas Nonprofit Summit Series](#) of 2016 included El Paso, The Rio Grande Valley, and Lubbock. The series inspired leaders across all sectors to focus on the nexus of service, leadership and collaboration. Each event was locally driven to meet the needs and aspirations of participants and encourage cross sector collaboration, highlight promising practices and catalyze strategies to address local issues. Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott was a special guest at all three forums in 2016, where she welcomed attendees and provided remarks on volunteerism and service. Mrs. Abbott introduced "TEXANTHROPY" her initiative to promote volunteerism and philanthropy, across the State of Texas. To learn more about Texanthropy, click [here](#).

The 2017 series sponsored by AT&T, began in Wichita Falls with the North Texas Nonprofit and Business Summit on October 6th. Our partner and Nonprofit Management Alliance of Texas (NMAT) member, the Nonprofit Center of Texoma, planned a cross-sector event for local nonprofit and business leaders hosted by Midwestern College. Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott enjoyed mingling with local nonprofit leaders at the VIP reception the evening before and after her opening remarks on Friday.

The East Texas Nonprofit Leadership Conference was held in Lufkin on October 19th. The T.L.L. Temple Foundation partnered with Angelina College, United Way and OneStar Foundation to bring local nonprofit leaders and board members together for a two-day intensive development opportunity. Several workshops were led by OneStar's Academic Affinity Group members from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M.

In spite of the impact of Hurricane Harvey on the Beaumont region, we are still on schedule for the Southeast Texas Nonprofit Summit on Tuesday, January 23, 2018. The summit is a collaboration between the Southeast Texas Nonprofit Development Center, Lamar University, United Way, and the T.L.L. Temple Foundation.



Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG)

In 2009, the Texas Legislature passed [legislation](#) creating an Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) of state agencies charged with improving the working relationship between faith-based and community organizations (nonprofits) and state government. In 2011, the ICG was expanded to include even more state agencies. The head of each agency, in consultation with the Office of the Governor, is to designate a high-level liaison to serve on the Interagency Coordinating Group. OneStar Foundation is the Chair of the ICG.



In 2017 the ICG met in June and October. At the June meeting ICG liaisons reported out on any legislation that was passed in the recent session that may affect faith and community-based organizations or that might require outreach to such organizations during implementation.

Hurricane Harvey was the central focus of the October ICG meeting. Wayne Rickard, FEMA Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) for Texas was invited to speak on the federal response. State agencies reported on their agency's official and unofficial response to the disaster. Unofficial response included how the agency was supporting its employees who were impacted by the storm. Official activities were those in alignment with the agency's mission.

Each December OneStar submits a report on the activities of the ICG to the Texas Legislature. To learn more about the initiative click [here](#).

Nonprofit Management Alliance of Texas (NMAT)

[NMAT](#) membership is open to capacity building organizations whose primary focus is to provide management and governance services to the nonprofit organizations in their respective regions of the state. In alignment with OneStar's role to strengthen the nonprofit sector we support and convene NMAT as well as an [Academic Affinity group \(AAG\)](#). The AAG is an informal group of colleges and universities that have degree or certification programs in nonprofit leadership and management, conduct research on the nonprofit sector and/or are preparing students for careers in the public or nonprofit sectors.

In November, NMAT members attended a one day convening hosted by OneStar at the San Antonio Area Foundation. Julie Simpson of the TCC Group facilitated an interactive session based on the TCC Group's "Capacity Building Initiative Design." Attendees were challenged to think about their organization's effectiveness within the larger eco-system.

Ilsa Flanagan, consultant on the ["National Reframing Initiative"](#) for the National Human Services Assembly, led an afternoon session on ways to better communicate nonprofit impact and the value of the services we provide. The Assembly's National Reframing Initiative seeks to build broader and deeper public support for human services.

If you know of capacity building organizations that might be interested in joining NMAT, please let us know!

Thank You For Reading!



ONESTAR STAFF

August 2017

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OneStar Foundation is a nonprofit agent of the state created as a public/private partnership working on behalf of the state to further volunteerism and community service, and to increase the impact and effectiveness of the nonprofit sector. OneStar serves as a neutral convener and a respected partner to nonprofits, foundations, state agencies, and the business community.

For more about OneStar Foundation, please visit www.onestarfoundation.org.

OneStar Foundation: Building a Stronger Nonprofit Sector for a Better Texas

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