

WEST TEXAS REHABILITATION CENTER

ROUND-UP

IN THIS ISSUE

Leadership Letter • Charitable Giving
Shawn Boles • Steve Cecil
& Patient Spotlight, featuring

Samuel Stovall



ISSUE NO. 18 • SEPTEMBER, 2022



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they're
ready,
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LEADERSHIP letter BY STEVE MARTIN, PRESIDENT & CEO



As I write this letter, we are in the midst of a string of 100-degree days with no end in sight, and we desperately need rain. It is ironic, as we kick off Round-Up for Rehab, that 63 years ago a drought prompted Coke County ranchers, Conda and Edna Wylie, to donate a pen of cattle to be sold to help benefit the patients served by West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

This neighbor-helping-neighbor philosophy is at the heart of the agricultural community, and we thank them for making the effort year in and year out, even during the toughest of times, to donate livestock, cash, or products to support our mission. As our honorary chairman, Red Steagall, who is always so positive, says when it comes to rain, "If you don't get it when you need it, you will need it when you get it." Please review our calendar of events in this issue to find ways to support the Round-Up for Rehab, as one-third of the 680 patients we serve each day in Abilene, Ozona, and San Angelo, receive some form of help

and support from our donors. I hope you will take the time to read about our wonderful employees, programs, patients, donors, and volunteers highlighted. They truly make West Texas Rehab special and enable us to fulfill our mission of service to our communities. They are what has set us apart from other healthcare organizations for many years, and we owe our success and longevity to these folks. When you see the QR Codes throughout these pages, you can link to them for additional information.

This year marks our 69th year of service to patients in our communities and, in Abilene in particular, our 67th year in the same physical location. The skill of our employees, the state of the art equipment and technology our donors bless us with, and the resources from our foundation and fundraising allow us to take care of everyone. They have been game changers when competing in an ever-changing healthcare environment. Aging physical facilities and infrastructure, however create daily challenges for our staff and patients to navigate while receiving care. This has forced us over the last year to take a hard look at the future of West Texas Rehab and, more importantly, where this care will be provided.

In March of 2021, we brought a group together to begin exploring a remodel of our Abilene campus as our San Angelo and Ozona facilities are both about to wrap up recent expansion and renovation projects. We contracted with an architectural firm to walk us through this process. In October of 2021, it became apparent that a remodel of the existing facility would not be cost

effective or prudent. In February of 2022, we began to work on plans to build a new facility from the ground up. We have involved our board members and employees in this process. Today, we are still in the planning stages and hope to have an announcement at our January 21, 2023, Telethon. Our Foundation has purchased a piece of property that we anticipate will be the future home of West Texas Rehabilitation Center. As we move forward, we will provide details for folks who want to be involved.

These are exciting times at West Texas Rehab as we continue to provide services to more patients than ever before, while employing the best folks anywhere, all while using the very latest in equipment and technology. In the future, we will be providing these services in an Abilene location that will be the home of West Texas Rehabilitation Center for the next 100 years.

May God continue to bless you and your family, this wonderful country of ours, and West Texas Rehabilitation Center and all who support this amazing organization.

Please pray for rain.

Steve Martin, CEO

TABLE of CONTENTS

- 2 Leadership Letter
- 3 Foundation Spotlight
- 5 Patient Spotlight
- 7 Volunteer Spotlight
- 9 Hospice Spotlight

On the Cover Samuel Stovall (pg 5)

- 13 Equipment Wishlist
- 16 Calendar of Events
- 17 Department Spotlight
- 18 Donor Spotlight

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The CGA

Charitable gift annuities are one of the best win-win giving options available to West Texas Rehabilitation Center donors. By answering a few questions, I expect you'll see why.

What is a charitable gift annuity (also known as a gift annuity or CGA)?

A gift annuity is an agreement in which an individual transfers cash or other assets to a charity in exchange for a fixed lifetime income stream.

Why should I be interested in a gift annuity?

Gift annuities have several potential benefits that might appeal to you.

A gift annuity can:

- Reduce taxes (current and future).
- Provide one or two people a lifetime stream of income.
- Have **both** tax and income benefits.
- Even be established for someone other than you or your spouse (a brother, sister, parent, or even friend, for example).

- Provide other benefits.

Plus, CGAs are one of the simplest legacy options a donor can choose.

So...how does a gift annuity work?

A donor will use cash or another appropriate asset to fund the CGA. Fixed lifetime payments can begin within a few days of funding the CGA or be deferred for months or even years.

Let's say you and your spouse are 70 and 71 years old. You may be eligible for a 4.8% payout rate as well as immediate and future tax benefits. The terms of the arrangement are set forth in an agreement signed by you and the charity. The arrangement terminates on the death of the annuitant(s), at which point the charity uses the remaining funds on its mission.

Can I use anything besides cash to fund my CGA?

Yes! You may want to consider using long-term appreciated assets such as publicly traded securities, real estate, or some other types of personal property to fund your CGA.

Who establishes gift annuities?

Most gift annuitants are retired, want to increase their cash flow, seek the security of fixed payments that will not vary, would like to save on taxes, and are charitably inclined.

How do I get started?

Call one of our Foundation officers (see list below) today!

We'd love to visit with you and your financial and legal advisers about charitable gift annuities or other legacy giving opportunities.

Chad Hirt at (325) 793-6415
chirt@wtrc.com

Jason Weaver at (325) 793-3435
jweaver@wtrc.com

Chuck Rodgers at (325) 793-5475
crodders@wtrc.com

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“I would say to have your guns ready to push for your kiddo. If you believe there is something going on, ask for every avenue to be driven down,” says Kaedy Stovall, Samuel’s mother.

Born three months early, Samuel had a rough start coming into the world. He was on a ventilator for nearly a month after he was born, not typical for a baby born at 28 weeks. While in the neonatal intensive care, Kaedy said, *“He failed several hearing tests, so there was always a doubt in our minds about his hearing. Once he turned one, we knew something wasn’t right. He never startled to sounds and his ‘babble’ was minimal to monotone.”*

After coming home from the hospital, Samuel had a follow-up hearing test. He failed. They scheduled a sedated auditory brain response test when he was around eight months old.

“The audiologist told us he passed with flying colors so we left it alone until he was about 18 months old,” says Kaedy.

Samuel Stovall

“Around this time, he began having ear infections so he had tubes put in his ears and we saw a little improvement in his hearing.”

He was receiving Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) but was about to age out - his speech therapist recommended they look more into his hearing loss.

“The unknown was the hardest thing for us. We wanted an answer so we could get a plan in place and start to help him. Not responding to sounds/your name is also a red flag for autism, so for a good while we really didn’t know what we were dealing with. We worried for his safety as well, because he didn’t hear a car horn or a train whistle. His type of hearing loss is also not very common in kiddos, so we worried that there wouldn’t be enough information out there to get him the proper help (or if there was help at all),” said Kaedy.

Looking back, the Stovall’s believe between being born early and the high oxygen assistance he required, that is what caused his auditory neuropathy.

He was evaluated and sent to West Texas Rehab.

“West Texas Rehab has been amazing to us and to our boy. I knew from our first meeting with them that they were going to go above and beyond to figure out what was happening with Samuel. And they did and still do,” says Kaedy.

Samuel was given a hearing test by his audiologist, Dr. Shalyn Pope, who determined his need for hearing aids. Samuel picked out the color of his ear molds and waited patiently to receive them. When he returned with his parents, Shalyn turned his hearing aids on for the first time from her computer and it was an instantaneous response for Samuel to hear his mother’s voice clearly for the first time!

“Do you like them?”, asked Kaedy.
“YES!”, said Samuel.

Samuel’s vocabulary and social skills have improved DRASTICALLY since he started wearing his hearing aids! He started expressing excitement over sounds he had never heard before or was able to finally associate certain sounds with objects.”

“It has been the best thing to watch him hear his world in a whole new way! He has progressed in his speech therapy classes and is starting to really enjoy music and songs. We are able to talk to him about his day and who he plays with at school. Before he wouldn’t be able to tell us his friend’s name. About 2 months into the school year, he told us his friend’s name is Kasen and I cried! Being able to communicate with him has been the best gift!”, says Kaedy.



Neighbor-helping-neighbor is a tradition that was started over 62 years ago when Coke County ranchers, Conda and Edna Wylie, saw a need to help the West Texas Rehab Center. They had no available cash so they donated some cattle and the Round-Up for Rehab was born! This year marks the 63rd Annual Round-Up and this event ensures that over 680 patients a day receive the very best care and treatment, regardless of their ability to pay. In the day and age where insurance includes huge, overwhelming deductibles, people are left to wonder how they can afford the care they desperately need. Because of the unwavering, generous support of the farm and ranch community, West Texas Rehab continues to carry out their mission. As we like to say, “Great Things Happen Here Every Day!”

We wouldn’t be who we are, where we are, without you and the Round-Up for Rehab. So, if you have something you’d like to donate, just contact:

Jason Prew in Abilene
(325-379-3510)

and would still like to donate, you can drop off your animals at one of the sale locations year-round.

“Samuel is always sooo excited to go to West Texas Rehab and see his friends. He knows that they have helped him hear and he has so much fun when he is there. They have been thorough with explaining everything, every step of the way. We are forever grateful for West Texas Rehab and the sweet women that have given ears to our Samuel,” says his parents.



-or-

Doran Reynolds in San Angelo
(325-656-1599) and they will make arrangements with you.

Donated items could include livestock, crops, cash, equipment, or anything that could be used to support West Texas Rehab. We hope you can join us for a fun-filled day of good food, great stories, and the always lively livestock auctions at our Abilene Sale, **Tuesday, September 13th**, and our San Angelo sale, **Thursday, September 29th**. Coleman Sale is **October 5th** and Stephenville Sale is **October 15th**. If you are unable to make these dates

And we are forever grateful for all of YOU who continue to support West Texas Rehab!





Shawn Boles

“Lamb & Goat sale?! Who in the world knows anything about Lambs & Goats?!”

But seriously, how are we at West Texas Rehab supposed to know all that we need to know to put on any kind of livestock sale? How are we supposed to keep our oldest fundraiser, *Round-Up for Rehab*, a growing and money-raising event? And, if it’s lambs & goats you’re interested in for a sale to raise money for patient care, who knows the ins and outs of that world? Well, it just so happens we found a person who *does* know that world. Or maybe, he found us? Either way, allow us to introduce you to Shawn Boles!

Words pale when we try to express how profoundly Shawn, along with his family, has impacted not only our Lamb & Goat sales, but how he has helped *improve the quality of life of Rehab patients regardless of financial circumstance*. Because let’s be honest: Shawn Boles wouldn’t put in the time OR the resources he does personally if it weren’t going to help our patients! Read on and discover another fantastic reason Shawn “does what he does” for us.

Shawn was raised in Breckenridge, Texas, growing up on the family farm with his mom, dad and sister. Cows

and sheep were a way of life for the Boles family. Shawn and his sister grew up raising show lambs and show pigs. Shawn put it plainly, “Even my dad showed sheep when he was in high school. We didn’t really have a choice! We started out showing sheep in 1977 and have been involved in raising show lambs ever since. We do kind of do everything as a family. We call this sheep deal our ‘vacation,’ traveling to different breeders to buy animals.” The Boles family has always spent their vacations that way, and still do today. “When we leave home to go on vacation, we usually have a trailer behind us; or at least a cage in the back of the pickup to purchase lambs or goats on the road!”



It was actually another guy, Marshall Eaton, who originally got Shawn involved 20-plus years ago. Shawn says, “I guess Marshall was the one who just kind of took me on board at the time and got me involved with it.” When asked why he does it, Shawn’s answer

was simple: “We do it for both sides, both the Rehab and for the AG kid that doesn’t have a lot of money to buy an animal that has the same genetics as the ones we have, which may cost four or five times more at a producer’s farm.”

For Shawn Boles and his family, knowing that they’re,

1) making a difference in the lives of patients every day at West Texas Rehab Center, AND

2) the second reason he “does what he does”—getting to see the joy of the kids in the programs and knowing impact that kind of responsibility has on those kids.

Shawn said it best:

“When you’re making a difference, and you enjoy what you’re doing, it makes it worth every bit!”

Makes it *worth it* for us, too, Shawn!



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Two Hospices

“Grief is a process, not a state.”

So begins every bereavement newsletter sent out by Hospice of San Angelo to hospice families.

It is a journey of the soul, and as Erik Masci, Bereavement Coordinator of Hospice of the Big Country puts it, “Everyone’s journey is different.”

The grief journey is one no one wants to take. When we set out, we do not know where we are going or how long it will take to get there. But we set out anyway – with our companion Sadness – onto this twisted road, over bumps and around obstacles and through detours. Sometimes we break down, and sometimes Regret and Guilt try to get on board. We would go back to our former safe place if we could, but it is no longer there. So we face a choice. We can stay stuck where we are. Or press on, trusting that there is a place for us, where we can assimilate our loss and find purpose and peace again.

Indeed, everyone’s journey is different. But it is a journey no one has to take alone.



West Texas Rehabilitation Center is a non-profit organization known for helping people of all ages cope with injuries, congenital health conditions, and ravages of disease to go on to lead active, purposeful lives. Joining forces with two non-profit hospices has made it possible for West Texas

Rehab to extend their mission to care for patients at the end of their lives and for their families.

Hospice of the Big Country, headquartered in Abilene, joined West Texas Rehab in 2000; Hospice of San Angelo, in 2018.



Chaplain/Bereavement Coordinator Erik Masci, MDiv, and Milene Crossman, LMSW, reach out to families of HOBC patients before and after the death of the patient. They lead quarterly sessions of Life After Loss, a 5-week support group, which is open to anyone in the community, even if they did not have a family member on services. They also host a monthly group luncheon for loved ones of patients, often with nurses in attendance. Support groups and the luncheon take place on the West Texas Rehab campus in Abilene.

HOBC also plans and host several annual events. In June, they have a Butterfly Release, when they invite loved ones of patients who were on service to enjoy a day out at the Festival Gardens in Abilene. After a brief devotional, each family releases a live butterfly into the park in remembrance of their loved one. A Veterans’ Event in July honors military veterans, those who are HOBC patients, as well as veterans in the community. A Candlelight Memorial in November is a time for pausing during the holiday season and lighting a candle in memory of a loved one.



HOSA Chaplain/Director of Bereavement Karen Schmeltekopf, MDiv, and Bereavement Counselor Ervilene Kuhlmann, LCSW, provide a variety of counseling opportunities for adults who have lost a loved one, whether they were on service or not. Children, K-12, and their families receive grief support in two 6-week sessions of Building Bridges each year.

At the Bates Bereavement Center, Karen and Ervilene offer private counseling sessions by appointment, as well as a monthly support group and a monthly

group luncheon. They also lead monthly support groups at Journey Recovery Center, an inpatient facility operated by *Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley* for men and women in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. The two are available to make presentations and present workshops in communities throughout the 15-county area.

The HOSA team hosts several annual bereavement events in San Angelo. In June at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, they present Artistry of Life, a relaxing time for family members of all ages to listen to music and create an original item celebrating the life of a loved one. In September, the HOSA team hosts a Pet Loss Memorial, in conjunction with Concho Valley PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving), to celebrate the life of an animal companion. Two events in December offer evenings when families can honor loved ones: At the Candlelight Memorial, they can light a candle in a quiet church setting; at Light Up a Life, a more festive occasion, they can hang a personalized foil star on a Christmas tree.

Two Hospices: One Mission

All bereavement programs of the two hospices – counseling sessions, support groups, luncheons, workshops, and special events – are available free of charge.

“I want people to know we are here and they don’t have to go it alone,” Erik says. There is a lot of experience packed in this place. We are a dedicated, tightknit group of folks, happy to humanize what people are going through. We are ready to talk about the things people generally don’t want to talk about.”

“At HOSA, we consider it a sacred privilege to accompany bereaved people through their grief journey to healing,” Karen says.

The grief journey is one most of us will take, sometimes more than once. The good news is we don’t have to take it alone.

For more information about the bereavement services of *Hospice of the Big Country*, please call 325-793-5450 or 1-800-588-0300;

For bereavement services of *Hospice of San Angelo*, 325-658-6524 or 1-800-499-6524.



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San Angelo Dinner Show

OCTOBER 13, 2022

FIRST FINANCIAL PAVILION

200 W 43rd St, San Angelo

Doors Open - 6:00pm

Dinner Starts - 7:00pm



featuring



Donate cattle, sheep, goats, or cash to be included in one of the following special sales or anytime you bring livestock to sale you may consign to WTRC for Round-Up :

Fall 2022 Schedule

Sept. 13	Abilene Sale
Sept. 29	Producer's Sale, San Angelo
Oct. 5	Coleman Sale
Oct. 22	Stephenville Sale

WestTexasRehab.org

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For more information or to arrange for animals to be picked up, please call

Jason Prew (Abilene): 325-725-4916 or

Doran Reynolds (San Angelo): 325-656-1599



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EQUIPMENT *wishlist*

Description	Quote
Abilene Pediatrics- Annabel Tipi Trellis for Horticulture Therapy:	\$1,200
Abilene Adult Therapy- OCCCUPRO FCE Software:	\$13,225
Abilene Pacesetters- Fitness Equipment for Pacesetters Program:	\$5,525
San Angelo Adult Therapy- Stereo Optical Vision Screener:	\$7,225
Abilene Adult Therapy- (4) - High/Low Treatment Tables:	\$6,980
Abilene Adult Therapy- Biodex Balance System for Vestibular Treatment:	\$15,330
Abilene Pediatrics- UV Sensory Light Kit:	\$849
Abilene Pediatrics- Soft Swing, Tower Swing, Ceiling Suspension Kit, Ball Swing:	\$2,329
Abilene Pediatrics- Sensa Soft Vibroacoustic Chair:	\$2,500
Abilene Pediatrics- Real Design Convert-Able Table:	\$1,800
Abilene Pediatrics- Ambucs Adaptable Tricycle with equipment :	\$1,715
San Angelo Adult Therapy- Lightforce Laser Therapy System:	\$49,900
Abilene Adult Therapy- BTE Stimulator:	\$45,357
San Angelo Adult Therapy- Heat pack heating unit:	\$2,920
San Angelo Orthotics and Prosthetics- Rikon Band Saw:	\$1,500
Abilene Adult Therapy- Shuttle MVP Leg Press:	\$8,174
Abilene Adult Therapy- Genu Ease Total Knee Replacement Recovery System:	\$8,190
Abilene Adult Therapy- Sci Fit Recumbent Bike:	\$495
Abilene Pediatrics- VitalStim Plus Sysphagia Therapy Unit for Speech Therapy:	\$2,499
Abilene Pediatrics- Prentke Romich-Salttillo Speech Generating Device:	\$8,423
Abilene Hospice- High Flow Oxygen Concentrator:	\$1,210
San Angelo Hospice- High Flow Oxygen Concentrator (2):	\$2,420
Abilene Employer Services- Pulmonary Function Test Equipment:	\$2,084
Ozona Adult Therapy- Bloodflow Restriction Therapy Unit:	\$5,299
Abilene Pediatrics- Neofect Digital Smart Pegboard:	\$3,663
Abilene Pediatrics- Fat Brain Therapy Toy Collection:	\$1,000
Abilene Adult Therapy- Necks Level Cervical Rehab System:	\$895

To donate a piece of equipment from this wishlist, visit:
westtexasrehab.org/general-donation/wish-list-equipment



Though you still have many shopping days between now and December 24th,

Now is the time to say "YES"

to West Texas Rehabilitation Center's offer to handle all the logistics of sending your Season's Greetings to family, friends, and business customers!

We'll inscribe the following message on your card(s) of choice:

A GIFT HAS BEEN MADE IN YOUR
NAME TO WEST TEXAS
REHABILITATION CENTER BY
(Your name inscribed here)

In addition to personalizing your cards, we'll neatly hand address them from the mailing list YOU provide, then stamp and mail them for you. If you want to include a personal note, we will deliver them to you ready for mailing.

West Texas Rehab is delighted to offer you this "no hassle" way of sending a meaningful season greeting to your friends, family, and business associates. The amount of your donation over the actual cost of cards and postage is tax deductible. We greatly appreciate your support of West Texas Rehab! Your donation will help us continue to provide out-patient rehabilitative care to more than 680 patients each day. Thank YOU!

The pricing is as follows:

5 cards - \$35	100 cards - \$475
10 cards - \$75	150 cards - \$650
25 cards - \$150	200 cards - \$750
50 cards - \$275	250 cards - \$850
75 cards - \$400	350 cards - \$1000

To place your order, simply complete and return the form on the back of this page and we'll do the rest! Our goal is to mail your cards shortly after Thanksgiving, so please get your order to us as soon as possible so we can accomplish imprinting and addressing in a timely manner.

Option 1: Joy to the World

May the joys and blessings of the Christmas season be yours throughout the year.

Merry Christmas!

A GIFT HAS BEEN MADE IN YOUR NAME TO WEST TEXAS REHABILITATION CENTER BY

(Your name inscribed here)



Order Form

Name: _____ Company (if applicable): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

_____ Number of cards; card choice [] Option 1 **OR** [] Option 2

_____ Enclosed is my check/cash/credit card info payable to *West Texas Rehab*.

_____ I already have my own cards picked out this year. Please accept my donation to West Texas Rehab.

My instructions to West Texas Rehab **(choose one):**

_____ I want West Texas Rehab to address, imprint my name, and mail my cards

_____ I want West Texas Rehab to address, imprint my name, and stamp my envelopes, then deliver to me so I can add a personal note to the cards.

_____ I want West Texas Rehab to imprint my name on my cards and send them with stamps and envelopes for me to address.

***Be sure to enclose your mailing list if WTRC is addressing (Please include name, address, city, state, and zip for each card).

The exact name(s) I want West Texas Rehab to imprint on the inside of my cards (either your name or business name):

The return address I want provided on the envelopes (street address, city, state, and zip code):

Note: If you have return address labels you want to use, please enclose the amount equal to your mailing list.

Please use the provided return envelope to send in your completed form, your mailing list, and your payment (check, cash, or credit card information).

FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT:

Type of Card: _____ VISA _____ Mastercard _____ Discover _____ American Express _____

Name of Cardholder: _____ Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: Month _____ Year _____ Security Code (3 or 4 digit number on back of card) _____

FMI: Contact Stacy Greaves - San Angelo (325) 223-6311

West Texas Rehabilitation Center

3001 S. Jackson, San Angelo, TX 76904

Option 2: Pediatric Art

May the magic of Christmas fill each corner of your home and heart this season.

A GIFT HAS BEEN MADE IN YOUR NAME TO WEST TEXAS REHABILITATION CENTER BY



CALENDAR of events ABILENE DATES, KARLA @ 325.793.3507 / SAN ANGELO DATES, BERKELEY @ 325.223.6313

Date	Event
September	
2nd	Round-Up Lunch Ballinger, First National Bank of Ballinger
8th	REHAB Summer Dinner Show, Abilene Convention Center, 6:45pm
13th	Round-Up Sale – Abilene Auction @ 11am
14th	Round-Up Supper Christoval/Eldorado, Bar H Ranch (Helmers), 6pm
17th	Frank Caraway Sporting Clays Classic - San Angelo Claybird Association, 9am
24th	C.A.S.T – Twin Buttes - San Angelo
29th	Round-Up Sale – San Angelo, Producers
30th	Rehab's HOBC Golf Tournament – Fairway Oaks Golf course - Abilene – 8am tee off
October	
1st	Cotton Round-Up - San Angelo
4th	Pig Sale – Nolan County Coliseum - Sweetwater
5th	Round-Up Coleman Sale - Coleman, TX @11am
8th	Round-Up Powell Bull Sale - Fort McKavett
11th	Round-Up Dudley Brother - Comanche
13th	Fall Rehab Dinner Show – San Angelo
15th	Round-Up Stephenville - Stephenville Cattle Co. @ 11am
November	
1st	Round-Up Sweetwater Shrimp Peel – Nolan County Annex – Sweetwater @ 6pm
3rd	Hospice of the Big Country Candlelight Memorial Service, Logsdon Chapel HSU, 6:30 pm
10th	Quilt Brunch - San Angelo @ 11am
10th	HOSA Candlelight @ 6:00 pm. – Emmanuel Episcopal Church – San Angelo
11th	Quilt Brunch - Abilene
December	
1st	HOSA Light Up a Life @ 6:00pm - Cactus Hotel Lobby – San Angelo
10th	Round-Up Danny Isbell Memorial Rehab Jackpot Show, Taylor County Expo Center – Abilene
10th	Round-Up Big Country Christmas Ball – Snyder Coliseum Doors open @7pm
January 2023	Rehab 2023 Telethon/Auction – Abilene Convention Center @ 6pm

2022



SCAN ME

TBD: To Be Decided. Due to COVID-19, all dates are subject to change. Please check our website at WestTexasRehab.org for all updates.



(L-R) Stacy Greaves, Doran Reynolds, Berkeley Puckitt, Lauren Bell

If you were to ask me, “What in the world do 44 fundraising events a year (yes, 44!) have to do with making sure West Texas Rehab is well known, and that donors enjoy themselves and feel well cared for,” I’d answer you in one word.....Nothing. Not a darn thing. Now, if you ask me, “What in the world do 44 fundraising events have to do with our mission of improving the quality of life of those we serve regardless of financial circumstance,” I would have to answer in two words.....EVERYTHING, PERIOD!

You see, without those 44 events and eight amazing individuals who comprise our Donor Relations teams, one third of our patients wouldn’t receive some or all of the service(s) they need! So, allow us to acquaint you with West Texas Rehab’s Donor Relations Department!

Of course, if you’ve been to one of our events then you know that we do, in fact, make sure West Texas Rehab is well known and that donors enjoy themselves and feel well cared for—it’s WHO we are and HOW we do things. Our donors, you, are our friends first, and donors second, and all of you deserve the very best events we can provide. Karla Brown with her team in

Abilene, and Berkeley Puckitt with her team in San Angelo, engage and invite businesses and individuals to participate financially, and then plan and promote and provide these 44 events. Amazing! They live here, and make sure that the dollars raised are used to make sure our mission of the highest quality services available anywhere is continued right here, too. It’s continued for those who CAN AFFORD to go anywhere; as well as, for those who CAN’T AFFORD to go anywhere. And isn’t it a good feeling knowing that your donations stay local and make you a direct participant in the very services we provide? This is OUR mission: all of us, in this together. Without the caring people of our entire part of the state (and actually way beyond), West Texas Rehab Center doesn’t even exist!

That means when Billy came to us needing two prosthetic legs, having little to no insurance, and only having a small portion of the cost himself....that he gets no legs. He continues to use a wheelchair, help his mom scrape by driving his truck and tractor with a golf club, and

“get by” on whatever he can “get.”

However, West Texas Rehab does exist, and it exists because of you! And because of you, after qualifying for most of the cost of his new legs (and new life) to be covered by our Donor Sponsorship Program—by you.... Billy DID walk again. His life took on a new trajectory. It took him where he never dreamed he’d go again!

That was done by you! You and the thousands of folks who take part in 44 fundraising events a year, and make dreams a reality. So, the next time you see West Texas Rehab Center is having yet another fundraiser, you’ll have a wonderful feeling knowing all that is accomplished through that event is accomplished by you!

We have Donor Relations teams in Abilene and San Angelo.

The Abilene team is led by Karla Brown, along with Elizabeth Kain, Wayne Henderson, and Jason Prew.

Our San Angelo team is led by Berkeley Puckitt, along with Stacy Greaves, Lauren Bell, and Doran Reynolds.



(L-R) Jason Prew, Karla Brown, Elizabeth Kain, Wayne Henderson



Steve Cecil

Husband, Dad, Financial Planner, CPA and Dancer, Steve Cecil Helps Raise Record Donations for West Texas Rehab’s Hospice of San Angelo.

Technically, one might argue, there’s a difference between being a dancer and being a person who dances, don’t you think? Of course there is! So, whether or not those in attendance at this year’s Dancing with The San Angelo Stars would call Steve Cecil a dancer or one who dances is still in jury deliberation. However, it is a FACT that Steve was able to raise more donations than anyone has so far in votes/contributions for the Rehab’s Hospice of San Angelo, making him the fourth DWTS Mirror Ball Trophy winner! It was fun, funny, inspirational, and an overall fantastic night for everyone in attendance, all while raising over \$400,000 (\$120,000 more than 2021) for West Texas Rehab’s hospice services. But, what you may not know is some of the back story of this year’s winner, and all that he and the other “dancers” agreed to when they said yes to, as Steve put it, “San Angelo’s best event.”

It was actually West Texas Rehab that brought Steve and his wife, Julie, to San Angelo from the Dallas-Fort Worth

area back in 1996. Julie was starting her career as a speech therapist and took a position at the Rehab’s San Angelo location. She worked for us for over five years, which was more than enough for the two of them to fall in love with the mission of West Texas Rehab and all it does for the more than 680 patients whose lives are improved every day in San Angelo, Abilene, and Ozona. They would also learn the draw of West Texas, falling in love with the many wonderful friends they made. San Angelo had become home.

One of those friends was Liz Bates, Chairman of DWTS. Liz asked Steve to join the 2022 DWTS cast as a “Star” (did she ask, or tell? Hmmmm...), and whether reluctantly or enthusiastically, he said yes. In reality, there was a lot more that went into Steve’s agreeing to dance than meets the eye.

In October of 2020, Steve’s father passed during his bout with Covid. Nothing brings the value of life, life right now, into perspective like the death of a loved one. His father lived elsewhere so was unable to use Hospice of San Angelo, but Steve saw how and what hospice does for patients and families. He wanted to be a part of that

for others, and this was his chance. “I thought about it for over three weeks, close to a month before I said yes,” he said. “It is a big commitment for all the participants. You have the dancing and the fundraising. My wife, Julie, basically said, ‘If you’re going to take on a project like this, you’ve got to have fun with it. You have to go in with the right attitude.’ So, we said yes—she really encouraged me to think about it in a certain way.”

Steve dedicated over 100 hours of practice time and gym time, as well as his fundraising efforts, in honor of and support of the HOSA workers that worked tirelessly during the Covid 19 pandemic, and continue to do so every day to serve our community. THANK YOU, Steve Cecil!

Steve is co-owner at Cecil and Eady investments in San Angelo with experience as a CPA and trust officer. His partner, Lisa, serves on the Board of Directors for WTRC and the firm supported Steve’s DWTS journey to win the Mirror Ball!

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