

Scouting America

For military children, life can change instantly. Each time a parent's orders shift, they enter a new environment where stability is rare and building a support system is an ongoing challenge. This is the reality for Sam (11, Star Scout) and Aaron (10, Arrow of Light). Following their father's military career, they have lived across the globe—from Alaska to Europe to Africa, and now Wichita Falls.

Through every move, one constant has remained: Scouting. Wherever they go, Sam and Aaron find immediate connections with fellow Scouts and a sense of belonging in their Packs and Troops. Scouting has become a ready-made family, offering opportunities to explore, serve, and grow. Along the way, they have built resilience, leadership, teamwork, and the confidence to adapt to constant change.

When the brothers arrived in Wichita Falls last year, even before finding a house, church, or school, they found a Scout troop—and with it, a sense of home.

Their story reflects the experience of many military families. Frequent moves mean leaving behind friends and routines again and again. But when a Scout troop is there to welcome them, the transition becomes easier.



Straight Street



As a group of MSU football players working at Straight Street, we are blown away by the experience of being here. We thought we knew what at-risk youth faced but seeing it up close is eye opening. These kids are real and raw—their struggles with gangs, lack of support, and the harsh realities of their neighborhoods hit harder than we imagined. Many are incredibly young and very street-smart, navigating dangers and challenges far beyond their years. Yet, despite it all, they come to Straight Street seeking guidance, connection, and a safe place to grow, showing a level of courage

and resilience that is truly humbling. What stands out most is the conflict they live with daily. These kids carry heavy burdens—family struggles, peer pressure, and life's constant obstacles—yet they show up, ready to participate, learn, and engage. Being able to mentor, play, and simply spend time with them has changed how we see the world and ourselves. They don't hide behind any masks; they are authentic, raw, and unfiltered, and being part of Straight Street means helping them navigate life while witnessing their strength, heart, and determination firsthand.



Member agencies include:

- The Arc of Wichita County
940-692-2303
- Boys & Girls Club of Burkburnett
940-569-2812
- Child Advocates (CASA)
940-766-0552
- Children's Aid Society
940-322-3141
- Friendly Door of Iowa Park
940-592-9311
- Scouting America, NWTC
940-696-2735
- Straight Street
940-716-9898



940-691-1903

www.hthcf.org

Hands to Hands Community Fund is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Checks payable to:

Hands to Hands Community Fund
P. O. Box 4641, Wichita Falls, TX 76308

100% of ALL donations
will go directly to the
agency(s) YOU select!

Hands to Hands Community Fund was founded by concerned community leaders to help support programs and services of nonprofit agencies.

Collectively, our **member agencies** have served this community for more than 500 years. Their programs are vital. **Their passion and dedication to those they serve is unwavering. They need your help. Most importantly, the people they serve need your help more than ever before.**



Celebrating 18 years of service to our community!

Meet some of the many people whose lives have been changed by the programs and services provided by these 7 agencies!



The Arc

At 30 years old, Alyssa Hill has faced many life changes. After losing her father in 2020, she remained by her mother's side until her mother's health declined due to dementia. As her family adjusted, with her mother moving into a nursing facility and her sister, who requires 24/7 support, transitioning to a group home, Alyssa began trying to live independently, with the help of her aunt and uncle.

Although she managed on her own for a time, she lacked the social connection and support needed to truly thrive. Her aunt reached out to The Arc, and Alyssa became the first resident of our transition house, a program designed to provide real-life experience while building independence.

Over the past year, Alyssa has flourished. With regular support and involvement in our social programs, she has gained confidence, built relationships, and developed the skills needed for independent living.

Today, we are preparing to recommend Alyssa for independent living in the community. Her journey is a powerful reminder that with the right support, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live full and independent lives.

Burkburnett Boys & Girls Club

At the Burkburnett Boys & Girls Club, we believe leadership begins with opportunity. Our Jr. Helper Program gives young people the chance to step up, support their peers, and discover the confidence that comes from being someone others can rely on. Major and Milo are two outstanding examples of this spirit, bringing enthusiasm, kindness, and initiative to the Club every day.



Whether they're welcoming new members, assisting younger kids during activities, or helping staff when things get busy, Major and Milo lead with patience and heart. Their willingness to serve inspires other youth to get involved and see themselves as leaders too.

The Jr. Helper Program empowers young people to:

- Build leadership skills through real responsibilities
- Model positive behavior for younger members
- Strengthen communication and teamwork
- Gain confidence through meaningful service
- Enrich our Club community with kindness and initiative

Major and Milo remind us that leadership doesn't begin in adulthood — it begins here, with kids who are given the chance to grow and shine. When you give to the Burkburnett Boys & Girls Club, you're investing in young people who are already making a difference and will continue shaping the future of our community. Together, we can ensure every child — like Major, Milo, and so many others — has the opportunity to lead, grow, and thrive.

CASA

CASA of Red River was appointed to Juan when he was 10 years old. Juan describes that time as "very scary with a lot of new people in his life". He recalls CASA being a constant support in his life at that time. During his teen years, Juan was placed in a residential treatment facility due to his specialized needs. While there, he ran away but would keep in contact with CASA on social media. Juan self-placed in a family home and ultimately graduated high school. Juan then decided that he was ready to advance in life and opted to apply to PHASED IN, a transitional living program that empowers foster youth to achieve independence and self-sufficiency. CASA assisted Juan with his application and provided support at his interview. While at PHASED IN, Juan has obtained employment, maintained excellent attendance, opened a bank account, and has begun saving to purchase his first car. Juan now demonstrates direction and motivation through the support of both PHASED IN and his CASA Advocate. CASA has played an instrumental role in providing guidance and encouragement. As a result, Juan is moving toward a promising future with renewed hope and clearly defined goals.



Children's Aid Society

Lindsee came to the Children's Aid Society-Teen Shelter after it was determined she had been living in unsafe conditions. In the months before her arrival, she had been couch surfing, trying to stay out of sight and out of trouble. What others saw as independence was survival.

Her life became unstable after the tragic death of her mother at the hands of her father. In an instant, everything she knew was gone. She stayed briefly with an aunt, hoping for safety, but disclosed physical abuse in the home and had to leave. Once again, she had nowhere safe to go.

An adult male acquaintance offered her a place to stay. At first, it felt like a relief bed, a roof, a meal, but he later exploited her vulnerability. She was left feeling confused, ashamed, and alone. When she discovered she was pregnant, everything felt overwhelming.

By the time Lindsee arrived at the shelter, she was emotionally exhausted and unsure who to trust. Staff welcomed her without judgment, ensuring medical care, prenatal support, counseling, meals, and a safe place to sleep.

In counseling, she began to process her grief, betrayal, and fear. She learned what happened was not her fault and that she deserved safety and respect.

Lindsee enrolled in school, set small goals, and began rebuilding her sense of control—and hope.



The Friendly Door

John Robison has been a devoted member of The Friendly Door Senior Activity Center for the past three years, generously giving his time and heart to support fellow seniors in our community. As a regular Meals on Wheels volunteer, John delivers meals each week and readily steps in whenever extra help is needed. He also assists with The Friendly Door's food program, helping deliver food boxes to members and ensuring no one is left without support.

John's volunteer service goes beyond delivering meals. He brings companionship and kindness to those he serves—often accompanied by his dog, Weezer, who has become a beloved visitor for many homebound individuals who rarely have guests. John also helps connect members with needed resources, including assisting one senior by linking her with affordable yardwork support. In addition to his volunteer work, John actively participates in Friendly Door activities, enjoying bingo and fellowship with friends. His dedication, compassion, and willingness to serve make him an invaluable asset to The Friendly Door and a true example of community service.

