

ROCKDALE COUNTY 2011 ADVISORY BOARD

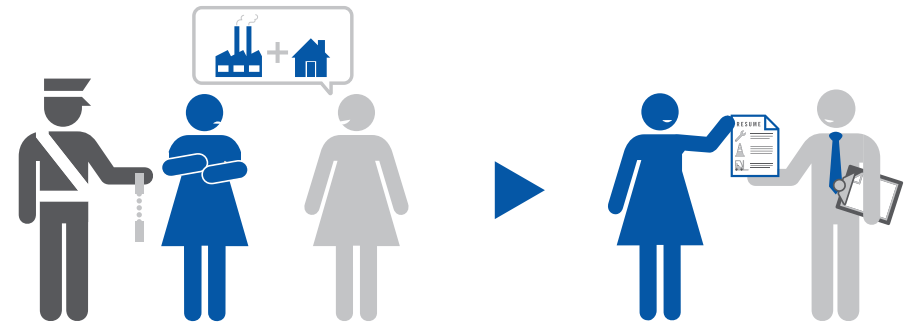
Latanza Adjei, Georgia Power
Deborah Armstrong, Rockdale Medical Center
Wendy Bear, State Farm Insurance
Nancy Bills, State Court Judge
Lewis Carr, State Farm Insurance
Elly Dalton, Edward Jones
Dr. Miki Edwards, Rockdale Career Academy
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Katrina Mitchell, senior director, Education, Community Engagement
Jackie Prillaman, regional coordinator
Lynda Smith, regional director
Sheri Willis, development officer, Resource Development

ROCKDALE COUNTY

ORGANIZATIONS REACH OUT TO REBUILD LIVES



United Way in Rockdale County
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GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED

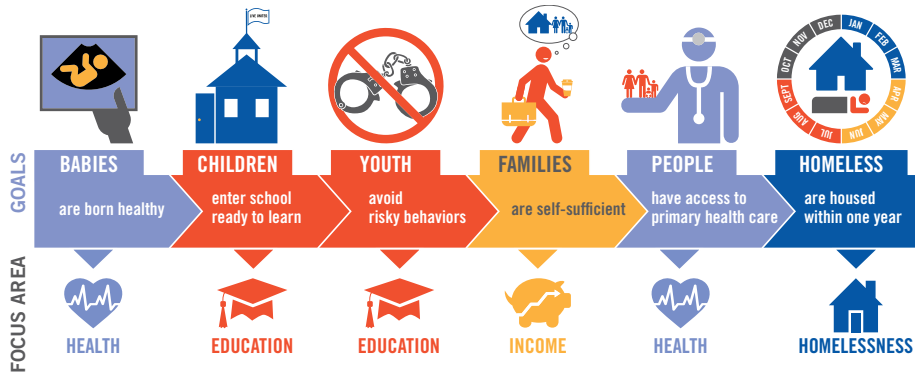


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WHY UNITED WAY

United Way improves lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community to advance the common good. We focus on the building blocks for a good quality of life — education, income, health and ending homelessness. United Way unites nonprofits, businesses, government, donors and volunteers to keep kids learning and in school, help people achieve financial stability, strengthen our health safety net, and end chronic homelessness. Join us and become a part of the lifeline.



INITIATIVES IN ROCKDALE COUNTY

HOMELESSNESS – Regional Commission on Homelessness

Transitional Housing for Families – We are proud to partner with Phoenix Pass at Light House Village, the Family Promise Project and Rockdale HOPES Coalition to help the families in our community facing homelessness.

We are also in the planning stages of a one-stop Community Resource Center, and Rockdale Emergency Relief Fund and Project ReNeWal are receiving Community Impact Fund grants this year.

EDUCATION

We are working hard to improve education in our county through the Rockdale County Public Schools & Early Learning Project and STARS (Support Team for ALL Rockdale Students). We also support the A. “Gus” Barksdale Boys & Girls Club through the Community Impact Fund.


HEALTH

The Rockdale Safety Net Council is working to improve residents’ health through clinics like Helping Hands and Mercy Heart, and through a new HEALTH (Health Education and Linkages to Help) collaborative.

INCOME

We are helping people get good jobs through the Partnership for Rockdale Employment Program (PREP).

ORGANIZATIONS REACH OUT TO REBUILD LIVES

 Gale has had a lot of firsts this year. She got her first job at McDonald’s. She opened her first bank account. She is working toward a driver’s license.

Gale is 49 years old.

After a decades-long cycle of drug abuse and incarceration, Gale decided to change her life.



She got help at the **Open Doors Transition Home** in Rockdale, part of Growing Discoveries Outreach Ministries. Growing Discoveries is part of Rockdale’s Housing Opportunities for People Experiencing Setbacks (HOPES), a coalition of community organizations that work together to help people in need.

The coalition includes organizations such as House of Caring & Sharing, which works with young mothers, and Project ReNeWal, which helps families escape domestic violence. It also includes Rockdale Emergency Relief, Rockdale Housing Authority, school system and other agencies.

The goal is for everyone to work together to give men, women and families support to regain their independence. People like Gale. “I realized I needed to do something different,” she says. “I started doing things differently, and now I’m getting different results.”

Her first change was deciding to remain clean and sober. “I used to get out of jail and go back home and do the same thing over and over,” she says. “I had to step out of my comfort zone.”

Open Doors Transition Home helped Gale build a new life. Dr. Tracy Lewis and the Rev. Debbie Lekopites, directors of the home, helped her get a job and provided transportation. Now, Tracy is teaching Gale how to drive. Most important, Open Doors gives women coming out of prison a place to talk through their challenges and opportunities. “We deal with root issues,” Tracy says. “We talk about how who you really are is not who you’ve been told you are.”

Women can stay as long as they need. Gale has been at Open Doors for 10 months. She says she could not have come this far “without God’s strength and help.”

Getting her first job was scary. Once she realized she could work, her confidence grew. “I’m starting to see myself as a manager,” she says. “I want to go to school and study computers.”

Gale is saving up for her own apartment and dentures. She wants to build relationships with her grandchildren. She feels good about herself and positive about her future.

“I guess,” she says, “I finally grew up.”