



Texas Ramp Project Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

June 2019

Dear Friends,

Many things go on within our Project, led by our very active volunteer base. One effort from which we all can benefit is an active engagement with the media in all its forms. Building a ramp for a client who lacks the financial resources to pay for one is a very positive action that we all take in our normal course of behavior.

This simple, yet compelling action is in itself both newsworthy and photogenic. I encourage all of you to reach out to your local media as a way to recruit more volunteers, locate more funding, and raise your own visibility. (This month's *CoServ/Rough Riders* article is a good example of local/community visibility.)

The client's story is a key part of any build, as is the story of the Texas Ramp Project working in communities throughout Texas. Let the referring agency know when you will be building one of their referrals and ask them to join you for at least part of the build. If your funding sources will allow you to use their logo, have double-sided Coroplast signs made showing our logo and theirs, underscoring our cooperative effort.

You will need to get your funder's approval, since some funding sources prefer to maintain anonymity. The more positive images you can create, the better we will be able to grow all aspects of our work. **If you would like help with this, let us know well in advance of your build. We can make it easier for you!**

Have a great month, John

Building with Youth Mission Trip Teams

For two years, TRP has been working with various church youth groups as they develop plans for their community service mission trips. This summer there are plans for youth mission trips to 17 locations throughout Texas. Each mission group consists of between 50 and 200 youth and adult participants, who are usually housed at a local church. Like TRP, these mission organizations recognize the life-changing benefits of providing a wheelchair ramp to someone trapped in their home by illness or disability, and they want their youth participants to experience firsthand the drastic change in quality of life.

In the past we had referrals in six cities but limited funds and volunteers to build those needed ramps. We are blessed this year as the main mission organizations we are working with will provide volunteers as well as the funding to build the ramps. Also, they will contact the more than 165 total referrals we have open in these 17 cities and confirm whether the need still exists. Then the TRP database can be updated as necessary.

If you get the chance to interact with a youth mission group this summer, please thank them for their help. For more information, please contact Roy Harrington at: royh85@verizon.net.

New Tools to Use

Over the past 12 months, the Texas Ramp Project board has taken steps to communicate better with each of you in the field. We have done this through several avenues. Our hope is that as you learn more about the total organization and how it operates in multiple regions, it will help you be more effective in the role you play in your own region. We have a lot of talent in different regions, and our objective is to disseminate that knowledge and talent however possible.

We started last year with the *Monthly Regional Revenue Report*, which is sent primarily to area and county coordinators. This report shows each region where it stands in terms of funding. If you are running a surplus, then build, build, build! If your region's funds are lagging or in the red, it's a clear signal to start looking for local funding. It may also mean that construction needs to slow a bit. You may click on the tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet to drill down into the financial details.

Late last year we started sending out a *Quarterly Production Report by County*, which contains data extracted from the central Salesforce database. The report lists client name and address, referral date, build date, ramp length, and man-hours recorded to build the ramp. This report is organized by region and county so that you can quickly scroll to your region and check the data on a county-by-county basis. You would have received this report in February and again a few weeks ago. It will be continued on a quarterly basis.

The *Quarterly Production Report* will allow you to check your own build statistics and send us any corrections when you find errors. We have no feedback loops in Salesforce, so only you can point out any data entry errors. If you are having trouble accessing or reading this report, please let us know.

Finally, in April we started the monthly *TRP Newsletter*, designed to share helpful and interesting information among all of us in the Project. We hope you enjoy reading it and find it helpful. If there is any subject matter you would like us to address, please let us know.

Many thanks for all you do.

Garner McNett, President

Rough Riders Honor TRP

The Texas Ramp Project, along with team sponsor CoServ Electric, was honored at the Frisco RoughRiders baseball game at Dr. Pepper Ballpark on Friday night, May 3. A brief video [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGp94UYhsM>] featuring area coordinator Beverly Ford and a build team from CoServ played on the big screen after the first inning, followed by TRP and CoServ representatives lining up on the field to wave at the fans.



Beverly has worked closely with Scott Grass (pictured with Beverly), Conan Tearney, Dan Lemons and other CoServ employees, building seven ramps with them in the past two years. This core team is now ready to go out on its own, with Grass as team leader. The new team has already surveyed a ramp in Pilot Point that they will build on their own.

Teaming with Electric Coops

CoServ is just one of several electric cooperatives that have provided both funding and volunteers to local Ramp Projects. Over the last few years, CoServ has provided up to \$10,000 per year for ramps in their service region. CoServ serves customers in the North Central Texas and Texoma regions.

Other coops actively involved with TRP include:

- Wood County Electric Charitable Foundation, East Texas Emory
- HILCO Electric Trust, Waco
- Farmers Electric Charitable Foundation, North Central Texas
- South Texas Electric Cooperative in San Antonio South, Victoria and McAllen
- Medina Electric Cooperative, San Antonio South
- Big Country Electric Cooperative, Abilene
- Central Texas Electric Cooperative, San Antonio Northwest
- Heart of Texas Electric Trust, Waco

These cooperatives have provided donations ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 each year, and some have employees actively involved as build teams. The funds come from the coops' Operation Roundup operations or from separate foundations run by their employees.

If you have an electric cooperative in your region, you might want to tell them about the Texas Ramp Project. Their grant applications are online, or you can contact Kay Champagne at kfchamp@iit.net for assistance.

17,000 Ramps and Counting

The Texas Ramp Project crossed another milestone in April. The number of ramps built by the statewide organization and its predecessor, the Dallas Ramp Project, hit an amazing 17,000. That's 17,000 senior citizens or men, women and children with disabilities who gained safe access to their homes, not to mention the many family members and others who care for them.

What a remarkable journey, and it could not have been done without you, our volunteers. Every ramp you build improves the quality of life and may even save the life of a real person with real mobility issues. You are to be congratulated!

Last year TRP volunteers built 1,962 ramps in 114 of Texas' 254 counties. We now have operations in 21 of 24 Texas Councils of Government—voluntary organizations of local governmental entities that coordinate programs and services across county boundaries. And we are growing all the time, with ramp construction starting up last year in the new Lufkin region and this year in Laredo.

Our dream is to one day serve every county in Texas ([see map next page](#)). Our vision is that no one in Texas who needs a wheelchair ramp should go without one because they cannot afford it.

AmazonSmile Opportunity

Father's Day, on June 16, is a major shopping holiday and a great time to increase your AmazonSmile donations. With the below copy and banners, simply remind your supporters to shop at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for Texas Ramp Project.

Turn your Father's Day shopping into a force for good. Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/33-1139484 and Amazon donates to Texas Ramp Project.

[1200x627 Facebook banner](#)

[1012x506 Twitter banner](#)

[600x200 Email banner](#)

[300x250 Web banner](#)

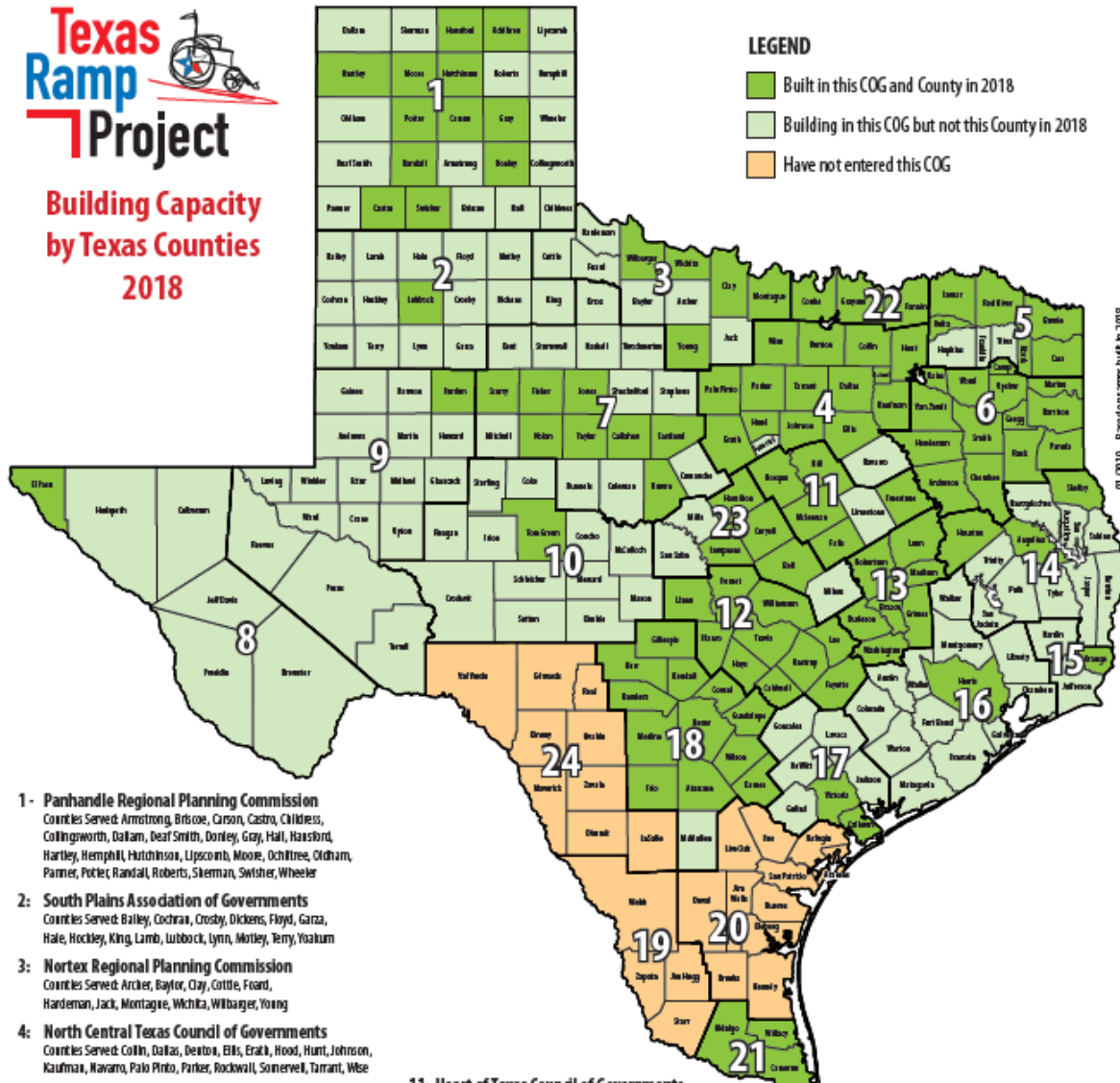
[728x90 Web banner](#)

To see the impact of your marketing, visit the AmazonSmile Metrics Dashboard for Texas Ramp Project. Simply log in at org.amazon.com and click the "View metrics" button.

[Go to org.amazon.com](https://org.amazon.com)



**Building Capacity
by Texas Counties
2018**



01/2019 - Based on ramp built in 2018

- 1- Panhandle Regional Planning Commission**
Counties Served: Armstrong, Bristow, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Pamer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler
- 2- South Plains Association of Governments**
Counties Served: Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, Yoakum
- 3- Nortex Regional Planning Commission**
Counties Served: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Willbarger, Young
- 4- North Central Texas Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise
- 5- Ark-Tex Area Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, Titus
- 6- East Texas Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Martin, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood
- 7- West Texas Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton
- 8- Rio Grande Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio
- 9- Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission**
Counties Served: Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, Winkler
- 10- Concho Valley Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Coke, Concho, Coddett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green

- 11- Heart of Texas Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, McLennan
- 12- Capital Area Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, Williamson
- 13- Brazos Valley Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Brazos, Burleson, Gimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, Washington
- 14- Deep East Texas of Governments**
Counties Served: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Macgreggaches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler
- 15- South East Texas Regional Planning Commission**
Counties Served: Hardin, Jefferson, Orange
- 16- Houston-Galveston Area Council**
Counties Served: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton
- 17- Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission**
Counties Served: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria
- 18- Alamo Area Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, Wilson
- 19- South Texas Development Council**
Counties Served: Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, Zapata
- 20- Coastal Bend Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Atascosa, Bee, Brooks, Deval, Jim Wells, Kennedy, Kleburg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio
- 21- Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council**
Counties Served: Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy
- 22- Texoma Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Cooke, Fannin, Grayson
- 23- Central Texas Council of Governments**
Counties Served: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, San Saba
- 24- Middle Rio Grande Development Council**
Counties Served: Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Zavala

Ramp of the Month: June 2019, Brown County

Ms. Wanda S., a 74-year-old stroke survivor, was referred by Hendrick Internal Medicine as she has had frequent falls and needs assistance walking. Her 15-foot ramp was built by nine TRP Youth Group volunteers, who committed 25 hours of labor to do this good deed for a neighbor.



Remember: Send Pictures, Client and Volunteer Stories

It's always enjoyable and fulfilling to see the results of your labors. In each issue of the TRP newsletter, we'd like to spotlight a build with *before and after pictures* and a vignette about the person for whom the ramp was built. There are so many success stories, along with great pictures just waiting to be shared. *Please submit client and/or volunteer stories and pictures to Sandy Knutson at sjkbits@aol.com.*

Pass It On

You are encouraged to liberally pass this newsletter on to others within your region. Hopefully, you will find that it is filled with useful information, building hints and tips, data collection updates and processes, client stories, special announcements and recognitions.

AND: Keep sending us email addresses of the people in your region who should be receiving our newsletter, along with their name and TRP region. Send new subscribers to Sandy Knutson at sjkbits@aol.com. Our TRP newsletter is a great tool, but it only works if we can send it directly every month to all the folks who might be interested.

If you prefer to **not** receive the newsletter, you can unsubscribe by emailing: sjkbits@aol.com and asking for your name to be removed.