



F A L L
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 34, September 29, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

IMAGINE
ROTARY

Be an Angel' for Special Needs Children'

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sep 29

**RYLA Students Share
Their Experiences**

Oct 6th

Nancy Humphrey
PISD Bond Updates

Oct 13th

Graciela Katzer
*Executive Director – Plano
International Festival*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Hubert Aaron

Sep 17



September 22, 2022 meeting At president **Janelle's** request, **John Caldwell** gave the invocation and **Bob Kerr** led the pledge. Sgt at Arms, **Mike McCormack** welcomed **Eleanore Knox**, (who was approved for membership) and **Karen Sheldon** (on a visit from California).



It was also good to see member of Rotary and the Plano Council, **Rick Grady**.

Notes from the President:

We return to Gleneagles Country Club on 10/6.

Saturday, October 15, is the **Plano International Festival**. Friday, October 21 is the **Plano Rotary Football Tailgate** for All clubs. Go to Clark Stadium at 5pm to find a

spot; the game begins at 7pm.

Other Rotary events: (1) December 3 = Annual Holiday Party for all Rotary clubs in Plano; bring a coat (2) December 8 = Shopping for Angel Tree (3) December 10 = Plano Holiday parade (4) December 15 = Wrapping for Angel Tree (5) March 25 = Texas Blues and Red Hots.



Our speaker, **Denise Coffman**, spent almost 15 years in public education working with children of all ages. These experiences & opportunities with children helped her find her passion in life and to begin thinking 'out

of the box' for ways to reach the WHOLE child.

She believes and lives by the quote "It's not how you live, it's whose life you change!" Having said all of the above about Denise, it's no surprise that she teamed up with Be An Angel DFW so they could change lives together. As the new Development Director for Be an Angel DFW, she can continue her life's work of helping the children and their families that truly need it the most. **Be An Angel** was created in 1986 by a concerned parent to help special needs students at T. H. Rogers School in Houston, Texas. In 2022, they expanded to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. They are committed to helping the 20,000+ angels and their families with special needs in North Texas. Be an Angel's mission is very simple: **"To improve the quality of life for children with multiple disabilities or profound deafness by providing needed adaptive equipment and select services."**

The need is very large. There are around 6,000 special ed students in Plano and about 530,000 students in Texas. As Denise talked with families she found that they had these concerns: (1) coping with the emotional & physical demands of care (2) a feeling of isolation (3) finding support systems and (4) managing expenses. Be an Angel offers support for each of these concerns by providing adaptive equipment, respite care, hearing aids, and two barrier-free camps unlike any other. Many of the children BAA serves spend their days in a wheelchair. In a wheelchair, they constantly look up at their world. One of the activities in the camps, which are outside Houston, is horseback riding. This allows them to finally look down for the

first time! There is special equipment to transfer the child from their chair to the horse.



Assistants then guide the horse and rider.



"We just had the most amazing, fun weekend at camp Be an Angel. We could not be more grateful for Be an Angel and the wonderful people we met at camp. Our daughter's being in a wheelchair, didn't stop her from enjoying and participating in every event, just like her sister did. Thank you, to everyone who made this possible" said one parent after camp.

Another unique service is providing hearing aids. Schools provide hearing aids during school hours, but the students must give them back before they go home. This also applies for summer and holiday breaks. They literally go home in silence if they don't own a pair of hearing aids. Insurance and Medicaid will only pay for one set of hearing aids every 5 years! The Christmas program is also very popular, especially in DFW. In December 2021, it involved 5100 Angels, 331 schools, 701 teachers, and many volunteers.



In the past 36 years, 38 barrier free playgrounds have been built. Ten years ago, BAA built their first DFW playground at the Jo Kelly School in Fort Worth. The

Jo Kelly School serves over 50 of the most medically fragile students in Fort Worth ISD. For the ten-year anniversary, BAA DFW is adding a huge freestanding swing called a We Go Swing. With this swing, special needs children can play with their siblings and able-bodied friends.

BAA also supports a home in the Dominican Republic for around 50 medically fragile orphans and castaways. BAA & a local Rotary group recently partnered to install a water purification system. With this system, they can sell clean water to help support operations.

Funding for BAA comes from special events (48%), end of year requests (20%), donations (19%) and grants (9%). Total revenue last year was \$1,870,000. Expenses include programs (71%), fundraising (21%) and administration (8%).

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Proverbs 11:24 - 25



Eleanore Knox

Proposed by: Johnny Lewis

Classification: Physician

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Thank you Toni Wilson

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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest

Eleanore Knox

Guest of

Johnny Lewis

Visiting Rotarian

none

Home Club



SEPTEMBER 2022
YEARS OF SERVICE

JEFFREY BECKLEY | 6 YEARS

ROBERT KEHR | 3 YEARS

JANELLE TWYFORD-SILVIS | 4 YEARS

