

# RRCF SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER



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# LETTER FROM THE CEO

“Transform beyond  
the expected.”

This year Red River is celebrating its 25th Anniversary, an important milestone for our company. We went into 2020 with big plans, focused on our core mission of helping our customers and communities transform beyond the expected.

We started the year at Achieve, our annual sales conference, company meeting and partner event. We celebrated our success, and committed to new goals, several focused on our philanthropic efforts: performing 10,000 community service hours as a company and reaching 50% participation in our PTC plan, which allows employees to donate a portion of their paychecks directly to RRCF each pay period. During the week, we hosted our biggest community service project to date, with 600 employees and partners making a difference for SJRC, a home serving at-risk youth in the San Antonio, Texas area. We made big plans to continue these community service days in our locations throughout the company, throughout the year.

When COVID-19 struck in March, it thrust us all into a new reality, one we never quite expected. We continued to give back, to transform our communities, but not in the ways any of us could have planned. Our team has come together in incredible ways, both in our work and our service.

In our work, we showed up on weekends and late nights to help a state upgrade its technology to support an all-remote workforce. We supported hospitals, both by working quickly to develop and deploy mobile networks for temporary facilities, and by donating N95 masks when we found a supplier with some available.



In our communities, we continued to support whoever possible. RRCF donated \$2,000 each to food banks near all of our office locations, many of which have specific programs for military families. We have also provided new Chromebooks and loaner laptops to schools, tons of pizzas to front line workers in our local communities and N95 masks to numerous hospitals.

In this newsletter, you'll find more examples of the ways, both big and small, that Red River and RRCF have positively transformed our communities. I have been, and continue to be, in awe of the ways the Red River team has risen to meet the challenges presented by the new reality.

We have enabled organizations to transform and adapt to a new reality by holding on tightly to the values that make us proud to be Red River: purpose, integrity, collaboration, creativity, strong work ethic and philanthropy.

I could not be prouder of what we have accomplished, and what we will accomplish in the months and years to come.

All the best,  
Alan Dumas, Red River CEO

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# JEFF SESSIONS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



RRCF is pleased to announce the inaugural Jeff Sessions Memorial Scholarship, which is now open for applications. Jeff Sessions was Red River's CEO, a RRCF board member and a generous supporter of our military community. He was full of passion, drive and generosity, and acted with purpose and determination. Jeff's life was tragically cut short in 2019, but his legacy lives on.

This scholarship was established in Jeff's name to preserve his unwavering commitment to members of our military. Jeff believed it was our responsibility to serve those who served our country. He also believed technology could be transformational – both in its use and as a career. This scholarship will help make that transformation possible for active duty military and veterans with the kind of drive, purpose and passion Jeff embodied.

Supporting a wide variety of educational opportunities, both traditional and non-traditional, this scholarship can be tailored to the unique needs of the applicant. This includes tuition, certification courses, seminars, books or supplies. We recognize that many new careers may require a non-traditional approach to learning and development, and this scholarship will support their career growth.

The Jeff Sessions Memorial Scholarship is open to active duty and retired military transitioning to or advancing in an IT career. Applicants will need to provide proof of military service and a short essay explaining why this scholarship will support their career development.

Jeff Sessions was a remarkable man who achieved a great deal in his life and career. This scholarship honors Jeff and allows us to support individuals that are pursuing their own version of success.

**To learn more about the Jeff Sessions Memorial Scholarship, visit [www.redrivercharitablefoundation.com/jeff-sessions-memorial-scholarship/](http://www.redrivercharitablefoundation.com/jeff-sessions-memorial-scholarship/).**

# COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT RECAP

In January, Red River came together for our largest community service event in company history. With over 500 participants spread across two locations, the Red River team was able to make a big difference at SJRC Texas.

SJRC Texas, formerly known as St. Jude's Ranch for Children, cares for children and families who have been affected by trauma, abuse and neglect, and have been removed from their homes by the Department of Family and Protective Services. The ranch is a safe haven for children up to age 21, as well as pregnant or parenting teens, and offers help and hope to begin the journey of healing.

Together with our partners, we took on 38 different projects that would enrich the lives of the staff and kids who live on the campuses. Some of the children's favorite additions were

the "A" Frame egg swings that they can use to have one-on-one meetings with their counselors in a relaxed environment, as well as new anti-contraband beds with new memory foam mattresses which we built from scratch from a plan an employee drew up.

We also painted their basketball court and added bleachers, as well as two new cornhole games, and a volleyball court which helps keep the kids busy in their down time. At the pregnant and parenting teen location, we added a Zen Zone for the moms, complete with a brightly colored painted mural along the fence and a peddle path for the toddlers.

The entire Red River team enjoyed an amazing day positively transforming the lives of the staff and residents of SJRC. We were honored to work with SJRC.

LARGEST-EVER CSP!

 <b>TWO</b> LOCATIONS	<b>3380</b> <small>person-hours of work in</small> <b>1 day</b>	 <b>5</b> storage sheds assembled	<b>540</b> RED RIVER AND PARTNER ATTENDEES	<b>87</b> CUBIC YDS OF MULCH SPREAD
 <b>23</b> BEDS BUILT	<b>36</b>  SEPARATE TEAMS	<b>500+</b> <small>BINS OF DONATED CLOTHING SORTED/STORED</small>	<b>EIGHTY</b> storage cubes stained & installed	
<b>200</b> <b>foot</b> <small>mural painted</small>	<small>30 ft. picket fencing installed</small> 	<b>6100</b> <small>square feet of flooring installed</small>	<b>6</b>  <b>BABY</b> <b>GATES</b> <small>BUILT &amp; INSTALLED</small>	<b>SIX</b> <small>HEAVY PUNCHING BAGS HUNG</small>



# ABOUT SJRC

SJRC was established in 1983 as a place for children to feel safe and heal. SJRC cares for nearly 200 children in the greater San Antonio area every day with a focus on helping them recover from past trauma like abuse, abandonment and neglect. The vision of SJRC is for these children to be empowered to grow up to be happy, productive and caring adults.

SJRC offers emergency placement, therapeutic residential care, community foster care, pregnant and parenting teen services, and adoption, creating forever families for deserving children.

It was an honor for Red River to participate in such a special day with a great organization.  
To learn more about SJRC, visit [www.sjrctexas.org/](http://www.sjrctexas.org/).

**LACI BIRD**, SJRC Community Coordinator

**“The kids loved the new toys from RRCF so much that they didn’t want to come inside! They also love the new beds and dorms that were built for them.”**



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# PTC HERO AWARD

RRCF honors and recognizes those who go above and beyond to make a significant impact in the lives of others and devote a significant amount of personal time, energy and creativity to Positively Transform Communities. The PTC Hero Award was created so Red River employees can nominate unsung heroes in their own lives and communities. We want to celebrate people they consider to be a champion of social responsibility and selfless service. Now in its third year, the PTC Hero Award gives us another way to bring the Foundation's reach to our employees all around the country.

The recipient of the 2020 PTC Hero Award is Theresa Hart, nominated by employee Monica Desmaris. In 2013, Theresa founded a non-profit organization called Newby-ginnings to honor her son, Specialist Nick Newby, who was killed in combat while serving in Iraq. Newby-ginnings, based out of North Idaho, provides basic necessities and essential household items to veterans, active military and their families at no cost. After her son passed, Theresa knew she wanted to keep Nick's memory alive by helping his battle buddies, many of whom were suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injuries and financial and relationship problems. Theresa calls Newby-ginnings "the collateral beauty that has occurred after immeasurable tragedy."



Theresa Hart, second from left, and some of the Newby-ginnings supporters.

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# NEWBY GINNINGS

OF NORTH IDAHO INC.

Theresa Hart's son,  
Nick Newby.



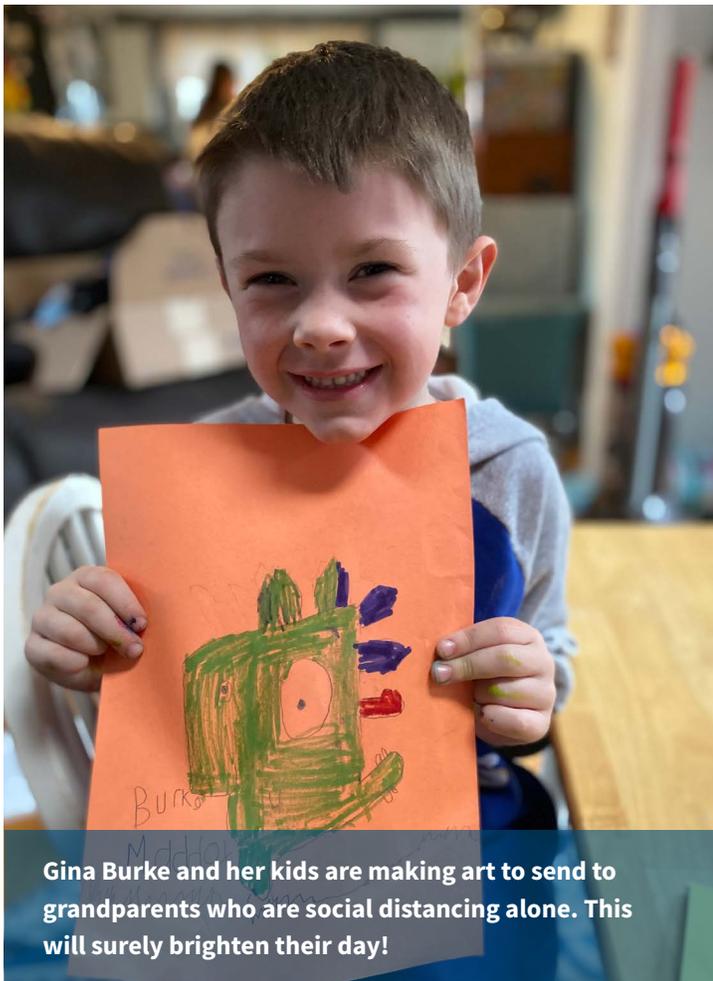
Newby-ginnings does not require those they serve to show proof of need, nor do they enforce income eligibility guidelines. They are simply there to serve those who have served our country. Theresa and Newby-ginnings have provided over 2,500 veterans, active military and Gold Star families with any necessities they need. They add about 10 new recipients each week and see about 100 visitors to their shop per day. Newby-ginnings has become a place not only where people can come for household necessities, but also peer support, resources and referrals to other agencies.

As a PTC Hero Award recipient, Theresa and Newby-ginnings were presented with a \$5,000 check to help continue with their wonderful and inspiring work. We applaud Theresa, and all those helping to keep Newby-ginnings going, on being a great resource for our military members. To learn more about Theresa and Newby-ginnings, visit [www.newbyginnings.org/](http://www.newbyginnings.org/).

Red River employees will be able to submit nominations for the 2021 PTC Hero Awards this summer. Stay tuned!

# GIVING BACK CREATES SMILES

During this time of uncertainty, it's important to take care of ourselves. But it's also important to take care of each other however we can. No gesture is too small. We're proud to see some of our own stepping up to make others smile during this difficult time!



Gina Burke and her kids are making art to send to grandparents who are social distancing alone. This will surely brighten their day!

Masks are hard to come by these days, so thank you to Diane Jurich and her sister for making hundreds of them!



Larry Bowles loves to cook, especially grilling and smoking, so he's been cooking large portions of meat and giving it to his neighbors in need. With meat becoming more scarce in grocery stores, this is a great gesture!





Lorraine Grothoff's neighbor asked if she would take her picture on her 91st birthday to send to her family. Lorraine had a photoshoot with her neighbor!



RRCF sent pizzas to the White River Junction VA Medical Center as a small token of appreciation to our healthcare workers!



Robert Allende has been making dinner kits for the less fortunate. And, his son is 3D printing headband extenders to make masks more comfortable to wear for front-line workers. Giving back is a family affair!



A heartwarming reminder seen on a movie theater board. Be safe. Be kind. Be hopeful.

# PHILANTHROPIC AWARD

The RRCF Philanthropic Award was designed to honor a Red River employee who makes a positive impact on the lives of others. This award honors the employee we believe goes above and beyond to inspire those around them and demonstrates the importance of giving back, while supporting the mission of RRCF.

This is the fifth year we have honored a special employee and the 2020 recipient was Diane Lunsford. Diane continuously strives to make an impact in the lives of others and enthusiastically leads by example. Some of the ways she gives back to the community and supports RRCF are:

- She has been an active team member in our Annual Golf Classic – on the day of the event and the months leading up to it.
- She works to obtain donations for items for the golf classic as well as the employee holiday auction.
- She is a long-time participant of the PTC Plan.
- She serves as a great liaison between RRCF and the Reston and Chantilly offices.
- And lastly and most impactful, is her dedication to an organization that we support called Willing Warriors. She facilitated a day of service for employees where we provided some great assistance to the organization and will lead another one this summer.



The RRCF Philanthropic Award includes a \$1,000 donation to the recipient's charitable initiative of choice. Diane donated the funds to support the Jeff Sessions Memorial Scholarship Fund.



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# BIZOPS TEAM

## Introduces STEM Students to Web Development



The BizOps Development team was invited by Hypertherm to present a beginner's web development class to a week-long STEM program they host every year. Ten students from Lebanon, New Hampshire (fifth to eighth grade) and two of the teachers were present for the training.

Avery Parks presented a basic introduction to HTML, CSS, JavaScript and responsive web design using Visual Studio Code as a development environment. Eric Parrot, Abigail Conner and

Kevin Stone assisted students and teachers as they followed along on laptops provided by Hypertherm. The students were well engaged and asked many questions as the team worked through the fundamentals.

Avery created a GitHub source repository where the students followed step-by-step instructions for the basic class that the team presented, links to continue their education, as well as an advanced class that used API's to get the weather by zip code. The BizOps team was able to provide the tools for interested students to continue to grow their skills.

### **AVERY PARKS**, WEB DEVELOPER

“Technology is a constantly evolving and growing need in the workforce. I enjoy teaching students about web design and hope they can use what they have learned in their future careers.”

### **ERIC PARROT**, SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

“It's always fun to work with these young students who may end up becoming the developers of tomorrow. My favorite part of the experience is seeing their reactions when they start seeing the web pages they've built come together. It's rewarding to be a part of that experience.”

### **ABIGAIL CONNER**, TECH. SERVICE ENGINEER

“I think that this exercise was a great little introduction for the kids and if any are interested in web design they have lots of material from the GitHub repository to use.”

### **KEVIN STONE**, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

“I really enjoyed working with young students, they have no preconceived ideas on web development, so they are willing to experiment and make their website their own.”

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# THINKSMART POSTPONED TO 2021

Due to COVID-19, the ThinkSMART program is postponed until 2021. If you would like to be notified when applications are open for 2021, please visit [www.redrivercharitablefoundation.com/student-initiatives/](http://www.redrivercharitablefoundation.com/student-initiatives/).

Red River's ThinkSMART program is an opportunity for high school students interested in IT to get hands-on experience in a professional work environment. Students gain access to Skills, Mentorship, Access, Readiness and Technology through real-world IT troubleshooting, interviewing and business skills with the support of the Red River IT team. This collaborative program focuses on more than just break/fix IT skills and lays the foundation for students to be successful in a professional work environment.

In 2021, the ThinkSMART program will be available at every Red River location for the first time:

- CHANTILLY, VA
- SAN ANTONIO, TX
- CLAREMONT, NH
- SACRAMENTO, CA



## AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON **ENGAGE 2020** AND **THE GOLF CLASSIC**

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the health and safety of our participants, sponsors and employees, we have cancelled the 2020 RRCF Golf Classic. This was a very difficult decision and we thank everyone for their ongoing support and commitment to RRCF. Despite the cancellation of this year's tournament, we are still 100% committed to providing the much needed scholarships to deserving high school seniors. We will announce this year's recipients at a later date.

2021 will mark the 15th anniversary of the RRCF Golf Classic and we are already gearing up for an incredible anniversary celebration! We look forward to seeing everyone in person next year.

Keeping the health and safety of everyone in mind, we have also decided to make Engage 2020 a digital event. We'll share more details soon, so stay tuned!

In the meantime, make sure you're following us on social media to see how we're continuing to serve our communities.



**@redrivercharitablefoundation**

# RRCF DONATES LAPTOPS TO ROBOTICS TEAM

Red River employees are encouraged to volunteer their time to serve their communities. Each employee receives 16 service hours every year and our 2020 collective goal is to reach 10,000 hours. We love to hear about what our employees are doing and give them a chance to feature their volunteer work. Mike Cook, Systems Support Engineer, has helped run the robotics team at his child's school for seven years. This year, Mike took the reins as the leader of the 30 student team called the Magnet Robotics Club, made up of students in grades four to eight. The team needed laptops to help with their competition prep and Mike reached out to RRCF to see if we could help. We were thrilled to be able to provide 12 gently used laptops to help the team!



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# RRCF PARTNERS WITH INGRAM MICRO

## to Donate Laptops to the Department of California's Disabled American Veterans



The California Disabled American Veterans (DAV) was in need of laptops for volunteer leaders around the state. Knowing there is a large population of homeless veterans in California, RRCF wanted to help. We pulled in our long-time distributor partner, Ingram Micro, to share the cost of the laptops, and they were enthusiastic to do so.

The DAV provides assistance to veterans in many ways. They have a volunteer drive program that in 2018, made sure that 23,556 veterans were picked up from their homes and taken to medical appointments at the VA. They have a program called Local Veterans Assistance put in place to motivate members and those in the community to help veterans any way they can. They have logged over 4 million volunteer hours nationally. They also provide relief for disasters such as earthquakes and fires and helps veterans file and process VA claims. To learn more visit [www.davcal.org/](http://www.davcal.org/).



*I cannot express the gratitude I have of this blessing being given to us! Team Red River and Ingram Micro, your gift will allow the communication process throughout our state to improve immensely. Believe it or not, these laptops finally bring us out of the fax machine age! Gratitude is an understatement. You have helped a 100 year legacy move in the right direction of surviving another 100 years!" — Robert Graves, DAV Director of Operations*

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# WILLING WARRIORS SERVICE PROJECT



Willing Warriors is a 501(c)(3) charity offering cost-free getaways where injured warriors and their families can go to relax, spend quality time together and reconnect. The programs include more than 60 educational and recreational activities, including seminars that address PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. The purpose of these retreats stays is to help the warrior and their family rebuild their lives feeling refreshed and inspired. To learn more, visit [www.willingwarriors.org](http://www.willingwarriors.org).

Bob Kyle, Red River Director, Design Engineering, rolled up his sleeves and spent three days working onsite. Here is his story:



After the first day, we had little to show for other than a big hole by the house and partially under the sidewalk. We determined that we would need to cut an 8x8 foot section of the sidewalk away to pursue the leak as well as an excavator to move a high volume of dirt. We recruited some extra help and had two more high schoolers and two men from Global Plumbing, who also provided the excavator.



Once we got the sidewalk cut, the excavator lifted the giant concrete slab out of the way. Within 30 minutes we found the first and also a second leak. The culprit was a section of pipe from 1972 when the home was built. The pipe fed three water faucets around the property that are used for watering the lawn, and powering water features in the tranquility garden where the warriors can sit and enjoy the peaceful countryside.

We look forward to the summer, where Diane Lunsford will be organizing another day of service – a great opportunity for others to utilize our community service hours.

Follow us on social media:   @RedRiverCharitableFoundation  
Visit the website: [www.redrivercharitablefoundation.com](http://www.redrivercharitablefoundation.com)



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# MISSION STATEMENT

Red River Charitable Foundation (RRCF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a dual mandate and mission. RRCF promotes and encourages students to continue their studies in the fields of science and technology, as well as supporting U.S. military veterans transitioning to civilian life.

