

30 Days of Service: A fond look back

Caleb Slinkard Transcript Editor | Posted: Sunday, October 18, 2015 7:15 am

Over the past month, the United Way of Norman and the Transcript teamed up to provide 30 features on organizations the United Way helps fund. These partner agencies provide a wide range of services that meet the everyday physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of our community.

The project began shortly after I became the editor of the Transcript, and I eagerly took on several of the writing assignments, because I thought it would be an excellent way to get to know this community better. I came away from the series with some powerful experiences and new insight into our city.

The organizations we featured touch every aspect of the Norman community, from after school programs like CASP, to food programs like Meals on Wheels, to shelter and financial assistance programs like the Salvation Army.

The organizations I wrote about — Bethesda, Community After School Program, Parents Helping Parents, Salvation Army, Thunderbird Clubhouse and Variety Care — all made a distinct impression on me. I came into contact with individuals who cared about their fellow Norman residents, as well as the people they serve. Some of these interviews were educational. Others were inspiring, as I interacted with people who were overcoming significant challenges in their lives. A few were heart-wrenching, as I came face-to-face with those in desperate physical and emotional need.

The entire series was a remarkably fulfilling one for the Transcript staff, as we all were able to interact with these unique agencies, their staff, and those whom they serve. We hope you were able to read many, if not all, of the features. You can find them all on our website, and the United Way has also collected the series on their website.

Now that you know these organizations, their management and who they serve, it's your turn to make a difference in the lives of Norman residents. At unitedwaynorman.org, you can give to the United Way, either as a general donation or to a specific agency. You can also find ways to advocate for those in need, or discover volunteer opportunities.

We live in a beautiful, unique community, one that we should all work to make better for everyone who lives here.

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