



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Seniors

Recommendation Number: 20170308-3C: Recognize Dan Pruett for his advocacy and achievements that empower elders in Austin.

WHEREAS, Dan Pruett has demonstrated true community leadership as a vocal advocate for Central Texas' older adults, particularly those who are most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, Dan has been a champion for low-income and disabled older adults during his 14 years as CEO and President of Meals on Wheels Central Texas; and

WHEREAS, under Dan's leadership, Meals on Wheels Central Texas has expanded its meal service delivery area to reach seniors living in seven different counties in urban and rural areas – delivering close to 9 million lunch and breakfast meals to the low-income, older and disabled clients that Dan has been honored to represent; and

WHEREAS, under Dan's leadership, Meals on Wheels Central Texas added 11 quality programs that improve the lives of older adults and enable a holistic approach to client services, to ensure that homebound Central Texans not only get the meals they need, but the other critical services that make it possible for them to age in place:

HAND In-home Care, empowering seniors to remain independent by providing critically needed daily services such as bathing, dressing and grooming in the comfort of their own home

Telehealth Treatment for Depression, providing treatment for homebound older adults battling depression, with support and guidance from the University of Texas School of Social Work

Connecting Seniors with Technology, providing a computer, internet services and in-home instructional sessions to homebound, low-income older adults who otherwise couldn't afford it

Silver Watch, offering regular check-ins for critically frail clients, with assistance from Travis County Precinct 5's Constable's office

Veteran Services Program, specialized care designed to meet the unique challenges and circumstances military veterans often face

Mike's Place, a free respite care program for people with Alzheimer's or dementia

Congregate Program, free meals and recreational activities at the five Travis County Senior Centers and noon day meals at the City of Austin sites

Home Repair Program, providing significant home improvements and renovations for clients living in substandard housing

Meals for Kids Program, providing nutritious after-school snacks to children of low-income families

Glenda Rogers Country Wheels Program, providing a week's worth of healthy meals to homebound clients living in remote, rural areas

Pets Assisting the Lives of Seniors (PALS) Program, providing assistance with food and basic preventative veterinary care for the pets of homebound clients

WHEREAS, Dan has served in other key community positions, including Founder and first President of the Meals on Wheels Association of Texas, Member and Past Chair of the Austin Commission on Seniors, Past Chair of the Travis and Williamson County Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Chair of the Aging Texas Well Implementation Committee, Past Chair of One Voice Central Texas, and Past Chair of the Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Commission on Seniors includes promoting the contributions of older adults to the cultural, economic and historical value of Austin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors recognizes Dan Pruett for his years of community leadership, as well as his dedicated service to older adults, low-income families and vulnerable people in Austin and Central Texas.

Date of Approval: March 8, 2017

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 13-0 vote

Attest:

