

CHRISTI
CENTER 

HOPE
&
HEALING
IN OUR
35TH
YEAR

Annual Report 2022

HOPE & HEALING IN OUR 35TH YEAR

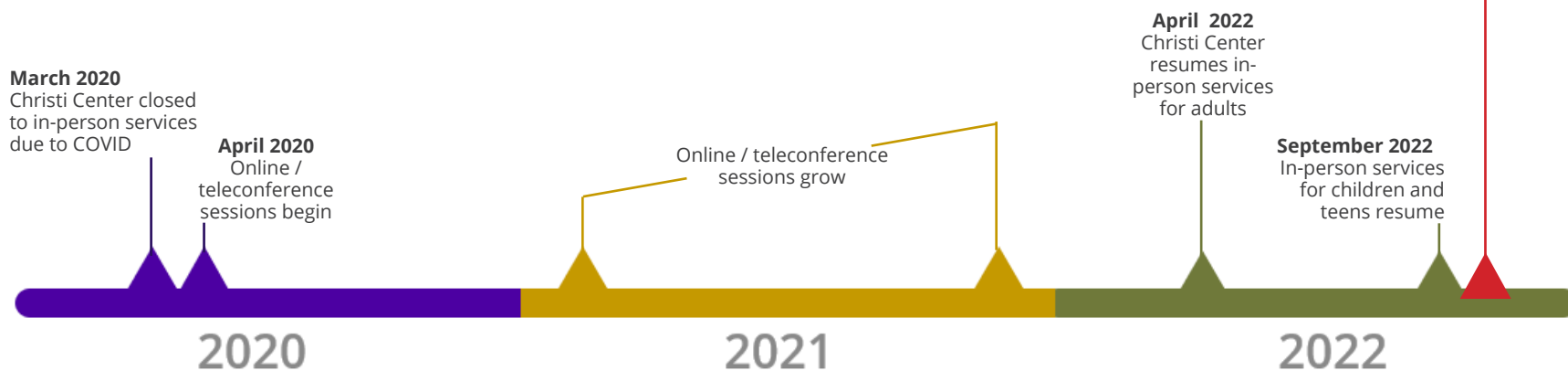
2022 ANNUAL REPORT

What can be celebrated about something borne of loss and tragedy - death of a loved one?

Thirty-five years after the creation of the **Christi Center**, heartbreak and bereavement, sadness and loss did not disappear; grief never does. COVID isolation and its remnants, the rise of overdoses, a backlogged justice system and more contributed to the tsunami of grief engulfing many of our family, friends and neighbors.

In October of 2022, the **Christi Center celebrated our 35th year** of supporting central Texans in grief. This report outlines the good of hope and healing: more people getting help, continued and expanded reach by teleconference, the return of in-person support, and the powerful work and value of skilled staff and volunteers.

THAT we celebrate.



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About Us

Support for any child, teen, or adult who is grieving the death of a loved one ... for as long as needed

MISSION

The Christi Center offers hope after the death of a loved one by providing support networks, community education, and therapeutic activities that are free, peer-based, and ongoing.

CORE VALUES

- **Provide grief support** at no charge to grieving families for as long as needed.
- **Educate and increase community awareness on issues facing the bereaved.**
- **Build community partnerships** to better support grieving people.
- Preserve a diverse and sustainable base of **volunteer and financial support** to ensure that the Center's services will always be available for those in need.

PEER GROUP SUPPORT

The heart of Christi Center's service is peer-based group support, connecting the bereaved with others who have experienced losses of a similar nature. Groups are facilitated by trained volunteers under the direction of clinical staff.

Specialized peer groups and services include support for:

- Loss of a Spouse/Partner
- Loss of a Child
- Loss to COVID
- Loss to Suicide
- Loss to Overdose
- Loss to Crime
- Pregnancy and Infant Loss
- Mixed Loss
- Teens Group
- Kids Who Care Children's Group
- Children's Individual Counseling

Many Christi Center clients participate in more than one group or service.

IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

In 2020, support via teleconference emerged in response to the COVID lockdown. Using teleconferencing service Zoom, clients were able to participate in group and individual sessions otherwise not possible. While the Christi Center's in-person services are limited to central Texas, online support has attracted clients from other states.

In-person sessions resumed in 2022 and online support remains a part of the Center's service model, conducted weekly for group sessions.

The Center is one of few grief-support providers in the country to provide counseling via teleconference.

See our calendar/schedule of in-person and online sessions.

Click on the photos to see the galleries. They will open in a browser window.



Holiday remembrance event held to remember and honor loved ones lost



Remembrance

GALLERIES



Kids Who Care

Holiday party for child clients in the Kids Who Care support group



Día De Los Muertos

Día De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) observation celebrating the life of family members passed



Our Stories

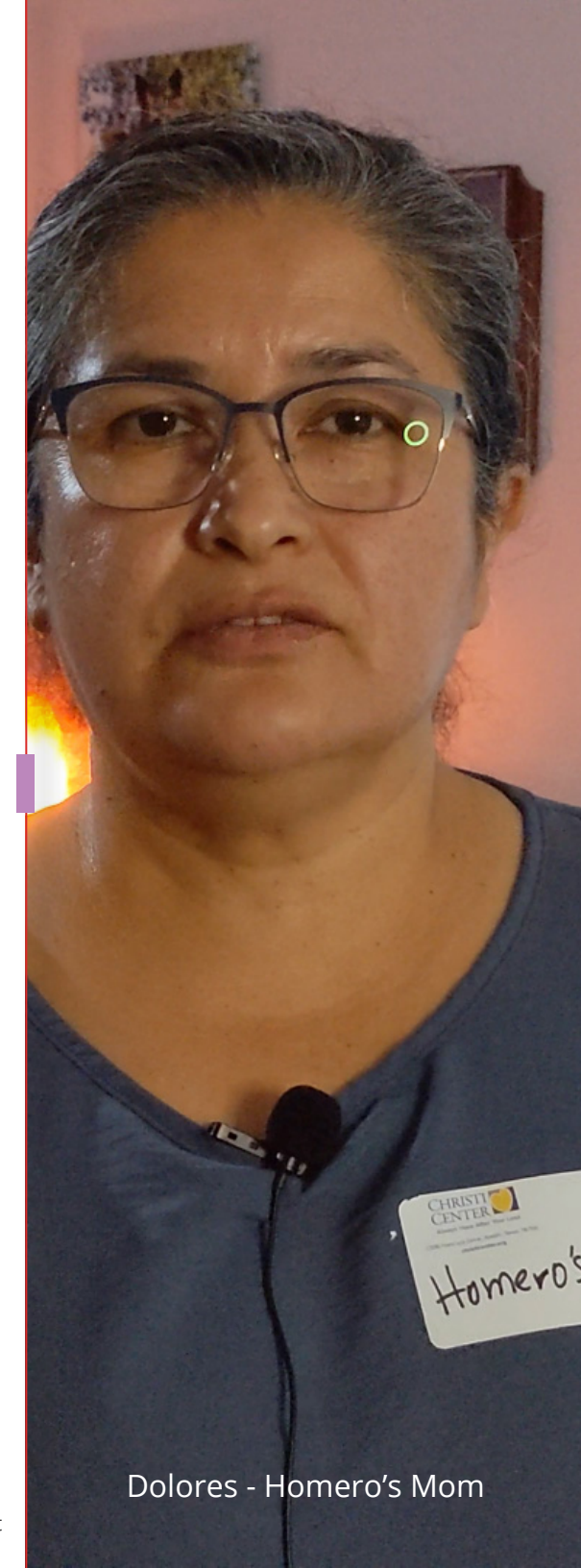
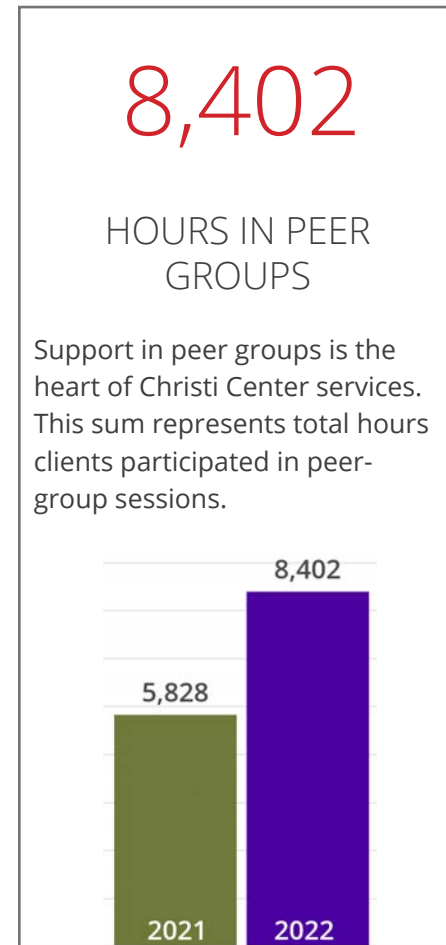
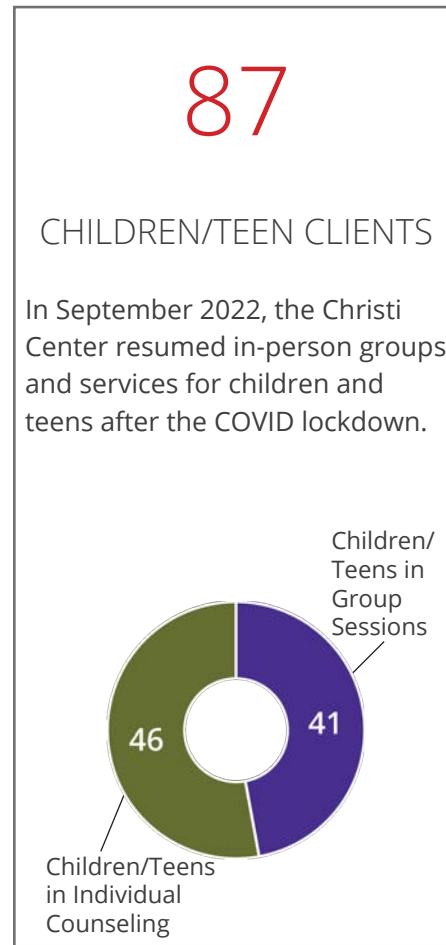
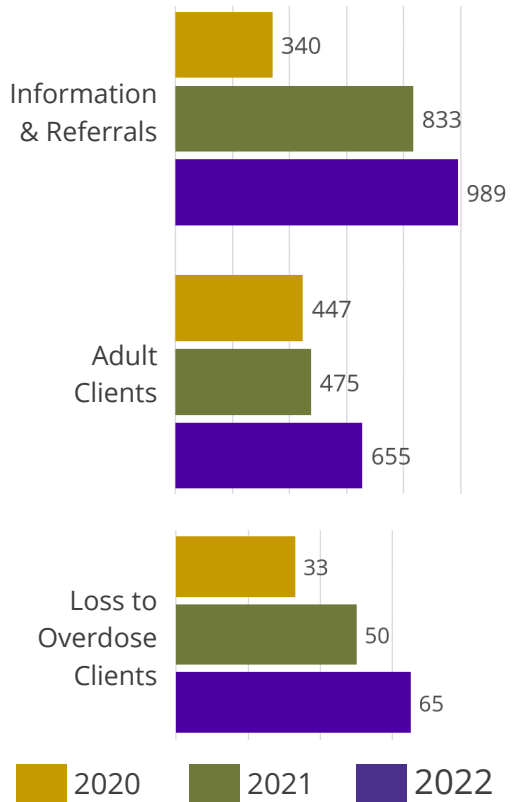
Short videos of clients telling their stories

Numbers 2022

Core Value
• Provide grief support

In 2022, the Christi Center resumed “in-person” groups and services after the two-year COVID lockdown. The figures here reflect activity in 2022 from before and after re-opening.

Urgent Growth Areas



Dolores - Homero's Mom

Numbers 2022 |

Core Value

- Provide grief support
- Educate and increase community awareness
- Build community partnerships

989

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS

A combination of Christi Center staff and trained interns field calls requesting grief support or referrals. After clinical intake and assessment, those seeking assistance are referred to a Center program/group or to appropriate support within the Center or other resources in central Texas.

490

INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN / TEEN COUNSELING SESSIONS

The Center's individual counseling and School Grief Support Network programs pair trained volunteers (example: retired school counselors) or masters-level counseling or social work interns with a grieving child.

One-hour sessions are conducted in-person or via teleconference.

459

CRIME VICTIMS SERVED

Christi Center support for those grieving a loss to crime includes counseling, crisis intervention, assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation, legal assistance, victim advocacy, and information and referral connecting victims to additional services as needed.

Crime victims served include Christi Center clients and those referred by other agencies or social service providers.

1,121

COMMUNITY PARTNERS TRAINED IN GRIEF SUPPORT

The Christi Centers fosters partnerships with over 100 agencies to better support those in grief. That includes providing training in grief resources and support for individuals and law enforcement, agencies, and organizations.



Kids Who Care with Divine Canines



35th Anniversary Luncheon

 [Click on the play button to see the video](#)

Honoring Susan and Don Cox

35

years to the day of the founding of the Christi Center, a sold-out crowd of 248 clients, volunteers, community leaders, and other supporters joined to mark the anniversary and to honor founders Susan and Don Cox. Donations garnered were a major factor in the financial stability of the Center in 2022.

Christi Center Board President 2022 Mike Twomey opened with a welcome and presentation of proclamations issued by Travis and Williamson counties, and the cities of Austin and Georgetown. Each read in part:

“WHEREAS, Don and Susan Cox ... have provided selfless commitment, leadership and support so others would find comfort, hope and healing... [We] NOW THEREFORE, proclaim October 26, 2022 as Christi Center Day.”

[See the proclamations](#)

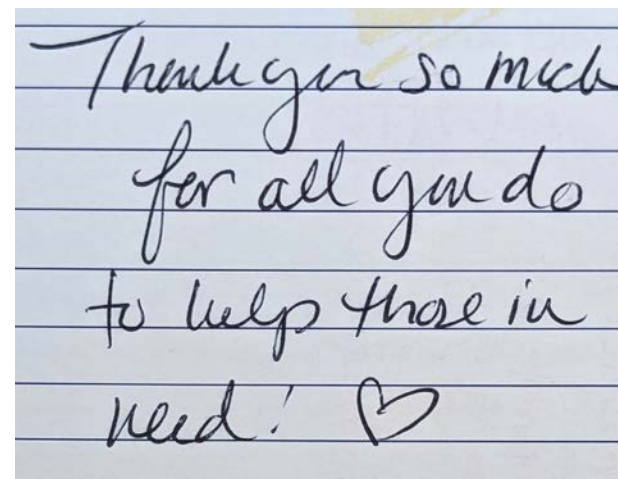
Executive Director Jennifer Edwards touched on the history and highlights of the past 35 years:

- Origin story of “For The Love Of Christi”;
- Development of specialty areas, e.g. Loss of a Child, Loss to Crime, Loss to Suicide;
- Development of programs for children and teens; and
- Crime victim support.

A rousing standing ovation for founders Susan and Don Cox punctuated appreciation for their years of dedication to the Center.

To close, past board president Jeffrey Richard appealed for support, citing the growing need for grief services in central Texas.

Over \$180,000 was raised at the luncheon.



[Read more tribute cards](#)

Celebrating 35 YEARS

Sponsors

SUSAN AND DON COX
AND SON SEAN

COOK-WALDEN
FUNERAL HOMES & CEMETERIES

WEED-CORLEY-FISH
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATION SERVICES

Every Detail Remembered | **Dignity**
Memorial



CINDY MCCOY

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUSTIN
CHASCO CONSTRUCTORS
DAVE HAMBY
BARBARA SLAUGHTER

Notable in 2022

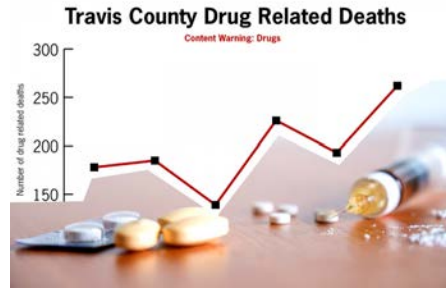


EMERGING FROM PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN

In March 2020, the Christi Center suspended all in-person support due to COVID. In April 2020, Center staff developed online support for groups and individuals via teleconference (Zoom).

With the easing of pandemic precautions, the Center resumed in-person sessions for adults in April 2022.

The current service model includes a hybrid of online and in-person support sessions, unique in grief services nationwide.



RISE OF OVERDOSE / FENTANYL

Travis County saw 199 drug-related overdose deaths in the first six months of 2022 alone. Of those, 118 involved fentanyl - more than in all of 2021.

In 2022, the number of requests for Christi Center support for overdose increased 19% from 2021. The Center fielded approximately four requests per week seeking support, including many from other parts of the US.

The Christi Center is committed to serving this growing demanding.



CHILDREN AND TEENS COME BACK

After a two-and-a-half year absence due to COVID, the Center's Kids Who Care and teen support groups resumed in-person sessions in September 2022. In addition, the parent and caregiver support group resumed.

Recognizing the increased need, the Center added a full-time children's program coordinator to its staff.

In 2022, 87 children and teens participated.

Photo: Kids Who Care session with therapy dogs from Divine Canines



CRIME VICTIM SUPPORT

After the COVID lockdown, criminal trials resumed across Texas in 2022, but a backlog remains.

Referrals from law enforcement agencies and other service providers increased, many related to overdose deaths, with families asking "Will anybody ever be prosecuted?"

Photo: Cathy Collins speaks at National Crime Victim's Rights Week award ceremony, Austin/Travis County. Seated L-R Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez, Travis County DA staff Neva Fernandez, Austin Police Chief Joseph Chacon, Travis County District Attorney Jose Garza. April 2022.



Volunteers

Core Value

- Preserve a diverse and sustainable base of **volunteer** and financial support

**VOLUNTEERS:
OUR CORE OF SUPPORT**

Facilitators

Christi Center’s model of support is peer-based with trained volunteers organizing and leading group sessions. Their journey from clients to facilitators make them “zebras of the same stripe”. They are, indeed, peers to those in grief.

Interns

Each academic semester, Christi Center services are supported by college interns, most Master’s-level students. They lend their knowledge and time in making the Center run, providing counseling and support to clients.

Our Other Volunteers

The Christi Center and its clients owe much to other volunteers who make possible the support provided. Too many to list, these volunteers help maintain our facilities, organize groups, set up sessions and celebrations, serve as board and committee members, and are vital to the operation and success of the Center. We thank them all.

**OUR FACILITATORS
2022**

- Don Cox
- Susan Cox
- Keri Davila
- Mary Graf
- Leslie Inman
- Phyllis Lacey
- Beata Liszka
- Glenn McIntosh
- Elaine Miller
- Natalie Perry
- Jimmy Shields
- Mary Shields
- Beverley Shirley
- Tansy Silva
- Betty Turner-Huf
- Deana Ward
- Mary Watson
- Jim Woodruff

**OUR INTERNS
2022**

- Stacy Bockholt
*Master’s Marriage Couples and Family Therapy Intern
Texas State University*
- Karen Dyre
*Master’s Counseling Intern
Texas State University*
- Meghan French
*Master’s Social Work Intern
University of Texas at Austin*
- Taylor Kall
*Master’s Social Work Intern
University of Texas at Austin*
- Tessa Lancaster
*Master’s Social Work Intern
University of Texas at Austin*
- Carolina Machado
*Master’s Social Work Intern
University of Texas at Austin*
- Kat Malone
*Master’s Counseling Intern
Texas State University*
- Kelsey Mayes
*Master’s Social Work Intern
Louisiana State University*
- Zuleima Melendez
*Master’s Social Work Intern
University of Texas at Austin*
- Kristen Nordeen
*Master’s Counseling Intern
Texas State University*
- Diamond Olcott
*Master’s Social Work Intern
Tulane University*
- Carly Sutton
*Master’s Counseling Intern
Texas Tech University*
- Molly Young
*Master’s Marriage Couples and Family Therapy Intern
St. Edward’s University*

**VALUE OF
VOLUNTEER TIME
\$29.95 PER HOUR**

“Volunteers in the United States hold up the foundation of civil society.

In its newest Value of Volunteer Time report, Independent Sector ... announced on April 18, 2022 that the latest value of a volunteer hour is estimated to be \$29.95, which is a 4.9% increase from 2020 to 2021.”

IndependentSector.org

**FACILITATOR AND INTERN
IN-KIND VALUE
2022**

Facilitator hours	868
Intern hours	5,740
TOTAL HOURS	6,608

**In-Kind Value
\$197,909**







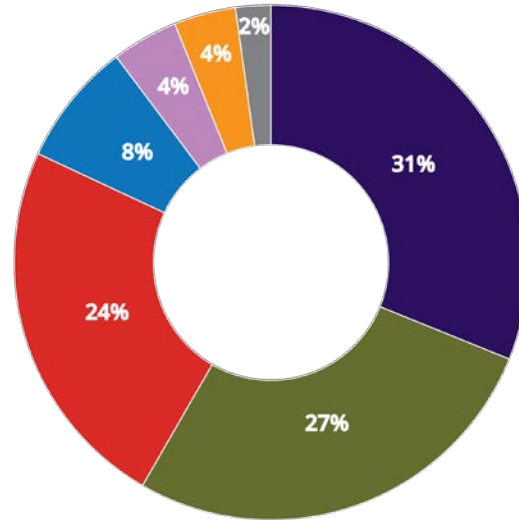
Finances

Core Value

- Preserve a diverse and sustainable base of volunteer and **financial** support

REVENUE

	35th Anniversary Luncheon	\$186,000
	Individual Gifts	162,000
	Grants	141,000
	Memorial Gifts	45,000
	3rd Party Fundraisers	26,000
	Corporate Support	23,000
	Earned Income / Collaborations.	12,000
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$595,000









IN-KIND FACILITATOR / INTERN SUPPORT = \$197,909

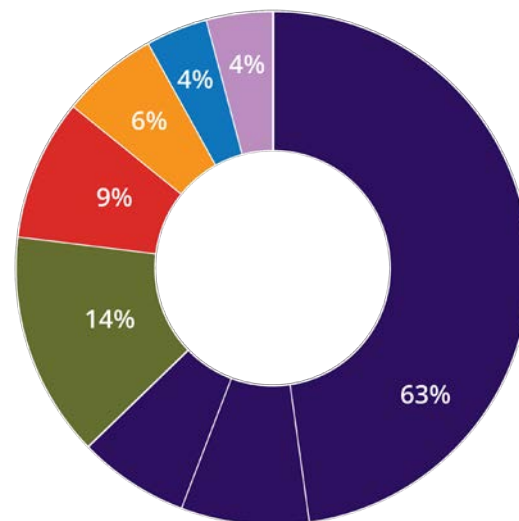
At the core of the Christi Center business model is the tremendous value of our skilled and compassionate facilitators and clinical intern volunteers. These talented supporters leverage a value of \$197,909 towards our mission.

DEBT FREE

Our headquarters property on Hancock Drive in Austin, Texas is fully owned by the Christi Center. We carry no debt, and this directly contributes to our financial stability and viability as a nonprofit organization.

EXPENDITURES

	Program Staff	\$264,000
	Fundraising Staff.	45,000
	Management/General Staff	38,000
	Program Costs	77,000
	Employee Benefits/Taxes	50,000
	Fundraising Costs.	33,000
	Property Maintenance/Insurance	22,000
	Technology	22,000
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$551,000



Christi Center Founder Susan Cox and Leticia
2002 - see page 11

Donors

Core Value

- Preserve a diverse and sustainable base of volunteer and **financial** support



We are grateful for all donations to the Christi Center which allow us to fulfill our mission of ensuring no one has to grieve alone. We thank every individual, corporation, and foundation for their generosity.

A heartfelt thank you to all our donors who wished to remain anonymous.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of this list. If you feel there is an omission or error, please email Executive Director Jennifer Edwards at Jennifer@ChristiCenter.org.

The following donors contributed financial gifts of \$1,000 or more in 2022.

\$40,000 AND ABOVE

Don and Susan Cox
Nancy and Nyle Maxwell Family
State of Texas - Office of the Attorney General
Travis County Crime Victims Services

\$20,000 - \$39,999

Georgetown Health Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Estate of Flora DeHart
Donald D. Hammill Foundation
Dr. Kevin Hull
Richard P. Slaughter Associates
Joe and Jackie Stafford

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Allsup Family Giving Fund
Tom Bentley and Carol Rylander
Alan and Barbara Cox
The Dallas Foundation
Daveco Renovation Solutions
Jeri Deangelis
Dignity Memorial
Emerson Charitable Trust
Cara Fox
Brian and Theresa Golde
Dave and Teri Hamby
Debby Krueger
Cindy McCoy
McCoy's Building Supply
Cheyne C Pace Trust
Kenneth and Colleen Tillman Ray
Lowell and Nancy Reed
Barbara Slaughter
Michael and Mary Twomey

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Michael and Loyce Allen
Arnold Foundation
Austin Illuminations
Austin Renovations/John Ward
Michael Baseluos
Thomas and Stacy Bockholt
Bright Funds Foundation
Janet Brown
Travis Buchanan
Catholic Diocese of Austin
Chasco Constructors
Cliff and Chris Collier
Gregory K. Crouch Charitable Fund
Joe and Sharla DeMedeiros
Lynne Dodge
Bob and Kathy Donnelly
George and Molly Drazic
Tony and Sherry Eades
Efficient AC, Electric & Plumbing
Empresa Pro Solutions
David and Melinda Flores
Pascal D. Forgione, Jr., Ph.D. and Kaye Forgione

Randy Frazier, Ph.D. and Patricia Stuart, Ph.D.

Alan Garcia
Jane Gault
Grant Gee
Peter and Elizabeth Golde
Tom Green & Company
Tom and Heidi Green
Dianna Groves
Kate Hamlin
Elliott and Kaitlin Hendrix
Steve Hicks
Timothy Joseph and Mary Lou Dupuis
David and Karen Jumonville
Keepin' the Books Bookkeeping
Ken and Julie Kirk
Dave Knapp
Bill and Donna Knox
Jim and Mali Letchworth
Stephen and Nora Maxwell
Kyle and Renee McFather
John McKinnerney
Charles Moore

John and Barbara Price
Dave and Judi Proctor
Jeffrey and Naomi Richard
David Schroeder
Laurie Shanblum
Reid and Cindy Sharp
Shepherd of the Hills Christian Church
Jimmy and Mary Shields
Brooks and Kirsten Slaughter
DeAnn Smith
Christi Tennison
Kevin Terrazas
Vince and Suzanne Torres
Garry and Deborah Vacek
Nick Voinis
Katherine Von Alt
David Waller
Julie Watkins
Robert Wehrmeister
R.O. Williams
Justin Wright and Rae Lynn Ortega
Samer and Sandy Zabaneh
Emily S. Zipp

How To Help |

Core Value

- Preserve a diverse and sustainable base of volunteer and **financial** support

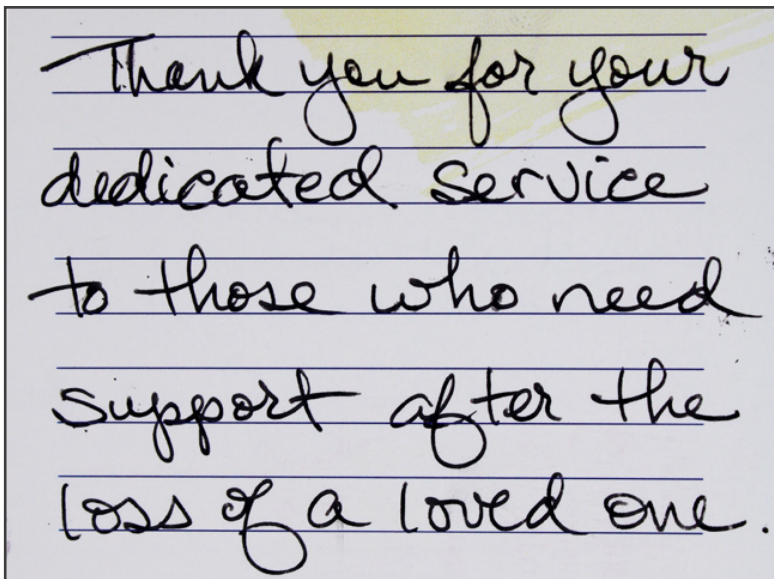
OUR SERVICES ARE FREE ... BUT NOT FREE TO PROVIDE

We are so proud of the work we do at the Christi Center. Our mission is a 24/7 undertaking. To continue offering free and ongoing services to grieving people in Central Texas, we need your support.

Your donation will go directly to support individuals and families after the unimaginable. Our work would not be possible without the help of supportive donors like you.

Please make a donation to offer hope today.

Thank you for being a part of our community and our story.



Thank you for your
dedicated service
to those who need
support after the
loss of a loved one.

DONATE

Go to
ChristiCenter.org/donate



Scan



WISH TO DISCUSS YOUR GIFT?

If you are interested in discussing a gift to the Christi Center, adding us to your workplace giving campaign, holding a fundraiser, or including the Christi Center in your estate plan, please contact Jennifer A. Edwards, Executive Director at Jennifer@christicenter.org.

The Christi Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving Central Texas for 35 years.

Our tax ID/EIN is 74-2463672.

All donations are tax deductible, as allowed by law.



Christi Center Founder
Don Cox and Leticia
2022 - see page 9



Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

Mike Twomey, *President*
Theresa Golde, *Vice President*
Elliott Hendrix, *Treasurer*
Charles Moore, *Secretary*
Jeffrey Richard, *Immediate Past
President*
Don Cox, *Founder*
Susan Cox, *Founder*

David Flores
Dianna Groves
Dr. Kevin Hall
Reverend Roy Jones
Kyle McFather
Julio Mendoza-Quiroz
Fred Patrizi, Ph.D.
Maureen Patrizi
Brooks Slaughter

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

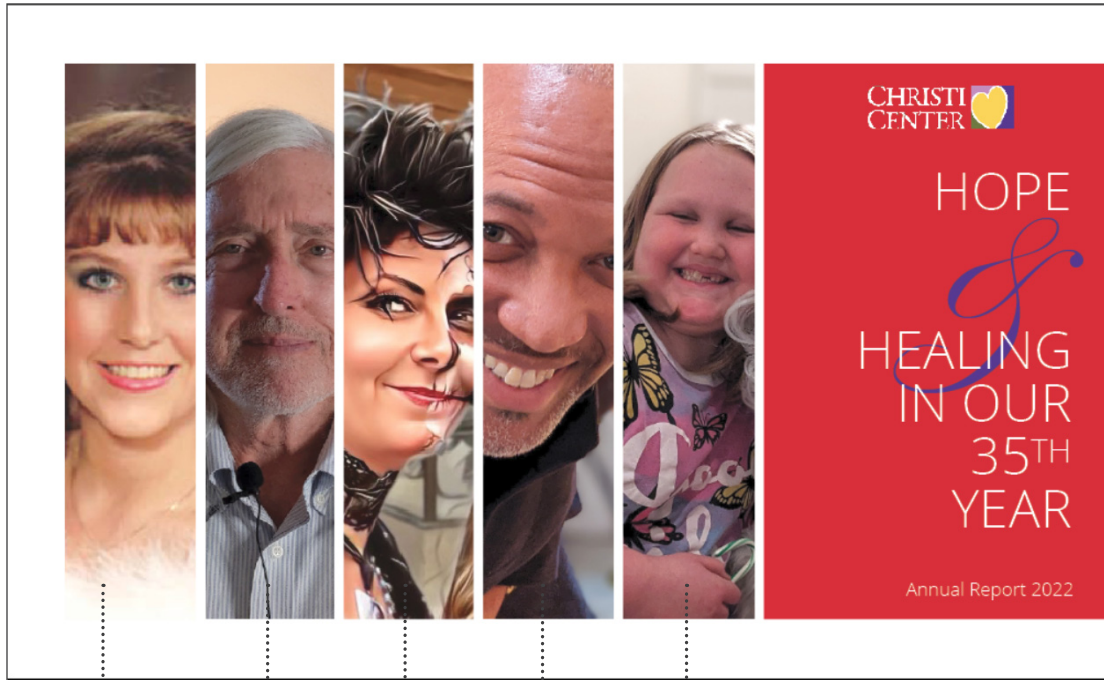
Don Cox, *Development*
Pascal D. Forgione, Jr., Ph.D.
Nominations
Elliott Hendrix, *Finance*
Kathleen McCleskey, *Governance*
Mike Twomey, *Evaluation*

STAFF 2023

Jennifer Edwards
Executive Director
Jocelyn Chamra-Barrera, LCSW
*Director, Programs and
Clinical Services*
Erin Spalding, LCSW-S
Director, Clinical Education
Cathy Collins
Crime Victim Advocate

Christi Neville, LPC
Peer Support Coordinator
Heather Stan, LMSW
Children's Program Coordinator
Deroald Hopkins
Operations and Finance Coordinator
James Salas
Communications Coordinator

About The Cover



Christi Lanahan

The Christi Center is named after Christi, whose parents founded the Center two years after her death in 1985

More ...

Amy Augustyniak

Supporter at **Día De Los Muertos** parade/observation

More ...

Harper Wilder

Client at **Kids Who Care** holiday party

See the gallery

Jim Woodruff

Client and group facilitator

Hear Jim's story

Dee Sanchez

Client Family Member at **Remembrance Event 2022**

See the gallery



Contact



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@CHRISTICENTER



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Georgetown Community Resource Center
805 W. University
Georgetown, TX 78626