

**2023 Quality of Life
Award
(Nomination Packet)**

2023 Quality of Life Award Nominations

Individual		Nominated by:	Past nominations
Ambroziak Family	<p>The Ambroziak Family has been volunteering in many different McKinney capacities for at least the past 7 years (might be more). All four of them have volunteered daily/weekly at the Heard-Craig Center but more importantly, they volunteer to run the Homeless Showers for the City - we view this as an outward, visible support of providing community assistance to those who most people ignore and don't talk with. In fact, the Ambroziak's compassion for others and consistent helpfulness has resulted in their volunteering over 700 hours for the Heard-Craig and certainly countless other hours for the Homeless. The family is comprised of mom, Stacey; dad, Mike; Son, Nick, and Son, Chris (who earned his leadership/Eagle Scout designation by designing and leading a team to create 5 raised beds on the south side of the Carriage House.</p>	Karen Zupanic	
Angela Poen	<p>Created and instituted Community Garden Kitchen to address food insecurity in Collin County by having guests in need experience a true restaurant experience at no cost M-TH 6-8 pm. As of Dec 1, 2022, they had served over 10,000 meals in their first 100 days of operation with donated food from local grocery stores and produce from their garden. Only one paid employee: Chef Jen. All other teams are volunteers -- food intake, food prep, greeters, food servers and gardeners. With over 138,000 residents of Collin County sharing that they have experienced food insecurity at least once over the course of a year, Community Garden Kitchen is an essential service that has increased the quality of life for residents.</p>	Jane Munger	2022 Winner
Beth Beck	<p>Founded MillHouse Foundation to support women in the arts and entrepreneurship in 2019. Mission of MillHouse Foundation is to promote female artists and entrepreneurs through meaningful connections, social and educational activities and access to shared resources to create social, creative and economic impact in the local community. In partnership with MillHouse McKinney, female artists and creatives are provided access to studio space, co-working and social space, workshops and classes -- and the opportunity to showcase local talent and initiate collaborative projects with McKinney creatives and organizations.</p>	Cindy Schneible	

2023 Quality of Life Award Nominations

<p align="center">Lisa Mousselli</p>	<p>Lisa has served the special needs community for 19 years and has opened a McKinney clinic location to better serve the special populations in McKinney. In January, Lisa will be opening an additional building that is dedicated to the older kids to work on social skills. This will be the only clinic in the state of Texas that is 100% dedicated to the older kids. We are excited to grow with the McKinney community and continuously find innovative ways to better serve the special populations within McKinney.</p>	<p align="center">Carol Tatom</p>	<p align="center">2022 2021</p>
<p align="center">Pat Rodgers</p>	<p>McKinney resident for 57 years. Home on Tour of Homes. Past: Chestnut Square Board, Director of Tour of Homes, wrote scripts and developed and performs as Belle Star for the Historic District trolley tours (Bad Boys, Desperados, Outlaws and Petticoat Terror). Current: Board of Collin County History Museum, leads tours, developed school and community programs, and helped create exhibits (250th Birthday of Collin McKinney, McKinney Christmas Past, WWI Centennial Commemoration, McKinney Then & Now, and Created in Collin County). During COVID: created home studio and hosted zoom presentations hosted by museum and Celebration Magazine which hundreds watched from Dallas, Denton, Collin, Tarrant and Hunt Counties. Currently writes historical articles promoting McKinney and was spotlighted on 2022 July Celebration Magazine cover.</p>	<p align="center">Jennifer Wilson (supported by Mary Carole Strother)</p>	
<p align="center">Robb Temple</p>	<p>Humble and quiet servant with 30 years community involvement through Independent Bank and personal support of charities. Past: MISD board member 2001-2009, President of McKinney Christian Academy Board, EDC Board (1993-1997) and Chair (1996-1997). Focus on young people: MISD, McKinney Christian Academy, Children's Advocacy Center, Good Fathers Ministry. Current: Salvation Army, mentor and leader at church and Bible studies, FDIC (Food Drink and Intelligent Conversation) to support elected officials and bring regional topics to community for civil discussion.</p>	<p align="center">David Kelly (supported by Geraldyn Keever, David Brooks & Betty Petkovsek)</p>	

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Organization/Project	Activities	Nominated by:	
Embrace Waiting Children, Inc.	<p>Began work through volunteers in 2006 when they identified lack of services for fostering families and began to identify needs of children unable to advocate for themselves. Mission was to improve outcomes for neglected and abused children by recruiting highly engaged foster and adoptive families. Provided practical needs of children, meals for families and support groups. Established as 501c3 in 2010. 2014 received Unique Memorandum to become an advocate for children lingering in foster care. 2015 and 2016 recognized by D.C. Congressional Coalition as Angels of Adoption. 2016 launched Embrace Church Network to connect churches, community groups and volunteers with needs. COVID: took all support and training online. Opened larger offices in June 2020 and provided visitation space for siblings placed separately. In 2021, rising concerns for quality of care caused shut down of many group homes and hundreds were displaced, creating a crisis of behavioral issues. Embrace provided welcome bags, meals and volunteers. Openedd Collin House in historic McKinney which can accommodate up to 40 children per year for overnight stays plus 70 per year for day use. Provides a safe, comfortable place to grieve and heal. In 2022, more than 630 children benefitted from Embrace services. Collin County programs are multiplied throughout Texas and US.</p>	Jenifer Florence (RBFCU)	
First United Bank	<p>Integral community partner that aims for all its staff to be servant leaders in the community. In 2022, employees donated 161 hours to volunteering in McKinney during specific eventa or at nonprofit organizations. Two specific examples illustrate this commitment. First, the bank and multiplye other community partners participated in February's United Acts of Kindness Day. Goal was to spread hope and spark a kindness revolution, and the bank successfully logged 30,000 acts of kindness in McKinney in one day. Second, they partnered with MISD in October as the food sponsor for their anjual resource night. The bank gathered 25 employees and brought its First United Bank grill in to cook more than 1000 complimentary hot dogs for families of McKinney. They recently completed their third annual food drive and yearly school supply drive. They routinely hosts public education events to promote financial security and wellness that are complimentary and informative. The bank also provides community meeting room space and allows small local businesses to advertise their products and events in lobby spaces.</p>	Joy Booth	

2023 Quality of Life Award Nominations

<p align="center">Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>Affordable housing in McKinney and surrounding areas. Volunteers put in many hour each year. Staff offers leadership to surrounding counties.</p>	<p align="center">Susan Powell</p>	<p align="center">2017 Winner</p>
<p align="center">Hugs Café</p>	<p>Community builder with restaurants and classes. Inspiring organization that represents a special population of workers. Educates ALL about how productive ALL humans can be. Classes offer a pathway for students to work and grow. Hugs shines a light on how productive and kind these individual are. Blessing to the community that brings happiness to their diners.</p>	<p align="center">Kristi Jeanes</p>	<p align="center">Ruth Thompson was 2017 winner</p>
<p align="center">Seed Project Foundation</p>	<p>Funds educational, agricultural & community initiatives that support sustainability. 2022: invested \$405,540 in 35 sustainability initiatives -- \$75,000 to Community Health Clinic, \$25,000 to Holy Family School, \$25,000 to Hugs Café, engaged 428 volunteers totalling 1,070 hours to support 6 organizations addressing hunger issues in McKinney. Donated 36,000 eggs and 12,000 pounds of produce contributing to 6,300 meals served by kitchens and restaurants to 230 families every week. During COVID: faciliated One Heart McKinney website to inform residents about food, housing, health care, jobs, educations resources and raise funds for local nonprofits supporting recovery efforts.</p>	<p align="center">Cindy Schneible</p>	

AMBROZIAK FAMILY

Quality of Life Nomination Form

Quality of Life Award Nomination Form

All entries for the current year must be submitted no later than close of business January 16, 2023.

Please note that additional information may be requested by the McKinney Community Development Corporation.

Nominee (Individual/Organization)	Family Nomination The Ambroziak Family of McKinney
Mailing Address	1505 Pine Hollow
City	McKinney
State	TX
Zip Code	75072
Phone Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	stacey@ambroziak@dxc.com
Website	n/a
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	The family has been involved for over 7 years that I know of (it may be more)
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	The Ambroziak Family has been volunteering in many different McKinney capacities for at least the past 7 years (might be more). All four of them have volunteered daily/weekly at the Heard-Craig Center but more importantly, they volunteer to run the Homeless Showers for the City - we view this as an outward, visible support of providing community assistance to those who most people ignore and don't talk with. In fact, the Ambroziak's compassion for others and consistent helpfulness has resulted in their volunteering over 700 hours for the Heard-Craig and certainly countless other hours for the Homeless. The family is comprised of mom, Stacey; dad, Mike; Son, Nick,

and Son, Chris (who earned his leadership/Eagle Scout designation by designing and leading a team to create 5 raised beds on the south side of the Carriage House.

We highly recommend that someone talk with this family prior to ruling them out as a candidate. Thanks much.

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Name of person submitting nomination:	Karen Zupanic, Director
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Mailing Address	205 West Hunt
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City	McKinney
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State	TX
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Zip Code	75069
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Phone Number	972-569-6909
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Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Email Address	executivedirector@heardcraig.org
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Please note:
Additional information may be requested by MCDC.

ANGELA POEN

Quality of Life Nomination Form

Quality of Life Award Nomination Form

All entries for the current year must be submitted no later than close of business January 16, 2023.

Please note that additional information may be requested by the McKinney Community Development Corporation.

Nominee (Individual/Organization)	Angela Poen, President Community Garden Kitchen of Collin County
Mailing Address	501 Howard Street
City	McKinney
State	Texas
Zip Code	75069
Phone Number	972-275-6070
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	directors@communitygardenkitchen.org
Website	Community Garden Kitchen of Collin County
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	Eight Years
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	Angela Poen created and instituted the Community Garden Kitchen to address food insecurity in Collin County by having guests in need experience a true restaurant experience at no cost M-TH 6-8pm. As of December 1, 2022, the Community Garden Kitchen has served over 10,169, meals in first 100days of operation with donated food from local grocery stores and produce from their garden. There is only one paid Employee, Chef Jen; all other teams are volunteer from food intake, food prep, greeters, food servers and workers in the garden. With over 138,000 residents of Collin County sharing that they have experienced food insecurity at least once over the course of a

year, the Community Garden Kitchen is an essential service that has increased the quality of life for our residents.

(Section Break)

Name of person submitting nomination: Jane Munger

Mailing Address 7034 Whispering Oaks

City McKinney

State TX

Zip Code 75071

Phone Number 2144787907

Fax Number *Field not completed.*

Email Address jane.munger65@gmail.com

Please note:
Additional information may be requested by MCDC.

BETH BECK

Quality of Life Nomination Form

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All entries for the current year must be submitted no later than close of business January 16, 2023.

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Nominee (Individual/Organization)	Beth Beck, PhD, Founder and CEO The MillHouse and The MillHouse Foundation
Mailing Address	610 Elm Street, Suite 1000
City	McKinney
State	TX
Zip Code	75069
Phone Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	beth@millhousefoundation.org
Website	millhousefoundation.org
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	4 years
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	Dr. Beth Beck retired from NASA in 2018, and founded MillHouse Foundation to support women in the arts and entrepreneurship in 2019. The mission of MillHouse Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit corporation, is to promote female artists and entrepreneurs through meaningful connections, social and educational activities, and access to shared resources to create social, creative, and economic impact in the local community. MillHouse Foundation partners with sister organization, MillHouse McKinney, to provide female artists and creatives access to private and open studios, co-working and social space, workshops and classes, and

member resources; while focusing efforts on program priorities which include: showcasing talent; highlighting creative work through exhibits, public art and promotions; and collaborative projects with McKinney creatives and organizations.

(Section Break)

Name of person submitting nomination: Cindy Schneible

Mailing Address 201 Mallard Lakes Drive

City McKinney

State TX

Zip Code 75072

Phone Number 214.755.4829

Fax Number *Field not completed.*

Email Address csschneible@aol.com

Please note:
Additional information may be requested by MCDC.

LISA MOUSSELLI

Quality of Life Nomination Form

Quality of Life Award Nomination Form

All entries for the current year must be submitted no later than close of business January 16, 2022.

Please note that additional information may be requested by the McKinney Community Development Corporation.

Nominee (Individual/Organization)	Lisa Mousselli, BCBA, LBA / Autism Response Team Texas
Mailing Address	5801 Virginia Pkwy, #105
City	McKinney
State	Texas
Zip Code	75071
Phone Number	8777727889
Fax Number	469-284-0944
Email Address	lmousselli@arttx.org
Website	www.arttx.org
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	5 years
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	I would like to nominate Lisa Mousselli for the 2023 Quality of Life Award with the City of McKinney. Lisa has served the special needs community for 19 years and has opened a McKinney clinic location to better serve the special populations in McKinney. In January, Lisa will be opening an additional building that is dedicated to the older kids to work on social skills. This will be the only clinic in the state of Texas that is 100% dedicated to the older kids. We are excited to grow with the McKinney community and continuously find innovative ways to better serve the special populations within McKinney.

(Section Break)

Name of person submitting nomination: Carol Tatom

Mailing Address 2825 Dunbar Drive

City McKinney

State TX

Zip Code 75071

Phone Number 469-207-4758

Fax Number *Field not completed.*

Email Address ctatom77@outlook.com

Please note:
Additional information may be requested by MCDC.

PAT RODGERS

Quality of Life Nomination Form

Quality of Life Award Nomination Form

All entries for the current year must be submitted no later than close of business January 16, 2023.

Please note that additional information may be requested by the McKinney Community Development Corporation.

Nominee (Individual/Organization)	Pat Rodgers (Individual) nominated by Collin County History Museum
Mailing Address	300 East Virginia Street
City	McKinney
State	TX
Zip Code	75069
Phone Number	972-542-9457
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Website	https://www.collincountyhistorymuseum.org/
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	57 years
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	MCDC 2023 Quality of Life Nomination Pat Rodgers Collin County History Museum Board of Directors

It is an honor to nominate Pat Rodgers for the MCDC 2023 Quality of Life Award. Pat has lived in McKinney for 57 years. She wasn't born here, but as the saying goes, she got here as quickly as she could. She raised her family here, was a Speech

Therapist and Principal in McKinney ISD and has been active in her church and a vital part of the community.

When Pat moved into her home on Lamar Street in the historical district, her love of the history of the City of McKinney began to grow. In 2006, her 1910 historic home was on the Christmas Tour of Homes and she greeted over 1600 visitors into her home that weekend. She soon joined the Board of Directors at Chestnut Square where she served as board president for three years. She served as the Director for the Christmas Tour of Homes for 10 years, interviewing the home owners, selecting the head docent for each home, and training the volunteers. The tour was a huge success over her time of service, bringing thousands of people to McKinney.

Pat also wrote the scripts and developed trolley tours through the historic district. She rode the trolley each Saturday morning narrating the story of how McKinney began and pointing out beautiful Victorian homes and the stories behind each one. She recently developed a new trolley tour called, The Bad Boys, Desperados, Outlaws and the Petticoat Terror of Collin County. It has attracted many visiting tour groups and convention attendees. The story is very entertaining and often requested. She dresses as Belle Starr and tells her story as well as the stories of Frank and Jesse James, Cole Younger, Sam Bass and other infamous characters. The trolley travels through McKinney and visits the spots made famous by these outlaws.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Collin County History Museum and has helped lead tours of the historic 1911 Post Office building. Pat has developed programs for schools and community organizations. She helped create the past four exhibits that have attracted thousands of people to the historic downtown: 250th Birthday Celebration of the Life of Collin McKinney, McKinney Christmas Past, Collin County WWI Centennial Commemoration, and McKinney Then and Now. She is currently working on the new exhibit Created in Collin County.

During COVID when all tours stopped and the museum was closed, Pat did not let that stop her from sharing her stories. With the help of her husband Charles, she turned a room in her house into a production studio. She rewrote all of her programs and hosted ZOOM presentations hosted by the museum and

Celebration Magazine. The programs were a hit as hundreds of people from Dallas, Denton, Collin, Tarrant and Hunt Counties joined online to hear and see her presentations. She dressed in period costume and had a green screen background, and showcased hundreds of historic photos of downtown McKinney during her programs.

Currently she writes historical articles in Celebration Magazine promoting the City of McKinney and was spotlighted on the cover of the 2022 July issue. Her articles have launched her YouTube career. She includes a QR code in each article that is linked to videos that have been a huge success with over 32,000 visitors to her YouTube channel.

Pat's love of history and McKinney is contagious. She is tireless in her efforts and dedication to telling her stories. She is an inspiration to all the people that she meets. Thank you for considering Pat Rodgers as the 2023 recipient of the MCDC Quality of Life Award.

(Section Break)

Name of person submitting nomination:	Jennifer Wilson, President of Board of Directors, Collin County History Museum
Mailing Address	1501 Hill Street
City	McKinney
State	TX
Zip Code	75069
Phone Number	469-396-8310
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	jendavis@fdic.gov

Please note:
Additional information may be requested by MCDC.

ROBB TEMPLE

Quality of Life Nomination Form

Quality of Life Award Nomination Form

All entries for the current year must be submitted no later than close of business January 16, 2023.

Please note that additional information may be requested by the McKinney Community Development Corporation.

Nominee (Individual/Organization)	Robb Temple
Mailing Address	6800 Anthem Court
City	McKinney
State	TX
Zip Code	75071
Phone Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Website	<i>Field not completed.</i>
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	30+ years
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	Robb has been involved in the community life of McKinney for over 30 years in a broad range of ways with impact in all facets of life in our town. He is involved through Independent Bank and personally in supporting numerous charities in many service areas, acting as a connection point to political and philanthropic leaders in the community, serving to elevate the profile of and support for the causes he champions. He has served on the McKinney School Board from 2001-2009. He served on the board and as President of the McKinney Christian Academy Board of Directors. He served on the original Economic Development Corporation Board as a charter

member from 1993-1997 and as chair from 1996-97.

A consistent thread in Robb's personal nonprofit and community service has been his focus on young people: from his work on the MISD Board, followed by his long standing service on the McKinney Christian Academy Board, to his great work with the Childrens Advocacy Center, his Good Fathers Ministry, and his work with the Family Health Center in McKinney, Robb has a tender place in his heart for children and their well being: mind, body, soul. Robb has also recently been involved with the Salvation Army, rallying the community to financially support renovations to their community facility.

Robb is involved in so many aspects of community life in McKinney but he is so humble and quiet about all of them that it is hard to even list all of the things he has done over the years. For example, he's been involved in numerous local campaigns to educate and support our local elected officials and bring regional issue based topics forward to the community for civil discussion and thought. Like the community breakfasts called FDIC (Food Drink and Intelligent Conversation) he co-hosted for years with Richard Dodson of Plano.

He's also very active in his church, additional bible studies at other churches and through these activities serves as a mentor and advisor to numerous men throughout McKinney. He is a quiet force for good that reaches so many leaders, organizations and causes in McKinney.

(Section Break)

Name of person submitting nomination:	David Kelly, GERALYN KEVER, BETTY PETKOVSEK
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Mailing Address	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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City	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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State	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Zip Code	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Phone Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Email Address

Field not completed.

Please note:

Additional information may be requested by MCDC.

From: **Jim Petkovsek** <mcpetko@swbell.net>

Date: Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 12:15 PM

Subject: Robb Temple rec

To: David Kelly <davidpkelly1@gmail.com>

"Robb is a humble man and not one to seek out the spotlight." This was a quote by Richard Scanio used to describe Robb when honored by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas in 2020. What an accurate description of my friend Robb Temple and one that illustrates the difficulty in writing a recommendation to highlight all that he has done for this community. I know that Robb has been involved in so many different community organizations but he is the kind of person that will rarely share his involvement or just how he actually contributes.

I had the honor of serving along side Robb on the McKinney Independent School Board in 2000. Robb was one of those board members that was always willing to listen, to gather more information and whether or not you agreed with his decision, you knew that it was based on what he thought was best for all students/employees of the district. He brought such wisdom and sound decision making practices to the table, that when he spoke everyone listened because you knew that he had done his research. Robb and his family moved which ended his term on the board but once he and Lisa returned to McKinney they became involved.

I know that Robb has been actively involved with his church and involved with many civic and charitable organizations in our community. He has been a strong supporter of the Children's Advocacy Center and the Family Health Clinic of McKinney. His willingness and desire to be a voice for those individuals that might not have the opportunity to be heard is an aspect of his character that I have deeply admired. Whether it is local church communities, school districts or the political arena, Robb's calm consistent advice is sought by many.

It is an honor to be able to write this letter of recommendation for Robb as a candidate for Citizen of the Year. I must admit that when asked to write this letter there was a slight hesitation. Robb will never boast or share exactly what he has done for anyone or any organization. His support, his dedication and his commitment to this community has been such a blessing. When I think of past recipients of this award, I feel like those individuals have contributed so much to make McKinney a better place to live. Without a doubt, I can say this about Robb Temple. My life has been blessed to be able to call him friend and I can honestly say that McKinney is a better place to live because of his devotion to this community.

Warm Regards,

Betty Petkovsek

**EMBRACE WAITING
CHILDREN**

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Embrace Waiting Children, Inc. for the 2023 Quality of Life Award. This organization exemplifies “quality of life” for so many reasons, for so many in McKinney and in surrounding areas.

In 2006 a handful of passionate volunteers in McKinney began the work of identifying the needs of vulnerable children who were unable to advocate for themselves. They did this because they had noticed a lack of local services available to families who were fostering. The team developed a plan to improve outcomes for neglected and abused children by recruiting highly engaged foster and adoptive families, and strategies to support and encourage those families who had already committed to meeting this critical need. They rallied volunteers to provide practical items for children and deliver meals to families, and support groups were established to provide valuable training and fellowship to families opening their homes to care for kids.

As the group interacted with more families, new needs were uncovered. Services were expanded to include respite care nights, accessible family events, and parent training retreats. By partnering with Child Protective Services, and local child placing agencies, they were able to host informational meetings and foster parent training. The team began to positively impact not only the quantity of foster parents in Collin County, but the health and retention rates for these families as well.

The mission and scope of the needed services quickly outgrew the capacity of its dedicated volunteers. With the support of the ministry’s Board, co-founders Denise and Bruce Kendrick took the leap to become the first full-time staff members in 2010. The organization was then formally recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, “**Embrace Waiting Children, Inc.**”!! A modest office space of only 600 square feet, on the square in downtown McKinney, was leased by Embrace and the first “headquarters” were officially opened.

In 2014, Embrace secured a unique Memorandum of Understanding with Child Protective Services to become an advocate for children lingering in foster care, waiting for adoption. This collaborative effort united congregations from McKinney and surrounding cities with the goal of a home and family for every child in Collin County. *Child to Family Connection* events brought together caseworkers and prospective adoptive parents to find possible adoption “matches” for waiting children. Children and teens represented through this groundbreaking effort spend less time languishing without permanency and are less likely to “age-out” of foster care. In 2015 and 2016 members of the Embrace staff were honored as *Angels in Adoption* by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in Washington, DC by Congressman Sam Johnson. The Embrace Church Network was launched in 2016 to provide a platform to connect churches, community groups, and volunteers with the needs of local children and families.

And then... the pandemic. Embrace (like many nonprofits) was forced to pivot. They went from longstanding ways of providing successful “in-person” support and training to families, to offering virtual options, on the turn of a dime. The staff swung into action and

quickly converted monthly support groups, workshops and even the Child to Family connection events to virtual platforms. During this volatile and uncertain time, a larger office space became available on the opposite corner of East Louisiana. Embrace jumped at the chance to expand their outgrown office space, while still maintaining a close proximity to CASA and other partner McKinney organizations. The new office opened in June of 2020, and in addition to larger operations space, there was storage for household items for youth aging out of foster care. As a proud community partner and one who recognized the importance of the work they were doing, RBFCU contributed funds (along with many other local organizations) to help outfit an area to be suitable for visitation space. This would be used for siblings who were placed in separate foster homes to come together for games, meals, and fellowship— to maintain those critical sibling relationships. Again, Embrace staying aware of the needs, realized other venues (for such visits) were closed due to the pandemic, jumped right in to fill this critical need in McKinney. A pandemic wasn't going to stop them!!

In the spring of 2021, Embrace became aware of another developing crisis in the foster care system in Texas. Rising concerns for the quality of care being provided in children's homes caused many of the group homes to shut down. Hundreds of children were instantly displaced. These children, and more entering foster care daily, were shuffled to CPS offices, makeshift shelters, and hotels—many in McKinney and surrounding areas. Children's negative behaviors began escalating almost immediately in this setting. As this crisis reached the boiling point, Embrace stepped in to provide meals, welcome bags, and volunteers—all focused on mitigating the negative consequences of the less-than-ideal living situations.

In the following months, it became apparent that housing children in these types of sterile environments did not promote healing, and instead exacerbated existing behavioral/emotional challenges. These significant shifts in housing had created a major, long-term gap in services to foster children. As no other solution seemed available, the Embrace staff embarked on an urgent mission to advocate for healthier, more caring environment for these vulnerable children stuck in limbo. As if sent from someone above... Embrace identified and secured a suitable property that could provide a safe, temporary home for children without placement. **“Collin House”**, a historic home near downtown McKinney, (with a beautiful pink door) was purchased and began welcoming children in June of 2022. A spacious yard allows for healthy recreation. As opposed to the frozen and fast-foods the children consumed in hotel settings, they now have a full kitchen and cheery dining room offering healthy, familiar home-cooked meals served each evening by volunteers. And, on top of all that, the Embrace headquarters was also able to be relocated onsite, in a separate building, which negated the need for leased office space.

Depending on the unique needs of children and sibling groups served, Collin House can accommodate 40 children, per year, for overnight stays, and an additional 70 per year for day use. This temporary stopover gives children a safe, comfortable place to grieve and heal, and is part of keeping more sibling groups together. A community of support is built around the children, as volunteers from McKinney and the local community commit

to be a part of the Collin House “family”. The volunteers tutor, prepare meals, host holiday and seasonal celebrations, and teach arts/crafts workshops.

In 2022 more than 630 individual children benefitted from services such as family campouts, respite events, movie night and sports outings, as well as support and retention services offered to their caregivers. Embrace continues to innovate foster care and adoption ministry efforts by incubating programs in Collin County and multiplying those efforts to other areas of Texas and the rest of the country.

I know there are many organizations worthy of this award, but this one is near and dear to my heart because of who they are, and what they are doing for so many. I have personally, and on behalf of RBFCU, volunteered for events that they put on for the children, foster parents and CPS workers. They bring so much joy and support to so many! It is because of the dedication, the determination, and the love the staff has for what they are doing, that thousands of children are literally saved from crisis. I have witnessed it first-hand. Embrace Waiting Children, Inc. has an impact that goes far beyond the families and children they serve. They have impacted me in so many ways that I wholeheartedly believe they are worthy of and should be the recipient this awesome award!

FIRST UNITED BANK

Quality of Life Nomination Form

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Please note that additional information may be requested by the McKinney Community Development Corporation.

Nominee (Individual/Organization)	First United Bank (organization)
Mailing Address	1700 Redbud Blvd
City	McKinney
State	Texas
Zip Code	75069
Phone Number	469-808-8540
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	dsteller@firstunitedbank.com
Website	firstunitedbank.com
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	20 years
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	An integral community partner, the bank aims for all of its staff to be servant leaders by volunteering in the community. In 2022, First United Bank employees donated 161 hours to volunteering in McKinney during specific events or at non-profit organizations that needed assistance. Two specific examples illustrate their commitment. First, the bank, along with multiple community partners, participated in February's United Acts of Kindness Day. The goal was to spread hope and spark a kindness revolution and the bank successfully logged 30,000 acts of kindness in McKinney that day. Second, First United Bank had the opportunity to partner with MISD in October as

the food sponsor for their annual resource night. The bank gathered 25 employees and brought its First United Bank grill in to cook more than 1,000 hotdogs for the families of McKinney—each of which was provided on a complimentary basis. In addition, the bank recently completed its third annual food drive and yearly school supply drive. Further, it routinely hosts public education events to promote financial security and wellness that are complimentary and informative. It also provides community meeting room space and allows small local businesses to advertise their products and events in the lobby space.

(Section Break)

Name of person submitting nomination:	Joy Booth
Mailing Address	7200 Maudsley Drive
City	McKinney
State	TX
Zip Code	75071
Phone Number	2024943591
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	joybooth2011@yahoo.com

Please note:
Additional information may be requested by MCDC.

**HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY
OF COLLIN COUNTY**

Quality of Life Nomination Form

Quality of Life Award Nomination Form

All entries for the current year must be submitted no later than close of business January 16, 2023.

Please note that additional information may be requested by the McKinney Community Development Corporation.

Nominee (Individual/Organization)	Habitat for Humanity Collin County
Mailing Address	2060 Couch Dr
City	McKinney
State	TX
Zip Code	75069
Phone Number	(972) 542-5300
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	celeste@habitatcollincounty.org
Website	www.habitatcollincounty.org
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	30 years
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	Habitat has built numerous affordable homes for people in Collin County who might not be able to afford a home otherwise. Volunteers put in many, many hours each year helping build Habitat homes. The Collin County Habitat staff also helps out Habitat for Humanity Grayson County with ordering supplies.
(Section Break)	
Name of person submitting nomination:	Susan Powell

Mailing Address	211 Williamsburg Dr.
City	Van Alstyne
State	TX
Zip Code	75495
Phone Number	903-436-9964
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	spowelltx@yahoo.com

Please note:
Additional information may be requested by MCDC.

HUGS CAFÉ

Quality of Life Nomination Form

Quality of Life Award Nomination Form

All entries for the current year must be submitted no later than close of business January 16, 2023.

Please note that additional information may be requested by the McKinney Community Development Corporation.

Nominee (Individual/Organization)	Hugs Cafe
Mailing Address	224 E Virginia
City	Mckinney
State	TX
Zip Code	75069
Phone Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Website	https://hugscafe.org/about/
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	15 years
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	Hugs Cafe is such a community builder with the restaurant and classes for individuals with disabilities. It's so inspiring to have a restaurant that represents this population of workers. It helps educate us all about how productive all humans can be. I appreciate the classes they offer for students with disabilities to provide a pathway for these individuals. They shine a positive light on how productive and kind these individuals can be in our community. It's a real blessing and the restaurant brings such happiness to the diners.

(Section Break)

Name of person submitting nomination: Kristi Jeanes

Mailing Address *Field not completed.*

City mckinney

State TX

Zip Code 75072

Phone Number *Field not completed.*

Fax Number *Field not completed.*

Email Address kwesloh@consultant.com

Please note:
Additional information may be requested by MCDC.

**SEED PROJECT
FOUNDATION**

Quality of Life Nomination Form

Quality of Life Award Nomination Form

All entries for the current year must be submitted no later than close of business January 16, 2023.

Please note that additional information may be requested by the McKinney Community Development Corporation.

Nominee (Individual/Organization)	The Seed Project Foundation, Rick Wells Founder and President; Meg Neubauer, Executive Director.
Mailing Address	670 Wendy Lane
City	<i>Field not completed.</i>
State	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Zip Code	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Phone Number	C 214-676-8445
Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	rick@rickschophouse.com
Website	spftx.org
How long has the nominee been involved in the McKinney community?	7 years
Please describe how the nominee has positively impacted Quality of Life in McKinney?	The Seed Project Foundation (SPF) funds educational, agricultural and community initiatives that support sustainability. In 2022, The SPF invested \$405,540 in a total of 35 sustainability initiatives that included: \$75,000 to Community Health Clinic; \$25,000 to Holy Family School; \$25,000 to Hugs Cafe. In 2022, McKinney Roots - a initiative of SPF engaged 428 volunteers who donated 1,070 hours to support six organizations working to address hunger in the McKinney community. McKinney Roots donated 36,000 eggs and 12,000 pounds of produce contributing to 6,300 meals served by kitchens and restaurants to 230 families every week. In 2020,

when the Covid Pandemic led to the closure of local businesses and economic and social hardship on our community. The Seed Project Foundation facilitated the launch of the One Heart McKinney website which served two primary purposes: to inform people living in McKinney about how their food, housing, health care, jobs, schooling needs could be met, and to raise money for local nonprofits providing services in response to the crisis. During the first weeks of the state-mandated shutdown, One Heart McKinney raised more than \$200,000, to distribute to nonprofits supporting community recovery.

(Section Break)

Name of person submitting nomination:	Cindy Schneible
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Mailing Address	201 Mallard Lakes Drive
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City	McKinney
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State	TX
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Zip Code	75072
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Phone Number	972.547.7653
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Fax Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Email Address	csschneible@aol.com
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Please note:
Additional information may be requested by MCDC.
