



Tarrant County: Our North Texas Home



*Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley*

THE GIFT OF GIVING Tarrant County Employees Taking Care of Our Communities

The holiday season is upon us. Spending time with our families and finding that perfect gift for our loved ones. This is also a time for giving and making it just as special for those in need.

Over the past year we have witnessed how citizens of Tarrant County come together not

only during a tragedy, but every other day as well. During this time of year, it is especially evident how we here in Tarrant County take care of our own.

I am proud to say our employees are no exception. Throughout the year, Tarrant County employees have donated and volunteered countless hours to many worthwhile causes which provide much needed assistance to citizens in our community.

There are many ways our employees have chosen to give back. Some of these organizations include Carter BloodCare, Adopt-A-School, Tarrant Area Food Bank, Salvation Army and United Way, just to name a few.

In partnership with Carter BloodCare, multiple blood drives are held each and every year. Since 2014, Tarrant County employees have donated more than 1,000 units of blood saving countless lives.

For years, Tarrant County has adopted Oakhurst Elementary School through the Fort Worth Independent School District's Adopt-a-School program. In 2017 alone, more than 115 employees volunteered as mentors to 4th grade students through the Pen Pal Program and read with students as part of the literacy project, Read Fort Worth.

Every summer, Tarrant County holds a food drive to benefit students who do not have access to school breakfast and lunches during the summer. Departments participate by holding various fundraisers and have donated over 6,000 pounds of food and more than \$50,000 to the Tarrant Area Food Bank since 2014.

We are coming to the end of our annual United Way campaign. Departments pull out all the stops to see who



Human Resources, Purchasing and Budget Offices unite for United Way.

can raise the most funds with chili cook offs, hamburger cook outs, bowling tournaments and in a variety of other ways. In 2016, Tarrant County employees raised over \$80,000 for United Way of Tarrant County.

Tarrant County also participates in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. Tarrant County employees have adopted 825 angels over the last three years with 250 this season.

I would like to thank our Tarrant County employees for being so generous in giving to our citizens and communities.

We hope you will join us in the spirit of giving by contacting one of these charitable institutions or one of the many other organizations in our county who share in these beneficial missions. You, too, can make a difference in someone's life.

From our family to yours, we wish you a very happy and safe holiday season.



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'Tis the Season to be Safe

Holiday Safety Tips for You, Your Family and Your Home

This is such a magical time of year; full of celebrations, festivities and bright lights. By taking some of these simple precautions, you can ensure the holiday season is a safe and happy time.

Decorating

- When picking a real tree, choose one with fresh, green needles that do not fall when touched.
- Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.
- Whether real or artificial, make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source (fire place, heater, candles, and heat vents).
- Be sure to check your lights for frayed wires or loose connections.
- Use a proper ladder instead of a chair or other furniture to prevent falling.
- Put small, breakable ornaments toward the top of the tree out of reach of children and never use lit candles on your tree.
- Seasonal plants, such as Poinsettias, are poisonous. Be sure to keep these out of reach of children and pets.

Holiday Shopping

- Always be aware of your surroundings and strangers approaching you for any reason.
- Use credit cards, if possible, and avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Shop during the daylight. If you have to shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Be sure to lock your vehicle and not leave any items in plain view.



Giving Safely

- For children, avoid toys with small parts that can be a choking hazard.
- Be careful with small batteries, especially button batteries which are of particular concern if ingested.
- You can also check to see which toys have been recalled or have safety issues with the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- For older adults, make sure the item is not too heavy and is easy for them to handle.

Travel

- Be prepared for heavy traffic...pack your patience.
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter the distance.
- Put your cell phone away. Distracted driving is a leading cause of accidents.
- Ensure your vehicle is properly maintained and keep an auto emergency kit in your vehicle.
- Use a designated driver to ensure you or your guests make it home safely after a holiday party.

Helpful Numbers

[Texas Poison Control Center](http://www.texaspoisoncontrol.org) 1-800-222-1222

[Consumer Product Safety Commission](http://www.cpsc.gov) 1-800-638-2772

[National Safety Council](http://www.nsc.org) 1-800-621-7615

[National Fire Protection Association](http://www.nfpa.org) 1-800-344-3555

In an emergency always call 9-1-1