THN
TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK



Welcome to this month's Texas Homeless Network newsletter! We're recapping the **2026 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness**, sharing how flexible funding helped a family secure stable housing and highlighting the Fort Worth stop of our Road to 2027 listening tour. Plus, meet THN's new Board members and officers and explore the latest updates and opportunities from across the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care.

From the Field: *Stories and updates from communities across Texas, highlighting the people and programs making a real difference.*

From Ideas to Impact: Celebrating the 2026 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness

“It gives me a lot of hope when I come to a conference like this and I see so many like-minded people, professionals working every day just like we do,” shared **Kristina Rivas, co-founder of Ground Floor Collective**, a THN Innovation Fund grantee.

The conference also featured an inspiring keynote from **Mejean Cline**, who experienced homelessness before building a career in aerospace engineering, and **THN's annual awards celebration**, recognizing leaders making a difference across Texas.

Congratulations to our 2026 award recipients!

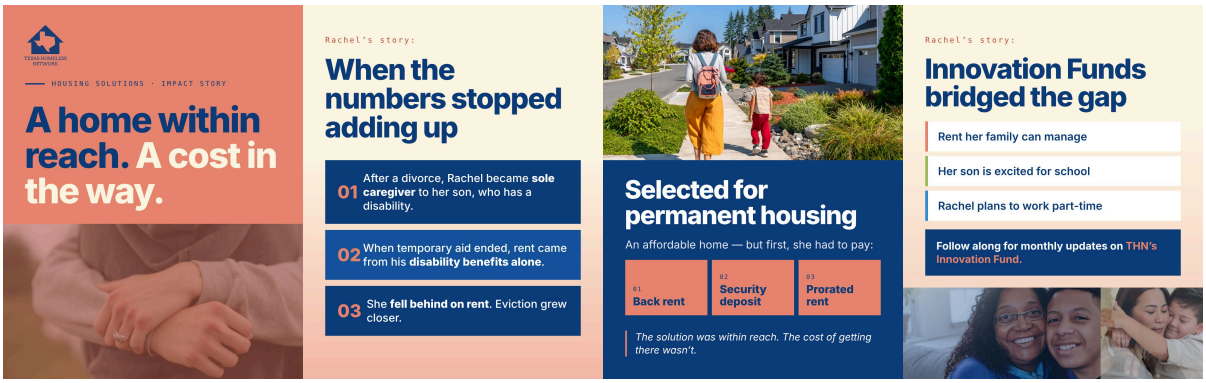
Outstanding Community Organization: Neighbors First! of Georgetown

Outstanding Community Volunteer: Heather Dixon, Love and Light Ministries

Outstanding Service Provider: Tammy Guidry

Outstanding Outreach Worker: Melissa McGee, Brazosport ISD ASCEND Program

🔗 Read the full conference recap



One Step Away From Stable Housing: How Flexible Funding Helped a Mother and Son Move Forward

After more than a year of struggling to make rent, Rachel and her son finally had an opportunity to move into permanent affordable housing. But outstanding rent, a security deposit and moving costs threatened to keep them from accessing it.

Through Texas Homeless Network's **Housing Solutions Innovation Fund**, flexible funding helped cover those one-time expenses, allowing the family to move into a home they could sustainably afford.

Rachel's story shows how targeted financial assistance can remove barriers to long-term housing stability and give families the opportunity to plan for what comes next.

🔗 Read Rachel's story **and follow along as we share more about what THN's Housing Solutions work is making possible for families across Texas.**



Road to 2027: Fort Worth Community Voices Help Shape Statewide Priorities

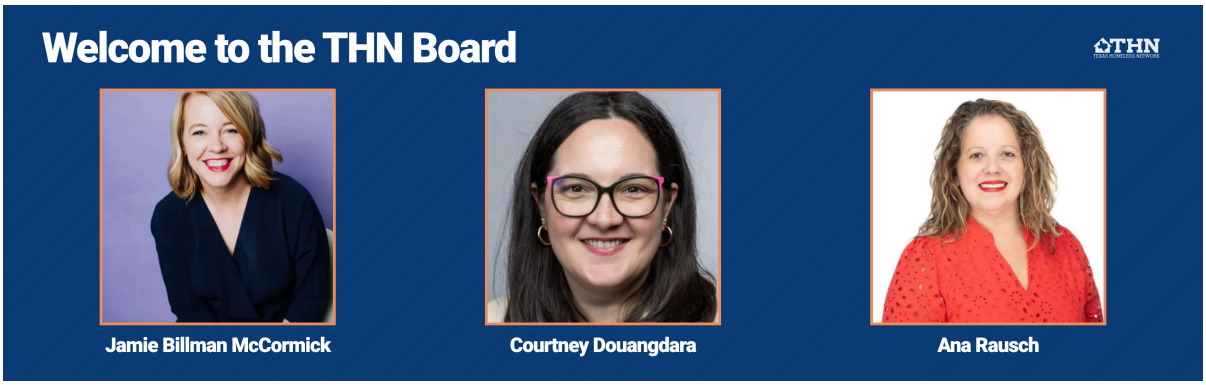
32 participants representing 23 organizations and entities joined THN and the Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County for the fifth stop on the Road to 2027 statewide listening tour.

The discussion highlighted local priorities, including homelessness prevention, affordable housing, mental health resources and stronger housing support for people leaving jails, hospitals and mental health facilities.

These insights will help shape THN's policy priorities and advocacy efforts ahead of the 2027 Texas Legislative Session, ensuring community needs are reflected in conversations with state lawmakers.

Next stop: Houston!

🔗 Learn more about the listening tour



Welcome THN's New Board Members and Officers!

Texas Homeless Network is excited to welcome **Jamie Billman McCormick, Courtney Douangdara and Ana Rausch** to our Board of Directors! Together, they bring decades of experience in strategic communications, public affairs, nonprofit leadership, housing and homelessness response systems.

We're also pleased to announce our new **Board officers**, who will help guide THN's work to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring across Texas.

Chair: Paul Charles

Vice Chair: Dr. Jill Gumbs

Secretary: Michelle Friedman

Treasurer: Troy Wheeler

Immediate Past Chair: Marissa Vogel

At-Large Board Member: LaToya Haywood

A special thank you to **Marissa Vogel** for her leadership as Board Chair and continued service. Please join us in welcoming our newest members and congratulating our Board officers!

🔗 Meet our new Board Members

Coordinating Change: *Updates from the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, showcasing statewide coordination, planning, and strategies to end homelessness*

What's Happening Across the Tx BoS CoC:

Building Visibility Through Disaster Coordination

Last month, the TX BoS CoC shared an overview of its disaster coordination efforts during the General Membership Meeting.

Over the past several years, events such as the Panhandle wildfires, Central Texas flooding, and Gulf Coast tropical storms have posed a recurring question for the TX BoS CoC:
How do we maintain visibility into housing and homelessness-related concerns across 214 counties when disasters occur?

To help answer that question, the CoC has developed tools that help identify who to contact, better understand local conditions, and strengthen information sharing when disasters occur. The goal is simple: help ensure people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations are consistently considered before, during, and after disaster events.

Stay Connected: The CoC is beginning to utilize ***disastercoord@thn.org*** as a dedicated contact for disaster-related information sharing and situational awareness efforts.
Learn More: Explore the TX BoS CoC Disaster Coordination Map.

Compassion in Action: Health, Data, and Hope in Navarro County



What happens when community members come together to better understand homelessness—and discover how they can help? At Compassion in Action: Health, Data, and Hope at Navarro College in Corsicana, Data Coordinator Ava Paredes and Local Homeless Coalition Coordinator Jen Beardsley brought data and the big-picture view to the conversation.
Ava helped participants understand the Point-in-Time Count, offering a closer look at who experiences homelessness in Navarro County. Jen then guided attendees through an interactive journey that illustrated the challenges people face when navigating a fragmented service system.

Together, their presentations highlighted a powerful message: when service providers work together through client-centered networks known as Local Homeless Coalitions, people experiencing homelessness don't have to navigate the system alone. By sharing resources, building connections, and putting people at the center, communities can create stronger pathways to hope and support.

Tx BoS CoC Announcements:

TX BoS CoC Board Election Update

The CoC Board election is coming up soon! Nominations for even-numbered seats will be accepted in the Fall of 2026, and voting will take place in the Spring of 2027. The seats for election represent homeless veterans, homeless families, victim services, health/medical arena, ESG Program recipient, criminal justice, faith-based organizations, and Community Action Agencies.

The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) Board determines the policy direction of the CoC and ensures that the CoC fulfills its responsibilities. Additionally, the Board oversees the work of CoC committees and the Collaborative Applicant, HMIS Lead Agency, and Coordinated Entry Lead Agency (Texas Homeless Network). Board members also stay informed about how the CoC is performing to prevent and end homelessness, and they serve as liaisons between the CoC and the sub-populations they represent. The CoC Board is guided by the CoC Board Requirements Policy.

It's not too early to start thinking about running for a seat! More details will be available in the November newsletter and on THN's website.

Comment on CoC Governance Charter Proposed Changes

The TX BoS CoC is seeking input on proposed changes to the CoC Governance Charter. TX BoS CoC general members (people who live and/or work in the TX BoS CoC) are encouraged to review the proposed changes and give feedback on them. Find the proposed changes and instructions about how to give your feedback on THN's website. Public comment will be open from 10/12/2026 through 10/27/2026.

Hearing from CoC general members is critical to the success of the CoC. We hope you'll take a few minutes to share your thoughts with us.

If you have any questions or want to talk about options, contact Mary Stahlke, Director of Engagement, at mary@thn.org or 512-861-2180.

Tx BoS CoC Opportunities:

Coordinated Entry Steering Committee (CESC): Seeking Members

The Systems Change Team is seeking to fill vacancies on the CESC for Cameron, Hidalgo, Laredo, Longview, and Tyler Coordinated Entry (CE) regions.

The Coordinated Entry Steering Committee is a group of representatives from each of the 21 Coordinated Entry Planning Entities (CEPEs) within the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) that will provide direct support and guidance to the CoC's systems' change efforts. The committee influences the direction of the Coordinated Entry (CE) process in the TX BoS CoC. Texas Homeless Network (THN) is the collaborative applicant for the TX BoS CoC and is responsible for Coordinated Entry implementation.

CESC members serve for a 12-month period and are nominated annually by their local CEPE. They serve as a vital point of contact between the TX BoS CoC and their local CE process. Committee members will virtually attend CESC Meetings, which are currently held on a bi-monthly basis, and lead coordination efforts at a local level.
If you have questions or are interested in joining, contact the Systems Change Team via email at ce@thn.org to learn more about the roles, responsibilities, and opportunities that CESC members bring to their community.

Staff Recommendations:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a month dedicated to uniting advocates and communities to end domestic violence, raising awareness, supporting, and celebrating survivors, and honoring those who have died from violence.

In 2024, 50% of individuals seeking shelter while fleeing from DV were denied due to lack of capacity. Advocating for increased shelter capacity can help to provide more individuals with immediate safety in a time of distress. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, 57% of homeless women reported domestic violence as the primary cause of their

homelessness. Survivors also reported having increased challenges when finding stable housing due to safety concerns, economic instability, discrimination, and stigma. Recognizing these unique needs is one step to approving outcomes and providing helpful resources to individuals looking for stable housing.

On Thursday, October 15, wear a purple ribbon or a purple article of clothing for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Purple symbolizes courage, survival, and peace. Use this day to show your support, spread awareness, and educate others. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence call 1-800-799-7233 or CHAT at www.thehotline.org to get connected to a service provider near you. Below are some additional resources.

Click Here to Learn More About the Domestic Violence Awareness Project
Click Here to Find Help | Texas Council on Family Violence
Click Here for Resources from Stop the Hurt

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