



Operation Round Up helps CASA of the South Plains with its MYPACK program

Operation Round Up is not just a scholarship program. It provides financial assistance to hundreds of local individuals and many community support organizations.

The most recent grant was awarded to CASA of the South Plains. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. Volunteers are appointed by a judge to advocate, or speak for, a child or children in foster care.

The grant will specifically fund the MYPACK program, created by First Baptist Singles Ministry. A MYPACK is a backpack filled with personal items. Each one costs around \$35 and includes: backpack, stuffed toy, blanket, water bottle, crackers, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, bath sponge, deodorant, soap, shampoo/conditioner, paper and pencil.

The CASA Supervisors and Volunteers are giving these to children who have been removed from their homes and have nothing. MYPACK helps instill a sense of personal worth and gives the child the supplies to care for themselves and begin living in a new place. This may be the ONE possession they can call their own. The children who have received these are so surprised and thankful. They are proud of the MYPACK and can use it for school as well. To make donations, contact Katherine McLamor at 806.763.2272 or katherinem@lubbockcasa.org.

CASA began in 1977 when a judge in Seattle, Washington, decided he was uneasy about making decisions in 10 minutes that would affect children for the rest of their lives. The judge launched a program to train and appoint community volunteers to research the cases of children who had

been removed from their homes for various reasons.

A Lubbock County Judge first appointed a CASA volunteer to serve as a child's advocate in 1993. Since then, more than 5,000 children have been provided with over 1,000 advocates.

CASA of Lubbock has grown from two employees to 10 full-time staff and over 100 volunteers. In December 2000, CASA of Lubbock began expansion efforts into the newly created "South Plains Cluster Court," thus calling for the name change, CASA of the South Plains, Inc. With the assistance of Senator Robert Duncan, the Honorable Kelly Moore and Texas CASA, they were able to secure funding for the expansion into the new court.

If you are interested in becoming a CASA Volunteer, contact Peggy Espinoza at 806.763.2272 or peggye@lubbockcasa.org.

Operation Round Up Works!

It's not a new idea, but it's an effective one. When you participate in Operation Round Up, your electric bill is automatically rounded up to the next dollar each month and the contribution is deposited in the Operation Round Up fund. Your average annual contribution will be about \$6.00.

The funds and grant applications are reviewed quarterly by a volunteer board of directors made up of members, just like you.

The most popular program Operation Round Up sponsors is its Scholarship Program. Every year, Operation Round Up makes funds available for entering freshmen pursuing a higher education or licensed trade.

Over \$3,000 was given to local



volunteer fire departments in 2006.

Another important duty of Operation Round Up is getting immediate assistance to victims of a house fire. When a member loses their home to fire, they are often left without basic necessities of clothing and personal items like a toothbrush. An Operation Round Up grant helps with these immediate, life-sustaining needs.

We don't often write about families helped by the program out of respect for their privacy, but many families are touched by Operation Round Up.

Families are helped through a partnership with Neighborhood House in Lubbock.

Operation Round Up is a "hand up" for Cooperative members, not a "hand out." If you want to participate, just call our member service department at 806.775.7766. †