Contact Brittany Hosmer, Executive Director
britt@trinityoaks.org; 830-928-3085
History, Mission, and Impact

Trinity Oaks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded on the premise that active participation in the outdoors is a powerful, healing, and fundamentally life-changing experience. **Trinity Oaks’ mission is to use hunting, fishing and outdoor activities to give back and make a meaningful difference on the lives of others.** For decades, we have known of the philosophical shift that outdoor activities cause within those who participate in them and how that profoundly impacts the wellness of our society.

Our main goal is **to connect the solace of wild places and the many recreational opportunities therein to offer respite, comradery, and an uplift of spirit to those that most need it but cannot afford it.** Since 2007, we have impacted **3,400 people** toward that end. On an annual basis, we offer at least **50 free events** for people who can benefit from once-in-a-lifetime hunting or fishing experiences.

- **Up to 1,000 youth in difficult circumstances** annually learn how to properly handle and respect firearms, hunting for quail and larger game. Not only do those programs open them to outdoors recreation that they wouldn’t experience otherwise, but they also minimize their risk of turning to drug use or other negative behaviors, improve their leadership and academic capacity, and teach them the responsibility of caring for our environment.

- **We honor and serve hundreds of Purple Heart and live combat veterans** with Dream Trips to hunt or angle, as well as provide active venues in the great outdoors for them to spend time with peers and family.

- **We facilitate dream trips for terminally ill** in our community to fulfill their hunting or fishing wish and create a lasting memory with their family.

- **StarKids forges lifelong mentorship relationships for 24 children of fallen first responders** annually, through learning hunting and shooting skills with a peer volunteer from their parent’s police force or squadron.

- **We honor the caretakers of our wounded warriors**, with an annual Holiday UnSung Heroes Retreat at our Guadalupe River Camp.

Through our **Meat Mission**, we are able to process tens of thousands of pounds of game meat into meals for soup kitchens, homeless shelters, group homes, and orphanages in Texas and northern Mexico.

Programs are operated from a base in San Antonio, at sites across Texas, nationally, and internationally in partnership with dozens of volunteers, nonprofits, and other agencies. We operate the Guadalupe River Camp in Seguin, Texas, and Paige’s Place in Port Mansfield. A 3-year plan is underway to **purchase and renovate Thumbtack Ranch in Batesville as our operational headquarters for all shooting, hunting, fishing, and recreation programs.**
The FACTS: The Social, Environmental, and Economic Benefits of Outdoors Recreation Programming on our Populations Served

Youth

- A comprehensive study (2015) on “Make a Wish” programs for children with life-threatening cancer showed that granting a wish improved not only mental health and decreased anxiety, but also improved physical health outcomes and generally improved quality of life.

- Since 1996, The State of Texas has lost 292 peace officers in the line of duty. In that same period our nation has lost 3,430 law enforcement officers and 1,452 firefighters. Hundreds more, a majority of whom were fathers and mothers, have fallen responding to disasters, working as game wardens, or providing emergency medical services. Thousands of more veterans have passed. Experts indicate that teens are especially vulnerable to psychological problems after the sudden death of a parent, and that vulnerability is exacerbated by the fact that their surviving family, suffering from bereavement themselves, may not be able to provide sufficient comfort and support. Extra support in anxiety-reducing environments, such as outdoors camps and retreat centers, can help these children grieve and develop coping mechanisms for life. The same is true for children suffering loss from parents who died over time or from parents that have recently separated or divorced.

- Youth afterschool programs: A comprehensive literature review by Stuart and Jana Cottrell (2010) of Colorado State University on the benefits of outdoors recreation for disadvantaged youth revealed that:
  1) Outdoor skills education provides critical opportunities to connect with nature, social networks, and themselves;
  2) Playing outside as a child or teen combats obesity for life;
  3) Outdoors programs improve academic achievement with increased concentration and mental acuity, improved understanding of science, and higher GPAs, especially for low income and minority populations; and
  4) Participants are much more likely to develop a conservation ethic – becoming our next generation of environmental stewards.

Trinity Oaks Population Served: Up to 1,000 economically disadvantaged youth annually participate in our Outdoors Adventures program for youth in need. Children are taught survival and hunting skills and provided mentorship with our unique youth volunteers. Up to 12 disabled or terminally ill children annually. At least 24 grieving youth of fallen first responders. And dozens of other children of veterans and other primary program recipients served.
Environment, Conservation, and Public Health

- **Hunting and shooting sports enthusiasts provide the majority of funding for wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship**, but they themselves are a dying breed. According to the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports (CASSH), not having a place to go to learn to shoot or hunt and continue to do so is the number one reason for the steady decline in shooting sports since the 1980s.

Current efforts by NGOs, state agencies, and sportsmen’s groups to reactivate hunting and shooting enthusiasm as part of our great American heritage as well as to raise the next generation of environmental stewards are flailing as well, mostly due to the fact that **they end up attracting and focusing on white males or populations that are already likely to hunt or shoot on their own**. Successful programs:

1) Focus on **untraditional or disadvantaged populations** that otherwise wouldn’t hunt or shoot;
2) Make hunting and shooting easy to learn and value added, focusing on social supports as the basis to “**Recruit, Retain, and Reactivate**” (3Rs);
3) Are **located near to a city** and are accessible for all demographics; and
4) Actively **recruit and train volunteers** as a particular means of engaging and reactivating target audiences.

- **Recreational opportunities in the outdoors** are a definitive means to **address rising obesity rates and declining American health**, especially within our youth populations. Studies, summarized by Oregon State University, **show that open access recreational opportunities to hike, fish, hunt, or otherwise enjoy the outdoors are directly linked to lower obesity rates**. What is more, obese people that regularly partake in outdoors recreation have lower morbidity than sedentary people of normal weight. **Getting outdoors and onto unmotorized trails for any type of outdoors activity makes you live longer.**

Despite the obvious benefits of open recreation sites and parks, especially near population centers, **state parks and national parks budgets are under attack** throughout the country. Texas has cut funding for state parks annually for years, leading to a number of closures altogether. Only 103 parks and historic sites are left in the state, and operating with less and less staff or facing additional closures in 2017.

**Trinity Oaks Population Served:** All programs benefit our environment, especially youth programs, **which are engaging the next generation of untraditional hunters and stewards of our natural world**. We boast a near 90% retention rate for programs – kids and veterans alike that participate **come back and participate again and again**, making outdoors recreation a part of their lives and subsequently living healthier lives and taking better care of our natural world.
Veterans

- **Wounded Warrior Project summarizes**: For every US soldier killed in World Wars I and II, there were 1.7 soldiers wounded. In Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, for every US soldier killed, seven are wounded. Combined, over **48,000 servicemen and women have been physically injured** in the recent military conflicts. In addition to the physical wounds, it is estimated as **many as 400,000 service members live with the invisible wounds of war** including combat-related stress, major depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Another **320,000 are believed to have experienced a traumatic brain injury** while on deployment.

- According to a study conducted by the **RAND Center for Military Health Policy Research**, less than half of returning veterans needing mental health services receive any treatment at all, and of those receiving treatment for PTSD and major depression, less than one-third are receiving evidence-based care.

- The VA, on average, spends **$8,300 in the first year alone of PTSD treatments** for those that qualify and seek services. We spend billions of dollars in treating these wounds.

- **Families of veterans and active servicemen**, especially those that return wounded, suffer much higher levels of stress and anxiety than other Americans in comparable demographics.

- “**Ecotherapy**” or “Wilderness-based” therapy – providing programs for veterans and active servicemen to relax in engaging activities in the outdoors that help them **redefine their personal purpose** – reduces anxiety and stress and heals naturally. **Doctor David Scheinfeld** found, for instance, in a study of 200 veterans that participated in a backpacking excursion, that a majority was more socially engaged, depression overall was significantly reduced, and a significant portion were willing to seek help for mental “wounds” following the trip.

**Trinity Oaks Population Served**: At least **200 veterans receive a dream trip, participate in a group hunting or fishing expedition in honor of purple heart or active servicemen, or bring their families** for rest, renewal, and comradery to a family day at one of our retreat centers. We work with our **UnSung Heroes** as well – the caretakers and families that help our soldiers heal, with at least one annual event in their honor.
Testimonials
For Additional Testimonials and Photos, Visit: [https://trinityoaks.org/dream-trips/](https://trinityoaks.org/dream-trips/)

Hayden Smallwood Story:
*Here it from him! Caught on video in 2016. [https://vimeo.com/153550241](https://vimeo.com/153550241)*

Seventeen, suffering from terminal osteosarcoma bone cancer going on four years, Hayden’s body was shutting down and he was no longer responding to his chemo, surgeries, or other treatments. Knowing he didn’t have much time, Hayden said, “I want to forget about the hospitals and needles. I want to drive the Polaris, shoot a bunch of cool guns, shoot a monster deer, hang out with a bunch of neat people, and just live normally this weekend.”

A friend of Hayden’s family and of Trinity Oaks, referred him and we gave him his dream hunt – for a white tail deer buck. What does a family with limited means do when their son is dying of cancer? Parents describe that receiving outreach from Trinity Oaks empowers them and their whole family. It helps the fear subside. It becomes one of the most meaningful moments of their lives and helps them recover and move on. Hayden passed away just a few months after the hunt, but with his buck mounted in his bedroom. His dream was fulfilled. “We can’t cure cancer. But we can give hope and a moment of joy to those who are suffering,” explained Trinity Oaks founder Tom Snyder.

Kolby’s Story:
Kolby was 16 when he received a Dream Hunt. He is wheelchair bound with cerebral palsy, full of life and a joy to be around. Joining Kolby and David on the trip to the Hill Country outside of Kerrville was Kolby’s brother, Uriah, parents Brandy and Sam, his Nana Charlotte, and cousin Dakota. Kolby was also a recipient of an Action Track Chair, that Trinity Oaks’ Advisory Board member, Garrett George, fundraised for.
Sandy Graham:
Sandy passed away in May 2014 after a brave four-year battle with breast cancer. In December 2012, Trinity Oaks was blessed to host and sponsor a Dream Trip for Sandy at the Laguna Vista Ranch in South Texas. Sandy had been actively fighting this aggressive cancer for over two years already, and it was her dream to shoot a trophy whitetail buck so that one day, when she entered her heavenly home, her two young sons could look at the whitetail mount on their wall and remember their mom.

Don Saathoff
Don is a military veteran and police veteran and since his trip has lost use of all of his limbs. At the time of his dream hunt, Don only had use of his left arm, despite being right handed throughout his entire life. Even so, he was able to fully participate and enjoy the hunt of a lifetime. Don’s trip has made a huge impact on his life, and we’re told there’s not a week goes by that he isn’t talking about this weekend.
Governance
Trinity Oaks operates with an executive board voting on all financial and operating decisions of the organization, under the guidance and support of an Executive Director and 2 program managers as paid staff. Advisors, spokesmen, and volunteers support our outreach and marketing efforts as well as our core mentorship roles and programs.

Executive Board Members

CYNNTHIA CERVANTES
San Antonio, Texas

BIOGRAPHY: Cynthia began volunteering with Trinity Oaks as soon as she was introduced to their mission and vision. Her passion to serve others quickly attracted her to becoming one of many to give back in making a difference in the lives of others. As a single mother, it is important for her to surround her son, Jace, with positive influences such as the folks at Trinity Oaks. Cynthia is a licensed insurance agent in San Antonio, Texas and has been in the insurance field for over 20 years. Cynthia enjoys spending time with her son, Jace, and watching him play sports.

DAN ALLEN HUGHES, III
San Antonio, Texas

BIOGRAPHY: Dan Allen Hughes, III (“D.A.”) grew up on ranches in South and West Texas, going hunting and fishing with his siblings and learning the value of land conservation from his father, Dan Hughes, Jr., former Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner. D.A. has traveled extensively throughout the world hunting and fishing, but nothing gives him more pleasure then taking a wounded veteran or an under privileged young person on a hunting or fishing experience. D.A. graduated from the University of Arizona in 2009 and began living in Houston and later in San Antonio starting an oil and gas related marketing company. D.A. says, “I feel my most at peace in the outdoors. I love sharing this experience with less fortunate people that can truly benefit from the experience, because I know how nature has impacted and shaped my life, priorities, and values.” D.A. is fluent in Spanish, a board member of the Corpus Christi Big Game fishing Club, Board Member of Texas Parks and Wildlife Young Entrepreneurs of San Antonio, and has two Springer Spaniels that keep him busy during his free time.
JED KNOWLTON
San Antonio, Texas

BIOGRAPHY: Jed Knowlton was raised on his family’s ranches and grew up hunting and fishing. To say that he loves the outdoors is a major understatement! After attending Texas A&M University where he earned a BS in Agriculture, he moved back home to the San Antonio area to work in his family’s construction business, V.K. Knowlton Construction & Utilities, Inc. Jed feels fortunate to own several different South Texas family properties in the last few decades and they equally enjoy giving back to those who deserve it, especially through sharing hunting and fishing experiences. In 2012, Jed was introduced to Trinity Oaks through hosting a Trinity Oaks hunt on his ranch and became a firm believer in the vision and impact of the mission. Jed says that taking his wife and two children shooting, hunting, and fishing provide the most enjoyment in his life.

JEFF BIRMINGHAM
Houston, Texas

BIOGRAPHY: Jeff Birmingham grew up in Port Lavaca, Texas where his dad served over 25 years as a Game Warden. Immediately after graduating from Texas A&M University, Jeff began his career in the printing industry; his most recent service to the industry includes serving as President of the Printing Industry of the Gulf Coast from 2013 – 2015. Jeff and his wife Sheila have 2 children, Hunter 25, and Taylor 23 which both enjoy hunting and shot-gunning sports. During his 31 years in Houston Jeff has been active in numerous community events from accepting a leadership role in his church, to serving on the advisory board for Child Advocates, as well as serving on the boards for Operation Game Thief and The Houston Safari Club. Jeff has been an avid hunter and competitive shooter since childhood and enjoys serving as a member of Trinity Oaks.

JEFF GREEN
Houston, Texas

BIOGRAPHY: Jeff was introduced to the outdoors and started hunting and fishing at the age of nine. He currently serves as President of Waterfowl Preservation Alliance (WPA) and is the former President of the Duck Trap Hunting Club. He is lifetime member of the NRA and a supporter of Ducks Unlimited and CCA.

Jeff chairs Trinity Oaks’ annual “Shoot for our Military Heroes” Sporting Clays Fundraiser. He also believes that it is important to provide an avenue for our military heroes and youth to
experience the outdoors. Jeff is a native Houstonian and has been in the telecom industry for 22 years. He is married to his high school sweetheart Dixie and has a 22 year son, Cody who is also an outdoors enthusiast.

JEFF SIZEMORE
Corpus Christi, Texas

BIOGRAPHY: Jeff Sizemore, a native of Corpus Christi, graduated Texas A & M University in 1983 and joined his family industrial construction business. He acted as the President of Sizemore Environmental Group until sale in 1992, President of Sizemore Telecom Services 1997-2002, and is currently business development manager for JSJ Services an industrial construction company and in charge of US sales and distribution of Fausti Firearms.

Jeff has a wealth of nonprofit and fundraising experience as a past Board member for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boy Scouts of America, and Ducks Unlimited. He is very busy volunteering his time and leadership not only to Trinity Oaks, but also as a Board member of Safari Club International (SCI), as a SCI Finance Committee member, President of the local Texas Brush Country SCI Chapter, Chairman of the Fundraising committee for the Women’s Shelter of South Texas for a new facility, and as a volunteer coordinator for his church youth group of about 400 students. Additionally, Jeff is a four time Men’s US International Skeet Team Member, six time Junior Men’s International US Champion, and nine time All American Skeet Team member. He is happily married to his beautiful wife Carolina, who together enjoy spending time at the coast, ballroom dancing, and traveling (especially, upland game hunting with their English Cocker Belle).

KYLE WELKER
Sugar Land, Texas

BIOGRAPHY: Kyle was born and raised in Sugar Land, Texas and is the Executive Vice President of Welker Inc. For as far back as he can remember hunting and the outdoors was an integral part of his life. Growing up in a large family with a plethora of wildlife all around his house from pet deer to snakes early on he discovered his passion for wildlife conservation. In 2009 he married his wife Victoria and introduced her to his favorite passion, well second to her. He is honored to be a part of Trinity Oaks and help others experience all that nature has to offer!

MATT PYLE
Houston, Texas
BIOGRAPHY: After graduating high school Matt joined the US Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, NC where he served as Sergeant in an Airborne Infantry Company (D Co. 1/505) from 1984–1988. He spent his years in the Army deployed mostly in Central America. After the Army, Matt went to college and graduated from Lamar University in Beaumont, TX with a BS in Kinesiology. At Lamar he was on full athletic scholarship for both track and tennis. He currently is employed at Choice Energy Services as a Senior Energy Consultant in the power and natural gas fields. In this position he consults corporate clients on all of their energy services (taxes, billing audits, hedging strategies and contract negotiations). Matt is the Captain of the Wounded Veteran, the Greatest Generation Teams on the Armed Forces; he is also on the Appreciation Committee for the Houston Live Stock Show. He is also on the State Board of Advisors for the United States Veterans Initiative. In addition, he is member of the NRA, SCI and the Houston Safari Club where he serves as a Director and the Committee Chairman for their Hunting with Heroes initiative. Matt and his wife Susie of 15 years are busy raising their three children. Matt is an avid hunter and tennis player competing nationally.

NONA SNYDER
CO-FOUNDER, TREASURER
Garden Ridge, Texas

BIOGRAPHY: Nona believes in the adage that, “we are here to make a positive difference in the lives of others,” and that it is important to help others with a hand up rather than a hand out. She graduated from Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas with an A.A.S. Degree…and married Tom a week later! Nona’s career has been focused in employee benefits and insurance sales, and she has an impressive track record of industry awards and honors. Nona loves spending time with her husband, Tom Snyder, and their two children. She also enjoys traveling, amusement parks, reading, and is an excellent cake decorator!

RYAN CANTU
San Antonio, Texas

BIOGRAPHY: At 9 years old, Ryan was first introduced to the outdoors by his Grandfather who had worked in the firearms industry. Ryan has been a hunting and fishing fanatic ever since! “I am not a wealthy man, but I always wanted to find a way to help others experience the benefits that come from hunting and fishing. Trinity Oaks has provided me with that opportunity to positively impact people by creating memories in the outdoors.” To Ryan, mentoring a new generation of hunters and anglers with these skills, patience, and proper respect is a way for him to continue the legacy of his grandfather. Ryan is the President of Aquatic Renovations
& Services, Inc. and when he is not enjoying the outdoors with his family, he is usually fishing in a tournament!

**RICK LAMBERT**
Lindale, Texas

**BIOGRAPHY**
Rick Lambert, father of country music heroine Miranda Lambert, of Lindale, Texas has become more and more a fixture at Trinity Oaks' events. Rick spent 34 years in Law Enforcement as well as running a nationally known Private Investigation and Security Company in the Dallas area for 22 years. He currently owns several businesses in retailing, concert merchandising, music publishing, as well as Red 55 Winery. He is a board Member of Country for our Country, a charitable organization, dedicated to serving Military servicemen and women by helping with higher education costs to accommodate assimilation into civilian life, through cooperation with the Country Music community.

**SHAWN OSBORNE**
San Antonio, Texas

**BIOGRAPHY:** Shawn is a former youth pastor and enjoys participating in the enhancement of lives through Trinity Oaks. He earned a BBA in Management from the University of Texas Pan American and is currently in the insurance industry. He also sits on the board of New Vision Community Church in San Antonio. When not at work, Shawn enjoys flying and spending quality time with his wife and two boys.

**TOM SNYDER**
CO-FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
Garden Ridge, Texas

**BIOGRAPHY:** Tom's difficult and impoverished childhood engendered him with a spirit of humble thanksgiving. Tom is the owner of the regional Colonial Life Insurance in Garden Ridge (a suburb of San Antonio, Texas). Through the years, he has sought a way to share his passion for the outdoors and to give back to the community – especially to children in demonstrable, life-changing ways. Tom's concept for Trinity Oaks is a unique Christian ministry, whose vision is as big as the Texan sky! Tom is a co-founder of Trinity Oaks with his wife Nona.
Staff

BRITTANY HOSMER, MPS
Executive Director

BIOGRAPHY: Brittany Hosmer, MPS, has worked and volunteered with Trinity Oaks since 2012 and as of January 1, 2016 has taken on the role as our Executive Director. She completed her undergraduate studies in South Africa and received her Master’s in Philanthropic Leadership from the University of Denver. In addition to her education, she has operated her own consulting firm, Rock Environmental, since 2008 and has assisted outdoor and conservation nonprofits from around the world. Brittany brings this professional expertise in strategic program development and fundraising into her leadership position with Trinity Oaks.

CHUCK BYRGE
Meat Processing & Distribution

BIOGRAPHY: Chuck is crucial to the success of Trinity Oaks’ meat processing and distribution programs. Chuck manages all the game animal butchering, packaging, storage, and deliveries to area charities. In his first month alone, he processed 13,623 lb. of meat, which equates to over 40,000 meals for our neighbors in need!

KENNETH HOLDER
Director of Guadalupe River Camp

BIOGRAPHY: Kenneth Holder originally served on the volunteer Advisory Council for Trinity Oaks before taking on the full time position of Director of the Trinity Oaks’ Guadalupe River Camp in Seguin, Texas. Kenneth and his family live onsite and maintain the property, fundraise and oversee improvements, and host youth, veteran, and faith-based outdoor retreats. He has been involved with nonprofit organizations for many years and successfully started programs in support of military families which have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars. Kenneth has served on several boards such as; San Antonio YMCA, Child and Family Services, Warriors on Wheels Cycling Club, Wish for Our Heroes. He is an Ordained Minister and Associate Pastor of Bet Shalom Messianic Assembly in Marion, Texas.
Unpaid Spokespeople

JIM ZUMBO
BIOGRAPHY: Widely regarded as the foremost authority on North American big game hunting, Zumbo has a large readership audience. In addition to his more than 2,000 published magazine article, Zumbo has authored 23 books, and co-authored one with Robert Elman. Jim Zumbo has two degrees in forestry and wildlife management, and worked as a forester and wildlife biologist for 18 years.

LARRY WEISHUHN
BIOGRAPHY: Larry aka “Mr. Whitetail” is one of North America’s most recognized outdoor personalities. Larry, a graduate of Texas A&M University (’70), has long appeared on award-winning and widely watched television shows devoted to quality big game hunting on Versus, Outdoor Channel, Sportsman Channel, and Pursuit. A professional wildlife biologist, Larry has established quality management programs across North America and has served as a wildlife consultant in Africa, South America, Europe and New Zealand.

MATT HUGHES
BIOGRAPHY: Matt is the 9-time World Welterweight Champion of the UFC. With a record of 45-9, Matt has traveled the world and has become a household name amongst mixed martial arts fans. Outside of maintaining his fighting career, Matt volunteers his time to help young people, honor veterans, and participates on church mission trips. Matt currently lives in Hillsboro, IL with his wife, son, and two daughters.

BLAKE BARNETT
BIOGRAPHY: Blake Barnett is one of North America’s most recognized outdoor personalities alongside his television partner, Larry Weishuhn. Blake’s work in outdoor television has made him a recipient of numerous Telly awards as well as Emmy nominations. Blake’s work includes outdoor television producing, co-host of DSC’s Trailing the
Hunter’s Moon along with a dedication to wildlife conservationism and an avid support of hunter rights and advocacy.

T-BONE TURNER
BIOGRAPHY: Travis Turner, a.k.a T-Bone, started his own archery business, restored a vintage Mercedes, held the Outdoor 3-D Archery World Champion title and appeared on numerous television shows and videos, including Realtree’s “Monster Bucks” video series. And thought T-Bone didn’t get to keep the Mercedes, he did manage to hold on to his passion for archery.

TON JONES
BIOGRAPHY: A 20+ year entertainment veteran, Ton Jones has seen and done almost everything from behind the scenes to in front of the camera. He got his start as a stunt man in 1995 and has since gone on to act in such productions as CSI: New York, Rock Star, The Huntress, and MTV Flipped and many others. Ton Starred as the co-host of the hit reality show “Auction Hunters” on Spike TV. And now travels the country attending national conventions and doing product test and development under the brand Research & Destruction a division of Ton Jones, Inc.

Advisory Council Members

BLAINE L. SCOTT
BIOGRAPHY: Master Sergeant retired after 22 years in the Marine Corps on January 31, 2015. He now works for Colonial Life and spends a lot of his free time giving back volunteering for Trinity Oaks, introducing veterans to the outdoors by taking them hunting and fishing. He also spends his time with his family either at the softball or football field or taking his kids hunting and fishing as well. Master Sergeant Scott is married to the former Lillia Munoz of Rancho Santa Margarita California. They have 3 children, Adriana, Isabella, and Blaine and reside in New Braunfels Texas. His personnel awards include the Purple Heart, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal 2nd Award, Combat Action Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal 6th Award.

BURTON BRILLHART
BIOGRAPHY: For almost two decades, Burton has been a respected advocate and trusted counselor for his national and Texas clientele. Burton’s National law practice focuses on commercial and employment law for businesses, banks as well as CEOs. He is a former in-house General Counsel to three financial services companies as well. Burton has long been passionate about
helping others, serving on 5 different charitable and non-profit boards, focusing on mentoring as well as the welfare and education of children.

DAVID LEWIS
BIOGRAPHY: David is a major asset to Trinity Oaks. He is one of our lead coordinators and volunteer instructors of the Trinity Oaks' program called “H2O,” an outdoor education course for school age children. After starting his dental career in the US Army, David returned from an overseas tour to his home town of San Antonio and is a general dentist in the San Antonio medical center. David and his wife, Kelly, have three children, with whom they share their passion for the outdoors and travel. David also enjoys coaching for his children’s athletic teams.

DYANA BULLOCK
BIOGRAPHY: Dyana was born and raised in Colorado, but arrived in Texas almost three decades ago. Growing up in Colorado, her father would often take her hunting in the mountains. The time in the Rockies, with family and friends, fostered her deep love of the outdoors. Dyana brings to Trinity Oaks a tremendous background of event planning, volunteering, and working on various non-profit boards. Dyana pours her heart and soul into the “Under the Oaks” Gala every year and makes the evening one of the most successful fundraisers for us! Dyana has three amazing children, and is a recent graduate of Colorado Christian University.

GARRETT L. GEORGE
BIOGRAPHY: Garrett, Central Texas Sales Manager for Hill Country Site Supply and former United Way Loan Executive, witnessed first-hand the difference an Action Track Chair made in the life of his physically disabled friend, Tyson Dever. These custom-made electric wheelchairs are designed with articulating tracks which provide all-terrain mobility—allowing individuals who are terminally ill and/or seriously disabled the opportunity to better experience the outdoors no matter what the environment. Garrett met Tyson in 2008 and in 2010, Tyson received his Action Track Chair. After seeing this life-changing impact, Garrett was inspired to utilize his contacts in the construction industry to hold a fundraiser in October of 2013. This event provided an Action Track Chair for a 15 year old boy with Cerebral Palsy. Soon after, Garrett joined the Trinity Oaks Advisory Board where he now serves as the “Dream Trips” Coordinator. The Dream Trips program focuses on giving both disabled individuals and their immediate family the chance to create happy memories at no cost to them through hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Garrett has made it his mission to do what he can for the less fortunate and those in need and knows without a doubt “this is what we’re called to do”.

KYLE LINDSEY
BIOGRAPHY: Kyle is first and foremost a family man and it shows in his passion to mentor children and teach others about the traditions of hunting and fishing. Kyle and his wife met at Tarleton State University, where he earned a BS in Engineering Technology. They now have a daughter and son who are both active sportsmen. Kyle owns a luxury custom home building company based out of San Antonio.
MIKE SNYDER
BIOGRAPHY: Mike grew up trapping with older brother Tom Snyder and their father since the age of 10. Living in South Texas, Mike sought out reasons to be outdoors; often wandered the drainage ditches and canals fishing or shooting with his pellet gun. When asked about why Mike volunteers for Trinity Oaks’ veteran Hero Celebrations, he replied, “We can do what we do, because of what they have done.” He recognizes his opportunity to hunt and fish is because of the freedoms provided by the men and women of our military. “I want to show my appreciation and that’s why we just go over the top to make sure their experience with Trinity Oaks is unforgettable. It’s how I say thank you to them.” Mike currently lives in Harlingen with his wife Mary Beth and he manages the region’s Colonial Life Insurance.

WADE RUSHING
BIOGRAPHY: Wade is a native Texan who currently resides in Austin and works as a District Manager for Colonial Life. Wade served in the Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio. He enjoys being involved with Trinity Oaks because of his love of the outdoors and the investment he can make in the lives of kids. Veteran programs are also very important to Wade as his older brother was killed in the line of duty while serving in Vietnam. He enjoys drawing, outdoor activities, and anything water related. Wade is active in other nonprofits as a volunteer and as a member of his local church.
Additional Video Links
2016 Gala Video – Synopsis of Trinity Oaks Work and Impact
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqCleRm_hbw

Louis Silver Tribute - Inspirational Words
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggvGZLhoHsk&feature=youtu.be

Photos
More photos available on www.trinityoaks.org or available upon request. High definition available upon request.
Press Clippings

The West Texas Chapter of SCI is Donating $75,000 to Trinity Oaks in Memory of Sydney Dickerson-Matthews
By Kevin Paulson
Posted April 4, 2017

“Sydney was a gentle, kind, competitive spirit who loved the outdoors. Her passion was to always help other kids in any way she could,” describes her mother, Valerie Matthews. “I am so excited and appreciative for this amazing opportunity to keep our Sydney’s memory alive in a way that she would be so proud of.”

West Texas Chapter of SCI, to which Sydney’s father is a board member and the family are supporters, voted in March to honor Sydney and her memory with a gift to Trinity Oaks’ Thumbtack Ranch. A $75,000 grant will go toward a $6 million campaign to purchase the property outright, renovate its main lodge, and make support infrastructure all handicapped accessible.

Cal Hendrick, West Texas Chapter President, describes, “Last fall Trinity Oaks had submitted a grant request to us for financial support for a ‘last wish’ dream hunting trip for a terminally ill child. The organization unanimously decided to support that opportunity to give back to Trinity Oaks, who shares many of our same mission values. Our Board since then has become more and more aware of the great things Trinity Oaks does to use hunting and fishing as a humanitarian lever to bring joy and peace into the lives of those less fortunate.”

A $50,000 gift was raised from West Texas Chapter’s January gala. The Board of Directors later approved an additional $25,000 grant in March. The total gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a challenge grant from former Duck Dynasty Executive Producer Scott Gurney – having a total impact of $150,000 towards the purchase of the property!

Tom Snyder, Trinity Oaks Founder and Director claimed, “This generous gift from our friends at the West Texas Chapter of SCI reflects the heart and soul of our mission – to use hunting and fishing to give back and make a different in the lives of others. We are honored to name our new lodge in memory of this wonderful girl that celebrated the outdoors and hunting. Thousands of children will now be able to celebrate that same joy.”

Thumbtack Ranch in Batesville, Texas is a 2,000-acre paradise only 85 miles from San Antonio that Trinity Oaks has used for hunting and fishing excursions for wounded and combat veterans, youth, and terminally ill. Trinity Oaks had the opportunity to purchase the property outright this year. Britt Hosmer, Executive Director explains, “Centralizing our programs to one site so close to a major city will save us tens of thousands in operating costs and allow us to exponentially increase our impact, as well as give our mission a sustainable home base for the foreseeable future!”

Toward that end, Trinity Oaks’ goal is to raise $6 million to purchase and renovate the property for handicap access, program capacity, and road and infrastructure improvements. The Gurney Foundation has generously pledged to match all donations received by the end of 2017 up to $2
million, to secure purchasing rights! Trinity Oaks has dozens of naming opportunities and is promoting the “Adopt an Acre” campaign, where a $3,000 donation secures the donor naming recognition for the parcel on a huge map located in the lodge.

Trinity Oaks’ mission is to use hunting, fishing, and outdoors experiences to give back and make a difference in the lives of others. Those people in need including families of children with terminal illnesses and disabilities, disadvantaged children in the city and surrounding community, and veterans suffering from both emotional and physical wounds of war. Since its 2007 inception, volunteers have helped thousands of people in need, with dream hunting trips, youth programs, and incredibly has processed and distributed annually over 110,000 pounds of meat soup kitchens throughout Texas!

For more on Trinity Oaks or how you can give to the Thumbtack Ranch project, go to www.trinityoaks.org, or contact info@trinityoaks.org.

A hero’s welcome: Port Mansfield to host eight combat veterans
By Lisa Seiser, Editor
Posted Wednesday, October 5, 2016 on Valley Morning Star
http://www.valleymorningstar.com/news/local_news/article_f00d040e-8b5e-11e6-b0e2-0f2981f4dc97.html

PORT MANSFIELD — They'll have the rare opportunity to fire at nilgai and reel in red snapper, grouper, kingfish and maybe even a marlin.

For four days, a group of eight U.S. military veterans, who also are Purple Heart recipients wounded in live combat, will hunt at the El Sauz Ranch.

Then they will also spend time deep-sea fishing and casting their lines into the Bay all as part of Trinity Oaks celebration for wounded warriors.

Trinity Oaks, founded in 2007 and based in San Antonio, is a nonprofit organization that creates hunting, fishing and outdoor focused events for veterans, youth and terminally ill or disabled people. This is their biggest event of the year.

But first, there will be a “hero celebration” for the group with the community. The eight heroes will ride in all the way to Port Mansfield from San Antonio, escorted by as many as 200 or 300 motorcycles. Their destination Sunday afternoon will be the Port Mansfield Community Center, where there will be a barbecue, which is open to the public.

“That is the kickoff to the next few days and the way to welcome them to Port Mansfield,” said Trinity Oaks executive director Brittany Hosmer.

She called it a once-in-a-lifetime trip that truly shows appreciation for what these Texas-based wounded warriors have given to America. Typically, these veterans are in rehab and there’s a financial need. They are chosen based on those factors. Hosmer called the trip a highlight of Trinity Oaks’ veterans program.
“It costs about $40,000, but it is a once-in-a-lifetime and it is how we show our appreciation,” she said.

Money raised for these types of programs comes from fundraising efforts by Trinity Oaks. There are several fundraisers throughout the year that pay for these programs. There also are grants and individual donations.

The mostly-volunteer organization means that most of what is donated and gathered individually goes straight to programs such as these with little administrative overhead.

Although Hosmer won’t attend this particular trip, she has been on them before. She admits, there’s nothing like it.

“It is amazing,” she said. “The first day, they are overwhelmed and shy and introverted and internalizing.”

But, it’s the second day they start opening up. Sitting around a campfire listening to country music apparently does that for many veterans.

“The third day is like a frat house,” she said with a laugh. “The biggest thing is it is creating a normalcy for them. For that moment in time, they just get to be one of the guys. They are not thinking about their rehab or anything else. That is sometimes the hardest thing.”

Once they become comfortable and are enjoying their time, it is difficult for them to go home, Hosmer said.

While it may be the biggest and most costly program run through Trinity Oaks, these aren’t the only types of help the organization provides.

It also has a full service commercial meat-processing and distribution facility that provides more than 9,000 pounds of healthy meat to soup kitchens, homeless shelters and orphanages in Texas and northern Mexico.

In July, Trinity Oaks processed 24,000 pounds of meat from the nilgai cull at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. It was sealed into two-pound packages and distributed around south Texas. In all, the meat was expected to make 120,000 meals.

Trinity Oaks: Making a Difference
Published August 22, 2014 on Outdoor Anthem.
http://codyckoehler.wixsite.com/outdooranthem/single-post/2014/08/22/Trinity-Oaks-Making-a-Difference-

Trinity: A group of three people or things.

I never asked Tom Snyder how Trinity Oaks was named. It seems I forgot to pose the question. I attribute my oversight to ‘interview amnesia’ – a condition of short-lived forgetfulness caused by captivating conversation. I’ll explain.
I learned of Trinity Oaks while interviewing the brothers of White Wing Label. Blake Leggett described Tom as a most honest and hard-working man, leader of Trinity Oaks - a very special Texas-based charity. A few e-mails led to a Thursday morning meeting at the charity’s headquarters in Garden Ridge Texas.

A big welcome, big hand shake, and only a moment needed to see Tom’s Texas sized heart to match. Tom Snyder’s charitable dream was planted during his south Texas childhood. Growing up without the means to hunt, he promised – should he achieve success – he would provide underprivileged children with adventures in the great outdoors. The adventures he never had growing up.

Nearly a decade ago, Tom’s vision came to life, offering all inclusive hunting and fishing trips to children. Word of the organization’s giving heart spread quickly, and Trinity Oaks grew to meet new opportunities. They now honor wounded veterans with hero celebrations, along with adventures for children struggling with terminal illness.

Trinity Oaks covers every cost from the gun and ammunition to processing and taxidermy. At the end of each hunt, families take home more than meat and memories. The children are filled with new knowledge and skills to pass along. Go forward and speak about the hunting and gun safety you learned. Show others your new found confidence and belief in self. Recount the virtue found in the hunt, not just the kill.

These outdoor trips are the charity’s primary focus. Giving back, cultivating relationships, and introducing the next generation to hunting and fishing Texas. The charity is run completely by volunteers. No one takes home a pay check. No ‘administrative costs’ that mask the true object. Every cent raised goes back into Trinity Oaks. Reiterated by Tom throughout my visit, “We have very strong convictions. We don’t take from anyone. Giving back tenfold is our focus.

The growth of the organization sprouted a problem. A child’s dream of hunting big game would come true, but the family could only take so much game meat. Freezer space in urban homes is limited. What to do with the remainder? Some charities might solve the equation with distributing the extra to their own volunteers. Not Trinity Oaks.

To solve the meaty problem, Tom raised the funds to build a processing plant with on-site cold storage, smoke house and packaging. The results are astonishing. Trinity Oaks is on track to distribute over 125,000 pounds of meat, equating to half a million individual meals. Freezers have been purchased for orphanages to take large shipments of two pound protein packs. Homeless shelters, centers of faith and various other missions fighting hunger are recipients of the extra game meat from dream hunts. Nothing goes to waste.

And yet, there is more to tell. Trinity Oaks owns a handicap accessible bay house and fishing pier in Mansfield. Painted pink in honor of his niece Paige and her struggle with cancer, the bay home is available at no cost to groups that work with the military, youth, handicap or faith based organizations. A recently purchased river camp on the Guadalupe near Seguin offers retreats and outreach programs for similar groups.

I know. It doesn’t seem real. You can understand the ‘interview amnesia’ I fell under. I came to Garden Ridge Texas to hear the anthem of Trinity Oaks. Less than an hour into our meeting, all I wanted to know was how I could help. The story was secondary.
So I asked - What does the charity need? How can Texas outdoorsmen help?

First, more meat. Tom noted that the requests for meat have outpaced the extra supply from their dream hunts. If you have any extra from your hunts, Trinity Oaks will accept meat donations. Pork from a wild pig, an extra beef cow in your herd, any additional venison from this fall – they will gladly accept. It costs zero dollars to donate meat to Trinity.

Second, more places to hunt. Tom and his crew search each year for more willing land owners. I spoke to Batesville rancher Paul Silber who gives fall hunting rights to Trinity Oaks. Mr. Silber spoke of Tom and Trinity with confidence. “At the degree Trinity Oaks delivers – it is uncommon for it to be real. They do it the right way.” This south Texas ranch man is a World War II veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart. Additionally, he is the namesake of an award given to Purple Heart veterans who continue to serve their community. He knows integrity because he is integrity.

And lastly, funding – funding to support the mission of giving back, and the vision of making dreams come true. Philanthropic donations are the rock that supports. A big yearly fundraiser at Leon Springs Dancehall is taking place this September. Buy a ticket to the 2nd annual Under the Oaks gala and enjoy an evening of giving back. Last season's gala raised over $130,000. More information at this website: Under the Oaks

Those are the three things they need. Might these be the trinity in the name? Not so, but a trio of essentials if Trinity Oaks is to continue making our world a better place. That phrase – world a better place- so cliché it seems. And I asked Tom about that.

TXOA: Making our world a better place. What do you say when people call that cliché?
Tom: I tell them - get out and experience it yourself. Find a way to give back. Use your time, talents or treasures. Volunteer however you can. I promise giving is truly better than receiving.

Time. Talents. Treasures. Could it be?
Someday I will ask. For now, I'll think of how I can give back. We all should.
Additional Clippings:

Frozen, ground nilgai from hunts on refuge delivered across Valley:

Trinity Oaks Helps Children, Charities
http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/premium/article_2e9e107c-2544-11e6-bc6f-231f2fdace84.html

Texas Deer Association Teams with Trinity Oaks for Meals Programs
https://www.ammoland.com/2013/10/texas-deer-association-teams-with-trinity-oaks-for-meals-programs/#axzz4hphahATY

Trinity Oaks – Changing Lives with Hunting and Fishing

5 Non-profits Doing Great Work in the Outdoor Community

BBQ fundraiser held to benefit families of fallen Dallas officers
Trinity Oaks, Operation Comfort, Colonial Life, Grumpy's combine resources

Trinity Oaks giving vets a new path

Ideal Roofing Receives GAF's Prestigious 2017 President's Club Award

Texas Hill Country Shoot Nearly Doubles in Size
http://sportingclassicsdaily.com/texas-hill-country-shoot-nearly-doubles-in-size/

San Antonio Based Nonprofit Trinity Oaks Benefits Wounded Veterans