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Area organizations to benefit from Texoma Gives

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Area residents will have the opportunity to make online donations to their favorite charities during the second annual Texoma Gives event set for Thursday.

Texoma Gives, which is powered by the Wichita Falls Community Foundation, consists of 145 nonprofit organizations in Southwest Oklahoma and North Texas. It is a 16-hour online charitable event during which gifts may be made between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. at texomagives.org.

All donations made Thursday will be eligible for "Prize Money" that will be awarded throughout the day. "Prize Money" has been made possible by the sponsors of the program.

Shelly Ray, Lawton Community Theatre executive director, reported that all participating Comanche County non-profit organizations will be at the theatre, 1316 NW Bell, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday to celebrate the event

and to accept online and in-person donations. She said a light breakfast of pastries and coffee will be served from 7-10 a.m. and a lunch of hot dogs provided by Arvest Bank and Bar-S Foods will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to participants.

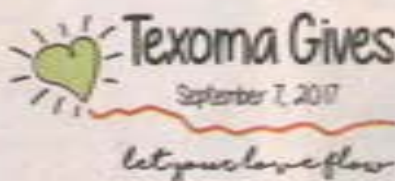
"All of our 15 participating organizations will be present to take donations," Ray said. "This event will be something for Lawton to look forward to."

Ray said banks of computers will be set up with volunteers available to assist with entering information online. She said everyone who comes to donate can enter a drawing for gift baskets that will be given away Thursday evening.

Lisa Carson of the Lawton Public Schools Foundation emphasized that every size of gift matters.

"Maybe you don't have \$1,000 to donate, but small gifts of \$20 per person will go a long way," she said.

Carson said that during the first Texoma Gives event last year, the typical Wichita Falls non-profit



organization realized donations of \$50,000.

"This is our first year for Lawton non-profits to collaborate," she said. "We hope to have similar results here."

Sarah Head, community collaborations director for the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma, said it is exciting for her organization to be included in the Texoma Gives effort for the first time.

"Wichita Falls and Lawton area charities serve the same population and work together to help the people of this area," she said. "It's awesome for us and 15 organizations in Comanche County to be part of it to promote the good we are all doing in the Texoma area."

Stacy Cramer Moore, executive director of the Chisholm

Trail Heritage Center in Duncan, said this will be the second year her organization is participating in Texoma Gives and she hopes for even more donations than last year.

"We received the most donations of any non-profit from Oklahoma that participated in last year's Texoma Gives and want to do the same this year," she said. "Texoma Gives is a way for our millennial participants to get involved in non-profits. Just a few mouse clicks and you can make your donation."

Moore said she encourages area residents to participate in Texoma Gives regardless of which organizations they plan to give gifts to.

"If you don't donate to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, we want you to at least donate to some participating charity," she said.

A complete list, by county, of all charities participating in Texoma Gives is at <https://texomagives.org/categories/community-improvement>.

Texoma Gives

Participating Southwest Oklahoma organizations:

Comanche County

Arts for All Inc., Blue Moon Productions, Center for Creative Living, Family Promise of Lawton Inc., Goodwill Industries of Southwest Oklahoma and North Texas, KCCU radio, Lawton Community Theatre, Lawton Food Bank, Lawton Fort Sill Habitat for Humanity Inc., Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra, Lawton Public School Foundation Inc., Lawton Schubert Music Club, Marie Detty Youth and Family Services Center Inc., Teen Court Inc. and United Way of Southwest Oklahoma.

Stephens County

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center Association, Christians Concerned, Duncan Public Schools Foundation and Gabriel's House.