



OPEN DOOR PRESCHOOLS
2009 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION: TO NURTURE AND INSPIRE YOUNG CHILDREN OF DIVERSE NEEDS, ECONOMIC LEVELS, AND FAMILY BACKGROUNDS IN AN ENGAGING EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.



Dear Friends,

What's in a name?

A lot.

Thirty-five years ago our founders, in their wisdom, came up with a name that captures the essence of who we are: Open Door Preschools. A place that welcomes those who too often have had doors shut in their faces.

Our name has stayed with us as our mission has been refined over the years. Recently our board and staff developed a new, streamlined mission statement that conveys our work and our aspirations:

To nurture and inspire young children of diverse needs, economic levels, and family backgrounds in an engaging educational environment.

The simplicity of the statement belies the complexity of our task. We bring together families of diverse backgrounds—socially, economically, culturally, and racially—which is a rarity in Austin. We deliberately serve children with and without disabilities, raising the bar for all. And we create an enriched environment where our young children are given social and educational tools which will serve them for a lifetime.

Open Door is of the community. We can fulfill our mission only because of the community's generosity and belief in what we stand for and what we do.

And so we are about to open the door even further. In 2011, we will launch a third site, deeper in East Austin, in collaboration with Foundation Communities. As a vital part of their state-of-the-art affordable housing community, we will serve many of their low-income residents while retaining our name, mission, autonomy, and commitment to the wider community.

The pages of this annual report describe our past success, which is a testament to our staff, families, board, volunteers, donors, and many community partners. It is this success—our collective success—that emboldens us to build for the future to serve the children and families of Austin.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Walker Gates
Chair, Board of Directors

Larry Elsner
Executive Director

Open Door



WHEN I DROP HER OFF
IN THE MORNING,
SHE'S EXCITED AND
HAPPY TO BE THERE, AND EVERY
NIGHT AT THE DINNER TABLE
WHEN WE TELL EACH OTHER
OUR FAVORITE PARTS OF THE DAY,
SHE SAYS, "SCHOOL." WE FEEL
SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE FOUND
OPEN DOOR; IT IS A UNIQUE
SCHOOL INVESTED IN THE WELL-
BEING OF EVERY CHILD IT SERVES.

Open Door-Central was reaccredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This was the culmination of a demanding year-and-a-half long process, with assistance from the Accreditation Project of Austin Community College and Success by 6 of United Way.

Completed many building and playground renovations at Open Door-East, funded in part by the MFI Foundation, in preparation for the accreditation site visit in 2010.

Launched the Teacher Quality Initiative which includes an innovative forgivable loan program for Open Door teachers to pursue college degrees in early childhood education.

Stayed current in the field by sending several teachers to national and state early childhood education conferences, funded by IBM, the Dell Foundation, and the Weatherspoon Foundation, with fundraising help from our parents.

Successfully nominated 3M as Philanthropic Corporation of the Year, awarded by the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. 3M helped subsidize our summer program, Camp Chef Kids, and provided an amazing team of volunteers to help rebuild the Central school playground and gardens.

Continued Project Helping Hand so that working poor and middle-income families remain a vital part of the Open Door. Tuition assistance is provided by Applied Materials Foundation, Donald D. Hammill Foundation, and the Shield-Ayres Foundation.

Committed to expanding our services by being an integral part of M Station, an affordable housing community developed by Foundation Communities in East Austin, to open in 2011.

Worked with Greenlights and Deloitte Consulting as part of a pilot program to examine our costs and fee structures.

WHAT WE DID IN 2009

Honored the Webber Family Foundation, Bonner Brown, and teachers Missy Sanchez and LaTasha Baldwin at *Cake, Rattle, and Roll*, our fun and spirited grown-up party.

Began a rewarding collaboration with Threadgill's, which hosted our Taco-Eating Contest and free children's concert for the Austin community.

Executive Director Larry Elsner was appointed by Mayor Lee Leffingwell to serve on the Early Childhood Council. Site Director Melinda Harris was selected for the Taking Charge of Change leadership development program.

Nurtured and inspired 230+ young children and their families by providing a sterling program that attends to the needs of the "whole child."

Lived our mission every day.

THE OPEN DOOR HAS NOT JUST HELPED MY SON BUT HAS HELPED ME BE A BETTER PARENT AND A MORE SANE PERSON. SOMETIMES, THEY JUST DO THIS BY LISTENING. I REMEMBER THE STAFF ASKED ME IF I NEEDED ANYTHING. AS A MOTHER, PARTICULARLY A MOTHER OF A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, I WAS SHOCKED AND GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT MY NEEDS COUNT TOO.





WE HAVE BEEN ASTOUNDED BY THE GROWTH OF OUR DAUGHTER'S SOCIAL AND COGNITIVE SKILLS AND ARE SINCERELY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPERB TRAINING AND OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT OF THE OPEN DOOR STAFF.

HISTORY

In 1975, an Austin couple wanted their two children—their son with Down Syndrome and their typically-developing daughter—to be in preschool together. Because of their son's disability, no program in central Texas would accept them both. The Open Door was established as a nonprofit in response to that need.

In the thirty-five years since its founding, the Open Door Preschools (Project Normalization, Inc.) has remained committed to quality, inclusive early childhood education and care. Our mission has expanded—in response to community need—to welcome not only typically-developing children and children with physical disabilities but children with emotional, economic and at risk challenges as well.

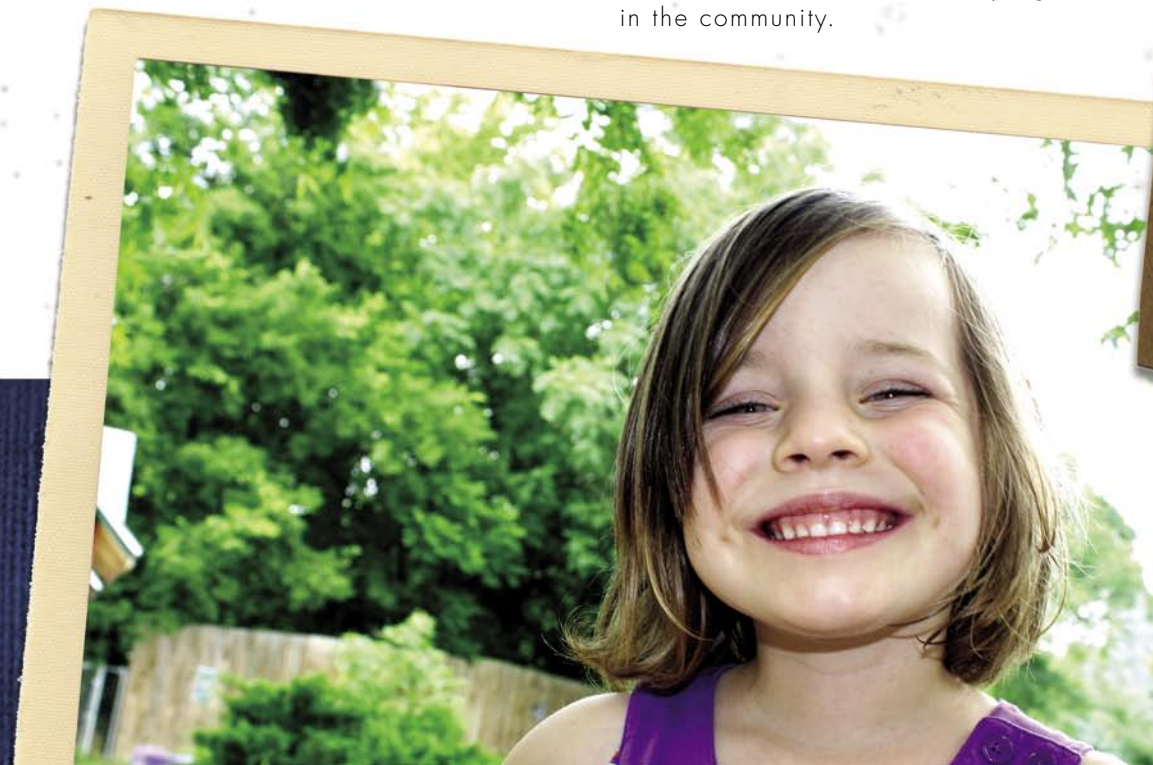
PROGRAM

What do you see when you enter an Open Door Preschool classroom? You witness children playing and learning together: children with obvious disabilities (cerebral palsy, Down syndrome), children whose special needs are less apparent (speech delays, hearing loss, autistic-like behaviors) along with typically-abled children. You observe a mixture of ethnicities and children from families of all income levels. You see our mission in action.

The Open Door operates two preschools—one in East Austin and one in Central Austin—serving a total of 140 children ages two months to kindergarten-age and their families at any given time. We established a summer program for elementary school-aged children several years ago to address the shortage of affordable, inclusive, summer enrichment programs in the community.

We typically have a waiting list for services especially for infant care. Approximately twenty-five percent of our children have disabilities or are considered at high risk. Thirty-five percent of our families receive tuition subsidies. Our social workers and other staff help families bridge the gap between home and school by linking them to vital community resources.

The Open Door was the first preschool in Austin to be accredited (by NAEYC) and both programs have the distinction of being Texas Rising Star providers. We have been a United Way partner agency for over twenty years.



YOU ALREADY HAD MY LIFETIME OF GRATITUDE, BUT NOW YOU'VE GOT ME IN THE AFTERLIFE TOO. WALKING INTO OPEN DOOR IS LIKE GETTING A BIG HUG EVERY DAY. I LOVE THAT.



FROM DAY ONE WE FELT THE CARING
ARMS OF EVERY ONE OF THE TEACHERS
AND ADMINISTRATORS AROUND US. IF
YOU VALUE HAVING YOUR CHILDREN IN THE BEST
PLACE POSSIBLE FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPING
IN A LOVING ENVIRONMENT, OPEN DOOR IS THE
PLACE FOR YOU. IT'S BEEN THAT FOR US.

Foundation

Anonymous
Dell Foundation
Donald D. Hammill Foundation
The Meadows Foundation
MFI Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trust
Jarrell and Shirley Rubinett
Family Foundation
The Shield-Ayres Foundation
Topfer Family Foundation
Lola Wright Foundation
The Weatherspoon
Charitable Foundation

Corporate

3M/3M Foundation
AMD Matching Gift Program
Applied Materials/Applied Materials
Foundation
Baldwin Beauty School
Goldman Sachs
GoodSearch
Hailstone Insurance
H-E-B
IBM Employee Services Center
Jackson Walker, LLP
Fulbright & Jaworski
Kruger Jewelry
McKinney Ross Architects
Miller Blueprint
Sabre
Safeway, Inc./Randalls
Tequila Mockingbird
The Soup Peddler
Special Sales
Sweet Benefit Solutions
Threadgill's
Thunderbird Coffee
Women Partners in Health

Organization

Austin Independent School District
City of Austin
First Unitarian Universalist Church
International Studies Abroad
LCRA Employees' United Charities
Seton Family of Hospitals
Texas All British Car Day
Travis County
United Way Capital Area
WorkForce Solutions - Child Care Service

Individual

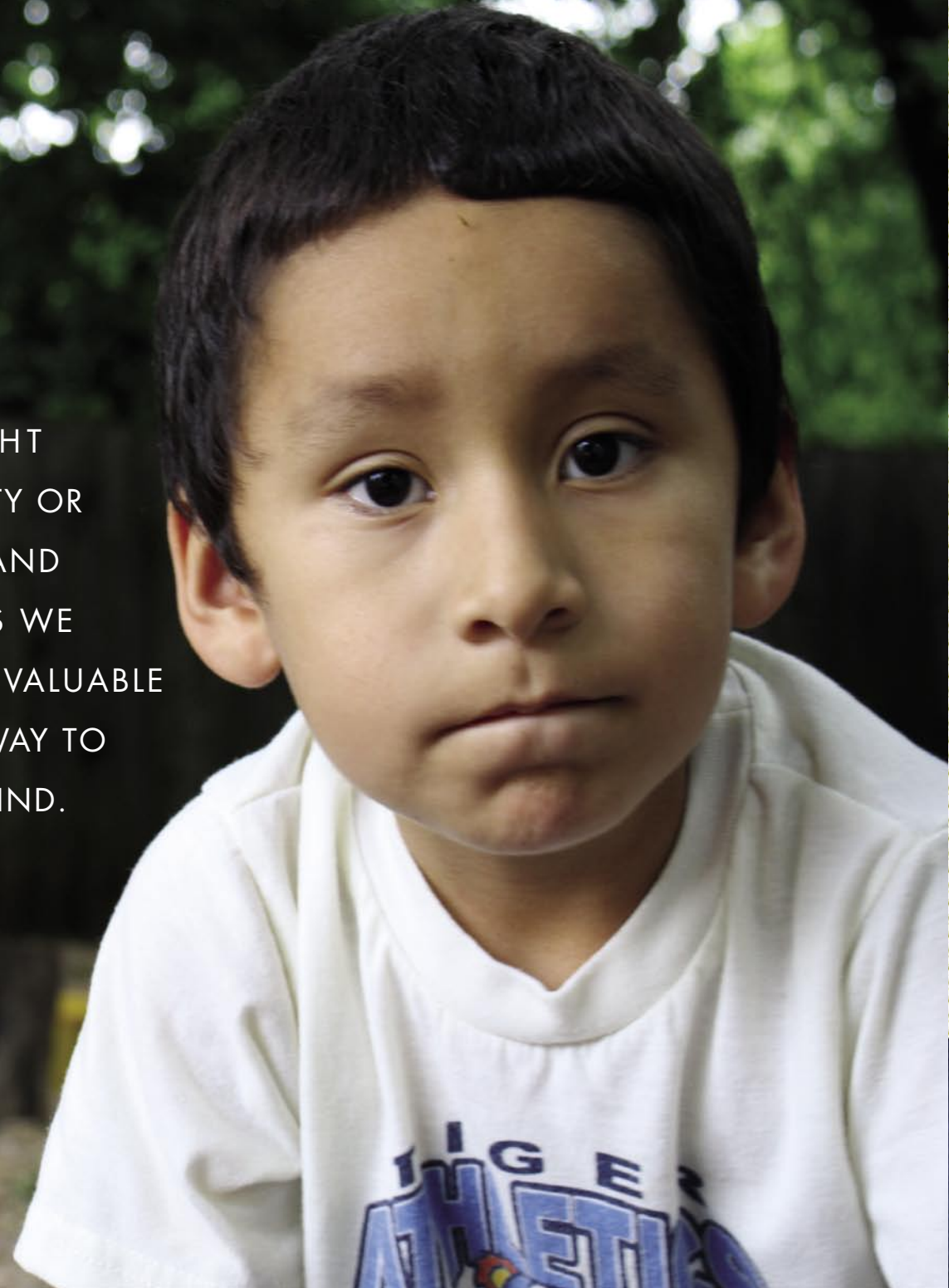
Taylor Acee
Richard and Angela Adams
Chris Allan and Michele King
Arthur J. Amundson
David and Jan Anderson
Mack and Susan Andrews
Anonymous
Marco and Louanne Aponte
Michael and Amanda Apperley
Lauren Apter
Deanna Avalos
Diane Baker
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Allan Barnes and Shirley Coleman
Ben and Melanie Barnes
Steve Barnes and Judith Craft
Adana Barry
Greg and Lori Bausman
Don and Michele Baylor
Robert Blech and Mary Stewart-Miller
Fred and Michelle Blood
David Borden and Tamara Atkinson
Channing Burke
Kane and Kate Burns
Jerrold and Barbara Buttrey
Nina Butts
Jay and Torie Camp
Jimmie Carter
Mildred Carter
Shawn and Suggie Casey
Joseph Cathey
Nira Changwatchai
Hayden Childs and Emily Barrett
Tony Choban
Michael Churgin
Jim and Nancy Clark
Malcolm and Deborah Cleveland
Fran Coletti
Syd B. Comeaux
Tim and Debbie Cooper
Stan and Mary Coppinger
Robert Cullick and Suzy Seriff
Rowena Dasch
Paul and Robbie Davis
Chris Dietche and Ana Mejia-Dietche
Char Dison
Theodore Dix and Mary Ellen Isaacs
The Honorable Lloyd and Libby Doggett
Susan Smith Dorsey

Susan Eason
Brian East
Jean Elsner
Larry Elsner and Benita Rubinett
Aimee Estep
Steve Fenoglio
Charlotte Flynn
Melissa Fodo and Jana Griffin
Frank and Sharon Foerster
Larry Fogel
Tricia Forbes
Cindy Foster
Richard and Susan Frapart
Joe and Sybil Friedman
Keith Friedman and Ruth Siegel
Ada Belle Fudell
Ponch Garcia and Lydia Puente
Bill Gardner and Paul Warnke
Mark and Emma Garrett
Andrew Gates and Jennifer Walker
Gates
Steve and Lora Ann Gerson
Ramin and Dona Ghadimi
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Dwayne and Dawn Goetzel
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Goodner
Mary Ellen Graf
Rhonda Greene
Cuatro and Alicia Groos
Jett Hanna and Ann Denkler
James and Katherine Harte
Aarne and Mickey Hartikka
Layne Hatfield
Ross Henderson and Nichole Bunker-
Henderson
Staci Hubbard and Ann Jinkins
Adrian & Ruth Jasso
Arun John and Erica Moreno
James and Mary Kahle
Robin Kaminsky
Kirk and Lisa Killough
Chris King and Cody Brady
Marvin and Sharon King
Stephen and Mary Knight
Venkat & Vidya Kolagunta
David Lancaster and Julie Kniseley
David and Deborah Latimer
Beverly D. Levy
Mark and Tara Levy
Rick Levy and Lynn Rubinett
Robert and Helen Lightfoot

Bob and Kathy Lindauer
Mike Marshall
Scott Matthews
Michael McCullough and Carol
Pazera
Scott McIntosh and Laura Martinez
Karen McKenzie
Daniel and Katherine McMahon
Will Meredith
Mike and Renee Meskill
Robert Meyerson and Margo Dover
Richard Micheletti
Anna Miller
Bob Miller and E.J. Romero
Hillary Miller and Neena Husid
Bonnie Mills
Marilyn Montano
Meg Moore
Roger Moreno, Sr.
Enrique and Elena Mota
David Myren and Sharon Doerre
The Honorable Elliott Naishtat
Nikki Northcutt and Alison Derick-
Northcutt
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Patrick Ousey and Pam Chandler
Tom and Carolyn Palaima
Diane Parker
Juan Parra and Gissela Santa Cruz
Allison Pasternak
Rod Pellenberg
Joe and Janis Pinnelli
Mike Powers and Stacy Leon
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Merrilyn Pruske
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Andy and Karen White
Joel and Kathryn Williams
John Williams and
Michelle Rossomando
Katherine Williams
Mark and Linda Williams
Wally Williams
Marc and Suzanne Winkelman
Pete and Tomi Winstead
Scott and Linda Witt
Aloysius and Amy Wong Mok
Marc and Phyllis Worob
Naomi Worob
Jane Wray and Amanda Grayson
Brooks and Edythe Wright
Steve and John Wright
Ronald Wyllis and
Martha Richardson
Emily Yeager and Butch Dye
Stephen Yelenosky and Jill McRae
Al York and Sharon Fleming

I HAVE NEVER THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT HIS SAFETY OR THE CALIBER OF CARE AND INSTRUCTION. THE SERVICES WE HAVE RECEIVED HERE ARE INVALUABLE TO ME....THERE IS JUST NO WAY TO PUT A PRICE ON PEACE OF MIND.



Audited as of December 31, 2009 by Gindler, Chappell, Morrison & Co., P.C.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

Cash	43,892
Receivables	7985
Cash and investments restricted	229,422
Fixed Assets (net of depreciation)	135,537
Other Assets	27,559
Total Assets.....	444,395

Liabilities and Net Assets

Total Liabilities	27,552
Total Net Assets	416,843
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	444,395

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues

Tuition, including City/County subsidies	902,980
United Way allocation	58,000
Foundation grants.....	152,333
Contributions	37,672
Contributions-in-kind	4,000
Fundraising events	45,239
Distribution of bingo income.....	145,500
Change in bingo equity	(14,157)
Investment Income	8880
Total Revenues	1,340,447

Expenses

Program Services	1,314,091
Management and General	54,751
Fundraising	66,350
Total Expenses	1,435,192
Change in Net Assets (decrease)	(94,745)*

*Some grant funds received in 2008 were expensed in 2009. 2008 showed an increase in net assets of \$148,830.



THE OPEN DOOR IS THE PERFECT BLEND OF PLAY, ACADEMIC, AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. I LOVE THE FIELD TRIPS MY SON GOES ON, THE VARIETY OF ADULTS HE INTERACTS WITH, AND THE KIDS HE HAS MADE FRIENDS WITH.

Open Door

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2009-2010

Jennifer Walker Gate

Chair, 2010/Vice Chair, 2009
Attorney

Mark Levy

Secretary, 2010/Chair, 2009
Office of the Attorney General
& Open Door parent

Scott Lipton

Vice Chair, 2010/
Secretary, 2009
A.I.S.D. & Open Door parent

Chris Cusack

Treasurer, 2010
Co-owner, Thunderbird Coffee

Michael Apperley, CPA*

Treasurer, 2009
Office of the State Auditor &
Open Door parent

Joseph Cathey

Attorney

Alicia Morris Groos

Attorney, Fulbright & Jaworski

George Luc

HomeAway, Inc.

Will Meredith

MFI Real Estate

Meg Moore

Austin Strategic Planning

Gerald Murphy

Arc of the Capital Area

Allison Pasternak

HNTB Corporation

Lydia Puente

State of Texas

Donna Samuelson

Retired, Early Childhood
Intervention

Devon Smith

Camelot Roofing
& Open Door parent

Alan Vassberg

SicolaMartin

Larry Elsner

Ex Officio
Executive Director
Open Door Preschools

*Retired board member

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AUSTIN, TX 78703
512.477.9632



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512.481.0775

a Partner Agency of



United Way Capital Area

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Design - Ted Roddy / Printing donated

If you would like more information please contact:

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