

FRONT STEPS

NEWS RELEASE

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Eagle Scout Project Donation to be Presented to the ARCH *Zac Clark, Boy Scouts of America member, to donate Benefit Bags for the Homeless*

Austin, TX- On Monday, February 15, Zac Clark, member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 4, will present the results of his months-long Eagle Scout Service Project to Front Steps, the non-profit manager of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). This 17 year old junior from Westlake High School has organized a group of volunteers to donate money and items for 250 Benefit Bags for the Homeless, to be distributed at the ARCH. Zac Clark is a member of the Boy Scouts of American Troop 4, Bee Cave District of the Capital Area Council. The Capital Area council oversees Troops and facilities in 15 central Texas Counties.

The Benefit Bags contain 13 common, yet essential items- socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hand-wipes, a construction grade trash bag, hand sanitizer, a bottle of water, sunscreen, Emergen-C vitamin packet, a can of Vienna Sausage, and a comb.

A group of 15 volunteers will be meeting Monday morning at Austin Ridge Church, the organization sponsoring Troop 4, to help assemble the bags in order to arrive at the ARCH at 2:00 p.m. There, some of the volunteers will accompany Zac to deliver the bags to Dawn Perkins, Communications & Volunteer Coordinator, for distribution. Those present will be given a tour of the facility "to see what [ARCH] is doing for these men whose lives have been impacted by homelessness." Zac says he "did not realize how many people's lives were affected by this terrible loss until [he] started working on this project."

Zac notes that all of this could not have been completed without the support and donations from many volunteers and local businesses. He received donations of from family and friends, as well as from Lowes, Home Depot, Walgreens, Randall's and the West Rim Bible

Study group. Zac also raised funds by picking up and recycling Christmas Trees at Zilker Park.

The inspiration for this project originated when Zac interviewed homeless individuals and decided he wanted to “help people directly and also do something different than most other Eagle Projects.” He comments on his service by saying that “the character of a man, in part, is how he helps his fellow man and, in this project, I choose to help those who have struggled.”

For his hard work and compassionate dedication to serve Austin’s homeless individuals, Front Steps greatly appreciates Zac Clark and his donation of Benefit Bags for the Homeless as a meaningful contribution for his Eagle Scouts Service Project.

ABOUT FRONT STEPS:

Front Steps is a nonprofit organization that manages the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), the Central Texas Recuperative Care Program, and the Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps Program, as well as transitional and permanent housing programs. Front Steps was founded in 1997 as the Capital Area Homeless Alliance. Its mission is to provide a pathway home through shelter, affordable housing, and community education. More information can be found at <http://www.frontsteps.org>.

ABOUT THE ARCH:

The ARCH, managed by Front Steps, is a day resource center, emergency overnight shelter, and homeless health clinic. The day resource center provides clients access to showers, lockers, laundry facilities, clothing, telephones, mail and messaging services, community referrals, and case management. The ARCH also features ten co-located nonprofit organizations that provide a variety of vital services, including physical and mental health care, legal assistance, and job placement.

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