

# TEXAS CENTRAL BLEEDING DISORDERS

## **The Factor Connection**

*Serving Texans Throughout the Northern Half of the State Affected by a Bleeding Disorder*



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### About This Publication

The **Factor Connection Newsletter** is the official newsletter of the Texas Central Hemophilia Association. Texas Central does not endorse the products or services of its sponsors or advertisers. Any communication is the responsibility of the individual recipient. The recipients are advised to check with their personal physicians as to their own physical status before testing any product or using any information presented.

## President's Message

Summertime, and the living is busy. I am writing this a few days ahead of the men's retreat in Grandview. I'm looking very forward to having a time with fellow blood brothers and dads of patients talking about what they want to see in this community. I'm also just looking forward to 'fellowship' of sitting around.

So much of our conferences/events/etc. are wonderfully presented. I get much of my education on what's new on the healthcare front from sessions, meetings, dinners, and programs, but there is something about that fellowship time at the end of the day that feeds my soul. It varies from laughing with longtime friends, discussing debating events of the day, or simply sitting and listening. I have stayed up until nearly sunrise before having deep conversations or cracking up at inside jokes, and I look forward to it each time.

For me, that's how I know I've found my people. I have never really enjoyed my family reunions because I've never been close to my relatives. I've never been to a high school or college reunion because I don't have much in common with them anymore. But I can tell you there are so many times I come to a conference or retreat and before I'm checked into my room I've hugged a blood brother or I've promised to meet up with someone for a chat. This community is my family, my home. I hope you feel the same. I hope you have found your people among this ragtag bunch of medical misfits. I hope I'm among those people. If not, I owe you a hug and a promise to meet up and swap stories about our shared experiences.

Stay well,

*Ryan Crowe*

## Note From the Executive Director

I feel like I say this in every issue of the newsletter, but I really can't believe we are already into September! I hope the return to school has gone well for all our TexCen students, teachers and school staff. This year has been full of opportunities for education and community. The Spring Education Event and Loteria was at a new venue in March and seemed to be liked by all. The summer was jam-packed with events like the Texas Bleeding Disorders Conference in Austin, the Men's Retreat at Beaumont Ranch, and the Women's Retreat at Rest Yourself River Ranch. The Retreats are a special time to relax, learn a little, and connect with those who can really understand what it is like to live with a bleeding disorder or to care for someone with a bleeding disorder. Hopefully you were able to participate in some of these fun events.

The year might be flying by, but we still have so much yet to do in 2024, like our Unite for Bleeding Disorders Walk on November 2nd. We are super excited about our new venue at Grapevine Lake! If you have not found a way to participate in the walk yet, please be sure to check out the information in this newsletter or reach out to Shanna Garcia at shanna@texcen.org or Emelia Miniscalco at emelia@texcen.org.

I hope to see all of you soon,

*Julie Jones*



## MEN'S RETREAT

Thank you for joining us!  
July 26 - 28

Nerf guns. Poker games. Evening campfires out by the fishing pond. The 2024 men's retreat was in a lot of ways a retreat to childhood for many of the assembled group. For the third year we'd gathered with our friends at Lone Star Bleeding Disorders to host the Texas Bleeding Disorders men's retreat. The feedback we've received over time is that the guys wanted a more 'camplike' atmosphere, not unlike their days at Camp Ailihpomeh. So, that's what we tried to do this year at the Beaumont Ranch outside of Grandview. During the day we heard from a number of speakers on topics pertinent to the bleeding disorders community, but the best conversations were the ones spent around the table when there was nothing else programmed. It was truly a retreat, and we are all a little better for it. We hope to see you at our event next year.



## WOMEN'S RETREAT

Thank you for joining us!  
August 23 - 25

Yoga. Crafts. Evenings spent outside catching up and hanging out. This year's women's retreat took place at the Rest Yourself River Ranch in Mineral Wells, TX. Ice breakers the first night helped set the tone for open communication and fun activities. During sessions, attendees gathered for topics like advocacy, family connectivity, and healthy living. With 32 women attending, there was lots of thoughtful and inspiring conversations to be had, as well as outrageous and silly stories to tell. At the end of the trip, it was the time spent together that solidified the importance of these retreats. The community found here and the time away helped center and rejuvenate them. Nothing else beats spending time with your community.





# SPRING EDUCATION EVENT/LOTERIA

Thank you for joining us!



In March, our community had a blast eating yummy food, and playing Loteria, and Game of Chance to win fun prizes! We couldn't have had such a fun night without our beloved community members helping us make the night the best it can be. We are able to support our community through community events, emergency assistance, advocacy, and other resources provided to our community members. Because of your support, we had a super memorable night of games, dancing, and togetherness that you can see in the following photos. Thank you for all you do so that we can do more for the community!

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## Remembering Billy Bumgardner

Longtime community member Billy Bumgardner passed away on July 10, 2024 in Burseson, Texas at the age of 71. Billy was a dedicated supporter of Texas Central and the National Bleeding Disorders Foundation for most of his life. As one of the oldest Hemophiliacs in Texas, he was always offering his advice and experience to younger hemophiliacs and their families. He was always making the people around him laugh at a silly joke or two, or sharing a story from "the good ole days". Billy never let having Hemophilia stop him from enjoying life. He was active in martial arts and tennis, and could often be found at the gym. He spent many years working in the Oil Fields around West Texas. He later received his degree from Texas State Technical College. Later in life, he spent about 10 years as a truck driver traveling and seeing the country. Billy was a lover of all things Sci-Fi, and loved fixing things from cars to electronics.

Billy is survived by his three children: Karla Brown, Kerrie Beevers, and David Bumgardner. He also has six grandchildren, two of whom have Hemophilia, and four great grandchildren, one of which is a symptomatic carrier.



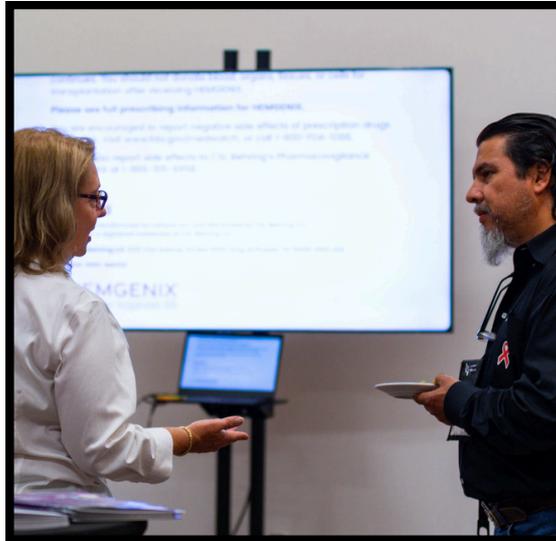
# TBDC

Thank you for joining us!



With our Lone Star counterpart, we hosted our 2024 TBDC in Austin, Texas. From exhibit halls with informational goodies, to an ambulance tour for the kids, we had an incredible 16th year at conference. We had educational break-out sessions, illuminating sponsor and community member speakers, and delicious food catered by the hotel.

There was something for everyone to learn and enjoy. Being with others that can understand what it's like to have a bleeding disorder or have a loved one with a bleeding disorder, gives a unique and invaluable experience to those that attend this conference. Our community is one-of-a-kind and it shows in the support and care we have for one another.



# UNITE WALK 2024

Are you ready?

## Unite for Bleeding Disorders

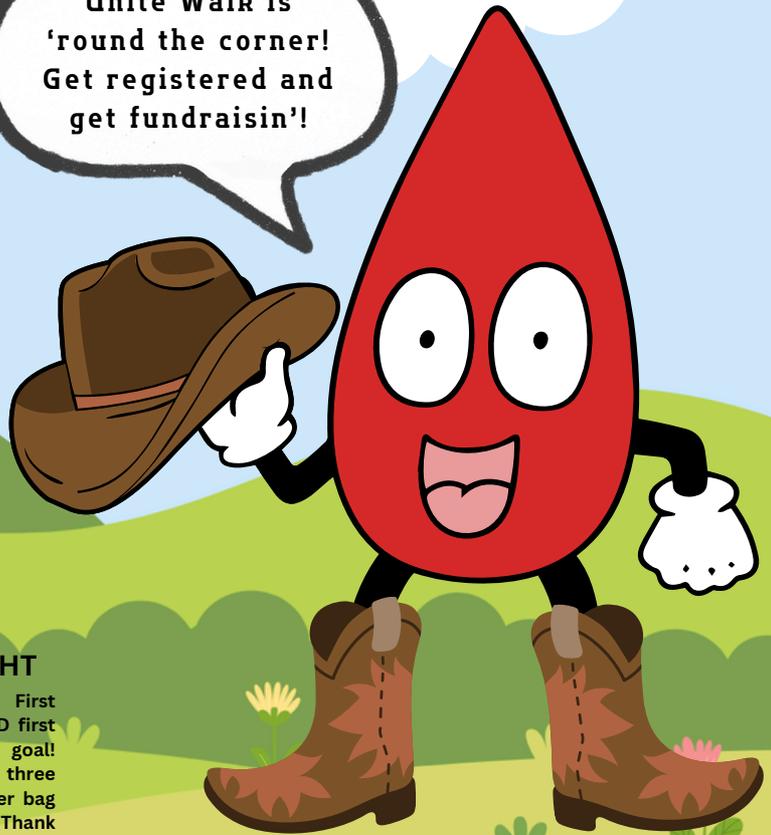
Dust off your walkin' boots and join Wild Walkin' Wyatt at the Unite Walk this year! Join the fun on November 2nd and make a difference! You can make a change reaching out to family, friends, and even co-workers by spreading awareness, sharing your story, and fundraising for the cause. We are a strong community because of your support and your strength to show up for each other. Support your bleeding disorders community in whatever way you can!

Unite Walk is 'round the corner! Get registered and get fundraisin'!



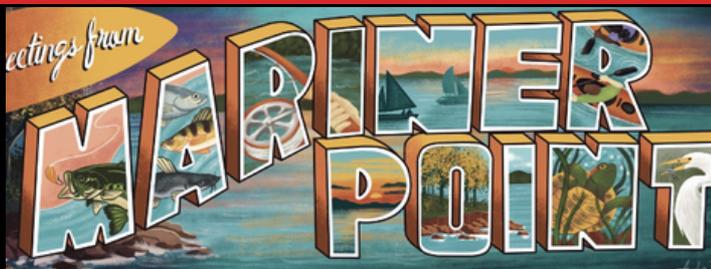
### TEAM SPOTLIGHT

First team to register! First team to raise \$500! AND first team to hit their team goal! Because they hit these three goals, they won the roller bag prize! Way to go, HTF8! Thank you for your hard work and for supporting your community!



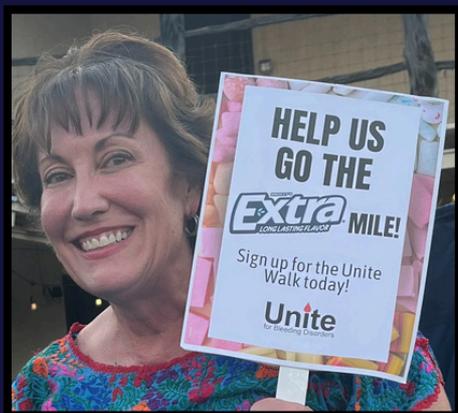
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!





# NEW LOCATION FOR 2024!

Mariner Point Park | 1 Sunfish Dr, Grapevine, TX 76051



Hey Y'all! It's that time of year when the awesome TexCen community comes together to raise money and GIVE BACK! Remember the dinners, education days, retreats, and other events hosted by TexCen over the past year that have been provided for free? We want to be able to continue to do that next year to help even more families across North Texas! Applications for emergency assistance grants and travel grants for medical appointments from our HTC partners continue to increase and we want to be able to respond to these urgent requests.

Use the QR code to donate, create a team, and register for the 2024 UNITE for Bleeding Disorders Walk benefitting the TexCen community! Our goal is \$60,000, and we want to hit it again this year. With your help, we know we can make this happen! And, Emelia and I are here to help you every step of the way!

*Shanna Garcia*  
Director of Development and Outreach

### Register and donate!

Make sure ya'll are registered for the Unite Walk! Set a goal to raise and make a personal donation to get started!

### Share yer story!

Tag us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, and share your story! Share what it's like livin' with a bleedin' disorder, or havin' a loved one that's affected. We want to hear yer experience and show others in our community, you are not alone! We're in this together!

### Share on social media!

Share yer link to our donation page or your personal team page on social media! Spreading awareness online about the bleedin' disorders community will spread the word like wildfire!

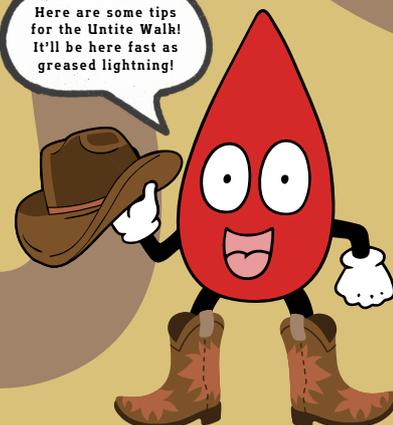
### Gift matchin'!

See if yer company does gift matchin' and make your donation go even further! Visit the Unite Walk's page to see if yer employer does gift matchin'.

### The Walk is for everyone!

The Walk ain't just about walkin'! Join us virtually or come on down and spend time with your community. Do what you can; Not all boots are made for walkin'!

Here are some tips for the Untite Walk! It'll be here fast as greased lightning!





## BD SUMHAC

Bleeding Disorders Substance Use &  
Mental Health Access Coalition

Since its launch in September 2023, the BD SUMHAC State Advocacy Program has brought together teams of advocates from five states (Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, and Texas) to work with state leaders to review and improve access to inpatient behavioral health facilities for people with bleeding disorders (BDs). Our Texas team members are Shanna Garcia, director of Texas Central Bleeding Disorders Development & Outreach; Melissa Compton, executive director of the Lone Star Bleeding Disorders Foundation; and Sabrina Farina, senior social worker at Gulf States Hemophilia and Thrombophilia Center. BD-SUMHAC has been hard at work since then to advocate state by state and on the national level to address this issue.

**For important information and resources on this issue, visit [www.bdsumhac.org](http://www.bdsumhac.org).**

[If you or a loved one have been affected by this issue, or want to get involved in addressing barriers to treatment in Texas, please contact Shanna Garcia at \[shanna@texcen.org\]\(mailto:shanna@texcen.org\).](mailto:shanna@texcen.org)



## Putting Patients First

Specialty Therapeutic Care offers personalized care for patients living with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders, including:

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# KEEP IN TOUCH!

If you do not receive emails from TexCen, send your contact information to [mail@texcen.org](mailto:mail@texcen.org).

For community opportunities, email the executive director at [julie@texcen.org](mailto:julie@texcen.org)

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!



## 2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

### **DFW Community Education Meeting**

Sponsored by CSL Behring

September 26

### **DFW Community Education Meeting**

Sponsored by Genentech

October 08

### **Texas-Louisiana Couple's Retreat**

October 18-20

### **Unite for Bleeding Disorders Walk**

November 02

### **DFW Winter Education Event**

December 07



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## **Texas Central Bleeding Disorders Mission Statement**

Founded in 1965, Texas Central Bleeding Disorders is a community based nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for families affected by inheritable bleeding disorders across North Texas.



Texas Central  
Bleeding Disorders



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