

The Factor Connection

Serving North Texans Affected by a Bleeding Disorder



WINTER 2024-2025 IN THIS ISSUE

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2025 Board of Directors

Jerome Bell
President

Rob Hundza
Board Member

Kenderick Moore
Vice President

Jonathan Thorne
Board Member

Shanna Garcia
Treasurer

Scott Kopenitz
Board Member

Sonya Clements
Secretary

Ashlee Olson-Ellefson
Board Member

Ryan Crowe
Historian

Kerri Bond
Board Member

Vickie Lopez
Board Member

Chapter Staff

Julie Jones
Executive Director

Gina Hundza
Administrative Director

Shanna Garcia
Director of Development and Outreach

Emelia Miniscalco
Communications & Events Coordinator

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About This Publication

The information printed in *The Factor Connection* is provided for general-purpose use. Texas Central does not give medical advice or engage in the practice of medicine and recommends that you consult with your physician or local treatment center before beginning any form of treatment.

President's Farewell Message

This isn't goodbye..

This is my last message to the community as president of TexCen.

That's the second time I have written that sentence in the nearly two decades since I first joined the board. As I sit in my office a few days after literally 'passing the hat' to new board president Jerome Bell, I think about where we've been since my first go-round.

When I took the role in the late 2000s, we didn't have the Affordable Care Act. Fighting for that helped me find my passion for advocacy that continues to this day. When I took the role the first time, gene therapy was still theoretical. We didn't even have extended half-life products. Now look where we are. Coming back into the role post COVID, we were still very unsure what the world would look like and how we as a community would gather. We've been able to jump those hurdles with flying colors thanks to the dynamic duo of Julie and Gina. In my time back we've been successful in convincing Shanna to come back to Texas from Chicago, and we added a fantastic and passionate communicator in Emelia, who has edited this letter and made me sound much smarter than I actually am.

It remains my highest honor to serve this community. While I have at times been called to work closer with our national organizations, I have always been committed to and tried to best represent and advocate for bleeding disorders patients and families in North and West Texas. Now that I'm sliding out of the 'driver's seat' at TexCen, I move into a role that I was born for, or at least lucked into by marriage. I will still be around as the board's Historian, working with Julie and the staff in celebrating TexCen's 60th anniversary. Being married to a professional historian (who herself is a fierce advocate for spouses and partners of people with bleeding disorders) will come in handy in best capturing our history. That means I need each of you to dig deep and find those old photos, those old newspaper clippings, old stickers. Anything that you have that has a connection to your bleeding disorder is an important piece of our shared history.

In closing, I love each and every one of you. Thank you for letting me serve you.

Ryan Crowe

Note from the Executive Director

Happy New Year!

First, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making 2024 an incredible year for Texas Central. Whether you attended an event, volunteered your time, advocated, or participated in fundraising efforts, your efforts truly made a difference.

As we step into 2025, I am especially excited to celebrate Texas Central's 60 years of serving the North Texas bleeding disorders community. Our dedication to the mission has never been stronger. We are committed to supporting the community through education, advocacy, emergency assistance, and raising awareness efforts.

What excites me most as we celebrate this milestone is the opportunity to honor the heart of our community—each other. For six decades, the personal connections we've built have driven our work at Texas Central. I am constantly inspired by the stories of resilience and strength that come from each of you. It is a consistent reminder that we are always stronger together.

There are many exciting opportunities lined up this year, and I can't wait to see you all soon!

Julie Jones

We are excited to announce the formation of our new board for 2025, a group of distinguished individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise, dedicated to driving our mission forward. Each member brings a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to innovation, leadership, and excellence. As we embark on this new chapter, we look forward to the fresh perspectives and insights our board members will bring, strengthening our ability to achieve our goals and make a meaningful impact in the bleeding disorders community.



Jerome Bell - President

Jerome has severe hemophilia A, as do three of his nephews. He is originally from Little Rock, Arkansas and in the early 90s was a board member for the chapter in Arkansas serving the bleeding disorders community. Jerome received a BA from the University of Arkansas. He retired from the United States Postal Service and now is a volunteer driver for the Fort Worth Department of Veterans Affairs. Jerome has enjoyed reconnecting with the bleeding disorders community of TexCen attending many education events, conferences, and the Men's Retreat. He participated in the Unite for Bleeding Disorders Walk as a team captain last year. Jerome is married to Parthena and has one daughter from a previous marriage. He is eager to serve where needed as a board member.



Kenderick Moore - Vice President

After serving six years on our board, Kenderick is returning this year as our Vice President. His contributions include fundraising, new parents' orientation, and attendance at educational events. Kenderick is employed with Aramark as well as owns his own business: One Eye CCTV Security Camera System. He is married to Brenda Moore. They have three children: Nathan, Joshua, and MaeKenya. Joshua was diagnosed with hemophilia A at the age of one. Kenderick enjoys working with the board to help increase family participation and help in brainstorming ideas.



Shanna Garcia - Treasurer

Shanna Garcia has been an active member in the bleeding disorders community since 2004, when her son was unexpectedly diagnosed with severe hemophilia A at just 8 months old. She has served as a board member for both Bleeding Disorders Alliance Illinois and Texas Central and is deeply committed to supporting and empowering families like her own. Shanna currently serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors and has been Director of Development and Outreach for Texas Central since 2023. Additionally, she is a member of the Bleeding Disorders Substance Use & Mental Health Advocacy Coalition, striving to overcome barriers to residential treatment for those diagnosed with a bleeding disorder. A graduate of Texas Tech University with a B.A. in Geology, Shanna earned her M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and focused on a career in finance and small business development. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, learning new things and playing games.



Sonya Clements - Secretary

Sonya was introduced to the bleeding disorders community through her husband David, who has hemophilia A. They have now been together for 35 years and she continues to learn more about the bleeding disorders community. She and David have two adult sons and one adored granddaughter. Sonya has worked as a paralegal and accounting manager. She also volunteered as treasurer of Mesquite Pee Wee Football Association when her sons were younger. Sonya has worked with the Texas Bleeding Disorders Coalition, participating in both Austin Days and Washington Days. She is dedicated to raising awareness about bleeding disorders through education and advocacy.



Ryan Crowe - Historian

Ryan is an adult with Hemophilia B living in the West Texas community of Floydada, where he serves as the city's Economic Development Director. He has been involved with the TexCen community since 2007, serving as board president on two separate occasions. He is also heavily involved in our advocacy efforts in Washington and Austin. Ryan is dedicated to the bleeding disorders community in all aspects of the mission of TexCen, advocacy, education, and awareness. Ryan is married to Dr. Rebekah Crowe, a historian and college professor, a longtime advocate in the community. They have a 14-year-old son, Wesley, whom you will likely see at events supporting his parents and the TexCen community.



Vickie Lopez - Board Member

Vickie is a returning TexCen board member and excited to continue giving back to the community. As a baby, her son Alex was diagnosed with mild hemophilia A and since then she and her husband, Adrian, have been involved with the chapter. She serves on our Loteria committee, and with her help the event has continued to be a huge success. Together with her husband she co-captains our La Fuerza Latina walk team and really works hard to make that team successful every year. She looks forward to having even more involvement with our Spanish community and in whatever other areas she is needed.



Rob Hundza - Board Member

Rob is returning to the board as an At-Large Board Member, after serving as Vice President for the past eight years. He has contributed significantly through fundraising for the Gala and Walk, and he has attended many chapter events. He also served on the governance committee and brought his business expertise to our discussions. He and his wife, Gina, have been married for 31 years, and are fortunate to have both of their children, Rich (28) and Gabriella (26), living in Dallas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and a Master of Business Administration from Baylor University. Rob was introduced to the Texas Central Bleeding Disorders (TCBD) community by his wife, Gina, a member of the Chapter's staff, and continues to support their activities.



Jonathan Thorne - Board Member

Jonathan is looking forward to giving back to the community he has been a part of for so many years as a man living with severe hemophilia A. He has served on the board of AIDS Services of Dallas (ASD) as well as volunteering for various events supporting ASD. Jonathan is currently a senior at UNT at Dallas, majoring in Human Services Management & Leadership. He looks forward to bringing practical, real-world knowledge of non-profits, the bleeding disorders community and more to the TexCen board.



Scott Kopenitz - Board Member

Scott Kopenitz is a utility designer for a power distribution company. As a father of two sons with severe hemophilia A he has been apart of the bleeding disorder community for the past 7 years. 2025 will be his second year as a member of the TCBD board.



Ashlee Olson-Ellefson - Board Member

Ashlee and her husband, Randy, became actively involved with the TexCen Community in 2022, when their son Grady was diagnosed with severe hemophilia A. She is involved in legislative advocacy, as well as Unite Walk fundraising efforts as team captain of Team Grady the GRVIII. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Central Michigan University and her Juris Doctorate from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking and camping, craft projects, and playing trains with Grady.



Kerri Bond - Board Member

Kerri is a native Texan, born and raised in Austin. She now calls Waco home with her three kids: daughter Adeline (10, mild hemophilia B) and twin sons Edward (8) and Benjamin (8, severe hemophilia B). She works at Baylor University where she is also completing her PhD in Higher Education Studies and Leadership. Her dad, Dan Bond, has been a vocal member of the community and has led by example, and she is excited to carry on his legacy of relentless advocacy for our community. She is a wannabe runner and triathlete in her "free time" and has several road races on the calendar this year.

2024 UNITE FOR BLEEDING DISORDERS WALK



2024 UNITE FOR BLEEDING DISORDERS WALK

Thank you for joining us!

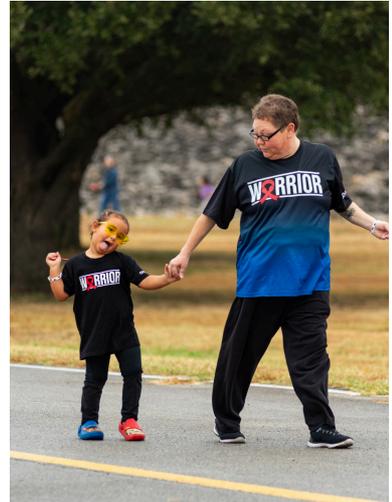
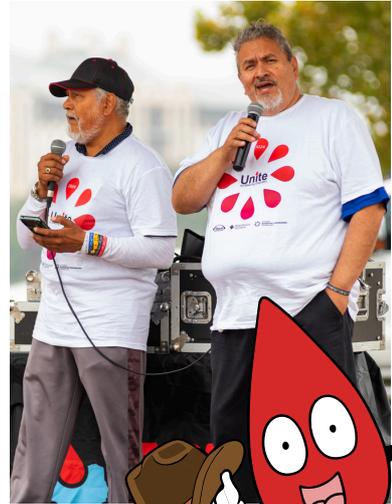
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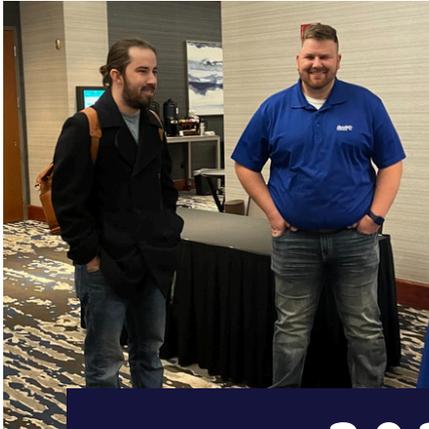


Many thanks to everyone that joined the fun at this year's Unite for Bleeding Disorders Walk at Mariner Point Park! We especially appreciate our Team Captains, Factor Club members, volunteers, and Sponsors! The annual Unite Walk raises public awareness, strengthens and builds connections in our community, and provides funds for those that need it most. Mark your calendars now for November 8th, 2025 for next year's Unite Walk!



2024 UNITE FOR BLEEDING DISORDERS WALK





2024 DFW WINTER EDUCATION EVENT

Thank you for joining us!



Thank you to everyone that joined us December 7th for our annual Winter Education Event this year! We heard from our Texcen staff about our community's upcoming events, and elected our new board while enjoying a yummy lunch and each other's company. After a productive and fun time together, we were able to enjoy tickets to ICE! at the Gaylord Texas! Thank you, community members and TexCen staff, for your support and for making this a wonderful event!

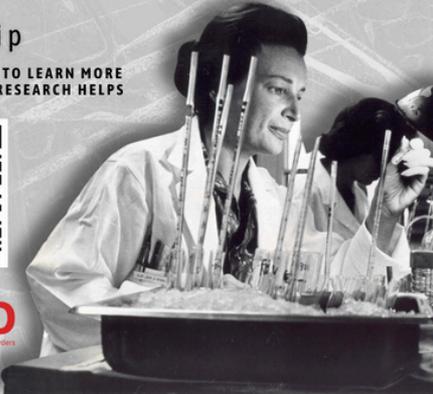


SEARCH FOR ONE GOAL
TEXCEN CHAPTER SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE

JUDITH GRAHAM POOL

Postdoctoral
Research
Fellowship

USE THIS QR CODE TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT HOW THIS RESEARCH HELPS
OUR COMMUNITY:



SAVE THE DATE
**Spring Education
Event & Loteria**

08 March 2025
Venue Forty|50
4050 Belt Line Rd,
Addison, TX 75001

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON FEBRUARY 3RD 2025!



**TEXAS
BLEEDING
DISORDERS
CONFERENCE**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

JUNE 20TH-22ND 2025
REGISTRATION OPENS IN MARCH!



**2025 FALL FAMILY CHAPTER EDUCATION
EVENT & 60TH ANNIVERSARY**

SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2025

SEND US YOUR TCBD MEMORIES!
PHOTOS, VIDEOS, AND MORE!

Sixty Years



INTRODUCING MEN'S AND WOMEN'S MINI RETREATS!

New Community Building Events



Texas Central is adding mini retreats in addition to our statewide retreats! Save the dates and join us for our new one-day retreat events! Similar to our Education Events, they will be a day of connection, good food, and invaluable education. Enjoy time with your blood brothers and sisters, just like at Men's and Women's Retreats!

SAVE THE DATE
TCBD'S MEN'S MINI RETREAT



MAY | 3RD | 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SAVE THE DATE
TCBD'S WOMEN'S MINI RETREAT



OCT | 4TH | 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

S U K K Q F O L O O N H F F L A N N E L
N C S J F I M E P R W L Y K D X W D V D
C A A X S W E A T E R X U S A O N H K S
N S B R V B C G K B Q O S P W J H I W M
Y F R E F Y J Y N Z M S T G L G O A W S
T H I C I C I C L E S T N E V R O N I H
V X S R L M Q V I H N S J O J X B W N M
F Y F L E V D E C E M B E R W H M B T Q
R S Y J E P L C P H T L C D D M N B E J
B H N S A I L M C U F L X T V S A H R E
V G T O V C G A I A G J F H X H Z N R O
R S H G W E K H C T C T W V P O X P K O
Q F A V P F N E X E T O N C O C O A Z M
N H Y W F U L K T K N E L Y P K N T R X
Z F T P N R Y A U R I W N D G E L O P A
F A B Q A W O L K G A L Z S Z Y Z B K V
R D M W V U T Z A E Y K B L I Z Z A R D
O X C A U J K T E A J E K Y V G J W G F
S L E D D I N G L N A M D X Y S K D V B
T T A K X C Y T W F I R E W O O D I C E

Fireplace

December

Flannel

Snowman

Jacket

Cocoa

Frost

Snowflake

Sledding

Icicles

Sweater

Hockey

Scarf

Cold

Blizzard

Firewood

Mittens

Frozen

Sleigh

Winter

Ice





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.

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.



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Suspension for intravenous infusion 1×10^{13} vg/mL

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by signing up at
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*Pfizer PALs are not measured or awarded based on sales performance nor will they ask you to switch products.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

If you do not receive emails from TexCen, send your contact information to mail@texcen.org.

For community opportunities, email the executive director at julie@texcen.org

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!



2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

Austin Days

February 24-25

Washington Days

March 6-8

Spring Education & Loteria

March 8

Texas Women's Retreat

April 4-6

TCBD's Men's Mini Retreat

May 3

Texas Bleeding Disorders Conference

June 20-22

Fall Education Event & 60th Anniversary Celebration

September 6

Texas Men's Retreat

September 19-21

TCBD's Women's Mini Retreat

October 4

UNITE for Bleeding Disorders Walk

November 8

Winter Education Event & Annual Meeting

December 13

Watch for more information for Women's Mini Retreat, Men's Mini Retreat and other special events.

ADVATE
[Antihemophilic Factor
(Recombinant)]

ADYNOVATE
[Antihemophilic Factor
(Recombinant), PEGylated]

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WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.

Sunday 12:04 pm

Picnicking at the park
with his wife and pup

David, living with
von Willebrand disease

Not an actual patient

Let's make today brilliant.

Takeda is here to support you throughout your journey and help you embrace life's possibilities. Our focus on factor treatments and educational programs, and our dedication to the bleeding disorders community, remain unchanged. And our commitment to adult patients with von Willebrand disease is stronger than ever.

bleedingdisorders.com





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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



@TexCenBD



@texcenbleedingdisorders