

Season of Giving recipients share impacts in Port Arthur and beyond

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By **Mary Meaux** (<https://www.panews.com/author/mary-meaux/>)



Lance Bradley, left, Heather Burton, Port Neches Police Chief Cheri Griffith and Debbie Perkins with United Board of Missions attend the Season of Giving award banquet. (Mary Meaux/The News)

There are a lot of happy tears shed by parents and volunteers when Share A Toy season comes around at United Board of Missions.

“Happy tears,” Director Debbie Perkins said. “Happy tears on the volunteers’ faces and happy tears for the recipients. It’s amazing. It’s bringing so much joy to our community.”

United Board of Missions is one of 41 local nonprofits receiving a grant through the Port Arthur LNG Season of Giving, which is run in partnership with Bechtel and *Port Arthur Newsmedia*.

The special event was held at Gates Memorial Library on the Lamar State College Port Arthur campus.

Perkins explained the need is great. Last year they assisted 610 children, and this year that number increased to 750. The demand is high, and the grant will give joy to so many, she said.

Dr. Levy Barnes with Bethel Temple is using the grant received Thursday to purchase toys for his annual giveaway. Barnes said every year his team purchases toys for 700 to 1,000 children from low income households. But the organization prefers to buy toys that are high quality, such as bikes, hoverboards and, even, drones.

The intent is to help families struggling during the holidays or just struggling, he said.

The 10th Annual Christmas with Dr. Levy is planned in December. The most rewarding part, he said, is seeing the children with their toys.



<https://www.panews.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/35/2023/11/Season-3-web.jpg>

Sheri and Dr. Levy Barnes pose for a photo together. They represent Bethel Temple, which received a grant toward the purchase of toys for children. (Mary Meaux/The News)

There have been families who have had their electricity turned off or are living in difficult situations.

“The question is what are you going to give. What are you contributing? It’s so easy to take, but when you can give, it’s even more of a blessing,” Barnes said.



<https://www.panews.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/35/2023/11/Season-1-web-1.jpg>

Season of Giving grant recipients Amanda Diaz, left, and Kim Williams with Aaron Child & Family Ministries, and Shari Pulliam, with Texas Family Care Network, mingle before the start of Season of Giving on Thursday night. (Mary Meaux/The News)

Texas Family Care Network is another organization that received a grant during Season of Giving. The organization took over case management of foster care and adoption from the Texas Department of Family Protective Services, and this grant is being used for toys for children in foster care.

As a new, private organization, this is a big task, said Shari Pulliam, director of community engagement.

“It’s absolutely so exciting to be here to be recognized, one, and then to be able to have this extra money to be able to give to our children this Christmas and Christmas gifts,” Pulliam said.

There are 300 children in foster care in Jefferson County, another 200 in Orange County and 90 in Hardin County. Kelly Prasser with Sempra Infrastructure/Port Arthur LNG told the crowded room that PA LNG funded \$72,500 in grants and Bechtel contributed \$27,500 bringing the total to \$100,000.

Lon Smith, Bechtel’s Project manager for PA LNG, said he felt honored to be part of Season of Giving and the company strives to give back in a number of other ways, such as home repairs for seniors and toys for children in need.

Port Arthur News Publisher Stephen Hemelt remembers the first such gathering two years ago with a smaller number of people in attendance. Since then the grant amounts and number of recipients have grown.

“And that’s because of the people in this room who are making a difference in our community,” Hemelt said.

SEE THE LIST — Port Arthur LNG Awards \$100K to nonprofits through Season of Giving

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Team members with Port Arthur LNG and Bechtel join Season of Giving award recipients in celebration of \$100,000 in community grants awarded Thursday night. (Candace Hemelt/The News)

Sempra Infrastructure today announced that Port Arthur LNG has awarded \$100,000 in community grant funding through its Season of Giving Initiative.

The initiative, a partnership with *Port Arthur Newsmedia* and Bechtel, distributes the funds to 41 nonprofit and community-based organizations in Greater Port Arthur.

This infusion of funds helps organizations continue providing crucial support to vulnerable families during the holiday season.

READ MORE — [Season of Giving recipients share impacts in Port Arthur and beyond.](https://www.panews.com/2023/11/09/season-of-giving-recipients-shares-impacts-in-port-arthur-and-beyond/)

(<https://www.panews.com/2023/11/09/season-of-giving-recipients-shares-impacts-in-port-arthur-and-beyond/>)

“We are committed to making a positive impact in our communities,” said Kelly Prasser, director of external affairs at Sempra Infrastructure for the Port Arthur LNG project.

“The Season of Giving Initiative is an effort supporting our value of championing people and we are proud to be working with so many local organizations that are dedicated to improving the overall safety and health of those most in need in our communities.”



<https://www.panews.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/35/2023/11/group2.jpg>

Port Arthur News publisher Stephen Hemelt; Lon Smith, Bechtel's project manager for Port Arthur LNG; and Kelly Prasser, director of external affairs at Sempra Infrastructure for the Port Arthur LNG project. (Candace Hemelt/The News)

Recipients of the Season of Giving grants provide a wide range of services to those in need during the holiday season, including hot meal programs, meal delivery to homebound residents, toy drives, clothing and blanket distribution, bill assistance, as well as wellness and mental health programs.

“As a core value at Bechtel, we are committed to creating a positive legacy in the communities where we work and live,” said Lon Smith, Bechtel’s project manager for Port Arthur LNG.

“This campaign will provide local communities with essential items such as meals, pantry supplies, blankets, minor house repairs for seniors, and toys for children this holiday season. Together with Sempra Infrastructure, Bechtel is proud to support the community as we build this purposeful project.”

Stephen Hemelt, publisher with the Port Arthur News, said the effort’s growth in just more than two years highlights the buy-in from grassroots organizations and the city’s corporate leaders.

“What makes this event special is the hard work and continued impact of dozens of organizations who believe in Port Arthur and, more importantly, the residents who make this a special place to call home,” Hemelt said. “Connecting those entities with the resources needed to improve our community highlights the core mission of Season of Giving.”

The 2023 Season of Giving grant recipients are:

1. Arrow Child & Family Ministries
2. Bethel Temple of Praise Deliverance Center
3. Blue Santa Toy Run for Beaumont
4. Boys' Haven
5. Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas
6. Charlotte's Cupboard
7. Children's Miracle Network
8. Chosen Generation Evangelistic Ministries
9. Community Care-Prayer Outreach
10. Community Retirement Home
11. Dick Dowling Lions Club
12. Dream Center of Southeast Texas
13. Fit Lab Foundation
14. Foster A Friend Foundation
15. Girls' Haven
16. Grace Hub
17. Hope Women's Resource Clinic
18. Janiyah's Love
19. Land Manor
20. Legacy Community Development Corporation
21. Legacy Community Health Services
22. Life Church
23. Linda's Lighthouse
24. Mexican Heritage Society of Port Arthur
25. Nehemiah's Vision
26. New Beginnings Ministries
27. Port Arthur Police Blue Santa
28. Port Arthur Historical Society/Museum of Gulf Coast
29. Port Neches Police Officers Association
30. Rock Outreach Center
31. Sertoma Club
32. Shorkey Education & Rehabilitation Center
33. Sister 2 Sistah
34. Southeast Texas Food Bank
35. St. Paul United Methodist Church
36. Texas Family Care Network
37. Ubi Caritas
38. United Board of Mission
39. Village of Faith Ministries
40. Willie Carter Community Outreach Center
41. YMCA of Southeast Texas

An awards reception honored the organizations receiving a Season of Giving grants Thursday evening at the Gates Memorial Library on the Lamar State College Port Arthur campus

About Sempra Infrastructure

Sempra Infrastructure, headquartered in Houston, is focused on delivering energy for a better world by developing, building and operating, and investing in clean power, energy networks, and LNG and net-zero solutions that are expected to play a crucial role in the energy systems of the future. Through the combined strength of its assets in North America, Sempra Infrastructure is connecting customers across the globe to modern energy infrastructure to source and transport renewables and natural gas, while advancing carbon sequestration and hydrogen. For more information about Sempra Infrastructure, visit [SempraInfrastructure.com](http://www.SempraInfrastructure.com) (<http://www.SempraInfrastructure.com>).

About Port Arthur LNG

Currently under construction, Port Arthur LNG is a natural gas liquefaction and export terminal in Southeast Texas with direct access to the Gulf of Mexico. The project facilities will include two natural gas liquefaction trains with a nameplate capacity of 13 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa); as well as the construction of new natural gas pipelines to deliver natural gas to the terminal. The Port Arthur LNG Phase 1 project is a joint venture between Sempra Infrastructure, ConocoPhillips and KKR.