

Nonprofits join forces in Cove

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COPPERAS COVE — Representatives from several nonprofit organizations answered the call Saturday when Disabled American Veterans Chapter 74 from Gatesville invited them to the Copperas Cove Soup Kitchen to put their heads together for the common good.

Members of the DAV chapter, Cove Soup Kitchen founder Patrick Richardson, Bring Everyone in the Zone, Operation Stand Down-Central Texas, Star Group-Veterans Helping Veterans and the Cove House Homeless Shelter sat down with Cove Councilman Kirby Lack and his wife Rebecca, a retired businesswoman experienced in assisting nonprofits with their finances, to discuss ways the separate organizations could work together in order to help the most residents in need, regardless of whether they were military veterans.

“The reason why I brought you all together is because we’re trying to gather resources to help a veteran or a civilian that needs help,” said Tony Smith, DAV representative. “Whether they are homeless, need a place to eat, need food or the ones who may need help in paying bills or need medical attention. Right now, we’re all spread out in our own organizations, so we want to get everyone together.”

Each of the organizations gave a briefing on what they could or could not do and answered questions from their fellow nonprofits to clear up any misconceptions. While some of the organizations were limited to providing financial aid only to veterans, items they collected throughout the year could be used to shore up nonprofits open to everyone.

Rebecca Lack offered her services in assisting with 501c(3) paperwork, setting up bank accounts and building boards to newer organizations such as the Cove Soup Kitchen.

“I’ll do whatever it takes, because I believe in what they’re doing here at the Soup Kitchen,” she said. “The goals for 2016 is to get the 501c(3) and an advisory board put together, so he’s not having to worry how to get everything done. We can bring business people onto that board that can save a lot of time. I just need 60 people who can commit to \$10 a month to pay his rent, because at this point in time they’ve been footing the bill for the last three years. How they have stayed open is only by the grace of God.”

Coryell County Commissioner Precinct 1 candidate Samuel Thorpe Jr., who filled in for Cove House as a representative and also serves as a peer-to-peer group facilitator with BEITZ, said getting all the nonprofits on the same page was long overdue.

“We can bring veterans and civilians ‘in the zone.’ We have a great community here in Copperas Cove and in Coryell County — we just need to pull our resources,” Thorpe said. “If we can do that, I believe we can do bigger and better things to build our community up. You all do great things — there is too much to name. If we pull together, we can do so much better. As a city, and a county, we can set the standard for the rest of Texas.”

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