

REAGAN PARKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • NEW BRAUNFELS ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Reagan Parks wasn't seeking recognition when she became New Braunfels Independent School District's Education Foundation executive director.

A New Braunfels-native, Parks, 35, said she oversees the day-to-day operations such as fundraising, marketing and community outreach for the Education Foundation to "enhance opportunities for the teachers and students of NBISD."

"As a little girl growing up in New Braunfels, I felt



like I lived in a small Texas town," she said. "Over the past several years we have all seen the population of our small town grow leaps and bounds. What makes New Braunfels special to me is that we still have been able to maintain the

small town feel and atmosphere."

This has also provided many opportunities to give back to the community in different ways, Parks said. And the resume of organizations Parks is involved in shows giving back to the New Braunfels community really is important to her.

As the raffle chairman of the Weihnachtsmarkt Committee, a volunteer for the Sophienburg Museum and Archives Sophie Shop and Wurstfest's Weignachtsmarkt, a

New Braunfels Public Library Foundation Board member, a member of the Comal County Fair Association Livestock Show, a volunteer for Oakwood Church Vacation Bible School and Gay 40s Club and a Veremendi Elementary PTA member and homeroom parent, Parks stays very involved in the community.

"For me, it is important to give back to the community that I was raised in and that raised me," she said. "It is also important to help continue the tradi-

tions, heritage, and events that others have created and kept alive."

Parks said she and her husband, Everett, hope to pass along the love of service to their two sons, Logan, 8, and Riley, 5

"As my parents did for me, it is important for me to teach my children the importance of community and selfless service to others," she said

Parks said her husband's love and support have been a great positive influence on her life, as has the help of her close per-

sonal friend Tara Kohlenberg, executive director of the Sophienburg Museum and Archives.

Upon being selected as a Rising Star, Parks said she is humbled that others have taken notice of her work and she will continue to strive giving back to the community.

"It also charges me with the task of developing others and finding others to become involved in our community as well," she said.

EVAN PARTEE DIRECTOR • BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF COMAL & GRADALUPE

Evan Partee has a full plate with being the "one and only employee for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Comal and Guadalupe counties." From fundraising to volunteer recruitment to board development to budgeting and bookkeeping, Partee does it all. But this large responsibility does not slow her down when it comes to serving and being involved with the New Braunfels community.



Partee, 39, is committed to six volunteer responsibilities from all over the spectrum of service. These includes being the director of the New Braunfels Youth Flag

Football League, a member of the Oak Run Middle School PTA board and an Oakwood Church volunteer, to name a few.

For Partee, it's important to be active in the community because she views it as fulfilling her "responsibility." To live in a great community, Partee said it's "up to everyone to commit to doing our part, large or small."

When asked who was someone who had the greatest influence in her

life, Partee answered with "my family."

From parents who "set an example of serving the community," a sister and brother in law whose "commitment and dedication to the students they serve inspire me to do the same to the young people of our community," her husband who "encourages me, supports me and serves along with me" to her children who "are my reason, my inspiration," Partee has a bounty

of inspiration around her daily.

Being a Rising Star to Partee is, as she described, "an incredible honor." She expressed that "to be recognized for doing the work that I do in our community inspires me to continue, tells me I am on the right track and reminds me that investing in the lives of our youth is the most important investment I (or anyone) can make. They are our future."

Partee has lived in New Braunfels for 15 years with husband Chad and two children Boone, 13, and Kashe, 12. The family has appeared in multiple commercials for New Braunfels.

"It's always fun to get to help highlight our great city and to share the experience with my husband and my kiddos," Partee said.

JEN REYNOLDS CO-FOUNDER & PRESIDENT • PINK WARRIOR ANGELS

Jen Reynolds is a pinnacle example of someone who may have been met with difficulties in life but has not let that stop her from doing all of the things she has set her mind to. Most notably, that is serving her community.

After Reynolds received her cancer diagnosis for the first time in 2013, and going on to beat the disease, Reynolds knew "something had to change." This change translated into the gene-



sis of the nonprofit Pink Warrior Angels where Reynolds is co-founder and president.

The motivation stemming from her personal belief that "no one should have to fight a breast cancer diagnosis alone the

way I did," Reynolds said.

Volunteerism and service were exemplified to Reynolds through her mother, and she suggests this played a part in her own way of serving the community as well.

In her words, she expressed, "I do not think I would be who I am today without my mother. I know it sounds cliché, but I have watched my mom volunteer her time to many different organizations over the past 15 years."

She said the "selfless" part of herself was a learned trait from her mother.

Reynolds said she is someone who works through and makes the best of both the good and the bad times, and suggested that there is a parallel with the New Braunfels community.

She describes New Braunfels as "the perfect example of what a community should be."

She says there is a feeling of honor and being

blessed to be a part of such a community and she is "lucky that I get to be a part of something that sees the best in people."

As for her thoughts on being a Rising Star, Reynolds said, "I don't do what I do for recognition. It was never about that for me. I knew that I had to turn my pain into a purpose."

This goal has paid off immensely for Reynolds, and she describes this achievement as "hum-

bling," and it translates as a representation that "New Braunfels believes in our purpose and our mission."

On a personal level, Reynolds said it "gives a purpose to everything I have and am currently going through."

Reynolds is married with two step-children and is steadily making her way through her "endless" bucket list, as well as indulging her singing and dancing hobbies when there is time.

JERRY SAUCEDA FINANCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL • NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

His star in town continues to rise, but whether people know that won't change the way Jerry Saucedo continues to give back to his beloved New Braunfels.

"Personally, I believe that there is a need to serve and whether you are recognized for it or not doesn't diminish the effort," the New Braunfels native said.

Sauceda is a financial services professional at New York Life Insurance Company here. That means it is his duty, desire and dedication to help individuals, families and business owners plan and



protect their assets. Even in his day-to-day activities, Saucedo helps others.

"Serving people is a passion of mine especially through mission work," Saucedo said. "I have had the opportunity to serve on trips to Costa Rica, Haiti and New York City. I feel very fortunate to have had mentors and

friends pour into my life so this is a way for me to give back."

He also finds other ways to give back.

Sauceda participates in several groups and organizations using his affiliations with them to volunteer for various kinds of work.

He serves as a hospitality lead at Redemption Bible Church, founder and special events coordinator at The NEW Group, welcoming and marketing chair of the Hispanic Business Alliance, member of the New Braunfels Jaycees, member of the Christian Men's Connection,

and bed race fundraising chair for Family Promise of Greater New Braunfels, Saucedo said.

Through it all, Saucedo still said he finds time to kick back and enjoy some down time. In fact, he would much rather throw on a hat, a tee shirt, ripped skinny jeans and some sneakers than sport the usual suit-and-tie look he dons nearly every day.

Also, as many may not know, Saucedo is skilled on the wheels of steel.

"Most people may not know that I have been a DJ for 12 years and had my first public gig at The Watering Hole saloon in

town," Saucedo said. "I love music and dancing so much that prior to becoming an agent with New York Life, I considered DJing full time."

Having lived in New Braunfels his whole life, Saucedo has deep roots here. He enjoys the fact that he doesn't have to go far to see cousins in and around town.

With that comes the added perk of seeing not only his own family but so many others that have generations continuing to grow up in town, Saucedo said.

His parents have had the greatest influence on

his life, Saucedo said. They did that by displaying and instilling in him a worth ethic that has shaped his entire life.

Saucedo said his parents showed him that there is dignity in working while being humble. He serves with that humility every chance he gets.

"I serve because I have been served," Saucedo said. "I have been fortunate enough to be served by mentors, churches, schools, organizations, and countless friends. I believe we were all created to serve one another."