



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

"Commissioner's Corner" (April Edition)



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Fort Bend Women's Center



Fort Bend Women's Center was started in 1980 as a crisis hotline for those living with domestic violence or sexual assault in Fort Bend County. Over the years, while their mission has remained focused on helping these individuals and their children, the programs have grown to meet the community's increasing needs.

Since those small beginnings in 1980, when their crisis hotline provided emergency counseling and referrals, Fort Bend Women's Center has developed to include a residential shelter and an extensive range of services for those affected by domestic and sexual violence. The crisis hotline now runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the year.

The Women's Center has also expanded their services for the children of those affected by domestic violence. By expanding these services, the Women's Center is helping to build stronger families who can go on to build new lives for themselves, free of fear and violence.

Their first resale center was opened in 1989 as a means of providing funds for the growing services the center offered. Today, the Women's Center operates three stores across Fort Bend County. The "PennyWise" stores not only generate much needed income, they also provide residents with emergency clothing, and when they leave the shelter, the essentials for

Fort Bend County Rehabilitation Program



Are you in need of home repair? Fort Bend County Community Development Department administers the Fort Bend County Housing Rehabilitation Program through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This program assists low to moderate income families by allowing them to make much needed repairs to their homes and make sure they are up to specific codes according to the Fort Bend County Local Housing Standards, the Southern Building Code and the Council of American Building Officials One and Two Family Dwelling Code.

The Fort Bend County Community Development Department was created by the Commissioners Court in 1992 to implement the Community Development Block Grant (A program that provides an annual grant to the county to carry out a wide range of community development activities) and other federal housing programs for the county. The Fort Bend County Housing Rehabilitation Program provides financial assistance in the form of a rehabilitation deferred loan. The maximum amount of the deferred loan is \$35,000, or the assessed value of the property, whichever is less. To get more information about the assessed value of your home contact the Fort Bend Central

their new homes.

Recognizing that many domestic violence victims needed temporary help to live independently as they work towards self-sufficiency, transitional housing was introduced. This program, which includes in-home visits from staff members as well as rental and other assistance, has (according to statistics from the Women's Center) reduced the rate of victims returning to their abusers from 65% to 10%.

In 2001, they relocated the residential program to their current state of the art shelter. They were able to increase capacity and add much needed facilities such as an on-site clinic, a learning resource center and improved recreational facilities for the residents' children.

Programs that are offered at the Women's Center include:

- Domestic Violence Program
- Sexual Assault Program
- Non-Residential Program
- Outreach and Education program
- Residential and Emergency Shelter Program

The Fort Bend Women's is proud to have served more than 35,000 women and children. From a single hotline to a full-service agency able to provide counseling, case management, advocacy, learning resources, outreach and so much more to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, the Women's Center has been and still is a beacon of hope for the community!

For more information about the Women's Center, call [281.344.5750](tel:281.344.5750).

Appraisal District.

Any person wishing to apply for housing rehabilitation assistance or looking for information about the process of securing financial assistance should meet the following requirements:

- Low & moderate income families who qualify on the basis of the most current HUD Section 8 Housing Program Income Limits (click here for [Income Limits](#))
- Must be owner or occupants of the property
- Must be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien
- Must exhibit the ability to pay for monthly housing expenses (mortgages, utility bills, etc.)
- Must reside in either unincorporated areas or incorporated areas of these cities in Fort Bend County: Arcola, Beasley, Fairchilds, Fulshear, Kendleton, Meadows Place, Needville, Orchard, Pleak, Richmond, Rosenberg, Simonton, Stafford and Thompsons.

For more information on eligibility requirements and to complete the housing rehab assistance application you can follow the links provided: [Eligibility Requirements Application](#).

The Fort Bend County Community Development Department is located at 301 Jackson Street, Suite 602, Richmond, TX 77469. For more information regarding this and other programs, call 281.341.4410, or visit their website [Community Development Department](#).