



Givingmas News

Changing Lives...One Family at a Time

11th ANNUAL DAY OF GIVINGMAS



Tickets Are Live!

Join us for an unforgettable evening of generosity, live music, and stories that inspire. The 11th Annual Day of Givingmas brings together supporters, sponsors, and friends to celebrate the impact of Givingmas families across North Texas.

 Thursday, December 11, 2025

 6:00-10:00 PM

 Barley House | 5612 SMU Blvd, Dallas, TX



This year's event features Dallas radio icon Mike Rhyner (The Old Grey Wolf) as our keynote speaker and a live performance by

Petty Theft, Dallas' favorite Tom Petty tribute band.

Guests will enjoy a fajita dinner, heartfelt family stories, and both live and silent auctions, all in support of the Givingmas mission.

-  Early Bird Tickets (through Dec 1):
 - \$65 includes entry + 1 drink ticket
 - \$300 VIP Table (limited) includes reserved seating for 4 + 8 drink tickets

 Regular Pricing (after Dec 1): \$75 per ticket

 Raffle Tickets: \$20 each or 7 for \$100

The Day of Givingmas is the best way to experience the heart of our work, and your ticket directly goes to changing lives... one family at a time.

[Tickets](#)

From “Dad the Chef” to “Dad the Hero”



Many of you will remember William, affectionately known as “Dad the Chef,” from our early Givingmas days. Nearly four years ago, he was facing unemployment and uncertainty after losing a job he’d held for seven years. Givingmas

helped connect him with a new opportunity and also advocated on his behalf—ultimately winning his reinstatement at his former job part-time.

But William’s story didn’t stop there. Earlier this year, William was awarded full custody of his daughter. Realizing hospitality hours no longer fit his life as a single parent, he made a bold move—switching careers with help from a Givingmas connection. He joined Barrett Pest Control, and in just six months, he’s:

- Passed two exterminator technician exams
- Earned 65 five-star customer reviews
- Ranked 10th out of 264 exterminators company-wide

William credits Givingmas with helping him see the importance of setting goals and taking ownership of his future. “I never even cared or understood about a credit score before Givingmas,” he shared.

This November, William will represent Givingmas at Dodie’s Gumbo Cook-Off, and we’re excited to welcome him back at the Day of Givingmas on December 11.

Please join us in celebrating William’s incredible journey. His transformation is a testament to the Givingmas mission—and the power of a hand up.



Meet Raven

We’re proud to introduce Raven, the newest member of the Givingmas family. A full-time esthetician student and mom of two, Raven is working hard to rebuild stability after entering transitional housing earlier this year. She supports her family by delivering for DoorDash and donating plasma to make ends meet.

With your support, we helped her secure affordable car insurance—essential for her work—and are now walking alongside her as she works to improve her credit and build toward long-term goals. This month, we also helped Raven and her kids get Halloween-ready with costumes that brought big smiles and even bigger excitement.



A Grateful Shoutout to Lakewood Happy Hour

This month, we want to give a huge thank you to Lakewood Happy Hour (LHH) for selecting Givingmas as their Charity of Record and stepping in as our official Social Sponsor for the 11th Annual Day of Givingmas.

With over 275 members, LHH has shown unwavering support for our mission from the very beginning. Their generosity and spirit have helped us grow—and their belief in our work continues to fuel real change. Thank you, LHH!



Dodie's Gumbo Cook-Off Is Almost Here!

The countdown is on, and we hope to see you there! The First Ever Dodie's Gumbo Cook-Off is heating up to be one of the most flavorful fundraisers of the season, and it all goes down on Sunday, November 9th from 2–6 PM at Dodie's Cajun Diner at The Harbor in Rockwall.

Come out and enjoy an afternoon full of spice, spirit, and community as home cooks and foodies compete for top gumbo honors. For just \$10, guests can purchase a tasting spoon and ballot to sample all the entries and vote for their favorite. There'll be plenty more to enjoy, raffles, t-shirts, and more, with all with proceeds directly supporting Givingmas.

Whether you're there to compete, taste, or cheer on the cooks, this event is the perfect mix of fun and fundraising. Don't miss your chance to be part of this exciting new tradition. Let's stir up something great—together!

[More Information](#)

Upcoming Events

Nov 8, 9:30 AM

For The Love of the Lake:
corner of Lawther and Emerald Isle

Nov 9, 2-6 PM

Dodie's Gumbo Cook-Off:
Benefiting Givingmas
Dodie's Cajun Diner at The Harbor in Rockwall

Nov 20, Dec 18 @ 6:00 PM

Board Meeting:
Wells Fargo Building

Dec 1, 5:30PM

GEDC Christmas Tree Lighting
Casa Linda Plaza

Dec 11, 5:30-10 PM

11th Annual Day of Givingmas:
Barley House

Sponsor Spotlight: RPV Printing

Behind every event sign, program, and printed handout, there's someone making it all possible—and for us, that's RPV Printing. We're incredibly grateful to Rick P. Vatzlavick and his team for providing high-quality printing and in-kind support that helps us bring Givingmas events to life.

From signage to swag, Rick makes sure we always look our best. Thank you, RPV Printing, for being such a dependable part of the Givingmas family!



Thank You To Our Sponsors

