



Givingmas News

Changing Lives...One Family at a Time



Dodie's Gumbo Cook-Off to Benefit Givingmas

Get ready, North Texas—Dodie's Cajun Diner at The Harbor in Rockwall is turning up the heat with its First Ever Gumbo Cook-Off on Sunday, November 9, 2025, from 2–6 p.m. This flavorful community showdown will feature home cooks and foodies competing for bragging rights—and all proceeds from the competition will benefit Givingmas.

For just \$35 to enter in advance (\$40 day of), contestants can stir up their best recipe and compete for not one, but two big wins:

- People's Choice
- Judges' Choice

Both winners will take home cash prizes and plenty of bragging rights.

Guests are invited to come hungry and sample a wide variety of gumbos, purchase a spoon and ballot for \$10 to cast their votes, and cheer on contestants while helping raise funds that directly support families served by Givingmas.

We are deeply grateful to Dodie's Rockwall for selecting Givingmas as the charity partner for this exciting new tradition. Their generosity ensures that every spoonful enjoyed at the Gumbo Cook-Off helps families in our community overcome barriers and build lasting stability.

Learn more or register to compete here:

[Register](#)

Sponsor the 11th Annual Day of Givingmas

December 4th | 6:00 PM |
Historic Winfrey Point



Mike Rhyner, formally from The Ticket, The Old Grey Wolf, the host of Your Dark Companion will be a speaker for this year's event

We're elevating the experience for this year's 11th Annual Day of Givingmas, and we're inviting our community of supporters to be part of something unforgettable. Join us at Historic Winfrey Point for an evening of live music, dinner, prizes, community, and connection—all in support of Givingmas families.

We have limited Experience Sponsorships available, including exclusive opportunities like Band, Dinner, Auction, Bar, and Photo Booth Sponsors. These come with unique perks like logo placement, on-site signage, complimentary tickets, and program ads.

We also welcome Friends of Givingmas sponsors (\$500–\$1,000), who will be recognized in the event program and on our website.

Your support makes this night—and our year-round work—possible.

To reserve your sponsorship, contact Jami at jami@givingmas.org

[Full Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



Family Update

Since February, Crystal has improved her credit score by 100 points, and she recently paid off her last remaining credit card ahead of the schedule she created with Givingmas. Two write-off debts remain, but progress is underway. Mike successfully negotiated a \$500 reduction on her delinquent account, and plans are in motion to have it removed from her credit report.

Crystal also received a work bonus, finalized a strong résumé draft, and recently attended a corporate training that boosted her skills and confidence. Her adult daughters are following her lead, working on their own résumés.

Thanks to your support, Crystal is taking major steps toward long-term stability—and her journey is proof that real change happens when a community shows up.

Stay tuned—next month, we'll be introducing the newest family to join the Givingmas community!

A Word from our Board

Hi, I'm Tabs Evans, and I'm proud to serve on the Givingmas board as the Marketing & Communications Chair. By day (and often late nights too), I run a creative strategy agency that helps small teams tell their stories, reach their audiences, and build lasting impact.

Givingmas represents everything I value: community, generosity, and creating lasting change. I've seen firsthand how small acts of kindness can lead to big transformations, and I'm proud to lend my skills and passion to an organization that lives out that mission every day.

Through my board role, I get to help shape how we tell our story—whether that's through newsletters (like this one), videos, or our new website. My goal is to make sure more people see what Givingmas is doing and feel inspired to join us in making a difference. I'm excited to collaborate with this incredible team and help take Givingmas to the next level. Stay connected—there's so much more to come.

-Tabs Evans

Marketing & Communications Chair



Trip Winner Heads to Mexico

Courtesy of Blue Star Tequila

We're thrilled to share the unforgettable welcoming dinner in Mexico for last year's Blue Star Tequila raffle winners, a highlight of our 10th Annual Day of Givingmas.

Bill Eiffert, our grand prize winner, is seen enjoying the evening alongside Blue Star team members and friends of Givingmas. At the head of the table is Tom Carr, who kicked off the evening with a welcoming toast. It was a celebration of community, craftsmanship, and generosity, everything Givingmas stands for.

And the good news doesn't stop there: Blue Star Tequila was recently awarded a Double Gold Medal at the World Spirits Competition in New York City!

We're so grateful to Tom and the Blue Star team for making this experience possible and for their ongoing support of Givingmas. Cheers to continued partnership, great tequila, and unforgettable memories!

[Blue Star Tequila](#)

Upcoming Events

Switching to
Fall/Winter
hours

Oct 11, 9:30 AM

For The Love of the Lake:

corner of Lawther and Emerald Isle

Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18 @ 6:00 PM

Board Meeting:

Wells Fargo Building

Nov 9, 2-6 PM

Dodie's Gumbo Cook-Off:

Benefiting Givingmas

Dodie's Cajun Diner at The Harbor in Rockwall

Dec 4, 6-10 PM

11th Annual Day of Givingmas:

Historic Winfrey Point

950 E Lawther Dr.

Thank You for Supporting During North Texas Giving Day

We're so grateful to everyone who supported Givingmas during North Texas Giving Day—whether you donated, shared our mission, or simply helped spread the word.

Thanks to you, we not only raised important funding to support families in Dallas, but we also grew our reach and welcomed new supporters into our community.

If you're not already following us, stay connected for more impact stories and updates:

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Thank you for being part of the Givingmas family!

Thank You To Our Sponsors

