

# SEEDS OF STRENGTH

*a circle of women empowering change*

july 2025

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## President's Message



*Pam Carlson*  
*President*  
*2025-26*

***Is it time to check the shelf paper?*** As the young wife of a new Army Second Lieutenant at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in 1979, I had a lot of life lessons ahead of me. We lived next door to "The Colonel" and Mrs. T on post. These two Auburn, Alabama natives had tons of stories and experiences to share. The first sage advice Mrs. T gave me was about kitchen shelf paper. She had lived in many military homes around the world. She said she regularly checked the kitchen shelf paper she had dutifully placed in each new home to determine if it needed to be refreshed or replaced. The irony of the life lesson was she never had to replace the paper because it seemed "The Colonel" would invariably come home to say they were being transferred to a new duty station. I have not installed shelf paper in my kitchen cabinets in many years. But often I think of Mrs. T's advice to check the shelf paper.

Seeds of Strength is a strong, viable, and respected organization. It is our responsibility as leaders, members, and stewards to regularly review the workings of our organization, our membership engagement, and our relationship with our partner non-profits to ensure we remain a professional, welcoming, and valued organization. The 2025-2026 Board of Officers and Directors with the Committee Chairs are committed to this upcoming review. We will also need each member's input and feedback. We are excited to share our actions and updates in the months ahead. Our new year which begins July 1, 2025, will be full of impact and fun.

***Together, We Will Review, Renew and Refresh the Seeds of Strength Organization.*** I call your attention to the articles and calendar items in this newsletter. The Compliance Committee liaisons quickly engaged our seven 2025 grant recipients in preparation for a productive year. August will bring back our much requested "SoS 101" where we spend an afternoon together learning more about the Seeds of Strength organization, the work of the Committees, volunteer opportunities, and membership engagement. The Founders Grant Committee is preparing for the 2025 award. We are starting the new member recruitment Infomixers with a kick-off gathering in August in Santa Rita Ranch.

**July Call to Action: "Join us for an amazing year – invite a friend to our next event!"**



[@seedsofstrength](https://www.facebook.com/seedsofstrength)



[@seedsofstrengthtx](https://www.instagram.com/seedsofstrengthtx)



[seedsofstrength.org](https://seedsofstrength.org)

## 2025 Events Calendar

July

- July 22, Kiwanis Club Presentation - 9:30am, 1220 Cattleman Drive, Lonestar Room at the Retreat

August

- August 5, **InfoMixer**, 4-6pm at 228 Star Rush Trail Georgetown, 78633, Nolina Community - Perry Model Home
- August 14, **SOS 101** - See details below!

September

- **Annual Luncheon**, Date TBD

**renew/join here:** <https://seedsofstrength.org/membership>

### Get Ready for 2025: Seeds of Strength 101. Exciting Opportunities for Seeds of Strength Members!



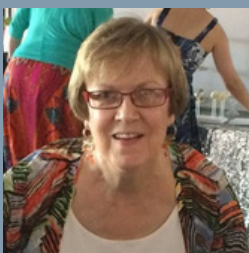
You are invited to an afternoon with fellow Seeds of Strength members to "Refresh" your knowledge about our mission. We'll provide an overview of the 2025 planned initiatives and events, discuss committee purposes and plans, highlight volunteer opportunities, and explore ways you can get personally involved.

**Thursday, August 14, 4-6pm**  
**St. John's Methodist Church Fellowship Hall**  
**311 E. University Ave, Georgetown, TX 78626**

Please register for the event by August 8th. [CLICK HERE](#)

#### Member Spotlight

*Barb Ramsey*



A proud member since 2010, Barb has spent the past 15 years generously giving her time, talents and heart to our mission. She served as Treasurer from 2014–2015 and has been an active part of the Membership Committee from 2019 to 2024. Even while facing and overcoming personal health challenges, Barb has remained a strong, resilient force within SOS. Her warmth, especially toward new members, makes everyone feel welcome and valued. We're so grateful for her continued commitment and the kindness she brings to every room.

# compliance

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## Kicking Off a New Grant Year with Purpose and Partnership

At our Annual Meeting on May 21, 2025, Seeds of Strength proudly awarded grants to seven nonprofit organizations selected by our General Membership. In a heartfelt moment of celebration, Laura Parker and Patty Moore presented ceremonial “cardboard checks” to honor the important work these organizations will carry out in the Georgetown community, in alignment with the goals outlined in their grant applications.

Shortly after the meeting, our dedicated Compliance Team — Sherron Watkins, Nancy Camacho, Karen Sikra, Holly Hogue, Mary Allen, Carol Stuewe, Stephanie Blanck, and Sheryl Gage — swiftly coordinated individual onboarding meetings with each grantee. By mid-June, every organization had met with their assigned liaison, completed the Terms of Grant Agreement, and received their official (non-cardboard!) funding checks.

During these visits, we met with Executive Directors, Board Members, and Development Officers who shared their deep gratitude for the funding — especially in light of growing needs and limited traditional resources. We heard stories of impact, learned about program goals, and were often treated to personal tours of their facilities. These conversations underscored the powerful role Seeds of Strength plays in fueling meaningful change.

With strong partnerships already taking root, we're inspired and energized for the year ahead. Here's to another impactful year of collective giving and community transformation!

Patty Moore, Compliance Chair, 2025-26



**Any Baby Can**



**WCCAC**



**Backpack Buddies**

## 2025 Grant Recipients

any baby can™



Professional support for children through a parent's illness or injury.

*We will, together.*



@seedsofstrength



@seedsofstrengthtx



seedsofstrength.org

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## Founders Grant

Be a partner in recreating the shared excitement and passion when our inaugural Founders Grant Award of \$5,000 was presented to Simple Sparrow Care Farm in December 2024. Hear from Founder Jamie Tanner what this award meant to this Georgetown nonprofit providing trauma-informed educational and therapeutic services to clients and families.

[CLICK TO HEAR FROM JAMIE TANNER](#)

The Founders Grant was established in 2024 to honor the Seeds of Strength Founders and Charter Members who created the mission, vision, core values, and operations of the Seeds of Strength Giving Circle. With a goal of awarding at least one \$5,000 grant each year at the December Holiday Party, funding would come from voluntary donations apart from regular membership contributions.

Amy Bawcom, President 2024-25, generously jump started the 2025 award fund with a gift of \$500 to acknowledge the service and dedication of the 2024-25 Board Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs. Laura Packard, Founders Grant Chair, is preparing for the evaluation and recommendation of this year's candidates.

Don't miss this opportunity to honor our founders and continue our legacy as a generous Women's Giving Circle. Donations may be made in honor or in memory of anyone, or just because you want to donate to give a boost to a deserving applicant.

Learn more about the Founder's Grant and how to donate at:  
<https://seedsofstrength.org/founders-grant/>



*Last Year's Recipient*

*Simple Sparrow  
Care Farm*

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**renew/join here:** <https://seedsofstrength.org/membership>

## Meet Your 2025-26 Leadership Team

### **Board Officers and Directors**

Pam Carlson – President

Jo Annah Potts – President Elect

Barbie Sproull – Secretary

Susan Harmon – Treasurer

Janelle McNeill, Lisa Dyer, Janet Hall Hewlett, Becky Sloan – Directors

Amy Bawcom – Past President

### **Committee Chairs**

Jo Annah Potts - Committee Chair Council & Governance Committee

Nancy Copperman – Grants Committee

Patty Moore – Compliance Committee

Susan Harmon – Finance Committee

Kiersty Lombar – Communications/Technology Committee

Linda Wiseman – Membership Committee

Cindy Harrington – Events Committee

Laura Packard – Founders Grant

Amy Bawcom - Nominating Committee

### **Advisory Council**

Karen Wilson, Chair



\$150,000

2025-26 goal

\$0

who will be our  
first 2025-26  
member? will it  
be YOU?

funds raised this year

\$2,367,500

total given since 2010

**Know of a Member in Need?**

**Need a Name Badge or Seeds of  
Strength T-Shirt?**

*Please let us know at  
[membership@seedsofstrength.org](mailto:membership@seedsofstrength.org)*

## FAQs

**How is my contribution used?** Every member's contribution goes to the grant fund for the coming year plus a \$50 operating fee to offset expenses including postage, web hosting, event costs, and other management expenses. 100% of member donations are tax deductible.

**How do I join a committee?** Please feel free to contact any committee chair directly, or if you do not have her contact information, contact [info@seedsofstrength.org](mailto:info@seedsofstrength.org) or [membership@seedsofstrength.org](mailto:membership@seedsofstrength.org) and you will be put in touch with the appropriate committee chair.

**What is the process for awarding grants?** Nonprofit organizations submit grant proposals to Seeds of Strength at the start of each new grant cycle. Members of the Grants Committee read and evaluate the proposals and submit their findings to the board which determines the finalists. In April, finalists make a brief video which is presented to the membership, members vote, grantees are notified, and awards are presented in May. The number and dollar amount of the annual grants are determined each year by the number of Seeds of Strength members.

