



Dallas CERT, Inc.

c/o Treasurer
3534 Norcross Ln.
Dallas, TX 75229

September 6, 2017

Dear Dallas CERT supporter,

Last month we celebrated our third anniversary as a nonprofit organization! It is with sincere thanks that we acknowledge your donations and support to Dallas CERT, Inc. during this past year.

This has been a momentous year for us and our anniversary also provides a time to pause and thank everyone while also previewing what's to come. And as a note, in past years we called this our "annual letter". Yet this year, it's our "anniversary letter" because we will instead send our annual report and letter early in 2018 once our fiscal year ends. We think this allows us to appropriately celebrate our anniversary while also providing some updates to our progress, including programs for the fall.

To start, some of you may know a little about us or, better yet, understand how we partner with the Dallas CERT program. Let's begin there.

The Dallas CERT program is coordinated and managed by the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management. Cassandra Wallace leads the program by providing oversight, direction, and content. She coordinates training, background checks, communication, and certifications.

Dallas CERT, Inc. (that's us) was formed to assist with fundraising and communication. We help raise awareness about the CERT program and raise funds for materials, supplies, and expenditures which cannot be covered by the city and, as well, to expand coverage in all neighborhoods with supplies. We coordinate our efforts continually with the city and provide help in many aspects of the CERT program.

Our mission is to provide CERT tools, supplies, and information to be utilized in making our community prepared and to adequately respond in the event of an emergency.

We are a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization which

- supports preparedness programs and training
- funds projects, programs, and equipment
- promotes CERT community disaster preparedness
- collaborates and supports Dallas and surrounding cities to prepare our part of Texas

In this year alone we have had several major programs, all due to your generosity in time and donations:

- co-sponsored the first Spring Training Express on May 20-- fulfilling a goal we set over a year ago to provide a training opportunity along with a chance to meet fellow CERTs. Attended by 56 CERTs, it received 4.19 stars (on a 5-star scale). Feedback was overwhelmingly positive on all aspects. We will continue this event and look to expanding it in 2018.



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS



In conjunction with the May 20 event, we were able to secure donations that allowed us to provide breakfast and lunch as well as several gifts for those CERTs attending (t-shirt and CERT car decal). This included our first-ever sponsorship and largest donor from Cindi's New York Deli. We also received donations from a dozen local businesses that were used during the event and as auction items.

- co-sponsored the Dallas Preparedness Fair
- took possession of 2 trailers with a gracious donation from the City of Dallas OEM. We are beginning to stock these with preparedness supplies that can be used by CERTs
- assisted in the design, planning, and running of the January CERT planning meeting
- established a Dallas CERT Store where you can buy preparedness items and supplies. This debuted at Spring Training Express, is online at our website, and we will also have supplies for sale at meetings.
- raised more than \$6000--a 15% increase from last year



Likewise, the Board has been active in a number of operational programs to position the organization for growth. We've established long-term goals, begun the process to apply for grants, and established an annual budget.

Currently we are raising funds for:

- **preparedness trailers—stocked with preparedness supplies. We're also working for long-term storage and insurance for the trailers.**
- **additional, advanced training for CERT members**
- **assistance in equipping and organizing CERTs in our neighborhoods, community organizations, and businesses**

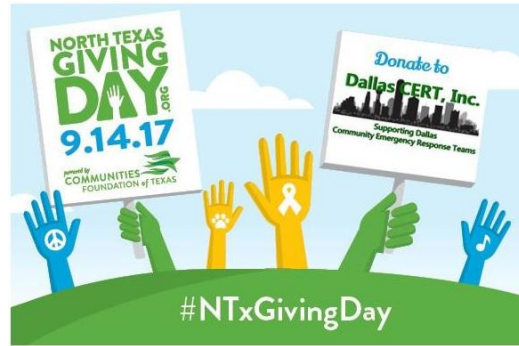
How can you continue to help? There are many ways:

Get Involved. Come join us at the following programs and events:

- North Texas Giving Day (*September 14*)
- Fall Dining Night Out at Half Shells, Snider Plaza (our third year to be invited back!) (*November 7*)

Important Note: Yearly we co-sponsor and participate in Dallas Preparedness Fair and planned to do so again on September 15. However, due to Hurricane Harvey shelter operations, this event has been cancelled.

And we're always looking for people to join our Board and committees. We need help with next Spring's Training event--we begin planning in September, Trailers, and Store to name just a few opportunities to work with us and the CERT program.



If you can help with any of the above, email info@dallascert.org or complete the form on our website-- click on the Contact Us and Volunteer tab.

If you'd like to become a Dallas CERT, go to www.dallascert.com. Classes are scheduled in September and October. If you're outside of Dallas, check with your local city and if they have a program join them. If not, you're welcome to join the classes in Dallas.

Donate. There are many ways you can financially support us. We always accept checks via mail and credit cards on our website. You can also join any of the various giving-programs and select us as the recipient. These are programs which cost you nothing but which companies have established to make donations on your behalf (and your confidentiality is assured; we don't see anything about you in their donations). Currently we participate with Kroger, Tom Thumb, Amazon, and BBVA Compass.

Information on how to donate and how to join a giving-program is on our website-- Click on Support and Donate.

Purchase items from us at a meeting or our online store. A portion of sales goes to us. We'll send notifications of items prior to monthly meetings and you can see items on our website.

There are 2 specific opportunities this fall:

North Texas Giving Day on September 14. For the third year, we will participate. This day is a unique fundraising event where we can receive donations throughout the day online and anything over \$25 receives bonus funds. Last year we received \$1,635 in donations and \$85.50 bonus funds. Help us reach our goal this year of **\$3000!** To do so on September 14, go to <https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/dallas-cert-inc> (or click on this QR code with your smartphone). *And tell everyone you know about this event--you don't have to live in the metroplex.* All you need is a computer and a credit card!



Join us on November 7 for our third Fall Dining Night Out at Half Shells in Snider Plaza. We receive 15% of every check during the day (lunch and dinner, including food and beverage). We also will have information about Dallas CERT throughout the day.

And last year the staff was outfitted in CERT shirts, hardhats, and vests-- it was a big hit. We raised \$642 (doubled from 2015) last year--help us raise more. *Mark your calendar and tell all your friends.*

Keep Informed. Connect with us on Facebook (DallasCERTInc) and Twitter (@DallasCERTInc). Check out our website--www.dallascert.org. If you are a Dallas CERT, make sure you click the "share" box when you enter your information in Volgistics so we will add you to our lists.

We always welcome visitors to our quarterly Board meetings. We announce them on Facebook and Twitter.

Let us end where we began. *We are grateful for your support.* As we celebrate our third anniversary, we look forward to your continued support and participation this coming year.

Regards,

The Board of Directors of Dallas CERT, Inc.

David Cegelski, President and Treasurer

Jason Dollmeyer, Board Member

Keila Haynes, Board Member

Norm Howden, Board Member

Susan Kast, Secretary

Tracy Pounders, Vice President

Cassandra Wallace, Board Member

Dallas CERT, Inc. is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No goods or services were received in exchange for your contribution.

THANK

You!

Your generosity helps us fulfill our mission.



Jonathan Angliss
Eric and Lani Blackall and family
Jim Brooks
Dave Catlett
David Cegelski
Glenn & Delia Clayton
Walter Cummings
Christine Fick
Linda Gulley
Katherine Hall
Norm Howden
Darwin Hutchison
Steve and Sibylle Jacobs
Susan Kast
Jerry Kasten
Lois Lehman
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John Ozmun
Francisco Pataro
Tracy A. Ponders
Alan and Marci Prager
David Rollins
Joe Slepka
Gordon Sorensen
Cassandra Wallace

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Half Shells, Snider Plaza
Home Depot
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Pet Supplies Plus
RPS
Sam's Club
Tom Thumb Community Rewards
Trader Joe's
Walmart

as of September 6, 2017

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