



Texas Ramp Project Newsletter
January 2022

Volunteer Spotlight
Bob Brown: Warehouse Manager, Dallas Region

The seamless operation of a project as big as TRP's Dallas region comes down to excellent overall coordination and efficient warehouse operations. Gary and Linda Stopani see to the coordination. Bob Brown handles the warehouse—a job he has held over 15 years. Success is evident: The Dallas region has reported over 300 ramps in 2021, just as it has for the past five years.

In 2005, Bob's alumni association sponsored a community project to build a ramp with a group called Dallas Ramps. He signed up. He was impressed with how well the Dallas Ramp Project was organized and, being retired, he offered to help on weekdays. He agreed to assist in the warehouse, and within a year he was asked to take over. He said yes.

As warehouse manager, Bob oversees procurement, logistics, pricing, component assembly, storage and inventory. He ensures that inventory is sufficient to meet ramp demand by estimating lumber and hardware needed for each month, ordering materials and receiving shipments. He also coordinates module production and tracks costs.

What he likes most about managing the warehouse is working with talented volunteers who freely give of their time and abilities. His favorite part: going for coffee after cutting lumber with other volunteers. His biggest challenge: dealing with the current surge of prices for lumber and hardware.

Bob grew up in the St. Louis area. He attended Washington University, earning an engineering master's degree in applied math and computer science. He worked briefly as a computer programmer for McDonnell Douglas Automation and then hired on at Southwestern Bell in San Antonio. He spent his career with SBC (now AT&T), retiring in 2000 as a strategic marketing and planning executive. He moved to Dallas in 2003.

When Bob joined Dallas Ramps in 2005, it was a standalone nonprofit, the precursor to the Texas Ramp Project. Dallas Ramps continued as its own entity until 2013, when it was folded into TRP. Since the beginning of the Dallas region in 1985, volunteers have built nearly 5,700 ramps.

Bob and his wife, Mary Ann, have been married for 50 years. They have two daughters and two grandsons in South Carolina. Besides the many hours he spends at the warehouse, Bob volunteers at his church in several capacities.

Bob says managing the warehouse has its rewards. "I am able to fill my time by helping bring freedom to the homebound," he says. "I realize the work in the warehouse isn't very visible, but I know it enables the Texas Ramp Project to build ramps more efficiently."