



## Texas Ramp Project Newsletter Article

June 2021

### Volunteer Spotlight: George Swarner, San Antonio Central Regional Coordinator

Take a 33-year military career plus 12 years as a schoolteacher and what do you get? A no-nonsense, get it done in the best possible way area coordinator like George Swarner. Last year George stepped up as area coordinator of the San Antonio Central region, which is mainly Bexar County, and has been managing it in that mode ever since.

George started building ramps 13 years ago as a member of The Saturday Morning Men of CBC (Community Bible Church). He has been a team leader since inception and has in recent years handled surveys, warehouse operations, recruiting, public relations and client relations. He was a natural to follow long-time coordinator Larry Milton.



George retired from the Army as a sergeant major after 33 years of service. His military occupations include electronics technician, reconnaissance scout, recruiter and retention NCO. During his last 12 years in the service he moved every two years, including stints in Europe. He ended up at Fort Sam Houston and has been in San Antonio since 2001. His second retirement was in 2018 from the Academy of Creative Education. He remains as a member of the Academy's Advisory Corporate Council.

During his high school teaching years, George started a program where once a month he took student volunteers to build a ramp. He has also worked with other organizations and ad hoc groups on ramp building. He believes in teaching new people and groups how and why we do what we do as a way to get lasting and meaningful involvement in TRP.

George was raised in Idaho and received his degree from Regents College in New York. He has been married 41 years, and his wife, Sharon, often builds ramps at his side. The Swarners have three grown children and two grandchildren, ages 19 and 21, both in Seattle. He mentors families in need through his church, Oak Hills Crownridge, and enjoys fishing, reading and handyman work.

"My biggest commitment of time, talents, and pleasure is Texas Ramp Project – San Antonio Central," George says. "Serving the clients gives me purpose, a sense of accomplishment, and humility because I see how well the Lord has treated me. The best part is the joy on the clients' faces."