



Texas Ramp Project Newsletter Article

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Regional Spotlight: Rob Newman, San Angelo Regional Coordinator

For a new guy, Rob Newman learns quickly. He contacted John Laine about 18 months ago, with an interest in becoming a team leader. John told him we really need an area coordinator in San Angelo, and almost before he knew it, he was.

"It was a steep ask," says Rob. "I didn't know the difference between nominal and actual widths of lumber." But everyone in the organization was willing to help him. He even picked up good advice on a tour of the Austin Central warehouse.

Last year Rob's teams built 10 ramps in the San Angelo region—the same number that had been built in the previous three years combined. This year the region has already reported 16 ramps. Plus, Rob has procured a donated warehouse, set up a collaboration with the Galilee Community Development Corporation to purchase ramp materials, and raised over \$3,000 in local funding. He plans to build 45 ramps in 2021.



Rob is a trooper with the Texas Highway Patrol, assigned to San Angelo. He lives in San Angelo with his wife of 17 years, Mindy, and daughter, Aadi, 14 (or, as Rob says, somewhere between 4 and 24, depending on her mood). Rob and his family are very much at home in San Angelo and plan to stay there.

Rob attended Texas Tech and served in the U.S. Navy, including time in Afghanistan. He enjoys camping and barbecuing. He and Mindy are huge fans of New Zealand's All Blacks men's national rugby union team. They hope someday to go to New Zealand to see the team play in person.

What draws Rob to TRP? The ability to make an enduring impact in the lives of others and do so while working with others. "I know when we leave, we are leaving that person with the means to keep their independence," Rob says. "We leave them and their loved ones with the peace of mind knowing they can safely come and go. That's freedom. That's quality of life.

"It is a joy to help give people that. It keeps me coming back. It's what drives us all."