

Impact Award

Sponsored by 1st National Bank of Hughes Springs

The Impact award is given in appreciation of one's community investment and efforts to improve the overall environment of Harrison County as it relates to economic, civic, and cultural well-being of the area.

When commitment meets and then exceeds vision, great things happen.

“When we moved here in September 2022, (we) were struck by the amount of litter and illegal dumping along our roads. As owners of a junk and trash removal company, we felt compelled to act. Initially, we spent time every few weeks cleaning up two nearby roads, but the trash kept reappearing. (We) speculated that perhaps people lacked knowledge, access to trash services, or the financial means to dispose of waste properly. This led tonight's award recipient to propose a bold idea: placing a free dumpster on a country road corner in the Crossroads area.”

The Community Dumpster project was launched in October 2023, though our recipient was uncertain of its success or whether donations would offset the costs that their small business could not sustain. Determination turned an idea into reality. To date, tonight's recipient has hauled over 118 dumpsters and 427,000 pounds of trash, transforming the community one load at a time. Our honoree works tirelessly seven days a week, rearranging trash in each dumpster, separating recyclables, and even compacting it by hand to maximize space.

Sustainability is always at the forefront of this project with the goal of keeping trash out of landfills, promoting recycling, and educating others on better disposal methods. Our nominator writes “The Community Dumpster

now sees over 300 visits a month and has likely helped more than 1,000 people, evolving into something extraordinary. Alongside trash disposal, the community and our business places items like furniture, clothing, lawn equipment, tires, scrap metal—really anything you can think of—by the back fence, free for anyone to take. What began as a simple dumpster has morphed into a beautiful conglomeration of metal and tire recycling, a swap meet, and a lifeline for many, all sustained by community donations.”

Kindness is noted by all through daily interactions “...from from local scrap collectors to neighbors, small business owners, and even those who leave messes behind. He approaches each person with understanding, kind words and assistance. This optimism and empathy drive the project’s success and inspire those around him...most especially Melissa - his wife and business partner.

It is with pleasure that we recognize tonight’s **2025 Impact Award recipient, sponsored by 1st National Bank of Hughes Springs, Heath Kelly, owner and operator of Done With It Hauling and Removal and his project *The Community Dumpster*.**