



## Horns Helping Horns – UT Students Getting a Strong Start



Sophomore Lydia Garcia attends a HHH event.

WITH EACH NEW academic year, another wave of freshmen pours into residence halls at The University of Texas at Austin with clothes, bedding, wall decorations, computers, electronics, and a host of other items to make their new surroundings comfortable and productive. But a small percentage of freshmen, no matter how talented or bright, arrive with little more than a handful of belongings. These students are orphans, independent, or wards of the state and enter the University with little to no family support. They are the focus of **Horns Helping Horns**, a program that gives the neediest of Longhorns a leg up as they begin their college years.

The program helps furnish eligible students' rooms, assists with their tuition and books, and matches them with a faculty or staff mentor to help set the course for academic success and full participation in campus life. Currently there are about 30 participants, including Lydia Garcia, a studio art major. "It's nice to have some help," Garcia says, "and to know people who are involved in things I want to do in the future."

The program welcomes monetary donations, and several alumni have answered the call. When Fredericksburg's Carol Ann Foyt Shepherd, BBA '69, set out to honor her parents with an endowed gift to UT Austin, she chose to benefit Horns Helping Horns because it embodies the giving spirit of Arthur and Virginia Foyt. The *Foyt Family Endowment for Student Affairs*, established in 2009, will provide basic support for undergraduates who need extra help. "My hope is that many wonderful students, through this endowment, are given opportunities they may not have had otherwise," Shepherd says. "I know that my parents would be thrilled."



Carol Ann Foyt Shepherd

Ralph Canada, B.A. '76, of Grapevine, was looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of students when he became acquainted with Horns Helping Horns. "As I learned more about the program," he says, "I felt like it was a place where my contribution would be directly translatable into improving UT and the lives of some of its students." The UT System Board of Regents approved the *W. Ralph Canada, Jr. Endowment for Horns Helping Horns* in 2010. "I've had the opportunity to meet some of the students affected and the program advisers," Canada says. "I have been very impressed."



W. Ralph Canada, Jr.

A third endowment, the *Shawn and Kara Wells Endowment for Horns Helping Horns*, was established in 2011, a gift from Shawn and Kara Wells, BBA '86 and '91, of New York. All three endowments will enable the Horns Helping Horns program to do something that everyone can appreciate: give freshmen with less a better chance at success.