

# Canyon Lake

## Community Profile



by Sue Schubring

“Nebraska is the state where I was born and raised and, while most of my family and many friends still live there, I have come to love the Texas Hill Country and consider it home.” So begins the interview with Eleanor Preston, recipient of the *Community Builder Award* which was presented to Ms. Preston on May 5 by the Canyon Lake Masonic Lodge.

If you live in the Canyon Lake area you may be familiar with the name Eleanor Preston but you probably don’t know the person behind all the titles, reports and speeches. Eleanor was born and raised in Fairbury, Nebraska and is the mother of four boys and one girl and the stepmother of one boy and three girls. This hard working mother, widow and employee received her BS in Business Administration from Peru State College, Peru, Nebraska and while working full time and going to school at night, she earned her Masters in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska with a graduate certification in Gerontology.

She continued her career as a licensed nursing home administrator in Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. Eleanor and her husband, Howard, moved to Texas in 1991 when her husband retired. She did accounting work for a friend’s business until 1993 when she returned to the health care administration field. Eleanor became the Director for an adult day care center in San Antonio, and then a staff accountant and health care consultant for a CPA firm. From this position in 2004, Eleanor became the Executive Director for the Community Resource and Recreation Center of Canyon Lake. As the Executive Director of CRRC, the organization has prospered and grown into the center of community involvement for the Canyon Lake area.

Eleanor is a commissioner with the Canyon Lake ESD2 (EMS Department) and is also the Treasurer. She is active with the Canyon Lake Rotary and serves as their Club Administration Chair. She is a Comal County Representative on the AACOG Advisory Board and is active with the Community Emergency Response Team and Comal County VOAD. She serves on the Comal County FEMA Board and has been a past Canyon Lake Animal Shelter treasurer. Eleanor is a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church.

Eleanor shares her small home in Sattler, built by her twin boys, with the good company of three cats and one dog. She loves music and is an accomplished pianist. You will see her attending nearly all of the Brauntex Theater productions and perhaps you might hear her play at the CRRC North Pole Village. She has an enormous love of animals and believes that animals are often better role models for family and community behavior than people. Aside from a weakness for adopting anything in a ball of fur, she has a problem with her car stopping in front of bookstores and plant nurseries. To keep herself from acquiring any more purring or barking animals, books or plants, she volunteers her spare time at the CRRC Thrift Store on Tuesday nights and Saturdays.

“I don’t miss the Nebraska winters and my family and friends have found Texas to be the perfect vacation spot. I have met so many wonderful people and I have made many new friends in this Canyon Lake area. I am glad I can contribute to this special community and I am honored to be considered a Community Builder.”

*The Community Builder Award is the only award the Masonic Lodge gives to non-Masons, other than to High Schools and this recognition is considered its highest honor. The annual event has been on-going for over ten years. The Masonic Lodge selects a person in the community who contributes personal time and effort to make Canyon Lake a better place to live. To congratulate Eleanor on this achievement, call her at CRRC’s Main Office at 964-2324.*