

Who One Love Longview Is and What We Want to Do

In Texas alone, 42,933 people are experiencing homelessness. In Longview, Texas, One Love Longview founder Amanda Veasy is taking steps to ensure that the homeless population of her community is able to access resources and support without fear or judgement.

One Love Longview is a 501(c)(3) public charity that provides hygiene supplies, meals, case management, job readiness support, and pathways toward housing security for those experiencing homelessness. The organization maintains strong, positive relationships with local partners and a dedicated volunteer base, focusing its efforts on improving the lives of the unhoused population.

One Love has identified a specific and urgent need: protecting individuals who sleep outside, often due to accessibility issues at local shelters. To address this need, One Love proposes distributing Backpack Beds, a durable, waterproof emergency sleeping system that elevates the user off the ground and retains body heat. Each unit folds into a lightweight backpack, providing both weather protection and essential storage. This solution directly aligns with Walmart's commitment to addressing issues specific to the community and provides an effective solution that has proven to be effective in other communities.

Currently, One Love's goal is to obtain 12 Backpack Beds at a total cost of \$1500. These 12 Backpack Beds would be given to those experiencing difficulties accessing overnight shelters or warming centers. In partnership with Walmart's Spark Good Local Grant, One Love Longview would be able to provide a life-saving solution for Longview's most vulnerable residents during severe winter weather.

What One Love Has Done

Amanda Veasy, One Love Longview's founder, has operated the non-profit organization for over five years. During that time, Veasy has consistently expanded both the services offered and the number of clients reached. In 2024 alone, One Love provided over 2,000 meals; secured housing for 32 clients; and held 74 events that provided hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and shelf-stable foods for their clients.

Veasy is backed by a strong network of volunteers who contribute skills in legal advocacy, medical assistance, and accessibility needs. "Amanda inspires all of us," said Carmen Towery, a One Love volunteer with over two years of service. "I've seen how something like helping someone get a legal ID can turn their life around, and Amanda is the one who makes that happen."

Veasy's experience and tangible impact on the Longview community through One Love demonstrate her ability to identify and meet the needs of unhoused individuals. The Bed Backpack project reflects Veasy's ability to recognize areas where those experiencing homelessness may need extra assistance by responding to an important community need. With Walmart's support, Veasy and One Love can offer a life-preserving resource to individuals facing extreme weather conditions.

Furthermore, One Love's dedicated volunteer base underscores the organization's reputation as a trusted support system within the Longview community. This trustworthiness, along with Veasy's leadership, ensures that One Love will be able to successfully implement the Bed Backpack project and make a difference for unhoused individuals facing the upcoming winter season without guaranteed shelter.

How We're Going to Do It

In order to provide the 12 Backpack Beds to those in need, One Love will follow these steps once funding has been secured:

1. Identify those who will be in need of the Beds the most.
 - a. Determine which of One Love's clients are unable to access overnight shelters or warming centers due to location, mobility, or background.
2. Determine the time it will take to order, ship, and prepare the Beds.
3. Provide opportunities to show partnership with Longview local Walmart (Walmart Supercenter #398):
 - a. Use Walmart's logo on One Love's materials (e.g., brochures, signs for in-person fundraising events, etc.).
 - b. Write and post on social media to announce the grant funding and future partnership with Walmart.

These steps will help get the Backpack Beds to those in need before severe weather begins and will further affirm One Love's alignment with Walmart and their partnership.

Thank You for Listening

One Love Longview is prepared to implement the Backpack Bed project immediately upon funding. With Walmart's Spark Good Local Grant support, 12 lives can be directly protected when sleeping outside. This project offers a cost-effective, proven solution to a critical local need. We respectfully request Walmart's partnership in making this life-saving initiative possible.