



June 2021

News For and About Retirees and Former Employees of CITGO.

Tulsa Area Volunteers Helping Kids Learn Through School Desk Project

By Kent Powers

Inspired by a news story in September, 2020, about an individual who was making school desks for kids remotely learning, due to COVID-19, Terry Berg and his pal John Fisher thought we should do the same in Tulsa. With so many kids in the Tulsa area needing a private space at home to concentrate on their studies, this school desk project could be a difference maker. After discussing the idea with me and some of our other Habitat/Tuesday Morning Miracle Worker volunteers, the level of support made it clear we should give it a go. A school desk design was then developed, tailored towards elementary age kids, and five build teams were formed, with the plan of building school desks out of our home workshops.



John Fisher & Terry Berg

PERSONAL PROFILE

Suzy Faulkner

I began working at CITIES SERVICE in 1968 in Tulsa's Oil Center Building at the NW corner of 15th and Main. Some employees were still located in Bartlesville but were slowly moving to Tulsa.

Kurma Lucas hired me, a 21-year old with 1 year of college (OSU/ Central State), to work in the Administrative area of Public and Industrial Relations as an administrative secretary. Later I worked for HR Shepherd in Labor Relations as a secretary. Tommy Richardson and Joe O'Toole were also in the group. My first dictation was a labor agreement between Cities Service and the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union. Times were exciting and busy during labor negotiations.

Later, we moved to the First National Tower, Enterprise Building, and Fourth National Bank Building until the new headquarters building was complete.

I became an executive secretary for Gerald McGrew, Vice President of Public and Industrial Relations. After his retirement, I went to Marketing Administration and then to Marketing Operations as an administrative clerk and eventually a data coordinator.

I began working for Bill Eubanks in Terminal Operations as an information analyst where I was able to shadow a pipeline gauger in Louisiana and visit terminals. Later, while working on IT projects, I visited the Lake Charles Refinery, the Lemont Refinery and the Asphalt Offices back east.

About 1980, an Information Systems opportunity became available with an opening in their FAST Class (Fundamentals of Applied Systems Techniques) and Mr. Eubanks wanted me to attend and then come back to his organization. Information Systems said no; if I took the class, I had to stay with them. So that was the start of my Information Systems career. Jane Reno was one of my first Information Systems bosses.

I took *Intro to Systems* and *Intro to Programming* at TCC to make sure I would like this new path. I did! One thing about information

Continued on page 3.

Continued on page 2.

technology is that it constantly changes. If you enjoy it, it will never get boring. It never did for me.

Sometime around 1980 we had huge layoffs. I made it through 3 layers and finally got my layoff notice. I was almost finished implementing a big system for determining royalty percentage distribution in joint ventures. I taught the class on my last day. I was offered a 9-month position in the group that was finding jobs for laid off employees and accepted a position as a layoff counselor. I stayed until I found a job for myself AT CITGO! Eventually, they bridged our service.

The company eventually split into separate upstream and downstream Companies and I moved to CITGO during that time. One cool thing was my initial assignment at CITGO was to enhance the first program I wrote after Fast Class. It had been running for 10 years with no problems or changes. Programmers like to hear that. I led the IT Help Desk under Jim Wheelless for a while in Tulsa. I moved to another support group managed by Rick Evans and co-led it with Jo Sutter. We supported the light oils billing and other related systems.

Around 2000, I volunteered for the E2000 Project sponsored by Pete Luitweiler. What a project and team!

Next I worked for Gina Coon in Tulsa who managed our portion of what had been the E2000 project. I was a plant data setup specialist.

I moved to Houston with the IT group in 1997. I was the Lead Analyst in Gina Coon's IT group. My sub-group supported Inventory, Bulk Purchase and Sales and Government Reporting. My personal favorite project was automating the RIN (Renewable Fuels/Ethanol) reporting for the Compliance area.

While at CITGO I earned a bachelor's degree at Bartlesville Wesleyan and half a master's degree at St. Gregory's, cut short by my move to Houston.

I retired from CITGO after 45-1/2 years of service on December 31, 2013.

I loved my job. I changed my mind 3 times before I finally retired and moved back to Tulsa from Houston.



Ben and Suzy Faulkner

But, I love being retired too. I was a total workaholic my whole life and I can't believe I am able to enjoy this slower pace so much.

We had moved from downtown Tulsa in 2002 to west of Sand Springs. We found a beautiful little area called Shell Lake Shores and have a small lake at the edge of our back yard. We have three little Brittany bird (and squirrel) hunting dogs that give us lots of love. My husband, Ben, is still practicing law but has moved his office from Tulsa to Sand Springs.

My daughter Samantha and her husband Brian live in San Diego with our first and only grandson, two-year-old Theo. What a joy they are to enhance our lives. My daughter is a Senior Business Analyst for Enterprise Rental Cars and works remotely doing the same thing I did for CITGO! Brian is a third-grade teacher for King-Chavez school. Sammy helps coach soccer at the school as a volunteer.

My son, Jackson, lives and works in Oregon. He works pretty much around the clock tending crops constructing greenhouses and out-buildings.

They are too far away.

We love to travel. Favorites were rafting and camping the upper half of the Grand Canyon and the canoeing and camping along the White Cliffs of

Missouri of Lewis and Clark fame. We swam with schools of silver fish (maybe Amberjacks) in Cabo

Continued on page 3.

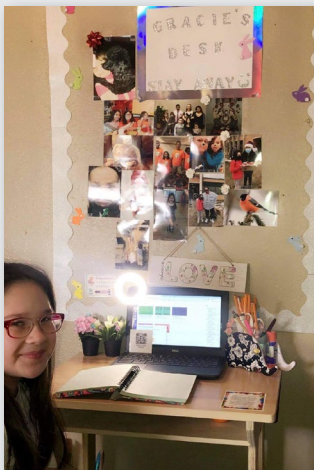
To make the biggest difference, we decided to provide desks free of charge and select candidates, based on their individual stories justifying the need.

Our marketing approach started as a grass roots effort in October, 2020, through word of mouth and personal contacts in the local education system. Then on November 16, we made our first delivery of 7 desks to Hope4kids and we were off and running. Demand continued to increase to the point where it became apparent our budget was going to need additional assistance. With that objective in mind, I began working with Home Depot and Habitat for Humanity to form a partnership to provide additional funding and manpower. Through Home Depot's Grant Application program, the proposal was to have them provide funding to Habitat for Humanity, a 501©3 organization, with the understanding that the money would be earmarked for our school desk project. As an additional condition to the grant, a small group of Home Depot employees at their 91st and S. Delaware location, would volunteer their time to cut our plywood into school desk parts for our use. The merits of the proposal sold itself and Home Depot approved the grant in late December, making the partnership official.

To recognize our new partnership and provide inspiration to the recipients of our school desks, Terry Berg created two stickers that would be placed on each delivered desk. The first sticker was a message of *"Congratulations! A desk just for you! A Gift From Habitat for Humanity, the Tuesday Morning Miracle Workers and Home Depot."* The second sticker conveyed the message *"This Desk Is Yours. We hope your desk will give you a special place to learn new skills, improve your grades, and explore new worlds..."* It also asked the recipient to share a photo with us, which resulted in heartwarming feedback for our project team.



Fast forward to May, 2021, when our school desk project came to an end, after completing the delivery of 59 desks to Hawthorne Elementary. Who would have thought when we started this project back in October, 2020, we would end up delivering 201 school desks to kids remotely learning. It has been a truly gratifying experience and seeing the joy on the faces of the kids with their new desks made our efforts all worthwhile.



[Suzy Faulkner...](#) *Continued from Page 2.*

for the retirement vacation gift from my family.

I kayak on our lake and Ben likes to row a classic rowboat or a canoe. I'm a devoted reader and recumbent bike rider for exercise... it's my happy place.

Something you might not know about me:

I found out I couldn't have kids when I was 28 and divorced. When I met Ben, I knew he was the kind of guy who would want kids. After I told him my situation, he said, "That's OK; we'll adopt!"

I read an article in the newspaper about a lawyer who had potential surrogate mothers and was ready to introduce them to couples trying to adopt. We flew to Detroit, met with the lawyer and reviewed his prospects. We enlisted one to be our surrogate mother.

Through artificial insemination, she conceived our daughter Samantha. It worked because of the unselfish giving nature of our surrogate who wanted to give someone who couldn't have kids the wonderful gift of life. I'll always be grateful to the lovely and brave woman who did this for me. She called when Samantha was born and we flew to Detroit to get her. We flew her home when she was three days old.

My son came from a normal adoption by us from another wonderful woman who knew she wanted to give up her baby boy for adoption to someone who could give him a better life. I'm so grateful to her too. We picked him up from a local hospital when he was three days old.

Thanks for being in the CITGO Alumni Group and say Hi at the next meeting!

CAG Gold Fundraiser Helps Send Kids With Muscular Dystrophy to MDA Summer Camp

The CITGO Alumni Group hosted a golf fundraising event on April 26 at Forest Ridge Golf Club in Broken Arrow to help send kids with muscular dystrophy to MDA Summer Camp. A total of 40 golfers across 10 teams brought their enthusiasm and golf skills to the challenging course, while dealing with wind gusts up to 30 mph. For 4-1/2 hours, we enjoyed the camaraderie, friendly competition and satisfaction of knowing we were going to help cover expenses for Oklahoma kids to attend MDA Summer Camp.

Speaking of competition, the team scores and individual results were as follows:

- **1st Place Team with a low gross score of 65 (won tiebreaker) - Brad Bruere, Bob Ogle, Stan Bugh, Marty Howerton. Prize - 4 tickets to the Kitchenaid Senior PGA**
- **2nd Place Team with a low gross score of 65 - Kent Powers, Bob Parks, Ted Jacobs, Bob Sanborn. Prize - Free round of golf for four at Forest Ridge**
- **Longest Drive - Marty Howerton. Prize - Free golf lesson at Golf Galaxy**
- **Closest to the Pin - Ted Jacobs. Prize - Free golf lesson at Golftec**

Other Team Scores:

Larry Krieg's Team - 66

Pete Luitwieler's Team - 66

Rick Young's Team - 68

JJ Stevak's Team - 70

Sharon Elich's Team - 72

Larry Walter's Team - 73

George Margalski's Team - 74

Julie Brockmeier's Team - 83

Now for the best news of all. Through golf participation and individual donations, our MDA Summer Camp fundraising campaign exceeded expectations by raising \$4,350. It should be noted that when you donate to MDA Summer Camp, you are giving more than money. You are providing these kids with a week of fun and games tailored just for them. It is a life changing experience where anything is possible.

A big thank you goes out to all of you who supported this fundraising event and hope to see you next year.

Save the Date!

CITGO ALUMNI GROUP 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday • December 6th, 2021 • DoubleTree Hotel, Tulsa, OK

The date for this event has moved several times due to the pandemic. We are all hopeful this will be a solid date. More details to come later this year.



CITGO Alumni Group Virtual Spring Membership Meeting

The CAG Spring Meeting was held on April 12, 2021 as a “virtual” Zoom Webinar. Approximately 70 CAG members enjoyed presentations by Carlos Jorda, Chief Executive Officer & President, Edgar Rincon, Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President and John Zuklic, Chief Financial Officer & Vice President Finance. The presentations included highlights of CITGO’s current operating and financial progress in spite of last year’s challenges with the COVID-19



Pandemic, decline in crude values as well as the refineries’ stands against multiple hurricanes and extended periods of freezing temperatures.

Our 2020 CAG President, Brad Bruere extended invitations to the CITGO executives to join us, in person, at any of our events, including our CAG *Twenty Years of Fueling Good* – the 20-Year Celebration we have planned in December, 2021.

2021 CITGO Alumni Group Board

The following individuals were elected to serve on the Board for 2021 during the Virtual Spring Meeting held April 12, 2021.

Larry Krieg	<i>President</i>	Ray Yarroll	<i>Communications</i>
Beth Ezarik	<i>Vice President</i>	Suzy Faulkner	<i>Membership</i>
Julie Brockmeier	<i>Treasurer</i>	David Hynes	<i>Webmaster</i>
Eleanor Rohlman	<i>Secretary</i>	Terry Berg	<i>At-Large</i>
Kent Powers	<i>Community Relations & Activities</i>	Brad Bruere	<i>At-Large</i>
Connie Schlecht	<i>Newsletter Publication</i>	Sharon Elich	<i>At-Large</i>
Ramona Falzone	<i>Event Coordinator</i>	Roger Rowe	<i>At-Large</i>
J J Stevak	<i>Event Coordinator</i>	Carolyn Stewart	<i>At-Large</i>

DUES ARE DUE!! CONTACT JULIE BROCKMEIER. SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS!

We want the CITGO Alumni**CONNECTIONS** to offer information from and about ALL retirees and former employees of CITGO. If you participate in activities with other CITGO Alumni in your area, we want to hear from you so we can share what you're doing with the rest of our membership.

Please send newsletter article contributions for the CITGO Alumni**CONNECTIONS** by E-mail to: Beth Ezarik at bezarik@gmail.com

The CITGO Alumni Group's membership year runs from January 1 through December 31 and dues are paid once during that period. If you haven't paid your \$10.00 membership dues for the calendar year, now is the time to do so. By paying your dues, you will receive email announcements and copies of the CITGO Alumni**CONNECTIONS** newsletters to keep you up to date on CITGO Alumni Group news and events. In addition, you will receive Discounted Member Rates for the Annual Christmas Party or other reservation only special events. Mail your \$10 membership fee (Made payable to the CITGO Alumni Group) to Treasurer:

Julie Brockmeier
4401 S. Quinoa Ave., Broken Arrow, OK 74011
juliebrockmeier56@gmail.com

Please include your E-mail address and/or any mailing address updates with your payment. Membership dues are due by May 1, 2021. THANK YOU.

If you pay your membership dues in cash, please attach your name to the cash so the Treasurer will know who the payment is from.

F.Y.I.

Our CITGO Alumni Group e-mail directory is available on our website at <http://www.citgoalumni.org/>

Simply click the "directory" tab. The password is the current day's date (for example 10122019 ... tomorrow it will be 10132019, etc.). *If you have any questions or corrections, please let us know.*