



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Across this great state, informal caregivers are the backbone of our long-term services and support system, providing countless hours of informal care, often when needed most. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, it is estimated that one in three Americans provide unpaid care for a friend or relative at some point over the course of any given year.

In Texas, there are approximately 1.9 million informal caregivers. Caring for a family member or friend can be time-intensive and a long-term responsibility; on average, children caring for older parents provide nearly 25 hours of care each week. Replacing the services provided by informal caregivers with formal care at home or in a nursing facility would cost billions of dollars each year.

To assist in providing proper care, caregivers need access to a range of information and services, among them, access to information and referral services, benefits counseling and legal services, education and training, respite, and other supplemental services. Authorized under the Older Americans Act, the National Family Caregiver Support Program, administered by local Area Agencies on Aging, provides an array of services and supports to assist informal caregivers in sustaining their roles as long as possible. At the local level, many community-based organizations provide programs that support caregivers, bolstered by the contributions extended through community partnerships and volunteers.

In recognition of the importance of informal caregivers, the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, in conjunction with other national and local organizations, government agencies and concerned citizens, has designated November for an awareness campaign, highlighting the important role of families and communities in ensuring the continued success of in-home informal caregiving.

At this time, therefore, I encourage all Texans to recognize the invaluable contributions of informal caregivers. Their commitment and dedication make a profound difference in the lives of family members and friends, reinforcing the very best of the Lone Star State.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim November 2006,

Family Caregivers Month

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
16th day of October, 2006.


Governor of Texas

