

We are excited to be able to share this information with our fellow home-schoolers! Please pass this along to others within your network. If you learn of an event/activity that would benefit other homeschool families, or if you would like to learn about sponsorship opportunities, [please drop us a line](#). We'd love to hear from you!  
Blessings! Dave & Anne Gebhart, Founders/Directors, HEART of Texas



HEART  
of TEXAS

AUGUST 2021



# Homeschooling HeartBeat

An education resource for homeschool families & support groups in North TX



[Click here](#) to view the Newsletter online

If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletters, they can [subscribe here](#)

Your Sponsorship Here!

## Are You Open for Business?



We are excited that Texas is Re-Open for Business! If your business or organization is interested in reaching the North Texas home-school community, consider being a Sponsor! We would love to help you connect! [Email us](#) to learn more!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### August 2021

[Amon Carter: In the Night Garden \(thru DEC 12\)](#)

#### AUG 1-31

[Dallas Arboretum: August Dollar Days](#)

[Dallas Arboretum: Garden Teas in August](#)

[TX Disc Gardens: Open Wednesdays-Sundays 10-5](#)

#### AUG 13-22

[Dallas Arboretum: Pepper Palooza](#)

#### AUG 17, 24, 31

[FW Nature Center: Flowering Plant Walk](#)

#### AUG 18, 20, 25, 27

[FW Nature Center: Nature Hikes](#)

#### AUG 23, 30

[FW Nature Center: Early Birds](#)

#### AUG 19

[FW Nature Center: Boardwalk Hike](#)

#### AUG 17

[FW Botanic Gardens: Little Sprouts Book & Garden Club Perot \(Dallas Creation Tour\): Submit online form \[f/details\]\(#\)](#)

#### AUG 19

[FW Nature Center: Full Moon Paddle](#)

[Riverbend Nature Center: Feather Fun](#)

#### AUG 19-22

[NTPA: Shakespeare's Hamlet](#)

#### AUG 20

[Dinosaur Valley SP: Fish with a Ranger](#)

#### AUG 20-23

[Flower Mound: Library Book Sale](#)

[Omni at FWMSH: Films Now Showing](#)

#### AUG 20-28

[NTPA: Beauty & the Beast, Jr](#)

#### THRU AUG 21

[HEART Partner Artisan Theater: Sound of Music](#)

#### AUG 21

[Nash Farm \(Family Saturday\): Cotton](#)

[Dinosaur Valley SP: Junior Ranger Academy](#)

[Lake Mineral Wells SP: Cowboy Poetry & Stories](#)

[Tyler SP: Sylvan Saunter](#)

[Tyler SP: Caddo Culture: CCC/Boys in Green](#)

[Tyler SP: Caddo Culture: Wilderness Survival](#)

#### AUG 22

[Dinosaur Valley SP: Atlatl - Spear Throwing](#)

Homeschool  
with  
HEART  
Our HEART is for your success.™



### Join us on our mission to help families

HEART of Texas is the regional homeschool organization serving the home school families and support group leaders of North Texas. We provide education, training, and leadership to encourage families on their journey and guide them to resources that will help them be successful.

As a member of HEART of Texas, your family can attend our events at a discounted rate, take advantage of our wonderful partner discounts (see below), have access to resources & encouragement to homeschool through high school. Your membership also helps us to continue serving the homeschooling community in North Texas!

[Click here](#) to join today!

**AUG 24**

[Dallas Arboretum: Energy Gardens/mini jungle terrarium](#)

**AUG 26**

[FW Nature Center: Kayak Tour](#)

[FW Nature Center: Refuge After Hours](#)

**AUG 26-29**

[NTPA: Seussical Kids](#)

[NTPA: Matilda, Jr](#)

**AUG 28**

[Fall Vaggie Gardening Basics \(NTx Food Bank\)](#)

[Dinosaur Valley SP: Power of the Prairie](#)

[Tyler SP: Zombie Apolcaypse](#)

[Lake Mineral Wells SP: Night Hike](#)

**AUG 29**

[Dinosaur Valley SP: Taylor Site Hike](#)

[Lake Whitney SP: Bird Sleuths of 2 Bridges Trail](#)

**AUG 31**

[Dallas Arboretum: Lizzy Bees: fall floral ideas](#)

**September 2021**

**SEPT**

[Amon Carter: In the Night Garden \(thru DEC 12\)](#)

[Dallas Arboretum: Garden Teas in Sept](#)

[TX Disc Gardens: Open Wednesdays-Sundays 10-5](#)

**SEPT 2-5**

[NTPA: Singin' in the Rain, Jr.](#)

**SEPT 3**

[Nash Farm \(1st Friday\): "Play Party"](#)

[Artisan: Lion, Witch & the Wardrobe \(closes Oct 2\)](#)

**SEPT 3-5**

[DSO: Coco Live in Concert](#)

**SEPT 3-1**

[NTPA: James & the Giant Peach, Jr.](#)

**SEPT 4**

[HEART Partner LLELA: 1st Saturday Nature Walk](#)

[North Dallas Toy Show \(1st Saturdays\)](#)

[Dinosaur Valley SP: Solar System Walk](#)

[Dinosaur Valley SP: Star Party](#)

[Lk Whitney SP: Red, White & Blue Scavenger Hunt Hike](#)

**THRU SEPT 5**

[Dallas Summer Musicals: Wicked](#)

**SEPT 5**

[Lk Whitney SP: Bird Sleuths of 2 Bridges Trail](#)

**THRU SEPT 6**

[Perot: Nature's Art - The Mineral Beauty of China](#)

**SEPT 7**

[FW Botanic Gardens: Homeschool Day: Terrific Trees](#)

**SEPT 11**

[Star Party: Tandy Hills & FW Astronomical Society](#)

[FW Botanic Gardens: Family: Botanical Watercolors](#)

[FW Botanic Gardens: Tea at the Garden](#)

[Nash Farm \(Family Saturday\): Frontier Schoolhouse](#)

**SEPT 12**

[HEART Partner LLELA: Guided Kayak Tour](#)

[Lk Whitney SP: Bird Sleuths of 2 Bridges Trail](#)

**SEPT 14**

[FW Botanic Gardens: Teen Tuesday](#)

**SEPT 16-19**

[DSO: Copland & Brahms](#)

[NTPA: Seussical Kids](#)

**SEPT 17**

[Lake Mineral Wells SP: Two Night TX Outdoor Family](#)

[Cedar Hill SP: 2-Night TX Outdoor Family Event](#)

**SEPT 17-20**

[NTPA: Little Red Riding Hood & the Wolf](#)

**SEPT 18**

[HEART Partner LLELA: A Chance to Hike](#)

[Dallas Arboretum: Autumn at the Arboretum thru OCT 31](#)

**SEPT 22**

[HEART Partner LLELA: Night Hike](#)

**SEPT 23-36**

[NTPA: Into the Woods](#)

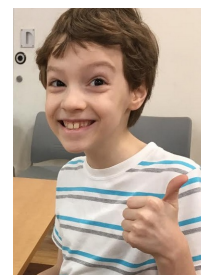
**SEPT 24**

[NTPA: Rodgers & Hammerstein Cinderella \(thru OCT 2\)](#)

[State Fair of Texas \(THRU OCT 17\)](#)

**SEPT 25**

## Homeschooling is Booming in Texas and Nationally



Remember 2020, when COVID-19 resulted in a surge of families interested in homeschooling?

The numbers are surging again.

As the 2021 school year kicks off, data from THSC, HEART of Texas, and other sources indicate that many families are expressing a renewed interest in educating their children at home, spurred in particular by concern over the resurgence of COVID-19.

HEART of Texas experienced a substantial increase in the number of email and phone inquiries received from families searching for information about homeschooling.

THSC recently reported a doubling of its call and email volume in the last week of July as families clamored to prepare for school. THSC's call and email volume rose again the following week to an all-time high of 1232, exceeding their numbers from fall 2020 when COVID-19 school restrictions dominated the news and the US Census Bureau data showed the number of Texas homeschool families nearly tripling from 4.5 to 12.3% by October 2020.

Families expressed a variety of reasons for looking into homeschooling. Anne Gebhart, Executive Director for HEART of Texas stated, "When COVID-19 made virtual classrooms the norm, families found themselves homeschooling by circumstance, like it or not. The feedback we received from families indicated that some were frustrated with online curriculum, and children with special needs were at a greater disadvantage. Some families expressed concern about what their children were learning. Several families, particularly those with full-time jobs, wanted a more flexible schedule than the public school online environment would permit. Others were looking into homeschooling as a temporary option until the schools reopened."

[Recent data](#) from Time4Learning showed that 72.2% of families who began homeschooling during COVID-19 plan to continue homeschooling rather than return to public school. The [Associated Press](#) reported that many families felt that homeschooling was working well for them, even if they had never considered homeschooling as an option before COVID-19.

During 2020, [U.S. Census Bureau data](#) indicates that the largest surge in homeschooling was driven by minority families leaving the public school system. Nationwide, the rate of black families homeschooling rose from 3.3 to 16.1%. Another COVID-19 related surge in homeschooling would likely produce a similar trend.

Tim Lambert, President of THSC, stated, "In 2020 we saw the largest surge in homeschooling in history. It appears that renewed concern about COVID-19 may be about to replicate a similar trend for 2021. We are also seeing thousands of families decide to continue homeschooling because of how well it has worked for their family. Our team is here to welcome these new families into homeschooling and help them with everything they need to be successful."

In North Texas, HEART of Texas is here to serve the families in the region. "We are excited that so many families are choosing this path to educate their children at home," stated Anne Gebhart. "We continue to host Homeschool 101 programs to reach more families interested in homeschooling, and we immediately connect them with the local resources they need for a strong and successful start."



### Is Home Schooling Right For Your Family?

Thinking about homeschooling? Wondering what's involved, how it works, and if it's right for you?

Our FREE "Homeschool 101" classes are designed to teach you the basics of homeschooling, the legal

requirements, how to choose and find curriculum, & the steps to get you off to a successful start!

**Upcoming HOMESCHOOL 101 Classes:**  
**AUGUST 29 & SEPTEMBER 12**  
**8pm via Zoom (must register)**  
**FREE**  
[Click here to Register](#)

#### Help Bring these Classes to Your Area!

If you are a support group leader or veteran home school mom who would like to help offer Homeschool 101 meetings in your area, [contact us!](#) Presentation materials, training, & encouragement provided!

### Announce Your Support Group Meet & Greets in Our Newsletter!



**If your homeschool support group or coop is planning to schedule a Meet & Greet for new homeschoolers, let us help you spread the word via our newsletter. [Email us](#) for details.**



#### Support Group Leader Liaison: MERRI CUE!

We are excited to introduce our Leader Liaison, Merri Cue! Merri will be helping us to stay connected with the support group/resource organizations in North Texas.

Merri is a veteran homeschool mom with many years of leadership experience, including two years as president of Frisco HIS. She and her husband, David, have been married 33 years. They have six children, ages 19 to 32, and three adorable grandchildren.

Although Merri's children have all graduated from their homeschool, she has a heart to stay connected in the homeschool community and to provide support and encouragement to families and leaders.

We know that COVID has caused many disruptions over the past year, and some groups are still having difficulty finding a place to meet. If your group is still active, even if you are not able to meet, [please contact Merri](#) to make sure we have your most current contact information. We will get through this together!

One of the functions of HEART of Texas is to assist our fellow leaders. We put on an annual Leadership Conference, networking events, leader round tables, and leader appreciation events. We can also help with any questions or issues that your board or group may be experiencing, and our speakers bureau is available to speak to your board or group. Please [contact us](#) if we can be of service in any way.

### We're looking for Volunteers/Interns

If you are a current or former home school parent looking for a way to serve the home school community, or a high school or college student looking for service hours and experience for your résumé, we'd love to hear from you!

We have the following volunteer openings on our team:

- **Social Media Coordinator**
- **Area Newsletter Editors**

These volunteer position require 2 to 4 hours a week, from home, using your own computer. Training provided.

To learn more about these or other opportunities, please send a note to Anne Gebhart at [this email](#).

#### A Word from Our Sponsor:

### THSC is Offering \$20 Discount to Our Subscribers

THSC believes raising children is a family's God-given right and calling, and believes in empowering parents to raise and educate the next generation of leaders. THSC encourages families to connect with regional groups like HEART of Texas because we share a common goal of *Keeping Texas Families Free!*

Learn more about what THSC does by [visiting their website](#)

**As a Newsletter Subscriber**, you can SAVE \$20 off your THSC Membership when you join by clicking [this Link](#) No Code Needed!

#### We Love Our Partners!

Take a peek at some of our newest Partners & what they offer our members! [Join HEART of Texas TODAY](#) to begin enjoying these and other exclusive benefits and discounts from our [wide array of Partners](#).

#### [TX Home School Coalition: Save \\$20 off Annual Membership!](#)

**Discount:** Save \$20 on annual THSC membership with [this link](#)

#### [Moreland Music Studio](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** 10% discount on monthly private lesson tuition. 10% discount on orchestra/string ensemble semester tuition.

#### [Dallas Holocaust Museum](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** Parents may receive \$20 individual/educator membership to the museum

#### [College Prep Genius](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** \$5 off any product

#### [The Animation Course](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** \$25 Off Tuition per Student

#### [Dave Ramsey Personal Finance Curriculum](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** High School Curriculum Pack-\$10 off & \$2 off each student text  
Middle School Pack-\$5 off & \$2 off @student text

#### [Team Family Farms](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** \$1 off admission

#### [Find Me a Van](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** \$500 off the purchase price of any vehicle!

#### [Quo Vadis](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** \$5/month off tuition all year (up to 9 months per student per school year) AND Children's Theater Workshop Half-Price Tuition (\$45 value, limit one discount per workshop)

#### [Dallas Zoo](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** \$1 off per participant (max 6) for Family Zoo Adventures Program

#### [Scrambled Language Therapy, LLC](#)

**HEART of Texas Cardholders:** 10% off packages

## HEART of Texas Announces its First Fundraiser: 100 for \$100

As a homeschool family ourselves, there is a special place in our heart to serve other homeschoolers.

We began HEART of Texas in 2005 to assist families with finding homeschool information, support groups, and resources; and to assist support group leaders with serving the families in their groups. We wanted to be a connecting point to link families with what they needed to be successful.

In our 16 years of operation, we have never held a formal fundraiser. With the number of new homeschool families on the rise, we are now asking for your help.

We are looking for 100 people to assist us with a gift of \$100. This will greatly help us continue our efforts to advance homeschooling, assist families, host regional events, and start a Scholarship Fund.

HEART of Texas is a 501c(3), non-profit organization servicing North Texas homeschool families and support group leaders. We are a volunteer-run organization with a volunteer staff and board, and we rely solely on donations and memberships to fund our activities.

We assist new families looking for information about homeschooling, refer families to support groups and other resources, host a variety of regional events, and provide training and support to local support group leaders.

Your gift of \$100 (or any amount) is 100% tax-deductible, appreciated, and will be used wisely.

**To Support HEART of Texas: [Click Here](#)**

**Thank you for partnering with us in our mission to serve the homeschool community of North Texas!**

### Homeschool PE

**HEART of Texas Members (valid card): \$5 Off Class Fee**

### Home School Golf Program at Lantana Golf Club

**HEART of Texas Cardholders: \$5 Off Class Fee**

### Cantaré Texas Performance Choir

**HEART of Texas Cardholders: \$15 Off Annual Fee per child**

**To partner with HEART of Texas or sponsor our newsletter or an event, [drop us a line!](#)**

## Pssst!! Home Schooling Works...Pass it On!!

Are you a veteran home educator looking for a way to encourage the next generation of home schoolers? Consider becoming a part of our HEART Mentor Network!

Mentors provide face-to-face, one-on-one guidance for homeschool parents who have just begun their journey.

[Email us](#) for more details. Please include "Mentor" in the subject line of your email.



# Homeschool with HEART

Our HEART is for your success.™



HEART of Texas is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization serving homeschool families & support groups in North Texas. To learn more about HEART of Texas visit [www.heartoftex.org](http://www.heartoftex.org)

This information is provided as a service to our fellow home-schoolers. HEART of Texas does not necessarily endorse, warrant, or represent any of the activities, events, or organizations listed, or their content, views, opinions, or recommendations. Please use your own judgment when considering taking part in or attending any of these events or activities or visiting any of the websites or links provided. HEART of Texas assumes no responsibility for the content of any ads, promises made, or the quality/reliability of the products or services offered.

**Make a Tax-Deductible Donation to HEART of Texas!**