



## Barbara Brightwell, A Leadership Legacy

Barbara and George Brightwell moved to Georgetown in 1977, when she became Dean for Student Development and an Instructor in Psychology at Southwestern University. Shortly after their arrival, the Brightwells were introduced to Fred H. Carter. Fred was a recovering alcoholic. Having retired to Georgetown, he set out to find local residents like him whose lives were impacted by alcoholism. Barbara appreciated Fred's dedication to helping others who struggled with alcohol. She knew alcohol was part of the culture among students at Southwestern University and supported establishing campus prevention and recovery initiatives. When the Williamson County Council

on Alcoholism (now LifeSteps) was established in August 1978, Dr. James Shepherd and Judy Shepherd, Ginger Girvin (deceased), and Barbara Brightwell signed as officers of the new non-profit. Fred Carter became the first Executive Director. Barbara Brightwell has served on the board continuously since 1978, and is now an *Emerita* board member. George Brightwell has been LifeSteps' *only* Secretary-Treasurer.

From underage drinking, to the opioid epidemic, Barbara has advocated from her position on LifeSteps' board to equip healthcare providers, school districts, policy makers, law enforcement and the courts with the evidence, the tools and the information needed to improve behavioral health services and counteract the negative impact of substance abuse in our community. Barbara's passion for prevention also encompasses preventing relapse, and has informed LifeSteps' new recovery support initiative.

As a consultant with the Georgetown Healthcare System, Barbara created the volunteer Pastoral Care Program and the Healthcare Foundation. She served as Director of Community Relations and Educational Services at Georgetown Hospital. Barbara initiated and was chair of the organizing steering committee for the Central Texas Treatment Center, The Georgetown Project; the Georgetown Community Resource Center, the Williamson County Institute for Excellence in Nonprofits, and Seeds of Strength, a women's philanthropic organization. She has served on numerous other boards and committees in the Georgetown community, including ROCK, Ride On Center for Kids, the Georgetown Health Foundation, and the Chisholm Trail Communities Foundation. She is a founding member of Wellspring United Methodist Church in Georgetown.

Other recognition and awards include: Georgetown Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year," Williamson County "Citizen of