



Wonders & Worries

Professional support for children  
through a parent's illness.

## PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Sporting Clay Shoot Raises \$188,000 for Central Texas Children with an Ill Parent**

Historic Rainfall Doesn't Faze Record Number of Teams Supporting Wonders & Worries

AUSTIN, Texas – Despite record rainfall and threatening skies, Wonders & Worries' 2018 No Worries Classic saw a record number of teams and shooters on Oct. 19, 2018. The annual sporting clay shoot raised **more than \$188,000** for the nonprofit that provides free professional support to children during a parent's serious illness.

The continuing generosity of presenting sponsor Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation and the donation of the Exotic Game Ranch and Pavilion by Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) in Buda, Texas has allowed the event to raise more than **\$2.9 million in its 11-year history**.

"Wonders & Worries is such an amazing organization to come alongside kids during the hardest times of their lives and provide support in a way no other organization can," said **Jennifer Gregory, marketing director at TDS**. "We are honored to have partnered with Wonders & Worries for the past 11 years to further the great work they are doing."

The day kicked off with the nearly 140 shooters and 40 volunteers giving full attention to **Jeff Foster**, his wife, Christy, and their son, Jake. Jeff is the owner of Apex Shooting in Austin and a renowned instructor and competitor. In June 2018, his 15-year-old daughter, Jessie, found him in the throes of a grand mal seizure at their home.

Foster was diagnosed with brain cancer and his family is receiving support from Wonders & Worries. "It's really hard to describe how disruptive a long-term illness is, he said, "I started seeing the side effects in the family, especially in my daughter."

Foster's wife, Christy, shared that with Jeff's diagnosis, they've experienced upheaval. "I can't fix Jeff, and we didn't know what to do. I was drowning, and Wonders & Worries gave us a lifeline."

Their son, Jake, gave brief remarks as well. He is taking time off from college during Jeff's treatments. "It was a big readjustment going from finals in Chicago to this mess. It felt like we were in pieces and I felt pretty hopeless. I didn't know how to process the information. But Wonders & Worries connected me with a therapist, and we wouldn't be doing nearly as well as we are as a family if it weren't for Wonders & Worries."



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The 27 teams represented both new and returning participants. **Denise & Jerry Conway**, Austin Sonic franchise owners and longtime supporters of Wonders & Worries, again co-chaired the event.

Leadership for this year's event was provided by the No Worries Classic Committee, comprised of Jerry Conway, Mark Milstead, Chris Cashion, Ray Bacon, Ross Buchholtz and Jim Shanley.

Major sponsors for 2018 No Worries Classic included Renewal by Andersen; Austin Sonic; Alpha Painting & Decorating Co., Inc.; and Horizon Bank.

More than \$30,000 in prizes were given away, including shotguns, pistols and gift cards from Sonic, McBride's Guns Inc. and Sportsman's Finest; a Promatic Pigeon clay thrower, White Wing coolers, Cabo Bob's baskets, Lonesome Charlie's leather shell pouches and more. Lewis Class scoring and shooter drawings ensured that even those without a perfect shot enjoyed prizes.

Results included:

**Top 3 Shooting Teams:**

- 1) Team Apex Shooting: Jeff Foster (captain), David Bishop, Mark Tipton, Clayton Nance and Haylyn Hanks with 241 clays.
- 2) Sonic Flyers #1: Jerry Conway (captain), Jeff Boyd, Tim Wilhelm, Grant Huling and Philip Tom with 240 clays.
- 3) YMCA of Greater Williamson County: Jeff Andresen (captain), Steve Laukhuf, John Avery and Lee McIntosh with 236 clays.

**Top Individual Shooters**, all with perfect scores: Gentry Wright, Kip Reagor, Ray Bacon, Mark Tipton, Clayton Nance, and Jeff Andresen

**Alex Gabbi, executive director**, Wonders & Worries, said, "The event was a resounding success, thanks to all the support from individuals and local businesses. We had a tremendous number of new shooters and incredible energy -- all directed to growing Wonders & Worries. Together, we can reach more families in need."

For more information, contact Penney Berryman, Wonders & Worries Communications Director, at 512-329-5757, Ext. 202 or [penney@wondersandworries.org](mailto:penney@wondersandworries.org).

**ABOUT WONDERS & WORRIES**

Wonders & Worries ensures that children and teens can reach their full potential even though their parent is facing a serious illness. Established in 2001, it provides professional support for ages 2-18 through a parent's illness. Services are free of charge and offered in English and Spanish at multiple locations in Central Texas, including Austin, Williamson County and San Antonio. Follow Wonders & Worries on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. [wondersandworries.org](http://wondersandworries.org)

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