



TO LIVE AND WORK IN PARKER COUNTY

BY MARICE RICHTER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN STANKEWITZ

Aledo's Kit Marshall handles mayoral, emergency preparedness duties

Kit Marshall wears a lot of hats. She is mayor of Aledo, an emergency preparedness official for Parker County, a community activist and volunteer, a wife, mother, twin sister and breast cancer survivor.

But ask her to define herself, and she doesn't hesitate.

"The two most important things to me are communication and education," she says. "Everything I do basically falls in those categories."

At 54, Marshall is at a good place in her life. She likes to say she has two full-time jobs, "only one pays, and one doesn't." Both give her the opportunity to exercise her skills at communication and education. And both offer the chance to ratchet up her accomplishments.

Marshall has achieved plenty, but she isn't ready to rest on her laurels. She plans to run for a third term as mayor this spring, and she sees an expanding role for herself in breast cancer awareness and advocacy.

Health care is a significant component of her life as a breast cancer survivor, a board member of Weatherford Regional Medical Center and, in



opportunity to work as well as reside in Parker County — after having commuted as far as Dallas County for a previous job.

Parker County has been Marshall's home ever since she was a youngster, when her family moved from Crowley to Aledo. She graduated from Aledo High School, attended Weatherford College and then left to earn a degree at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa.

But she didn't stay away long. She married Hugh Marshall and moved to Walsh Ranch, a large family-owned ranching operation, where he became general manager. They raised two children, Stephanie, now 27, and Andrew, 24.

Eventually, the family moved into Aledo, and Marshall found herself drawn into city politics. She was elected to the City Council and served four years before successfully running for mayor in 2006. As her second term nears its end, she is preparing for another run.

professional life, community liaison for emergency preparedness and grant writer/coordinator for Parker County.

In the job, Marshall works alongside Parker County Emergency Management Coordinator Shawn Scott and Assistant Coordinator Janice Stroud to create and — if necessary — carry out a plan for distribution of medication and information in the event of a bioterrorism event or a pan-flu epidemic such as H1N1. She was hired by the county in 2006 as a result of funding from the federal Department of Homeland Security.

“When we secured this position, I knew who I wanted for it,” says Parker County Judge Mark Riley, who hired Marshall. “I knew her, her work ethic and that she would get the job done. Now our program is recognized as one of the best in the region.”

Marshall's duties include recruiting volunteers, training, grant writing and coordinating with other agencies.

With a degree in social work and more than 20 years of professional experience, working in a range of duties from office and personnel management to sales and marketing, Marshall says she feels most at home, literally and figuratively, in her job with Parker County.

“I see it as a win-win for everyone,” she says. “The residents of Aledo benefit because as mayor, I'm also in charge of emergency management for the city, and my job makes me more aware of emergency preparedness.

“And through my work, my responsibility is to provide for all residents of Parker County, no matter where they live.”

Marshall considers it a priceless

There is still much to do, Marshall says. Transportation, water and waste water are dominant concerns, and she wants to continue to help shepherd these issues in a positive direction.

“I feel like we're at a pivotal point, and I can't give up now,” Marshall says. “I really want to be part of securing funding and getting a couplet [a traffic-control device] built in downtown Aledo that will eliminate congestion and protect our historic district.

“This is a very important project to me, and I can't give up on it now.”

Besides her duties with the city, which also include presidency of the Aledo Economic Development Board, Marshall is a volunteer with such organizations as the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce and the Parker County Republican Women's Club.