

Outstanding Media Volunteer Service

The Van Alstyne Leader



The *Van Alstyne Leader* is in its 188th year of operation as a small-town newspaper. Established in 1892, it is now under the ownership of Stephens Media Group. *The Leader* serves Van Alstyne, Howe, and the surrounding area. Jeremy Corley serves as its managing editor and it is published by John Wright. The *Van Alstyne Leader* also produces the *Anna and Melissa Tribune*.

The *Leader's* motto is "Van Alstyne's only local news source." With a circulation of 2,000, the weekly is the life-blood of the Van Alstyne community. According to *The Leader*, anything that happens in Van Alstyne is important to report, including school district news, school sports, and city council meetings.

The *Van Alstyne Leader* has been an active and committed supporter of Mental Health Mental Retardation Services of Texoma (MHMRST) for many years. Since 1991, the newspaper has worked tirelessly to help educate its readers about mental disabilities and services offered through MHMRST. Demonstrating genuine interest in promoting dignity for the people served by MHMRST, *The Leader* has featured many news stories about MHMRST. Given that many hometown papers are read cover to cover by the town's people, we are confident the public is receiving valuable information about MHMRST.

The paper has been diligent in promoting independence and dignity for people with mental disabilities through its series of stories published during Destination Dignity Month, Mental Health Month and Mental Retardation Month. The paper also has consistently provided the public with information that can reduce stigma associated with mental illness and mental disabilities.

The Leader is dedicated to featuring positive news and promoting worthwhile programs. MHMRST is grateful for the help the paper has given our Center. We know we can count on *The Leader* to help us educate the public to reduce stigma and enhance the quality of life for the people we serve.

Nominated by MHMR Services of Texoma