

## Non-profit group provides services to needy in B-CS

By JENS B. KOEPKE  
Staff Writer

An old man is nearly blind and cannot afford to buy a pair of glasses.

Who can he turn to for help in this community? The answer is HOULD-ON, a non-profit organization.

This group is the local chapter of the Texas State Association of Handicapped, Old, Unfortunate, Lonely, Disadvantaged and Older-Needy people. The local chapter began operation in January 1985.

Suzanne Braden, HOULD-ON's treasurer, says, "The group is here to help people who are down on their luck and who need a little help getting back on their feet."

HOULD-ON provides a variety of services for the community's needy, destitute or disabled residents, Braden says.

The group entertains at nursing homes, supplies clothing and food for families in distress, helps poor families pay for medical care and provides transportation for the elderly.

In April, the group organized an Easter-egg hunt for the children at the Sheltering Arms in Bryan, she says. Sheltering Arms is a home for battered wives.

Other services have included getting medicine for a girl with a kidney disease and helping a poor mother buy medicine for one of her children, she says.

The group is the brainchild of founder and executive director, Wink Lewis.

"We strive to make a positive effort to help needy people in the community," Lewis says. "And if we

can't get them help, we direct them to an organization that can.

"A lot of people need help, but nine out of 10 won't ask for help because they have so much pride," he says.

The organization finds needy people in the community through the help of local churches and hospitals, Braden says. For example, if a person comes into the hospital suffering from dehydration and tells the hospital staff that he was just too poor to buy groceries, Braden says, the hospital will contact HOULD-ON and the organization will try to help the person.

"Every time we help someone, they tell us about someone else who needs help," Lewis says.

"Since we organized in January it seems like it's been a never-ending circle," he added.

Funds come from membership dues, fund-raisers and donations, Braden says. To alleviate the financial burden, the group often works together with local churches.

"We would like to provide more services to the community, but we need more financial support," she says.

The organization is planning a benefit concert by country-and-western star Freddy Fender on Sunday to raise money, she says. A key to the city of Bryan will be presented to Fender by a representative of the mayor's office and a beauty contest will also be held.

"We would like to see the organization continue to grow and become more accepted by the community," Braden says.

The group has already provided more than 1,500 hours of volunteer work and hopes to expand into the Brenham area soon, Lewis says.

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## Gas companies announce merger

Associated Press

HOUSTON — InterNorth Inc. and Houston Natural Gas Corp. announced Thursday the formation of what could be the first border-to-border, coast-to-coast pipeline system in the United States.

The new system would be the nation's second-largest gas pipeline operation, next to Houston-based Tenneco Inc.

The two companies said a subsidiary of Omaha, Neb.-based InterNorth would begin a cash tender offer of \$70 per share for all outstanding common shares of Houston Natural Gas, to be followed by a merger at the same price.

The total price for the merger was estimated at about \$2.3 billion.

The merger also gives InterNorth an option to buy 5.9 million shares of Houston Natural Gas at \$70 a share and an option to buy two-thirds of the stock of certain Houston Natural Gas' Texas intrastate pipeline subsidiaries, including Houston Pipe Line Co., for \$867 million.

The merger, approved by directors of both companies, was announced by Sam F. Segnar, 57, chairman and chief executive officer of InterNorth, and Kenneth L. Lay, 42, chairman and chief executive officer of Houston Natural Gas Co.

The combined company will operate under the name HNG InterNorth upon completion of the merger.

"We believe that in the economic environment we envision for our industry's future, the strengths to be derived by combining these two

companies will produce a company uniquely positioned to serve the shareholders, employees, customers and communities of which we are a part," Segnar said.

Jay Olson, an analyst with Drexel Burnham Lambert in Houston, said InterNorth's primary motive in acquiring HNG was a defensive move to prevent a hostile takeover attempt.

Lay doubled the size of the company's pipeline system six months after joining Houston gas company.

InterNorth has 11,000 employees, with 3,100 in Texas. The company has a pipeline system extending from the Texas Panhandle to the Canadian border.

The two companies have few duplicating facilities, but there are overlapping facilities in Texas. InterNorth acquired a 50 percent interest in a Valero Energy Corp. of San Antonio pipeline system in West Texas. The two companies formed a natural gas marketing company that competes directly with HNG's Texas intrastate subsidiary, Houston Pipe Line Co.

Curt Launer of L.F. Rothschild, Unterber, Towbin in New York, said he estimates the combined company's operations would generate earnings of \$9 a share and cash flow of \$25 a share in 1985.

First-quarter earnings for 1985 reported by HNG showed the company had net income of \$39.4 million and total revenue of \$938.7 million. During the first quarter of 1984, the company earned \$579.3 million and had net income of \$29.6 million.

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