

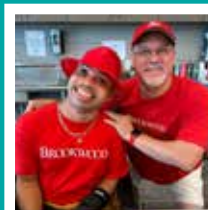
# THE BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY

SUMMER 2023

Changing the way  
the world thinks about  
adults with disabilities.



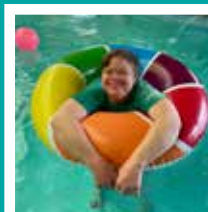
CELEBRATE  
**BROOKWOOD**



LOVE IN **ACTION**



VISION FOR  
**BROOKWOOD**



FUN AT  
**BROOKWOOD**



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER**

Vivian Streit Shudde

**FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR EMERITUS**

Yvonne Tuttle Streit

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Vita Goodell

Michael Hall

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Melinda Stubbs

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Wayne Voss

Temple Webber

## A Note

### FROM OUR CEO

Dear Brookwood friends,

Have you ever wondered what “Vision” truly means to a nonprofit like ours? It’s more than just a word; it’s the guiding force that propels us forward, encouraging us to strive for something larger than ourselves. As we journey together, I want to take a moment to reflect on the essence of our shared purpose.

Numerous studies have shown that people’s dedication and enthusiasm skyrocket when they comprehend the profound impact of their individual contributions. This principle resonates deeply within our organization. We understand that each person who walks through our doors, each volunteer who lends a hand, and every supporter who stands by our side plays an integral role in achieving our collective mission. Just as the disciples were willing to leave behind their homes and face adversity to follow Jesus, they were driven by a vision of something greater. Similarly, our work is fueled by a vision of inclusivity, empowerment, and boundless potential for adults with disabilities.

You might wonder, how do adults with disabilities contribute? It’s through the unique gifts and talents they possess. Every skill, every smile, every endeavor they undertake becomes a vital thread woven into the vibrant tapestry of our community. They remind us that true fulfillment stems from being part of something greater than ourselves. When they use their abilities to enrich our community, they experience a sense of purpose that transcends their own individual challenges.

In today’s fast-paced world, it’s easy to get lost in our own lives, but we must recognize that we are all intercon-



ected. By acknowledging that we are part of something greater, we unlock a wellspring of genuine joy and contentment. This recognition serves as a cornerstone of our organization and the driving force behind the transformations we witness each day.

**So, my dear friends, I extend a heartfelt invitation to each one of you.**

Come and be part of something greater — The Brookwood Community. Whether you choose to volunteer your time, attend our events, or support us by purchasing our products and plants, you’re contributing to a vision that transcends boundaries and transforms lives. Here at Brookwood, we have created a place where every individual, regardless of ability, can find a meaningful role to play and a profound sense of belonging.

Let’s unite our efforts, fueled by the fire of purpose, and continue to build a community that embraces diversity, fosters growth, and offers opportunities for everyone. Together, we can create a world where the power of vision and the joy of shared purpose shine brighter than ever before!

Blessed,

*Vivian Shudde*

Chief Executive Officer

Through the Grace of God, The Brookwood Community provides an educational environment that builds a sense of belonging, provides meaningful work, and awakens genuine purpose in the lives of adults with disabilities.

**GOD RICH**  
Core Values

GRACE

OPPORTUNITY

DIGNITY

RESPECT

INTERDEPENDENCE

CONTINUAL  
IMPROVEMENT

HONESTY



## Growing Together at **FAMILY DAY**

### Citizens and families celebrate Brookwood's 40 years!

Our Family Day on May 6 celebrated Brookwood's 40th Birthday. Over 600 Citizens, families, and friends, enjoyed a fun day with a Citizen play and we recognized families for participating in the "I Believe in Brookwood" annual funding campaign and the "Brookwood and Beyond" capital campaign.

Brad Tucker, Chairman of the Board, shared that we have finished all the major initiatives of the capital campaign, and we cut the ribbon on the final major project! The former Handcrafts Building is now the Martha and Mary Munz Community Center. This building will provide a

place for Citizens to relax, have fun, exercise, and practice the handbells and other performing arts. Temple Webber represented the TLL Temple Foundation, a major donor to this project, and dedicated the building.

Citizens acted and sang in a wonderful play, "The Wizard of Brookwood," to show how Brookwood turns Citizens' lives from a black-and-white world into one full of color and promise. Beck's Prime served a delicious lunch and attendees enjoyed carnival games and two showings of "FINDING PURPOSE: The Brookwood Story."

Thank you so much to all the volunteers and community members who made Family Day happen!



## **DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN** at Brookwood

Dr. Temple Grandin, distinguished professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, prominent author and national speaker on both autism and animal behavior, visited Brookwood in June for a presentation of her new book, **Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions**. She signed books and took pictures with over 250 guests, Citizens, Community Members, and volunteers. We were excited to partner with Gallery Furniture for this exciting event.

Dr. Grandin started with a Q&A Breakfast with our Community Members and special guests. Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale spoke on how both Dr. Grandin and our Brookwood founder, Mrs. Yvonne Streit, have impacted his life and the importance of purpose and work in all lives.

Dr. Grandin signed copies of her book at The Brookwood Café. Citizen Bill Overstreet opened with prayer and then asked to shake Dr. Grandin's hand! Guests dined on a delicious Café lunch as she shared from her presentation, and showed the trailer of the new documentary, **An Open Door**. Guests also got to meet Dr. Grandin and take a photo with her.

Over 80% of our guests had never been to The Brookwood Community. Visitors came from California, Dallas, Austin, and College Station. They left with a gift bag with a Citizen-made Christmas ornament, an invitation to come back for a tour, and a gift certificate for a dessert at The Brookwood Café.

**We are in the planning stages of having Dr. Grandin back for another event this December. Stay tuned for more information!**





# CELEBRATE **BROOKWOOD**

## **HANDBELLS** are Changing the World

On July 13, our Brookwood Handbell Ensemble performed at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in Irving, Texas. Only seven ensembles were asked to perform, so it was quite an honor.

The Brookwood Handbell Ensemble was formed nearly 15 years ago by Linda McKechnie and is currently under the direction of Diana Montgomery. Our ensemble is composed of 16 Citizens who have learned to read music using an adaptive notation system. They play three octaves of Malmark handbells and choir chimes.

They have performed for the Houston Grand Opera Gala, the Houston Symphony, numerous churches, private events, and here on campus. They



are most well-known for playing the National Anthem for the Houston Astros games! The Brookwood Handbell Ensemble also collaborates with the Houston Bronze Ensemble, Houston's premier handbell choir.

Diana and Linda presented "Handbells for Special Populations" at the National Seminar. They taught attendees how Brookwood created an adaptive notation system for our neurologically diverse Citizens.

The livestream video of their performance has been viewed over 1,000 times by people from Germany, Hungary, Ontario, Michigan, and Florida! **They are truly changing the way the world thinks about adults with disabilities!**

You can enjoy the Brookwood Handbell Ensemble next at Open House on Friday, Dec. 1 or Saturday, Dec. 2!

## **COACT SYMPOSIUM** Comes to Brookwood



In April, Brookwood's Stephen C. Beasley Center for Learning hosted the 2023 CoAct Project Symposium, **The Future is Bright**. Initiated by the Marbridge community, the symposium has evolved into an annual event attracting professionals from across the U.S. with a shared desire to explore best practices in serving adults with disabilities. With more than

100 attendees, this year's symposium featured speakers, panel discussions, networking time and exhibitors.



**The CoAct Project**  
Founded by The Marbridge Foundation  
2013 Host: The Brookwood Community

Squire Rushnell, author of the God Winks books and Hallmark movie series, and dad of Brookwood Citizen Grant, presented the keynote address. Attendees especially enjoyed shopping the Gift Center and dinner in the Café! Sincere thanks to the many sponsor organizations for their underwriting support.

## **GOODTASTE TV** Segment Filmed

Tanji Patton, an Emmy award winning journalist and host of **Goodtaste with Tanji**, a series that showcases chefs and restaurants from all over the state, came to film a segment on The Brookwood Café.

On May 3, she interviewed Founder & Executive Director Emer-

itus Yvonne Streit, CEO Vivian Shudde, and our amazing café team! Several guests in the café also gave their take on Brookwood's Café.

The segment will air in October, so watch our social media for links or check out their website; [www.goodtaste.tv](http://www.goodtaste.tv).





## A Family of VOLUNTEERS

National Charity League, Inc. is fostering mother-daughter relationships through an ongoing commitment to philanthropy, culture and leadership.

Meet Jackie and Libby Hroch, and Grace Heffron. Jackie loves volunteering at Brookwood with her daughter, Libby, 14. She knows that giving back to others is something she learned from her mom, Grace.

“My mother was a nurse for over 50 years, and she has a servant’s heart. As busy as she was, she always found time to volunteer in the community and at church. She taught us that

busy people often don’t have time, but they make time for what’s important. Now I hope I am passing this gift on to my daughter,” Jackie said.

Jackie and Libby became affiliated with the Azalea chapter of NCL two years ago and started volunteering at Brookwood, mostly in the Café. Jackie adds, “It’s fun for us to volunteer together, and it brings us joy to be at Brookwood. We are grateful that NCL opened this door for us.”

Visit [www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer](http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer) for more information about volunteer opportunities.



## RANDY LEMMON TREE DEDICATION

Author and long-time host of KTRH GardenLine, Randy Lemmon, passed away unexpectedly in January. A true friend and great advocate for Brookwood, Randy’s family and friends chose to remember him by planting his favorite tree, a nuttall oak, at Brookwood.

At the dedication ceremony, Vivian Shudde, Brookwood CEO, said, “Randy loved Brookwood and we loved Randy. He always promoted Brookwood Horticulture on his show, especially during poinsettia season. This tree will be a lasting memory of Randy here at Brookwood.”

Special thanks to Randy’s family —

Yvonne, Randal, and Selena — and to David Williamson of RCW Nurseries who donated and planted the tree, and Beverly Welch of Arbor Gate for donating the bench.



## Everyone had a BALL!

Recently the entire 10th Grade class—40 students—from Northland Christian School were on campus teaching our Citizens how to improve their soccer skills. But the evening wasn’t just about soccer!

Citizens participated in multiple activities with Hula Hoops, a football throw, baseball toss, and much more. **Spirits were high and we thank these young people for a very active and entertaining evening!**



# VISION FOR BROOKWOOD

## I BELIEVE IN BROOKWOOD

I Believe in Brookwood, our annual giving campaign, launches September 1 and runs through December 31, with a goal this year of \$1.5 million.

We can do it with your help! We invite you to join one of the Citizen fundraising teams. This funding supports Brookwood’s operating expenses critical to maintaining the day-to-day quality of life our Citizens enjoy.



Meet Christine who came to Brookwood in 1987. You’ll see her big smile as she cruises the campus in her “power chair,” giving her a feeling of great independence!

Christine works in the Stone Casting studio as a painter. She loves joking with her co-workers and always remembers to birthdays of her friends. Christine is a Texas Longhorns fan. She enjoys playing games on her iPad, and is excited to ride in Bike to the Beach for the first time!

## ★ 2022 TOP TEAMS

- Dream Team
- Kyndall Krippner
- Frank Tucker
- Day Citizens
- Jenny Boudreaux
- Patrick McBirney
- Bike to the Beach
- Davis Bankston
- Richard Cross/Bob Smith
- Wilson Shudde/Vicki Streit
- Jamie McCulloch
- Charlie Stubbs
- Bill Overstreet/Pour Into Houston
- Christi Zuilhof
- Christine Thompson/Grundfos
- Hayley Herzstein
- Jamail Home
- Meade Greer
- Tuttle Home
- Ricky Kitchell
- Josh Bixenman/Stacey Perna/Weston Lakes
- Kendall Cutrer/Specialized TX



Email [believe@brookwoodcommunity.org](mailto:believe@brookwoodcommunity.org) to learn more about starting a fundraising team or visit [www.brookwoodcommunity.org/give](http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/give).

## COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: bp

Brookwood is blessed with many corporate partners, such as bp. These companies volunteer their time at Brookwood and contribute financially, having a double impact on our Citizens.

Recently, a team from bp spent an entire day working in Ceramics, Stone

Casting, cleaning the Shipping/Receiving warehouse, and leading exercises with Bloom Fitness. Local Houston bp’ers were joined with some of their international colleagues from Brazil, England and Trinidad. Thank you!



Accenture, HEB, Houston Methodist, Amegy Bank, and Heidrick and Struggles are just a few of the companies volunteering at Brookwood. Email [volunteer@brookwoodcommunity.org](mailto:volunteer@brookwoodcommunity.org) to set up an opportunity for your company.

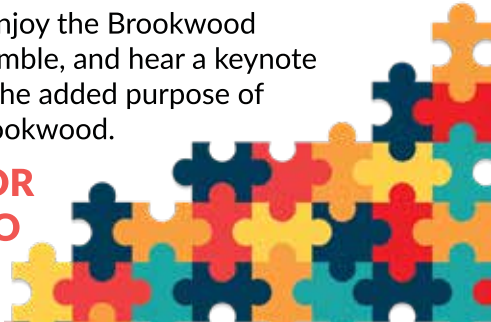
## 2024 BENEFIT LUNCH Save the Date

You won’t want to miss Brookwood’s 2024 Benefit Lunch. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 2, 2024** at the Marriott Marquis in Houston.

Barbara Vilutis, sister of Citizen Marcia Smith, and Steve Stephens, CEO of Amegy Bank are Chairs for this event. Join us for a very special time to gather

with friends, enjoy the Brookwood Handbell Ensemble, and hear a keynote speaker, with the added purpose of supporting Brookwood.

**WATCH FOR DETAILS TO COME!**





# SHARING AND CARING: Supporting the Brookwood Future



When family and friends remember Bonnie O'Neill, they think of kindness, a big smile, and Bonnie's all-time friend, her stuffed animal, Bear. Bonnie came to Brookwood in 2009, and joined our

Lord in 2022. Her three siblings, Brian, Kevin and Judith, established the Bonalyn A. O'Neill Scholarship Endowment to honor her, and to provide financial assistance for others.

Bonnie loved music, especially the traditional hymns. When she would attend church with her family, and the choir began to sing, she would raise her arms and direct the choir, keeping perfect time. At Brookwood, Bonnie worked in the Ceramics Shop, and especially enjoyed threading the ribbons into the Christmas ornaments. She was known to "take charge" when she had the opportunity!

Bonnie's brother Kevin said, "She enjoyed people and people enjoyed her. When we would bring her home for holidays and other special occasions, she would say, 'I miss the kids,' and we knew it was time to take her back to Brookwood. She loved it there."



## Brookwood Visionary Society

Through establishing the endowment fund, the O'Neill's join more than 200 families and individuals in the Brookwood Visionary Society. Members have made financial commitments supporting Brookwood's vision through planned and endowed gifts and were honored at an appreciation luncheon in May.

Looking into setting up an endowment or planned gift? **Contact Chief Advancement Officer, Carol Thornburg, 281.375.2110.**

# BROOKWOOD BLESSINGS

The Brookwood Community is blessed with donations from local companies and organizations.



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF CINCO RANCH



## THE CRANE FOUNDATION REPRESENTED BY BILL WALKER OF DOPAK PFT



# VISION FOR **BROOKWOOD**

## BIKE TO THE BEACH

Mark Saturday, October 14 on your calendar for the annual Bike to the Beach event raising money for autism awareness.

**Our fundraising goal for this year is \$70,000.**

We have come a long way from the first year when only ten Citizens rode in Bike to the Beach. This year more than 40 Citizen cyclists, alongside the same number of volunteer riders, will ride 6 or 12 miles!

To learn more about sponsorships to Bike to the Beach contact Aimee Pickett 281.375.2192, or go to [www.brookwoodb2b.org](http://www.brookwoodb2b.org) to contribute. If you are interested in volunteering the day of the event, visit [www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer](http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer).



### 2023 BROOKWOOD INTERDEPENDENCE TEAM

Davis Bankson  
Robert Baugh  
Jay Blay  
Scott Baxmann  
Josh Bixenman  
Emory Black  
Bubba Brandt  
Susan Brinkman  
Chanse Calfee  
Buddy Cole  
Kendall Cutrer  
Tim Dorriety  
Karen Ghormley  
Caroline Gorman  
Meade Greer

Thomas Henderson  
Vicki Husfeld  
Peter Itchon  
Jaekle Melissa  
Michele Jardine  
Andrew Keith  
Kenny Kendall  
Janice King  
Ricky Kitchell  
Kurt Larson  
Jeff Lawler  
Chris McClung  
Stuart McTaggart  
Tyler Minter  
Kim Morrow

Bill Overstreet  
Joe Parker  
Stacey Perna  
Diane Phillips  
Chad Roberts  
Heath Rockoff  
Vicki Sharp  
Rhea Shirley  
Wilson Shudde  
Kim Sneed  
Rick Stonebarger  
Vicki Streit  
Christine Thompson  
Joshua Venable



**THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF BROOKWOOD** have been an integral part of several Brookwood activities throughout the year. From their support in January for the "Finding Purpose" film premiere fundraiser and their spring networking meetup at Los Tios, to most recently training with Citizens as they prepare for their Bike to the Beach ride in October, this organization makes a difference.

The Young Professionals will be supporting Citizen riders during **Bike to the Beach** on Saturday, October 14.

**YOUNG** *yp* **PROFESSIONALS**  
OF BROOKWOOD

If you are a young professional and would like to volunteer, visit [www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer](http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer). We need you!



# RED DAY AT BROOKWOOD

In anticipation of our largest poinsettia season ever, our entire Brookwood community wore red on the first day of planting.

This year, Red Day was held on July 31. Almost 1,000 poinsettias were planted that day. All Citizens and Community Members from The Woodlands, Grand Parkway, and main campus supported the amazing Horticulture team by sporting their best red attire.

We want to thank the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for underwriting a portion of the expenses for the poinsettia crop.

Planting season ends August 28 and sales will begin mid-November. This year we have increased all of our sizes and will have two new varieties, including a new white poinsettia.

Bring your friends and family to the Garden Center and choose your favorites. They go fast!



## WISH LIST

- \$100,000 - New box truck (HUGE AND URGENT NEED)
- \$16,000 - Large container freezer
- \$15,000 - Commercial washer/dryer with installation
- \$5,000 - 3-D printer for new product design
- \$2,500 - Sublimation printer
- \$1000 - River Oaks Country Club Holiday Bazaar Fee
- \$1000 - Sugar Plum Market Holiday Bazaar Fee
- \$1000 - Color printer
- \$250 - Heavy-duty warehouse cart
- \$200 each - Brookwood logo tablecloths for bazaars
- \$25 each - Large umbrellas

FOR ADDITIONAL ITEMS, contact us at 281.375.2100 or email [advancement@brookwoodcommunity.org](mailto:advancement@brookwoodcommunity.org).

Scan the QR Code to give to the WISH LIST!





# FUN AT BROOKWOOD

## Tour Brookwood "BEHIND THE SCENES"

A big shout-out goes to the dedicated men and women who know the Brookwood story better than most – our Brookwood tour docents. This group met recently to walk the campus with new tour docents and to share the stories our visitors love to hear.

You haven't been on a tour? Group tours are available Monday-Friday for groups of ten or more beginning at

9:30 AM or 12:15 PM. Tours begin in the Worship Center and move around the campus, interacting with our Citizens and staff.

Contact Joanne Clark 281.375.2100, or visit [www.brookwoodcommunity.org/tour](http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/tour) to learn more. Combined with lunch in our elegant Café and shopping in the Gift Shop and Garden Center, this is a fun-packed day.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP & HAVE FUN

### VOLUNTEER AT BROOKWOOD

There are many ways for families, organizations, churches, corporate groups, and individuals to make a difference at Brookwood. Please considering volunteering or organizing a group to help with the following:

On behalf of all Brookwood Citizens,  
*Thank you for your support!*



**POINSETTIA**  
Planting and Care

It's the season! Horticulture needs help planting 50,000 poinsettias. We need ten volunteers a day through December to support our Citizens and staff. Get in on the action at [www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer](http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer).



**BLESS A HOUSE**

Organize a supply drive for paper products, cleaning supplies, or craft items! As homes are being remodeled and Citizens move in, they might like new bed linens or decor for their rooms. You can help with holiday decorating, too.



**WALMART'S**  
REGISTRY FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Donate using Walmart's Registry for Good Causes. Brookwood's list is at [www.walmart.com/registry/registryfor-good](http://www.walmart.com/registry/registryfor-good). Type "Brookwood" under Give to a Local Cause/ Find a Cause in Your Community, choose your items, and Walmart ships directly to Brookwood.



**SHOP AT**  
**BROOKWOOD**

Join us at the Gift Shop and Garden Center as you start thinking about holiday shopping. You can always shop online at [www.Brookwoodstore.org](http://www.Brookwoodstore.org)!

*You're Invited!* VISIT US at our EVENTS!



## COME TO BROOKWOOD

- AUG 19 Mesh With It Painting Workshop
- AUG 25 Indoor Plants Lunch & Learn
- SEPT 14-16 Fall Fest Market at Brookwood
- SEPT 29 Trees for Coastal Texas Lunch & Learn
- NOV 28 Ladies Night Out at Brookwood
- DEC 1-2 Christmas Open House
- DEC 9 & 16 Breakfast with Santa

## BROOKWOOD COMES TO YOU

- SEPT 8 Bayou City Blessings Fall Mini Market - Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
- OCT 3 Grand Opening - The Woodlands
- OCT 10-12 Joy of Giving Market - St. Martin's Episcopal Church
- NOV 1-4 Sugarplum Market
- NOV 15-19 The Woodlands Holiday Market
- NOV 19-20 ROWA Holiday Shopping Boutique - River Oaks Country Club
- NOV 28-29 Houston Country Club

## Breakfast at BROOKWOOD



**Beginning Saturday, August 26, The Brookwood Café will have a delicious breakfast buffet available from 8-10am!**

**EVERY SATURDAY**, enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet for \$14.99 that includes coffee, orange juice, or ice tea. Do you love the smell of homemade sausage kolaches in the morning? Because we do!

No reservations needed, just swing by for a delicious Brookwood breakfast and stay for some shopping!

# FALL FEST

*Shop with a Purpose*

The Brookwood  
**Gift & Garden Center**

Thurs-Sat | Sept 14-16 | 9am-4:30pm

Shop a Variety of Local Vendor Booths.  
Enjoy Lunch in The Brookwood Café  
& a Wine & Beer Bar in the Garden.





# THE BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY

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BROOKSHIRE, TX 77423

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HOUSTON TX



## SHOP & DINE WITH A PURPOSE

### BROOKWOOD GIFT & GARDEN CENTER

1502 FM 1489 | Brookshire, TX 77423

OPEN Monday-Saturday | 9AM-4:30PM

Shop online at [BROOKWOODSTORE.ORG](http://BROOKWOODSTORE.ORG)

### THE BROOKWOOD CAFÉ

1502 FM 1489 | Brookshire, TX 77423

OPEN Monday-Saturday | 281.375.2149

BREAKFAST beginning Aug. 26 | 8-10AM

LUNCH | 11AM-2PM

The Café is available for groups, private events, weddings, and catering! Book your event today!  
Email [catering@brookwoodcommunity.org](mailto:catering@brookwoodcommunity.org).

**CONNECT**  
WITH US

 [www.BrookwoodCommunity.org](http://www.BrookwoodCommunity.org)

 281.375.2100

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