

Special Needs Expo Right in Our Own Backyard!

By Jackie Devine

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH 2ND ANNUAL SPECIAL NEEDS EXPO WILL TAKE PLACE
FEBRUARY 23, 2018 FROM 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

Everyone knows that parenting is a difficult job, even in the best of times and under the most favorable circumstances. But, moms and dads with children of special needs face an entirely different set of challenges that often redefine the meanings of parenthood, stress, anxiety, and isolation. In fact, it has been said that their life is very similar to the pressures felt by soldiers in combat.

Knowing that, and responding to a desire to address the situation in 2016, Cassie Kraus, the current Special Needs Director at Community of Faith, sought out Mark Shook, Senior Pastor, and Bradley Thomas, Connections Pastor of Community of Faith, and posed her idea. Cassie wanted to provide some much-needed assistance to families yearning to attend worship services or other church functions but were unable to do so because their children required special considerations.

Cassie received overwhelming support to create a program that not only addressed the needs of parishioners, but has grown to offer collaborative, family-centered assistance to caregivers in other parts of Texas and as far as Louisiana.

Sharing her personal understanding of the issues, Cassie said, "As the parent of a child with autism and a former special education professional in Cy-Fair, I was well-versed in the challenges parents face trying to make their way through the special needs maze.

"We were delighted when we found Community of Faith. Their warm welcome and willingness to work with us to address some of our unique challenges offered us an environment of understanding and respect—one in which we thrived." Continuing, she said, "The special needs community, as a whole, is very small, and when you find a church that is willing to work with you and that looks at each child as their own, that's huge. As the parent of a child with different abilities, it was comforting to find people willing to walk that journey with you who are striving to find the best outcome for your child and to see him or her as a unique individual."

Bradley chimed in, "Our special needs ministry has been operating full tilt for about a year and a half now. Cassie brought expertise,

heart, and connections to the team, which has added the necessary foundation to create a welcoming, dynamic, family-centered environment.

"We sponsored our first 'Special Needs Expo' last year and over 200 families participated. With Cassie's unbelievable network of organizations willing to step in and provide the needed framework of access, information, and resources, 50 vendors worked diligently to help families get connected and feel supported.

"This year, we're hoping the Expo is attended by anyone that has a need or a desire to help." He emphasized, "They don't need to go to our church. Our goal is that our Special Needs Ministry continues to build a reputation as a key contact when families need help with parenting, family interaction, physical or emotional well-being, or disability-related support.

"As advocates for children and adults with special needs, whether it's autism, Downs Syndrome, MS, behavioral challenges or anything in between, we want Community of Faith to be their 'go to' for support and acceptance—the organization that brokers partnerships and relationships for families.

"Community of Faith is unique in that we have made a substantial investment in personnel, equipment, rooms, volunteers and other resources to meet the growing need.

"We recognize that the parenting of a special needs child is 24/7. There is no downtime. Not only do we provide opportunities to get them connected to resources, but we also offer opportunities to walk in friendship with them.

"For example, once a quarter, Cassie facilitates a 'Special Needs Family Night Out.' She and her team come up with a unique event where they create a safe and stimulating atmosphere with fun activities, like story time, games, bounce houses, and relationship-building activities for the children and their siblings.

"Parents can confidently leave and enjoy a few hours of freedom to

(Continued on Page 2)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire/Ambulance.....	911
Officer.....	911
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Cy-Fair Medical Clinic (24 Hour)	281-890-4285
Sheriff Non-emergency.....	281-463-2648

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Roadside Assistance.....	800-525-5555
Fire/Ambulance.....	713-466-4073
Harris County Precinct 4	281-376-3472
Texas No Call List Registration	866-TXN-OCAL
Vacation Watch	281-401-6200

SCHOOLS

Bus Information	281-897-4380
Ault Elementary School.....	281-373-2800
Keith Elementary School.....	281-213-1744
Swenke Elementary School.....	281-213-1200
Rosehill Christian School	281-351-8114
Cy-Fair Administration	281-897-4000
Cy-Ranch High School	281-373-2300
Cy-Woods High School.....	281-213-1800
Salyards Middle School.....	281-373-2400
Spillane Middle School.....	281-213-1645

UTILITY NUMBERS

Eagle Water Management, Inc.....	281-373-8989
Centerpoint (Gas)	713-659-2111
Reliant Energy (Electricity).....	713-207-7777

OTHER NUMBERS

AT&T Repair Center	800-246-8464
Street Light Outages (Need to provide the 6 digit pole number).....	713-207-2222
Harris County Animal Control	832-999-3191
Best Trash (They provide free trashcan for recyclables)	281-313-2378
Harris County Public Library.....	281-290-3210
Post Office.....	281-858-9021

NEWSLETTER INFO

PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email your articles to cypresspark@peelinc.com by the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.

(Continued from Cover)

do whatever they want. If they're going to go home and take a nap, that's great! If they're going to go shopping, out to eat, or to a movie they are free to choose.

The Community of Faith 2nd Annual Special Needs Expo will take place February 23, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"The way it works is families will check in at the lobby and filter through the multipurpose room where they will have the opportunity to visit with an assortment of vendors, such as therapies, estate planning, school districts, transition services, and adaptive sports (such as cheerleading and gymnastics).

"Attendees will find a variety of resources for families just starting out as well as families entering those adult years. The culmination will be speeches from field experts."

In closing, I asked Bradley, "Plain and simple, what is the ultimate purpose of the Expo?"

Without missing a beat, he said, "Our goal is for hundreds of families living in and around Cypress—members of Community of Faith or not—to know they have a friend. We want every family living with a special needs child to know that they are not alone, and they have someone who will walk with them every step of the way in raising their children all the way up to adulthood."



full service landscape company

281-373-0378



Landscape Maintenance

Commercial & Residential

Patios & Walkways

Pavestone * Flagstone * Concrete

Landscape Services

Design & Installation * Lighting *
Seasonal Flowers * Drainage *
Sod Installation * Rock Borders

Sprinkler Systems

Design * Installation * Repairs *
Property Coverage * Warranty *
Licensed Irrigation #8587

Proudly serving northwest Houston since 1997



Insured for your protection.



horizon-landscape.com

10th Anniversary Salute to Our Heroes Gala



On February 3, 2018, the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation (CFEF) will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Salute to Our Heroes Gala at the Omni Hotel Houston Westside. North Cypress Medical Center Hospital is the Missing Man Underwriter for this gala honoring the brave men and women who have served to

protect our freedom and liberty. The evening includes a Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony to honor our missing loved ones [or missing comrades in arms, for veterans].

Station & Ayers Insurance Services & Consulting is the Edward Station Memorial Photography Sponsor. Memorial Hermann Cypress is a Brigadier General Sponsor. VIP Reception Sponsors include ACU of Texas and Houston Methodist, and Hightower Electric Company is the Floral Sponsor.

Salvatore "Sal" Giunta, former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant, is the

evenings guest speaker. Giunta was presented with our nation's highest military decoration—The Medal of Honor—for his heroic actions during combat in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan on October 25, 2007. His courage and leadership while under extreme enemy fire were integral to his team's survival and led to his selection as the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War and the eighth service member to receive the nation's highest military decoration for valor in Iraq and Afghanistan.

CFEF was established in 1970 as a non-profit to raise money to fund a scholarship for high school graduates in the area. Over the past 47 years, the Foundation has grown tremendously through the efforts of the Board of Trustees and the generosity of the Cy-Fair Community. The Foundation has awarded over \$7.5 million in scholarships to 1600 graduating seniors. CFEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, all contributions are tax deductible, as allowed by the law.

Sponsorships and tickets are available for Salute to Our Heroes. Tickets Must Be Purchased in Advance: \$125 individual; \$75 veterans

For more information please contact marie@thecfef.org or visit our website at www.theCFEF.org.



Full Service Print Shop Large Run - Short Run

BOOKLETS • BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS
EDDM POSTCARDS • NOTEPADS • FOLDERS
DOORHANGERS • HANG TAGS • LETTERHEAD
CALENDARS • POCKET POSTCARDS • POSTERS
RACK CARDS • TABLE TENTS • & MORE

512.263.9181

QualityPrintingOfAustin.com

**MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE 20% OFF
EXPIRES 2/28/2018**



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

support your community newsletter

Nichole Taylor

ntaylor@peelinc.com • 512-263-9181
Sales Representative

Making Sense of the Numbers



Luncheon Details

*Thursday, February 22, 2018
Networking 11a.m.;
Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m.
Sterling Country Club
16500 Houston National Blvd.
Houston, TX 77095*

*Costs \$25 with advanced
reservations; \$30 at the door*

Karen Sharp started her career in systems analysis at Shell Oil and Tenneco Oil E&P where she programmed, maintained, and managed the Personnel /HR systems. She later moved into information technology marketing and sales in companies including BMC Software and Ansa Software, a highly successful tech startup. Karen earned a BS in Applied Science, Systems Analysis from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio and an MBA from University of Houston.

Karen founded her branding solutions business in 1997 in which she provides digital, print, and promotional marketing and branding solution to mid-large firms in the private and public sectors. Her clients include Harris County Public Health, Harris County Community Health Choice, and various oil and gas service firms. She joined Lone Star College as adjunct business faculty in 2007, where she taught marketing and business management courses. In 2009, she joined America's SBDC at Lone Star College as a senior business advisor where she provides business advising services to businesses in the CyFair, and Northwest Houston areas. Karen developed the Business Success Seminar series which offers powerful information seminars at no charge for business owners in the CyFair area with the CyFair Houston Chamber and the Harris County Public Library. Karen's specialties are marketing, information technology, supplier diversity, and franchising.

PATIO COVERS | PERGOLAS | CARPORTS | PORTE COCHÈRES
OUTDOOR KITCHENS | DECORATIVE OUTDOOR FLOORING



RAIN PROOF DESIGN

CUSTOM PATIO STRUCTURES

Committed to Quality, Value & Service



832.570.3990 www.custompatiostructures.com



FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED WITH OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
FREE ESTIMATES & DESIGN CONSULTATION • 100% FINANCING AVAILABLE

BASHANS PAINTING & HOME REPAIR

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- HardiPlank Replacement
- Sheetrock Repair
- Cabinet Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Fence Repair/Replacement
- Custom Staining
- Gutter Repair & Replacement
- Crown Molding
- Wallpaper Removal
- Wood Replacement
- Interior Carpentry
- Wallpaper Removal & Texture
- Garage Floor Epoxy
- Roofing
- Faux Painting

NO MONEY UP FRONT

20 Years Experience • References Available

Commercial/Residential

~ FREE ESTIMATES ~

BashansPainting@earthlink.net

♦ FULLY INSURED

281-347-6702

281-731-3383 cell



HARDIPLANK®



Help Your Marriage and Others During National Marriage Week

Local non-profit Shield Bearer is hosting several marriage building activities during National Marriage Week February 7-14, 2018. Shield Bearer has been on the front lines strengthening marriages through counseling, marriage saving intensive experiences, and workshops since 2007. Executive Director Roy Wooten states, "Strengthening marriages is at the core of our mission and National Marriage Week is a great time to focus on the benefits of a strong marriage. We have seen these benefits first hand, from helping couples live longer and happier lives, to increased economic stability, to positive and lifelong impacts on the health and wellbeing of children. We know it takes focus and determination to maintain a strong marriage and are committed to getting resources and support to as many couples as possible."

Shield Bearer will host a special Life Together Forever Couples Workshop on February 10th from 9AM-3PM at their central counseling office (12340 Jones Rd Suite 290) in Houston. "This workshop is a fun and meaningful way to strengthen your relationship, reconnect with your spouse, and rekindle your romance," states Clinical Coordinator Allie Scott. "Couples explore topics that affect every marriage including speaking and hearing the truth, having courageous conversations, forgiveness, romance, healthy expectations, and more. It's a great way for healthy couples to refocus and celebrate what is truly important in their relationship."

On February 9th from 11:30-1PM, Shield Bearer will present a special Marriage Edition of their Hope After Harvey Workshop. "Since the storm, we have provided Hope After Harvey workshops free of charge to anyone struggling from the trauma of the storm, including being displaced, losing loved ones, losing possessions, jobs, and stability, and then also to the first responders, caregivers, and volunteers helping Harvey survivors rebuild their lives. These workshops focus on the ups and downs of trauma recovery and provide resources for coping and thriving. During National Marriage Week, we will also dive deeper into how marriages are affected by trauma and ways to come together during a crisis."

Shield Bearer also offers a unique counseling experience for couples that think there is no hope for their marriage. "Shield Bearer's Marriage Saving Intensive experience is a unique approach to couples counseling. Couples on the brink of divorce spend an entire day with two of our counselors. We are able to accelerate the process of the more traditional, weekly couples sessions and have seen great success. This model has saved hundreds of marriages that would not have endured with a more traditional process," states Ms. Scott.

Shield Bearer will also provide a free online marriage resource each day of National Marriage Week to followers of their online community page at facebook.com/shieldbearer.counseling. Mr. Wooten adds, "Even just a few minutes focusing on your relationship

each day can make a big impact. We encourage all married couples to participate in some type of marriage strengthening activity during National Marriage Week and to remind your friends and family to do the same. Strong marriages create a stronger community for everyone."

For additional details and registration for National Marriage Week activities, call (281) 894-7222. For more information about Shield Bearer, a Houston based 501c3 nonprofit counseling and community resource center that serves individuals, couples, and families including those recovering from the trauma of human trafficking, domestic violence, crime, abuse, war, and Hurricane Harvey, visit shieldbearer.org or call (281) 894-7222.



CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEBRUARY MEETING



*CFRW will meet on Tuesday,
February 13th
at 10:30 AM to Noon.*

*Hearthstone Country Club
7615 Ameswood, Houston, TX
77095*

Meeting is \$3 – Meeting with Lunch at Noon is \$23.

Jay Guerrero, our speaker, is the Regional Director for Texas Senior Senator and Majority Whip, Senator John Cornyn. Jay is part of the Senator's team that is working for Texans and will update us on what the Senator is working on in Washington DC.

See the website for details and RSVP to www.cfrw.net by February 6th .

We look forward to seeing you there.

CYPRESS PULSE

The Cypress Pulse is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use the Cypress Pulse contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

WIRED

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

SERVICING ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

- Panel Upgrades
- Home Inspections
- TV Install/Mounting
- Troubleshooting
- Remodeling
- Landscaping Lighting
- Home Generators

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL 24-7 SERVICE
LICENSED & INSURED

**Take \$25.00 Off Your
Next Service Call**



FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

713.467.1125 or 281.897.0001

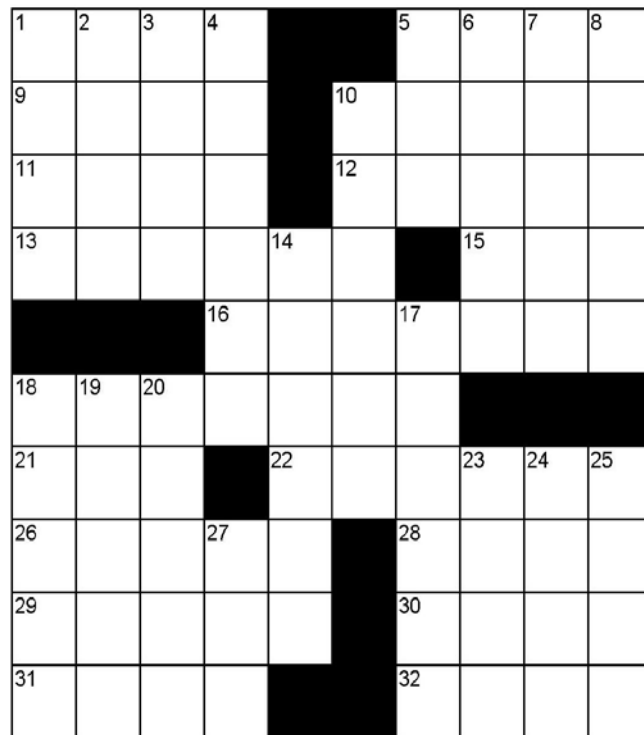
www.WiredES.com



TECL 22809 Master 100394



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- Green seedless plant
- Syrian bishop
- Singing voice
- Tapestry
- Oracle
- High School dance
- Camel seat
- Kimono sash
- Moslem
- Ancient time piece
- Environmental protection agency (abbr)
- Naval fleet
- From Asia
- Aroma
- Jeans
- Back of the neck
- Tuber
- Removes the water

DOWN

- Squash
- Tub spread
- Soup
- Dirty
- Creative work
- Sweeper
- Deer
- Molded salad
- Precision cut stone
- People from Asia
- Kitchen appliance color
- Large mammals
- Defeat
- Simple
- 6th month (Jewish calendar)
- Foolish
- Greek god of war
- Place

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

© 2006. Feature Exchange

SHIELD
BEARER

shieldbearer.org

RUNNING FOR HEARTS

5K FAMILY FUN RUN AND WALK

SAT. APRIL 7, 2018

7 AM - 11 AM

Windwood Presbyterian Church
10555 Spring Cypress Rd.
Houston, TX 77070

Registration and Fundraising at:

shieldbearer.org/5K

\$25 Adults (14 & up)

\$10 Children (13 & under)



Timed 5K Trail Run, 1 Mile Walk
Music, Food, T-Shirts, Prizes and More!

Join us in support of survivors of trauma including
Hurricane Harvey, human trafficking, domestic violence, war, and crime.

Proceeds benefit Shield Bearer, a 501c3 nonprofit offering professional counseling services and programs for victims of crime, abuse, human trafficking and more. To find out more, visit shieldbearer.org or call (281) 894-7222.



PEEL, INC.

308 Meadowlark St.
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

CYP

LET US HELP YOU
GROW YOUR NEXT

**BIG
IDEA**



PEEL, INC.
printing & publishing

CONTACT US TODAY!

512.263.9181

OR VISIT

PEELINC.COM