



The Official Newsletter
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Homeowners Association

The Rosehill *Report*

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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	911
Ambulance.....	911
Constable	281-376-3472
Sheriff - Non-emergency	713-221-6000
- Burglary & Theft	713-967-5770
- Auto Theft	281-550-0458
- Homicide/Assault	713-967-5810
- Child Abuse.....	713-529-4216
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence	713-967-5743
- Runaway Unit	713-755-7427
Poison Control.....	800-764-7661
Traffic Light Issues	713-881-3210

SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD Administration	281-897-4000
Cypress Fairbanks ISD Transportation	281-897-4380
Cypress Fairbanks Senior High	281-897-4600
Cy-Woods High School	281-213-1727
Goodson Middle School	281-373-2350

OTHER NUMBERS

Animal Control	281-999-3191
Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center	281-890-4285
Harris County Health Department.....	713-439-6260
Post Office Box Assignment – Cypress.....	1-800-275-8777
Street Lights - CenterPoint Energy.....	713-207-2222
- not working (Report Number on Pole)	
Waste Management	713-686-6666

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(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."

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Lakes of Rosehill Resident & Your Neighbor

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.**



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.



Do you know of someone who has trouble putting food on the table? Maybe their employment was suddenly terminated; maybe it's a choice between medications or food; for whatever reason a family can find themselves in a situation where they need a little help.

Fountain of Life Church of God on Mueschke Road runs a food pantry on Mondays from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm and the only requirement is that the client should live in zip code 77433 and west of Skinner 77429. For more information, contact 281-373-9337. Food donations and volunteers are also greatly appreciated.

Computerized job search and resume preparation and printing are also available.



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