

# THE Ranch Review

February 2018  
Volume 12, Issue 2

*A Newsletter for Riata Ranch Residents*

## Special Needs Expo Right in Our Own Backyard!

**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

Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Fire Department.....	281-855-1110
Cy-Fair Medical Center .....	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital.....	713-932-3000
Poison Control .....	800-222-1222

### SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD.....	281-897-4000
Woodard Elementary.....	281-373-2303
Spillane Middle .....	281-216-1645
Cy-Woods High.....	281-213-1800
Cy-Fair College.....	281-290-3200

### UTILITIES

HCMUD #196	
Water District Mgt .....	281-376-8802
Billing.....	281-579-4500
Repairs .....	281-398-8211
Centerpoint Electric .....	713-207-2222
Centerpoint Entex Gas .....	713-659-2111
AT&T/SBC.....	800-464-7928
Comcast Cable/High Speed Internet..	713-341-1000
Waste Mgt.....	713-686-6666
HOA, Crest Mgt .....	281-579-0761
United States Post Office .....	800-275-8777

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### NEWSLETTER

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### 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 [riataranch@peelinc.com](mailto:riataranch@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."

## **The Houston Choral Society Presents "A Night on Broadway" Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 7:30 PM**

Houston, TX – The treasured music and lyrics of some of Broadway's greatest songs are presented in the Houston Choral Society's **A Night on Broadway** concert Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 7:30 PM, at The Foundry Church. Under the direction of Dr. Kevin M. Klotz, HCS Artistic Director, this concert features brilliant arrangements of Broadway classics.

The chorus performs songs from a broad range of Broadway shows including Kiss Me Kate, West Side Story, Oklahoma, Carousel, The Sound of Music, A Chorus Line, Rent, Frozen, Hairspray, Chicago, Aspects of Love and Phantom of the Opera. Audience favorites include "Oklahoma," "Climb Every Mountain," "Let It Go," "You Can't Stop the Beat," "And All That Jazz," "Music of the Night," and more. The highlight of the performance is a medley of songs from Les Misérables.

Ticket prices are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors/students/veterans, and \$10 for children ages 5 and younger. Group rates are available. Tickets are available online at [www.houstonchoral.org](http://www.houstonchoral.org). Tickets may also be purchased at the door. The Foundry Church is one of the premiere choral venues in Houston with extraordinary acoustics. It is located in northwest Houston at 8350 Jones Road, Houston, TX 77065 with easy access from Highway 290.

# 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](mailto:marie@thecfef.org) or visit our website at [www.theCFEF.org](http://www.theCFEF.org).**

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- Atascocita Forest
- Blackhorse Ranch
- Briarhills
- Bridgeland
- Canyon Gate at Northpointe
- Cardiff Ranch
- Cypress Creek Lakes
- Cypress Mill
- Cypress Park
- Eagle Springs
- Fairfield
- Grand Lake Estates
- Lakeshore
- Lakes of Fairhaven
- Lakes of Rosehill
- Lakes on Eldridge
- Lakes on Eldridge North
- Legends Ranch
- Meyerland
- Normandy Forest
- North Lake Forest
- Park Creek
- Park Lakes
- Riata Ranch
- Shadow Creek Ranch
- Silverlake
- Steeplechase
- Sterling Lakes
- Summerwood
- Towne Lakes
- Village Creek
- Villages of NorthPointe
- Walden on Lake Houston
- West Bend CIA
- Willowbridge
- Winchester Country
- Woodwind Lakes
- Wortham Villages

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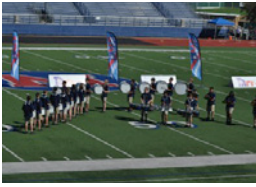
## Cypress Christian School had a great start to the 2017-2018 school year.

### CYPRESS CHRISTIAN WARRIORS WIN STATE!



On Friday, December 8, the Warriors took home the TAPPS Division III State Championship for the first time in the school's 40 year history with a record setting 68 - 34 victory. TAPPS named 19 players to the All-District Team, 9 players to the All-State Team and 9 players to the Academic All-State Team.

### Cypress Christian Warrior Drumline Wins State Runner-Up



Cypress Christian's Warrior Drumline had spectators and judges alike tapping their feet and singing along to Deep in the Heart of Texas, as they drummed their way to State Runner-Up in the TAPPS Tier 1 competition, with the tenor section taking first place

### Cypress Christian Senior Earns National Award



Cypress Christian Senior, Halle Hudson, has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting. The award recognizes girls in grades 9-12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable community service projects

that require a minimum of 80 hours to complete. Less than five percent of Girl Scouts earn the award.

### Cypress Christian Varsity Volleyball Finishes in Final Four



The Cypress Christian varsity volleyball rose to the occasion this season, finishing in the State Final Four, the highest level in the program's recent history. Throughout the season,

the Lady Warriors fought through each match as a team, exemplifying great hustle and demanding a high work ethic from each other. TAPPS named 7 players to the All-District Team, 2 players to the All-State Team and 3 players to the Academic All-State Team.

### Cypress Christian Upcoming Admission Event



Thursday, February 15 Cypress Christian School will host a student visitor day. Visit [www.cypresschristian.org/admissions](http://www.cypresschristian.org/admissions) for more details and information on how to register your student.

## Cypress Texas Tea Party

The next meetings of the Cypress Texas Tea Party will be on:

### Saturday, February 3, 2018 NOON - 2:00 PM

- Aaron Burdette, Candidate for Criminal Court at Law #11
  - Lori Botello, Candidate for County Criminal Court #11
  - Jessica Padilla, Candidate for Criminal Court at Law #13
  - Judge Alyssa Lemkuil, Candidate for 257th District Court
    - Judge Denise Collins, 208th District Court
  - Geric Tip sword, Candidate for 180th District Court
  - Judge Christine Riddle Butts, Harris County Probate Court #4
    - Judge Debra Ibarra Mayfield, 190th District Court
- Saturday, February 24, 2018 NOON - 2:00 PM
- Dan Crenshaw, Candidate for US Representative, Congressional District 2
  - Kathaleen Wall, Candidate for US Representative, Congressional District 2

- Gary Elkins, Texas State Representative, District 135
- Judge Angelina Gooden, 280th Family Protective Order Court
- George Clevenger, Candidate for 280th District Court
  - Judge Bill Harmon, Criminal Court at Law #2
- Judge Rory Olsen, Harris County Probate Court #3
- Judge Paula Goodhart, Criminal Court at Law #1

### The Cypress Texas Tea Party meets every three weeks on Saturday

Noon until 2:00 PM at:

Spring Creek BBQ  
25831 Northwest Freeway  
Cypress, Texas 77429

Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/OoNjY>

*A schedule of the meetings and confirmed speakers can be found on their website, [www.cypressstexteaparty.org](http://www.cypressstexteaparty.org)*

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# 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](http://shieldbearer.org/5K)  
\$25 Adults (14 & up)  
\$10 Children (13 & under)



**Timed 5K Trail Run, 1 Mile Walk**  
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DUE: January 31st

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name (first name, last initial): \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_



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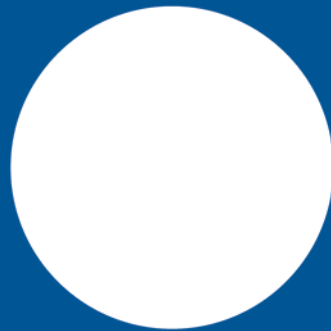
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