

November 2020  
Volume 13, Issue 11



# The Beacon

News For The Residents at Lakes of Fairhaven

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



*Read More on  
Page 7!*



## This Holiday, Keep Family Stories Alive

by Jackie Devine

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Article Submission..... [thebeacon@PEELinc.com](mailto:thebeacon@PEELinc.com)  
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When you and your relatives gather to celebrate family, Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays are the perfect times to capture memories and start creating a legacy that can be handed down for generations to come. But time is of the essence. Our mothers and fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins leave us too soon.

Pull out your phone, place it on video, and start asking questions. If you need a list of questions, email me at [jackiedevine@peelinc.com](mailto:jackiedevine@peelinc.com). I will send you a list of questions to ask your family and friends. I'll wager you will be surprised by the answers.

Please don't wait until it is too late like I did. Capture your family folklore before your living vault of information has disappeared.

To recreate my Grandmother's story, I had to interview scores of cousins I had not seen in decades. That was helpful, but I knew theirs wasn't the whole story. After researching the national archives, I stumbled upon long lost kin I had never met, and precious photos I had not seen. As a result, I created a priceless mini-biography of my Grandmother, which included family photos, memories, conversations she had with me over the years, and various precious documents. It remains available on the web for family members all over the world to retrieve.

For the last few years, several organizations have encouraged families to listen to one another and record family history. Two excellent organizations include:

StoryCorps, for example, launched The National Day of Listening. StoryCorps encourages everyone to ask elder family members to tell stories at the Thanksgiving dinner table—memories that provoke more memories and stories. It's a beautiful way to connect older generations with newer ones and create a shared family tradition.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, StoryCorps Connect offers a first-of-its-kind platform that enables you to record a StoryCorps interview with a loved one remotely using video conference technology. The audio and a still photo from each interview goes into their archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

StoryWorth, located at <https://welcome.storyworth.com>, is another option that allows you to preserve your memories, connect your family, and learn about relatives in a new and exciting way. Once a week, they email your mother, dad, or grandparents a question, possibly about subjects you have never thought to ask. All they do is reply with a story that is shared with you each week. At the end of the year, the stories are compiled and bound into a beautiful keepsake book.

Please don't let another holiday pass without preserving your family's stories and life-lessons for future generations. When they are gone, your stories have vanished.

If you are not comfortable working with national forms and prefer something up close and personal, I will help you gather and compile your family's history. Contact me at [jackiedevine@peelinc.com](mailto:jackiedevine@peelinc.com). And let me know that you are interested in taking a memoir writing class. If we have enough interest, I will make myself available free of charge for a 6-week memoir writing class in our community.

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# MEET THE STAFF AT THE OAKS VETERINARY CLINIC

When you visit The Oaks Veterinary Clinic on Muschke Road, the first thing you'll notice is our inviting atmosphere and friendly staff. Learn more about our caring and compassionate team members who were hand-picked, to provide you and your pet the best possible experience available.

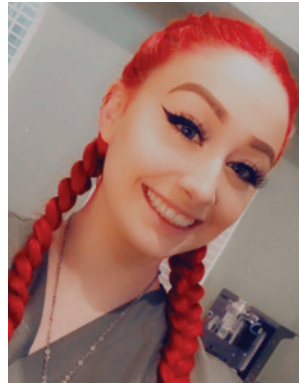


**Skye Greene** has been a veterinary nurse for over 20 years. She has three two-legged children and several fur kids. She is well rounded and experienced in all aspects of wellness, surgery, and emergency care. Her passions are client education and compassionate end of life care.



**Jessica Hoffart** was born and raised in Katy. She now lives in Magnolia with her husband David, her children Beau, Taya, Grant, two cats, and a flock of chickens. Jessica graduated from the Vet Tech Institute and became a licensed Veterinary Technician in 2012. She has a strong passion for Surgery & Anesthesia, including Canine and Feline Dentistry.

When she's not working, you can find her in her vegetable gardens, tending to her chickens and spending time with her kids.



**Brittany Derringer** was born in Houston, Texas, and currently lives in the Spring area. Brittany attended and graduated from Lone Star College - Tomball and now has Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science degrees. Brittany is a CVA and is looking forward to taking her VTNE to become a Licensed Veterinary Technician. Brittany's passion is surgery and anesthesia, as well as dentistry. In her free time, Brittany enjoys playing

video games on PC and Xbox and is a very competitive gamer and a huge car enthusiast.

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## Food Drive Sponsored by CHC

by Melanie Vitovsky



In November, The Cypress Homeschool Council is having a food drive! All items will be donated to Cypress Assistance Ministries. To participate, please deliver goods to one of these locations:

- 15135 Green Whisper Dr, Cypress, TX 77433
- 20907 Orange Poppy Dr, Cypress, TX 77433

### Items Needed

spaghetti sauce  
noodles  
boxed cereal  
ramen noodles  
macaroni and cheese

dry beans & rice  
diapers (sizes 2-6)  
canned chili  
tuna, chicken  
toothpaste/brushes

shampoo  
deodorant  
bar soap  
toilet paper  
paper towels

### **Tips & Tricks to Homeschooling by Members of The Cypress Homeschool**

Many people think that Homeschooling is just parents teaching their kids at home what they would learn at school, but in reality, there is so much more to homeschooling than that! Homeschooling is an opportunity! Homeschooling helps parents realize that it is not just about the curriculum that we use, it is about the ordinary things we do as parents that are a major part of homeschooling. Here are some tips and tricks that members of The Cypress Homeschool Council have shared with us:

For our family, the day homeschooling became much easier is when we finally came to realize that this is not public school. We don't have to sit at a desk in a classroom. We can sit on the couch or at a park picnic table. Life became so much better when we started enjoying homeschool. Jennifer Ochoa

I would say even if you have bought a curriculum, don't get married to it. If your kid is not enjoying it, feel free to change it. We have done that quite a few times. *Smriti Gupta*

It's okay for your day to be short and sweet! We have school at the kitchen table which is the heart of our home, and we don't miss a classroom! Expect normal to go out the window; it's whatever works for your family. *Regina Corner*

Don't compare yourself, your children, or family to anyone else. God knows your children and has an amazing plan for them. *Hannah George-Larios*

My advice would be to ease in to homeschooling. You don't have to do every subject the first day, or even the first week! Be kind to yourself. It's a learning process. *Lauren Duffy*

My advice is find the time that works best for your family! We were saving a lot for the afternoons, and it was like pulling teeth. Now, we start at 7:30 and usually are done by 10 because we are all more focused and engaged! *Mary West*

We now do individual subjects in the afternoon when the toddler is napping.

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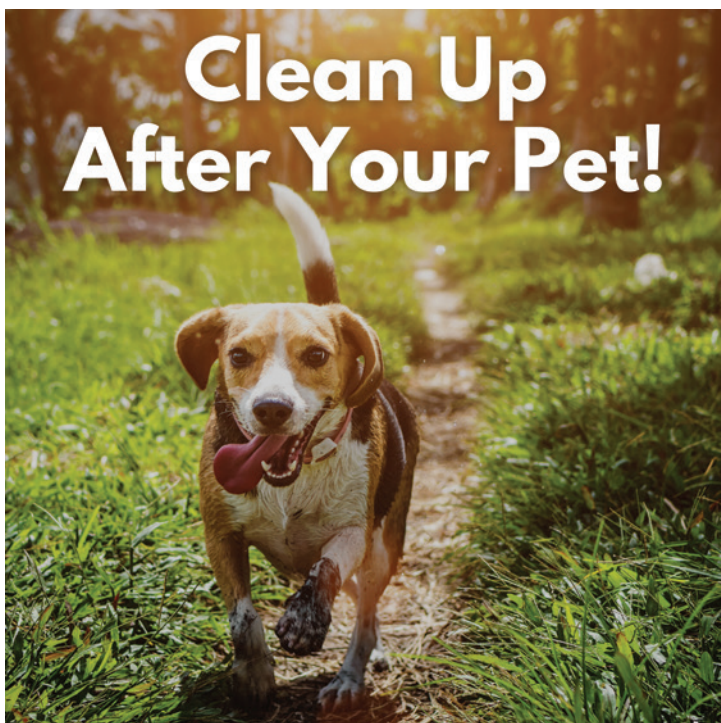
For the last two years, our time of schooling has evolved. It works best for us when it is planned around her naps. Every family is unique, and you get to make it your own. *Chrissy Blumer*

Life happens, so we homeschool year round and take short breaks/free days more frequently. It lessens the stress of feeling like you have to cram everything in. *Sandy Beatty*

Failure is going to happen, on both fronts, for us as parents and them as kids! And that is absolutely ok. I think it is important for kids to learn that failure should not be a negative thing. Praise them for trying when they fail, and praise yourself for trying something even if you fail. Remember that you don't have to be perfect. It is good for kids to see that we sometimes struggle just as much as they do, but we are ok and learn from it too. *Desirea Gaastra*

Read together as much as possible. The joy of a good book is contagious. You can't do it all. There are so many good activities and learning opportunities out there. Choose wisely. Give kids time to themselves too. This helps them absorb and apply newly gained knowledge. *Katlynn Lanham*

My advice is to know yourself, know your children, and then accept it. Find what works for you, not what works for other families, but do research what works for other families, so that you have other avenues to try. I felt certain my son wouldn't like workbooks, but he loves them. You may find that personalities, learning abilities, and desire to learn are all different for each person. I encourage everyone to look deeply into their own lives, recognize strengths as well as flaws in all of you. Then you can adjust and cater your child's education specifically to them. Give praise when you want to correct and encourage the innate joy of learning we all have in us. Once that fire of the love of learning is extinguished it's hard to get back. *Charlyn Hohenstein*



## In Fairfield, We Give Back

by Janet Guthrie

Volunteering in Cypress has become a way of life for many of us. Although we have wrestled with the effects of hurricanes, flooding, and 2020's COVID Pandemic, we recognize that in other ways, we are "living the dream" and are eager to share our time and talent with others.

One of our local groups, the Traveling Seniors of Cypress, chose to share and promote the spirit of Christmas, by volunteering at The Brookwood Community. In addition to finding a sense of accomplishment, the opportunity for personal growth, and a chance to form meaningful relationships, they had the chance to learn more about what volunteering means to the greater good.

There are approximately 30 million adults with disabilities in the United States, eight million of whom need full or partial care for life. The Brookwood Community was established to provide adults with special needs life-long educational and work opportunities, enabling them to contribute to themselves and their world.

The Brookwood Community is a nonprofit organization 30 minutes west of Houston, which offers residential and day employment opportunities and provides meaningful purpose in the lives of over 250 adults with disabilities in a God-centered educational, vocational and residential community.

During September, October, and November, the TSC will have helped to transplant 54,000 poinsettias. Once these plants reached a certain age, the Traveling Seniors of Cypress helped ring them to ensure steady, vigorous growth. TSC volunteers have also worked in the warehouse, priced Christmas ornaments, and worked in the Garden Center to sell poinsettias.

During November, Brookwood will begin to pull plants, sleeve, load, and then deliver them. If you are interested in volunteering, there are many other campus areas that they could use your help daily.

Their Woodlands Holiday Store will be open Tuesday – Saturday, October 16 – December 23. Volunteers are needed each day for their Holiday Retail Store located in Hughes Landing Shopping Center at 2025 Hughes Landing Blvd, in The Woodlands.

In Brookshire, The Gift and Garden Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am—4:30 pm, and the Brookwood Cafe is open from 11:00 am—2:00 pm through December 23. In November, they will begin packaging, loading, and shipping all of their plants. Help is needed daily during this time period.

For more information, you can contact Karen Pollard at 281.375.2100 or karenp@brookwoodcommunity.org. Go on line to signup at <https://signup.com/go/VonBVZd>.



# The Beacon

## Cy-Fair Helping Hands Keeps Vision to Serve

By Patricia Hudson

When Jean and John Dreyer founded Cy-Fair Helping Hands in 2010, their vision was to help the homeless become self-sufficient. Many families in the community were also struggling with food insecurity. Today, this all-volunteer ministry has grown from a husband and wife team to more than 50 volunteers, and is serving thousands in the Cy-Fair community monthly.

Jean Dreyer, Executive Director of Homeless Initiatives, and Patricia Hudson, Executive Director of Community Outreach, oversee multiple programs designed to serve the homeless and those living below the poverty level. Seven months into the Coronavirus pandemic, many have experienced loss of income, are desperate to feed their families and are seeking emergency shelter. Assisting the homeless and impoverished by regularly providing food, basic needs, guidance, and a safe place continues to fuel the passion for serving at CFHH.

### Homeless Initiatives



The Homeless Initiatives Emergency Shelter program provides shelter for families with children, homeless teens, and disabled individuals. Homeless Outreach Teams meet and build relationships with more than 50 homeless weekly. Prior to the pandemic, Fellowship Wednesdays offered health checks, document recovery, fellowship, worship, and a hot meal. The vision continues to provide a day center for the homeless.

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## FAIRFIELD REPUBLICANS MEETING



**With Chairs of the Harris County Fairfield Republican  
Party Precincts**

**Gateway Church - 25314 Zube Road**

**Hockley, TX 77447**

*(Only 10 minutes from Fairfield)*

**Thursday Evening - At 7:00 PM**

**December 7, 2020**

Please join your Fairfield Precinct Chairs of 111, 124, and 405. We will discuss the November 3, 2020 General Election results, provide updates on current information, and plan for 2021 activities. We have a growing list of Facebook and Nextdoor Fairfield followers. Our pages are the "Fairfield Republicans" group. Also, you may contact Bill Ely, Precinct 0124 Chair at 832-919-4999 for more information.

## November Speaker: Professor Robert Stein, "Recap of the 2020 Election"



The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold its next virtual monthly meeting Tuesday, November 17, 2020. There is a meet and greet at 6:30 p.m. The general meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. To request the ZOOM access code, email [cytomdemocrats@yahoo.com](mailto:cytomdemocrats@yahoo.com).

The speaker will be Professor Robert "Bob" Stein. Professor Stein, Ph.D., is the fellow in urban politics at the Baker Institute and the Lena Grohlman Fox Professor of Political Science at Rice University. He also is the faculty director of Rice's Center for Civic Engagement. Stein's current research focuses on alternative modes of elections and voting procedures in the United States.

Stein is co-author of "Perpetuating the Pork Barrel: Policy Subsystems and American Democracy" (Cambridge University Press, 1995) and author of "Urban Alternatives: Public and Private Markets in the Provision of Local Services" (Pittsburgh Press, 1990). He teaches courses on public policy, urban politics and political behavior at Rice, where twice he has been awarded the George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching.

All are welcome to attend and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

For more information & access to the ZOOM Virtual meeting, contact Charlene Shafer at [cytomdemocrats@yahoo.com](mailto:cytomdemocrats@yahoo.com), or visit the club's Facebook page.



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Homeless teens are provided quick meals in all CFISD high schools; Upward Progress pays class fees, dual credit, graduation and extracurricular expenses. Scholarships are awarded to CFISD homeless graduates; two are studying at Lone Star College, one to become a firefighter, and the other, a nurse. A third is at Texas A&M studying chemical or biomedical engineering.

**Cards of Hope**, \$50 WalMart gift cards, are currently being



collected for the holidays for homeless teens and their siblings. With the help of our community partners, 550 cards were gifted last year.

**Compassion Bags** for homeless clients are needed. ([www.cyfairhelpinghands.org](http://www.cyfairhelpinghands.org))

### Community Outreach

The **Community Pantry** provides non-perishables and fresh food. A drive-thru food distribution ensures that volunteers and clients follow CDC guidelines. Volunteers register clients electronically, clients remain in their cars, and trunks are loaded with boxes of food and toiletries. Since March 17, 2020, we have fed nearly 20,000 individuals, and have distributed more than 75,000 pounds of food donated through the Houston Food Bank, and thousands more through community supporters. Our **Community Garden** supplements the pantry by providing fresh produce from 34 raised beds. This year, volunteers have harvested a ton of produce.

With the help of the community, Backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to CFISD students, and to first year college students. Working with Owens and Hairgrove Elementary, and CFISD Children's Youth Services workers, (CYS), we were able to put backpacks into the hands of over 2,300 students in need across the district. To put this into perspective, 1,000 backpacks were distributed in 2019, and 450 in 2018.



**Thanksgiving Blessings Boxes** - complete holiday meals, together with \$20 -\$25 WalMart gift cards to purchase turkeys or hams. We anticipate providing approximately 620 boxes this year. Families, communities, businesses, organizations, schools and churches are encouraged to join us in sharing Thanksgiving blessings through food drives. (CFHH Facebook page)

**Volunteers Needed** CFHH is in need of individuals that have



a heart for serving those struggling to make ends meet, as well as for the homeless in our community, and are willing to commit to volunteering on a weekly basis. Volunteers are needed for pantry and drive-thru food distribution, English/Vietnamese

and English/Spanish volunteers to assist in registering clients on Mondays, Thursdays, 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. commitment. Weekly pick-ups from community groceries, assistance with communications, clerical, case management fund-raising, and funding for purchasing land and facilities are needed.

Cy-Fair Helping Hands is located at 7520 Cherry Park Drive, Suite B, Houston, TX 77095. To donate: [www.cyfairhelpinghands.org](http://www.cyfairhelpinghands.org) or mail to: 7710 Cherry Park Drive, #T-385, Houston, Tx. 77095

For Homeless Initiatives: [jean@cyfairhelpinghands.org](mailto:jean@cyfairhelpinghands.org) and for Community Outreach: [phudson@cyfairhelpinghands.org](mailto:phudson@cyfairhelpinghands.org).



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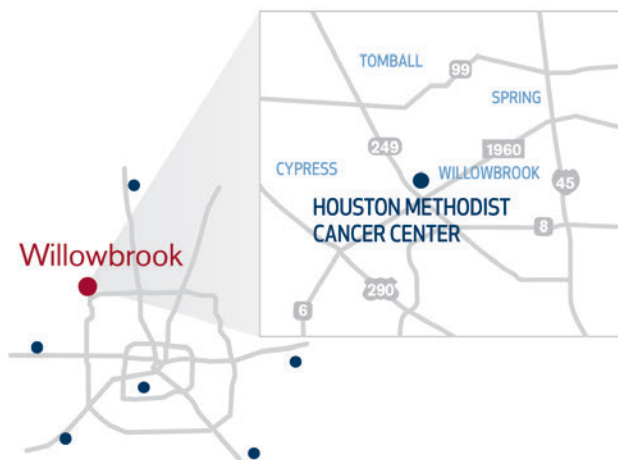
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