

Everybody pitched in at Kingsland Baptist Church's "Caring for Katy" campaign

Written by Stephanie K. Rice

# CARING FOR KATY

## Kingsland Baptist Church Hits the Streets

What would happen if a church closed its doors on a Sunday morning? No worship service, no Pastor, no Sunday school. Seem unlikely? Maybe so, but that's exactly what Kingsland Baptist Church did on a recent Sunday morning when the church sanctuary was being refurbished. With their church officially closed, thousands of its members poured their hearts, bodies, and souls into the streets of Katy.

### Keeping it Local

Throughout the year Kingsland dedicates much time, effort, and resources in conducting ministry outside of Katy, so this time the church wanted to focus solely on the local community. "Kingsland's mission was to commit as many practical acts of kindness and service that we possibly could, and in doing so, impact and bless the lives of persons throughout Katy," says Mission Pastor Omar Garcia. "Every day we drive down the street, we are so focused on where we are going, we don't see what is right before us," says Pastor Garcia.

### The Challenge

Therefore, Pastor Garcia and the other Kingsland pastors challenged members to look at the community like they never have before and identify where a difference could be made. About 2,000 Kingsland members responded to the call. "We want our congregation to be the hands and feet of the body of Christ and to just become a bright spot for those in need in Katy," says Senior Pastor Alex Kennedy.

Even the kids pitched in the effort



"I learned that loving people sometimes means getting out of your comfort zone, and sometimes loving people means sacrificing some of your own time and energy."

Kingsland Baptist Church Member Janet Pankratz



## Making an Impact

Divided into teams, Kingsland members tackled such projects as updating the playground and equipment at Golbow Elementary School, doing much needed yard work and landscaping for a single mom and an elderly couple, buying all the newspapers from local street vendors and then giving the papers out for free, installing new play equipment at the Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor church, and redecorating the Pregnancy Health Center to make it more comfortable for patients.



“I was completely overwhelmed,” says Terry Majors, principal of Golbow Elementary School. “I wasn’t sure I should say yes. It felt like I shouldn’t.” As it turned out, Ms. Majors’ reaction to Kingsland’s acts of kindness was normal. Janet Pankratz, a Kingsland member whose team led the outreach to the newspaper vendors, describes how the salesmen were a bit skeptical at first. “Even the people we were trying to give a free paper to wouldn’t look us in the eye. One man was so uncomfortable he refused to accept the free paper altogether, and bought one from the vending machine across the street,” says Pankratz. Pastor Kennedy speculates that most people these days aren’t accustomed to random acts of kindness without strings attached.



Caring for Katy helps out at Katy Christian Ministries

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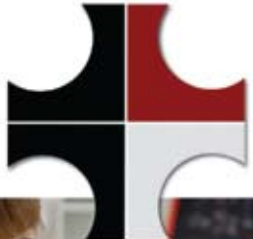
These Katy ladies just finished painting a building at Faith West Academy



Not everyone's reaction was disbelief though. Pankratz says that one typically reserved newspaper vendor became so excited about the prospect of spending a Sunday at home with his family that he couldn't stop talking. "I had tears in my eyes," says Majors after the team finished at Golbow. "Every single person I spoke with seemed delighted to be working that day, and I could tell that all they did was from the heart."

Jason Hall, another Kingsland member, feels it was the members themselves who were most blessed. "I was proud to be a part of something like this, proud to be a part of a church that would organize it as

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Kingsland Baptist Church Senior Pastor Alex Kennedy and Missions Pastor Omar Garcia with Garcia's daughter Gina really do "Go Beyond" with the help of the wonderful members of their ministry.

well." Pankratz echoes that sentiment adding, "For me personally, I learned that loving people sometimes means getting out of your comfort zone, and sometimes loving people means sacrificing some of your own time and energy."

### One Home at a Time

"We hope to make a lasting impact, not for Kingsland Baptist Church, but for the people whose lives we hopefully touched. We want our service to be a blessing to them for years to come – really just reaching out to Katy one home at a time with the love of Christ," says Pastor Kennedy. KM

*STEPHANIE K. RICE is the Assistant Editor of Katy Magazine. She attends Kingsland Baptist Church with her husband and two children.*

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