

## KATY GROUPS

Elizabeth Stelevich, Gigi Bethke, Barbara Landis, Paula Opiela, and Kathy Ellis are members of the Epsilon Mu chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa



# *A Sisterhood*



Forget what you know about Greek life from the movies or your own college experience, because the ladies of Alpha Delta Kappa have redefined the term “sorority”. Members of Katy’s Epsilon Mu chapter have taken the previously collegiate concept and turned it into an honorary organization for women educators dedicated to fulfilling the promise of their slogan: “You nurture them. We nurture you.”

### Joining the Sisterhood

Epsilon Mu is the Katy chapter of the Alpha Delta Kappa sorority, a sisterhood of teachers. Although the sorority was originally founded in 1947, the Katy chapter didn’t get its start until the 1980s. Today, most of the members of the Katy chapter are elementary educators, but membership is open to teachers of all grade levels.

President-elect and Hayes Elementary teacher, Paula Opiela joined the sorority as a means to network with other teachers in her area. “I wasn’t in the district that long and didn’t know a lot of teachers from other buildings and other schools,” she says. Gigi Bethke, immediate past president and Creech Elementary teacher, says the organization makes it easier to get involved with charities. “It’s always more fun if you [volunteer] with a friend,” she says.

Meetings take place at different Katy ISD schools each month and offer the perfect chance for teachers from campuses around the area to meet, discuss ideas, and learn from one another. “What really drew me [in] was the caliber of teachers that were a part of it,” says past president, Barbara Landis. “They really care about their students and others.”

### The Epsilon Mu Social Scene

The chapter prides itself on promoting a sense of community among area educators. Every year, the three Houston chapters come together to celebrate Alpha Delta Kappa’s Founders’ Day, the sorority’s biggest event of the year. Chapters take turns planning the festivities, and this past year, the Epsilon Mu chapter even invited its Galveston sisters to join in on the fun. Christmas also presents a time of celebration for the sisters, with an annual party and an altruistic gift to those in need.

The sorority also connects teachers with members of the Katy community. Recently, the Epsilon Mu sisters had the opportunity to meet the mayor and learn about future plans for Katy, as well as the role they can play in the community as it continues to grow and change.

### Goals for Greatness in the Community

In addition to the social aspect the sorority provides for teachers, Alpha Delta Kappa also aims to help the community and support education. “We wish to encourage one another to be a shining light to those in our community,” says Opiela.

# of Teachers

*Katy’s Teacher Sorority Supports and Connects Educators*

Written by Krista Kessler &  
Photography by Marisa Hugonnett



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**Paula Opiela**

## Become an Alpha Delta Kappa Member

### Membership Requirements

- Employed full time in the field of education
- Two years of experience teaching
- Have a degree in education or alternative certification

### Mission Statement

- Alpha Delta Kappa is an international honorary organization of women educators dedicated to educational excellence, altruism, and world understanding.

### Sorority Purposes

- To recognize outstanding women educators
- To build fellowship that will help educators become more effective
- To promote high standards in education
- To participate in educational and charitable projects and activities
- To contribute to world understanding, goodwill, and peace

Source: [alphadeltakappa.org](http://alphadeltakappa.org)

# The Community @ FaithWest invites you to mark your calendar



Home

Faith West (281.391.5683) hosts National Christian College Fair - Sept. 18

9th Annual Golf Tourney - Oct. 4

Homecoming - Oct. 13

Open House at Faith West Academy - January 22

Information for FaithWest activities visit [www.faithwest.org](http://www.faithwest.org)

Reflections

Sunday worship 10-11 AM

KIDZ Connections

Wednesday 6:30-7:30 PM

Casual Fridays

Friday worship 6:30-7:30 PM



**Barbara Landis**



**Kathy Ellis**



**Gigi Bethke**



**Elizabeth Stelevich**

On an international level, the entire sorority raises money for both St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Susan G. Komen for the Cure. In the past two years alone, Alpha Delta Kappa members have given more than \$7.7 million in monetary gifts and have provided more than 1.8 million hours of volunteer service in their communities. This year, the international organization is also sponsoring Project SAVE, whose goal is to build a school in Vietnam in conjunction with the Veterans' Vietnam Restoration Project.

In the Katy community, the Epsilon Mu chapter spends time volunteering with Katy Christian Ministries, hosting programs for nursing homes, and raising money for Casa de Esperanza, a child advocacy program. The chapter also provides scholarships for members' children going to college. "Last year, we went to a nursing home and did bingo night. They asked if we could come back every month," Opiela laughs. "I think we are going to try doing it at least once a semester."

Alpha Delta Kappa has given these Katy area teachers an out of the classroom experience that has grown into a real family. Everyone agrees that talking with other experienced educators in the community and across the country has helped them learn new methods of teaching. The best part of being a member of the Epsilon Mu chapter, though, is the friendships that are made as members do their part for a great community. **KM**

*KRISTA KESSELER is a new preschool teacher who thinks this organization serves a great purpose in the community.*



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