

Volunteer Katy

Give of Your Time
to Give Back to
Your Community

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER COUNTER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUZI ISSA

Nancy holds up a heart shaped
bread basket she made available at
Brookwood Gift Shops



When you volunteer, you give part of yourself—your energy and your time. Volunteering is also a great way of sharing your special skills or character traits. Maybe you are good with your hands, a great listener, a talent pianist or you enjoy making others laugh. If you have a heart to give, there is an organization in the Katy area with people that could use your help. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.” Volunteering is just that- it is an act of kindness. It is a way to show others that you care. Kathy Renfrow, Director of Volunteer FortBend agrees. “Volunteers create a caring community” she says.

The Impact of One Person

“It makes our residence smile when they see new faces and we have a need for volunteers,” says Daniel Harris, Activity Services Director at Carriage Inn, an independent living community in Katy. Many of our residents would just like someone to sit

and talk to them and they love seeing kids. We had a talent show here once and it made them very happy to see the kids so full of life!”

A Door of Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community. “Volunteering is the door to so many opportunities for the recipient of the giving and for the volunteer- it is the opening of the door that lets caring and help come in” says Kathy. There are many organizations in Katy that are in need of volunteers. Here are a few to choose from.



Cody loves volunteering at
Brookwood Community

Autumn Grove Cottage

An assisted living facility for individuals with Alzheimer’s or dementia related illnesses. Volunteers work one-on-one with the residents in a cozy, home-like setting. 21803 Oak Park Trails, Katy, TX 77494. 281-398-6845



Enjoying lunch at Brookwood Cafe

The Brookwood Community

Brookwood is a God-centered educational, residential, and entrepreneurial community for adults with functional disabilities located in Brookshire (just west of Katy). Volunteers teach craft projects, help sell plants, work in the retail store or assist in the café. 1752 FM 1489 Brookshire, TX 77423 281-375-2100

Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center

Offers visual and performing art programs as well as art enrichment opportunities. Brings live theater performances to children throughout the year. 2500 South Mason Road #290 Katy, TX 77450 281-829-2787.



Brookwood citizen Karin helps by folding foil for nursery pots




Kim Morrow likes painting the beautiful holiday bowls available at the Brookwood Gift Shop

Many Ways to Say Thank You

Volunteering is also a way of saying thank you. It's a way of recognizing the countless others who, in big ways and small, have made your life richer and better through the donations of their time and effort. "Volunteering is not only good for the hospital and its patients; it fulfills a need in the volunteers- it's a great way for them to give to others and feel useful," explains Brenda Kepner, Manager of Volunteers and Community Services, at Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

Other Benefits of Volunteering

- ♥ Expand your social circle
- ♥ Discover your strengths and talents
- ♥ Increase social awareness
- ♥ Learn through service
- ♥ Enjoy better health
- ♥ Gain self-confidence
- ♥ Build a sense of independence



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The Brookwood Community is located just outside of Katy at the 2nd Brookshire Exit



Katy Christian Ministries

Volunteers work in the Domestic Abuse Center, Sexual Abuse Center, Social Services, Resale Store, and Food Pantry. 5001 East Fifth Street Katy TX 77493 281-931-5261

Katy Pregnancy Help Center

Offers reliable resources and practical help to those facing an unplanned pregnancy and other traumatic family situations. Volunteers in many areas are needed. 1450 E. Summitry Circle Katy, TX 77449 281-599-0909

Carriage Inn

An independent living center for senior citizens, volunteers visit and spend time with seniors. 1400 Katy Flewellen Rd, Katy Texas 77494 281-392-2800

Krause Children's Center

Providing help, healing and hope to troubled boys and girls ages 12-17. Call the volunteer coordinator to find out openings. 5638 Medical Center Drive Katy, TX 77494 281-392-7505

Wayne's Dad Larry comes out and volunteers his time to show his appreciation for Wayne's opportunities here



Resolution Hospice

Hospice Care for Adults. 21720 Kingsland Blvd. Katy, Texas 77450 281-579-5690

Jennifer COUNTER is a freelance writer. She lives in Katy with her daughter Lauren.

Where to Find Katy Magazine

Look for Katy Magazine at these fine area establishments.

Christus St. Catherine Hospital
777 South Fry Road
Katy, TwX 77450

City of Katy
910 Avenue C
Katy, TX 77493

Comfort Inn & Suites
22025 Katy Freeway
Katy, TX 77450
281-392-1000

CVS Drug Store
3103 N. Fry Road
Katy, TX 77449

CVS Drug Store
3050 W. Grand Parkway
Katy, TX 77494

CVS Drug Store
602 W. Grand Parkway
Katy, TX 77494

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7010 N. Fry Road
Katy, TX 77449

CVS Drug Store
3080 S. Fry Road
Katy, TX 77450

CVS Drug Store
1616 S. Mason Road
Katy, TX 77450

Denny's at Katy Mills
2405 Texmati Drive
Katy, TX 77450
281-644-5555

Hampton Inn & Suites
22055 Katy Freeway
Katy, TX 77450
281-392-1000

Holiday Inn Express
22105 Katy Freeway
Katy, TX 77450
281-395-4800

Katy Mills Mall
5000 Katy Mills Circle
Katy, TX 77494

La Quinta
22455 Katy Freeway
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Memorial Hermann Katy
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Katy, TX 77494

Pump It Up
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Texas Borders Restaurant
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Katy, TX 77449

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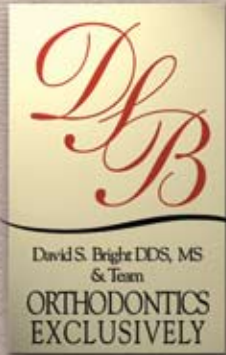
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—James Durst*



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Photo by Country Park Portraits

WRITTEN BY KAREN JAGGERS

Katy Wolfpack

Special Olympics Program Makes a Difference in the Lives of Special Needs Katyites

The crowd roars as the team takes the field. The air is heavy with anticipation and the thrill of competition. Another great Katy team is about to compete for the winners circle. A step closer and you may notice that this team is a bit different. With team members ranging in age from eight years on up, athletes compete with real heart, for the pure joy of the sport, despite their various disabilities.

Lasting Friendships

For the parents of a child with special needs, it is often difficult to find a place where your child can fit in and feel welcome. The Katy Wolfpack provides children with special needs the opportunity to enjoy the group sports experience as well as a venue to make lasting friendships.

The Katy Wolfpack began in 1999 with eight children and has continued to grow. Athletes compete in four different sports: Basketball, Track and Field, Softball and Bocce Ball. The team is coached by volunteers consisting of parents and Special Education staff from Katy ISD. Coach Don Wolf, (the team was renamed in his honor), has created the opportunity of a lifetime for many Katy students. Instead of sitting on the sidelines watching their siblings compete, these special athletes now have the opportunity to shine in the spotlight as well.

Photos courtesy of Katy Wolfpack





The Katy Tigers get a visit from Katy Wolfpack



Katy Wolfpack winners



with not only sports, but also with attitude and everyday life. He teaches the athletes to be friends and to compete together and not as one."

Karen Jagers is a writer with Katy Magazine. She is also an Educational Consultant for children with special needs. She and her family have lived in Katy for sixteen years.

Dedicated Coaches

"Coach Wolfe takes his personal time out to coach these teams and his family understands it. He does not have any children that are intellectually challenged. He is really our hero," says Coach Aaron Lomax. "All the players and coaches look at him for his leadership and strength. All the kids love him and he helps them



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How Has Katy Wolfpack and Special Olympics Made a Difference?

These Katy Area Families and Teammates Share Their Appreciation

"Shawn loves going to the basketball and track events.... Here, he is not judged by how he can do something, but he is encouraged because he is trying to do it. It is very inspiring." - *Veena Pathak*

"For me personally, tears of joy fill my eyes each time I attend Special Olympics events. I know that the athletes work very hard to do what they do and I admire their dedication." - *Susan Maynard*

"We feel that the Special Olympics has helped our son believe in himself and that also reflects in his success at school and his future." - *Susan Maynard*

"Katy Wolfpack provides a venue for Nathan to socialize and compete with others with the same skill-set as he. It has given him friends, which are more important to him than winning the game at hand." - *Joanne Dufour*

"Michael's self esteem has grown so much because of successes on and off the field with the Katy Wolf Pack. A memorable example occurred last summer at the State Games for Track & Field. One evening as we were settling in to our room one of the older athletes (Nathan) knocked on our door to invite Michael to join the "guys" to watch TV. This seemingly simple gesture was huge for Michael! He was included with his buddies in a way he had never experienced before and still talks fondly of that night! We feel blessed and privileged to be part of the Katy Wolf Pack." - *Clarice Motter*

"The parent participation is great and we love the close camaraderie of the team. I only hope we can put back into the program some of what we get out of it." - *Gene, Theresa and William Metz*

"Katy Wolfpack has given Nicky friends.....and has given him a sense of self confidence. It has given us a sense of community of people who help each other any way they can." - *Chris Salenga*

"It's fun and I make friends." - *Teammate Phillip Maynard*

"My son AJ plays softball, basketball, and runs track. I have coached for 5 years and love it. I played college football and have always been very competitive and winning was everything, but these kids have shown me what it takes just to compete and have fun. They work so hard and any mistakes they make just make you smile as they do it giving all their energy and abilities." - *Wolfpack coach Aaron Lomax*

The Katy Wolfpack is a nonprofit organization which depends on the contributions of generous individuals and local businesses. This organization provides an opportunity to make a difference in our community. Volunteers are needed year round, as well as sponsors. Special Olympics has earned a special place in the hearts of Katy families. Perhaps it can earn a special place in the hearts of your family as well. ★

For more information or to donate to Katy Wolfpack:

Katy Special Olympics Booster Club
CMFR 1402 Greenbusch Rd. #2700
Katy TX 77494
Or email Joanne Alley at atcmfr1402@comcast.net