

KATY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Award Winners**Photography by Country Park Portraits*

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**MINDY ADAMS**

Mindy Adams serves as the CFO at Adams Law Firm in Katy and is a mother of four. In 2013, Adams worked with colleagues, family, and friends to raise approximately \$4,000 for 3-year-old Raelyn Cutbrith, whose teeth were severely damaged by radiation and aggressive chemotherapy while battling cancer.

Adams, after years of volunteering for the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, took on the task of coordinating volunteers for the chamber's Rice Harvest Festival. She has been praised for consistently going above and beyond with her volunteer efforts at Cinco Ranch High School, where she manages the weekly football team dinners and the entire summer school concessions operation for Project Graduation. As long as she sees needs in the community, Adams says she will continue working to meet them.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HONORABLE
GLENN BECKENDORFF**

Four generations of Beckendorffs have served on the Katy ISD's board of trustees, dating back to the 1890s, contributing to the foundation of the community. Today, Glenn Beckendorff continues that tradition, serving as a Waller County judge and on the board of trustees.

Beckendorff also taught vocational agriculture/FFA for four years at Katy High School and has maintained his commitment to the organization. In addition, he has been a licensed auctioneer for more than 30 years, and has helped raise thousands of dollars for area civic, church, and youth organizations. He continues to set a strong example of exceptional family values and commitment in the community.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



KATY MAGAZINE

For the past decade, family-owned *Katy Magazine* has found countless ways to make a positive impact on the Katy community, always with the goal of creating an appealing local magazine that looks national. The publishers Katrina and Matt Katsarelis moved to Katy in 2000 from Santa Clara, California in search of a better place to raise their children, then 9 and 7. Katrina worked in marketing and advertising, and was a freelance writer for USA Today.com, *Houston Chronicle*, and many parenting and community magazines. Matt was a project engineer for Lockheed Martin at NASA Ames in Mountain View, California and then Johnson Space Center in Clearlake, Texas.

Katy Magazine was profitable almost immediately without any funding or investors. In 2006, the Katsarelis' purchased an office building in Katy and now have 16 full-time employees, and are able to offer a wide array of benefits to their staff. They also launched *Sugar Land Magazine* (2005) and *Cy-Fair Magazine* (2006) and have grown the magazines from 20,000 copies to 80,000 copies per issue.

Katy Magazine's high standard of excellence helped them garner 125 national and state awards for general excellence, covers, photography, community service, editorial, layout, advertising, and more:

- In 2007, *Katy Magazine* received BBB of Greater Houston's Pinnacle Award - given to just one business in each category.
- In, 2009, their *Cy-Fair Magazine* was named Small Business of the Year by the Cy-Fair/Houston Chamber of Commerce, presented by Senator Dan Patrick.

- In 2010, The American Cancer Society took notice of *Katy Magazine's* inspirational cancer stories and awarded them the Excellence in Cancer Journalism Award.

- In 2011, *Katy Magazine* received TCNA's prestigious William Altman Award with a monetary award for their coverage and dedication to organ donor awareness.

- In 2013, Katrina was invited to be a national judge for the American Society of Magazine Editors (MPA) in New York City, working alongside editors from national magazines including *National Geographic*, *Time*, *Elle*, and more.

- In 2014, Matt was sponsored to be a rider on the Donate Life float in Pasadena's Rose Parade. Matt received a life-saving liver transplant in 2010 and now helps create organ donor awareness, speaks at events, and supports patients currently awaiting a transplant. He will compete in the National Transplant Games of America in Houston in July.

Over the years, *Katy Magazine* has showcased numerous local charities, shining a light on the good work being done in the community. The team has also held food drives, Toys for Tots donation stations, pay-it-forward giveaways, Operation Christmas Child in-house drives, and more. They have been active in the Rice Harvest Festival, various charitable runs, and other community events.

Katy Magazine continues to seek innovative ways to help local businesses grow by providing advertisers with all-inclusive media services including free jobs page postings, free prominent web listings, free announcements on *Katy Magazine's* Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages, a digital edition, and free ad design/marketing assistance for small businesses.