



Girls in grades kindergarten through 12 meet on Tuesdays at Second Baptist Church - West Campus to plan their next service project

# The Lovely GIRLS CLUB

**Katy faith-based service organization inspires young girls to shine their light by helping others**

*Written by Tonya Ellis | Select photography by Leaha Smith*

*K*aty mom Gillian Nichols' prayers were answered when the Lovely Girls Club held its first meeting, 10 members strong. "Katy is such a blessed community. I wanted us to get out of our bubble and be the hands and feet of Christ," she says.

## Let Your Light Shine

The group's mission is based on Bible verse Matthew 5:16. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Last year, Lovely Girls Club members provided toys to Texas Children's Hospital - West Campus, donated items to Krause Children's Center, and sang Christmas carols to residents at Sunrise of Cinco Ranch, among other activities.

Nichols, whose daughter Leelah has participated in the group since its inception, believes that girls as young as 5 years old need a safe place serve others. "We wanted a place where girls were told they were lovely, so they could tell other girls they are lovely," she explains.

## All Kinds of Lovely

On Saturday mornings, the girls perform community service projects, a major component of the Lovely Girls Club, but see it as a good time. "They have really fun stuff, and you can just hang out and be yourself," says sixth-grader Sydney Hill, who mentors younger Lovely girls.

Club members are in grades kindergarten through twelfth, with the junior high through high school ages adding to the "cool factor" for the younger members. To keep interest high, Nichols makes sure activities cater not just to "girly-girls," but to all girls. "My daughter is a nature-nut who likes digging in the dirt, so there's something for everyone," she says.

"You don't have to earn badges and rewards," explains Tina Hill, mother to Lovely Girls Sydney and Avery. "My girls say they want to do it because it's a good thing to do."

## Blessing Others

Mary Lajaunie, a Lovely Girls Club leader, and mother to Rachel, age 7, and Sarah, age 6, involves her entire family in the group's service projects. "Recently we collected items for the Krause Center and delivered them," she shares. "It was joyous to see the girls and how the items blessed them.

Since joining the Lovely Girls Club, Lajaunie has seen her kids' desire to help others rise. "Rachael has an interest in sewing, and she asked if she could sew pillowcases, or make rainbow loom bracelets for others," she says. "Gillian had the vision, and I'm happy to be involved."

When praised for her efforts, Nichols, modestly states, "To God be the glory. I'm just a mom that wanted to have something for her daughter, so she could be overflowing for others. I'm thankful there are so many willing and awesome families in Katy that have been supportive." KM

*TONYA ELLIS enjoys writing feature stories and spending time with her husband and three children.*

Lovely Girls shine for the seniors at Sunrise of Cinco Ranch by singing songs and playing games



## HOW TO JOIN!

Girls in kindergarten through 12th grade can join. Girls in sixth grade through 12th grade are designated as Lovely Leaders and help run meetings and mentor.

The girls shine their light by planning community service projects every Tuesday from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. beginning September 15 and running through April.

Meets at Second Baptist Church - West Campus, in the GiGL Room, on the second floor of the main building.

All it takes to make a difference is \$55 per girl, per year. Plus, you get to buy a \$12 T-shirt to wear at service events. No girl will be turned away, and scholarships are available to those in need.

Find out more about Lovely Girls at [lovelygirlslclubkaty.com](http://lovelygirlslclubkaty.com) or access their Facebook page.

Guest speakers are invited to come and inspire the girls to love God, serve others, and be grateful for their blessings

