



Compassion Katy's goal is to become the "go to" resource for those who have the desire to be a blessing to the community

Compassion *Katy*

Non-profit organization works to relieve the hurting, underprivileged, and hungry in Katy

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After the most destructive and costliest storm in U.S. history, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, multiple Katy community churches and volunteer organizations formed disaster recovery deployment teams. From these efforts, Compassion Katy was born.

On a Mission

"Because of Compassion Katy's extensive volunteer base, multiple Katy West Houston non-profit organizations (NPO) reach out to us for assistance to promote their events that serve the under-resourced in the Katy community," says Denise Mayfield, executive director for Compassion Katy. The group connects organizations and people to serve and love the community. "This is why 'Igniting the passion for uniting the body of Christ to be on mission together to love our neighbors,' is our tagline," she adds.

Compassion Katy gets frequent calls from people who are in need. "For instance, Hope Impacts, who ministers to the Katy Area homeless, was in need of hygiene kits We put together a community campaign that resulted in Hope Impacts receiving hundreds of them. This campaign also helped build awareness of Hope Impacts' ongoing needs for ministering to the homeless," says Mayfield.

Making an Impact

One of Compassion Katy's many projects includes Katy ServeFest that occurs in the spring and fall. Bette-Jane Wilson, a volunteer and CITGO corporate payroll clerk, says, "Team CITGO has volunteered for the Compassion Katy ServeFest event several times working at the Katy YMCA Camp Cinco. In 2016, we had a blast repainting the kitchen in the camp house with bright colors."

Compassion Katy, along with Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County, sponsored and built two of six homes in the Lancaster subdivision in Cypress. In addition, Compassion Katy, in partnership with 13 Katy Area churches, local businesses, and individual donors, raised \$120,000 to build these two houses, according to Mayfield. "Construction on the first house started September 19, 2015. We closed out the sixth house project on October 20, 2016," says Mayfield. "This year-long project was made possible by the 200-plus Katy Area volunteers."

Molly Lerich says, "I had the opportunity to volunteer with the Habitat for Humanity team to build two homes for families in need, and it made a huge impact on my life." Lerich adds that she and her boyfriend, who had never volunteered before, were able to witness first-hand the impact of what they were doing and why. "It was very rewarding to work alongside the families who actually received the homes," she says. "It's different than other volunteer experiences because not only are you aiding in a great cause, but you also get to meet great people!"

Feeding 626,000

Compassion Katy also partnered with Feed the Hunger, an NPO in Burlington, North Carolina, and three Katy Area churches - Redeemer Community Church, The Fellowship, and Westland Baptist Church - to bring the first-ever Pack-A-Thon to Katy. Collectively, 626,000 Feed the Hunger meal packages were packed by 2,500 volunteers over three days. "This was the largest Pack-A-Thon in the history of the Feed the Hunger organization."

"The hours I spent as a volunteer working with Compassion Katy to assist with coordinating the Feed the Hunger Katy Million Meal Pack-A-Thon were gratifying," Randi Long says. "I witnessed the Katy community come together to provide meals for our community, our country, and also Haiti." Long adds it was rewarding to watch the diverse civic groups, churches, and businesses work side-by-side to accomplish such a grand task. "Being the hands and feet of Jesus was deeply satisfying."

Bottom Line

Mayfield says the bottom line is Compassion Katy exists to unify the body of Christ to be the hands and feet of Jesus to serve and love the underserved in our community. "Ultimately, it is our hope that the love of Jesus will be made known to every man, woman, and child we serve. We hope they will come to know, love, and worship Him; so Jesus will be praised, worshiped, and honored through the efforts of Compassion Katy and our partners." KM

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Habitat for Humanity project



Troop 608 volunteers with Compassion Katy to feed the hungry

