



KATY MAGAZINE'S KATY PEOPLE OF THE YEAR 2016

KATY MAGAZINE RECOGNIZES 10 INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE
GIVEN BACK TO THE COMMUNITY DURING 2016

Written by Kennan Buckner

As *Katy Magazine* celebrates 2016, we honor 10 outstanding Katy citizens who have made tireless efforts to better their community. Whether through volunteer efforts, their full-time job, or their leadership roles in the community; these are a few of Katy's brightest shining stars and truly honorable everyday heroes.



Photo courtesy of Katy ISD

BOB BRYANT

Retired Katy ISD Executive Director of Fine Arts, Katy ISD School Namesake

Bob Bryant served the Katy ISD family for 17 years before retiring in 2015. He is now the owner of Fine Arts Solutions of Texas, LLC. "It's mission is to provide and support schools and communities with training and resources to ensure opportunities for all students to be engaged in quality fine arts education," says Bryant.

Bryant was the recipient of the 2015 Lifetime Administrator Achievement Award by the Texas Bandmasters Association and the 2015 Jacob L. and Sophia Meyer Farb School Bell Award for Lifetime Achievement in Music Education from the Houston Symphony Orchestra. In 2016, Bryant and his wife, Felice, were honored for Remarkable Achievement by the Texas Tech University School of Music and served as keynote speakers during their Celebrate Success event.

"We were honored by the Katy ISD Board of Trustees with the naming of Elementary School #40 as Robert and Felice Bryant Elementary School." - Bob Bryant

KAY CALLENDER

Keep Katy Beautiful Vice Chairman

Wife of former Katy mayor Doyle Callender, Kay has been part of Keep Katy Beautiful for nearly 25 years for which she currently serves as vice chairman, a position she has served for 10 years. The organization has won many state and national awards and grants including: Keep America Beautiful's Presidential Circle Award, Keep Texas Beautiful Gold Star Affiliate, the Award of Sustained Excellence through the Governor's Community Achievement Awards, the City of Houston's Proud Mayor's Award in Partnership with CenterPoint Energy, and was recognized this year as a Tree City USA City. The group aims to promote a clean, litter-free community as well as tree planting and maintenance of city landscapes. Callender was awarded the Katy Area Chamber Citizen of the Year in 1997 and received the Keep Texas Beautiful Individual Leadership Award in 2007.



TINA HATCHER

Founder of Hope Impacts

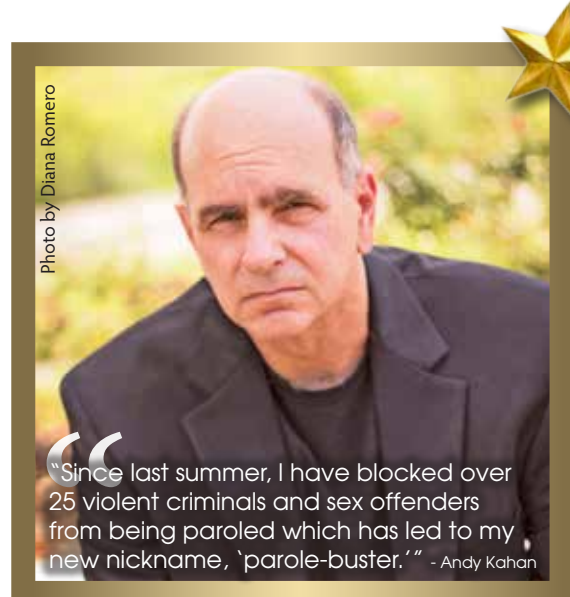
Tina Hatcher, the founder and executive director of Hope Impacts, has a heart for others - especially the homeless and under-resourced in Katy. The organization she pioneered helps to connect them to resources and services available with the help of over 55 networking partners. “Hope Impacts has helped over 100 homeless people this year,” says Hatcher. Their first golf tournament fundraiser, held last September, brought in over \$15,000. Hatcher regularly speaks at area events to raise awareness about homelessness.

“We have helped over 32 people in the last two years get off the streets.” - Tina Hatcher

ANDY KAHAN

Crime Victim Advocate

Andy Kahan opened the City of Houston's Crime Victim Assistance office in 1992. Since then, he's continued to fight for families for nearly 25 years by helping keep criminals behind bars. He's received many national and local awards for victim advocacy. Kahan will be featured in an upcoming documentary about murderabilia filmed by filmmaker Nora Mandray. He assisted the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in crafting a policy to block death row inmates from having Facebook accounts. He is also currently working with *Crime Watch Daily* to stop the release of the nurse baby killer, Gene Jones, who could be the first serial killer in Texas history to be legally released in March 2018.



PETER MCELWAIN

Katy ISD Architect and Planner

Peter McElwain has served as the Katy ISD architect and planner for nearly two decades, during which time the district has seen the construction of 24 elementary schools, nine junior high schools, and six high schools, along with various campus renovations and additions. "Every project has given me tremendous pride regardless of the size," says McElwain, who credits his dedicated team for their department's success. They recently were named runner-up for the McConnell Award by the Association for Learning Environments for the development of the Robert Shaw STEAM Center. McElwain has also served on the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors and the Katy Area YMCA board of directors for six years respectively. He has also been part of the Katy Area EDC Mobility and Public Infrastructure Committee and volunteered as a mentor to Katy ISD students. He plans to retire January 31.



HOLYBATMAN (DAVID MORRISON)

Community Superhero

While he claims to not have any real superpowers, Katy's HolyBatman, also known as David, is making people smile. Whether he's visiting a child after a chemo treatment or attending a special event to raise awareness for a good cause, HolyBatman is ready to lend a helping wing and encourage his fellow Katy citizens, "It's not who you know, it's what you do." And while he doesn't call himself a superhero, he says, "If I can make people smile, even for a few moments, I consider that a job well done."

AVADELE P. SHORT

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital Volunteer




Avadele P. Short, who recently turned 93, began volunteering at Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital shortly after it opened in 1981. "My late husband had just retired, and we thought volunteering in our community hospital would be a great way to continue friendships and make new ones," says Short. She recently received her 10,000-hour volunteer pin at the hospital's 35-year celebration of the program. "Avadele is a great example of how the Katy community supports one another. She has been a fixture within this hospital for over three decades, and we appreciate greatly her continued commitment to the patients, staff, and our services," says Heather Rojas, manager of volunteers at Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.





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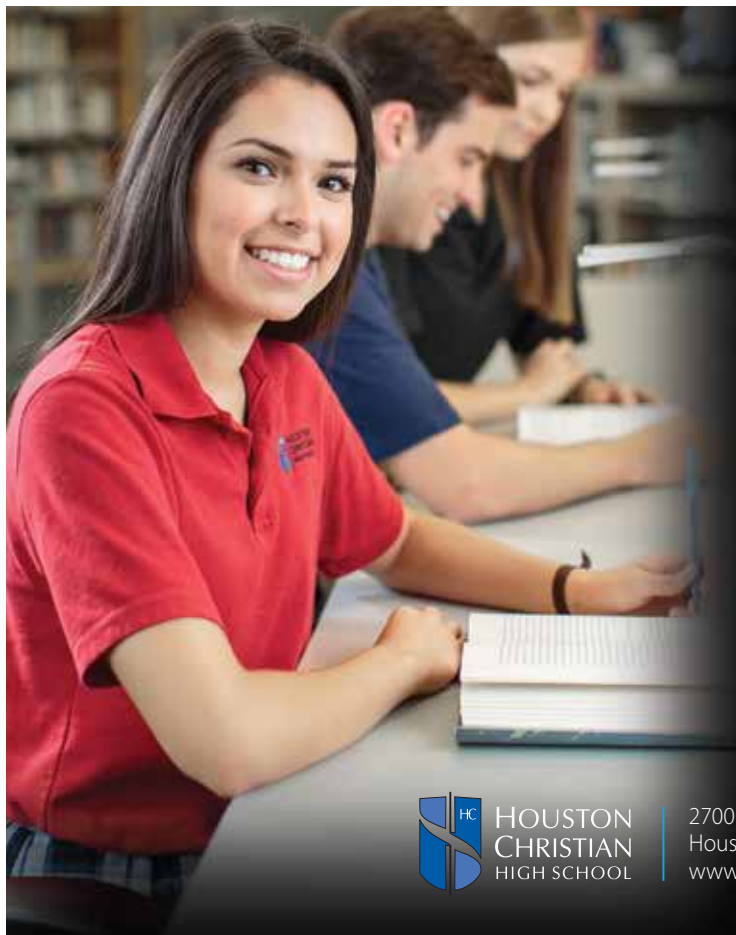


KAREN SPARKS

Katy ISD Restorative Practices Coordinator

Karen Sparks says education has always been more than her job, it's her mission. As the former leader of the strategic reading program and restorative practices at Morton Ranch High School, she saw the school suspension drop by 6% and out of school suspension drop by 18%. She's also the winner of the Houston Alliance of Black School Educators Teacher of the Year Award and the 2016 Katy ISD PTA Lifetime Achievement Award. The City of Houston proclaimed February 6, 2016 as Karen Sparks Day. She was also nominated for the 2016 H.E.B. Teacher of the Year Award. Sparks believes that every student should not be defined by merely their grades or life circumstance, but treated as a valued member of the community who is deserving of affirmation.

“I am proud of the profession that fights every day for a better world.” -Karen Sparks



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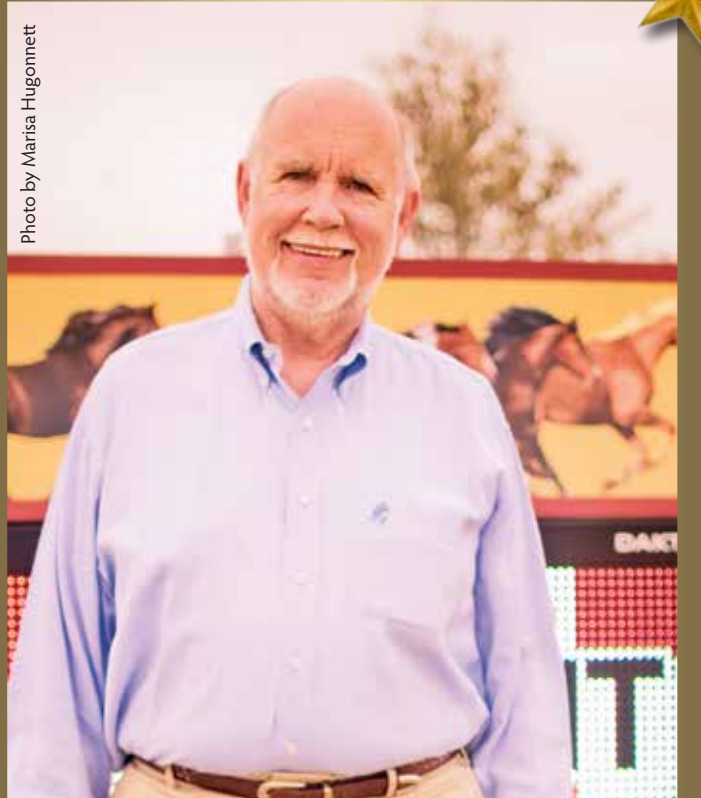
STAN STANLEY *Posthumously*

Community Leader, Katy ISD School Namesake

In March 2016, the Katy community lost a beloved friend and leader with the passing of Stan Stanley at the age of 74. He was a longtime Katyite and supporter of the Katy Area Economic Development Council, the Katy Chamber of Commerce, public school education, sporting events, local scout troops, and more. Among his many honors and awards, he was named a Hero for Children in 2006 by the State Board of Education. Stanley Elementary School, which opened in 2009, was named in his honor. Katy's Mayor Fabol Hughes proclaimed November 3 as Stan Stanley "How can I help you?" Day in memory of Stanley on his birthday. Members of the *Katy Magazine* staff and the community participated by volunteering at Katy ISD schools, senior living facilities, The Arc of Katy, and more. The event inspired many to give back to others, and will continue to grow throughout the coming years. Stanley's legacy of putting others first continues to inspire others.

“So frequently in an era of instant gratification, the decision to help others is often overlooked in the desire to reach personal goals.”
- Stan Stanley, fall 2012 issue of Katy Magazine

Photo by Marisa Hugonnett



“I love to look at food magazines and flag pages of recipes I want to try.” - Nolan Stilwell

NOLAN STILWELL

Owner of Sweet Heat Jam Co.

Nolan Stilwell doesn't let Down syndrome keep him from pursuing big dreams. As a culinary artist, Nolan first began experimenting in the kitchen when he was young. He would watch Food Network and imitate his favorite chef, Emeril Lagasse. In high school he started making jams using jalapeño peppers he'd grown in his garden. "This was made possible through ARTreach when a grant for culinary arts for at-risk children was created," says Christine Stilwell, Nolan's mother. The company employs three full-time staff and six interns, and adults oversee the work. "We have had over 30 students in our intern program," adds Nolan. He calls his job a ministry. As a hardworking entrepreneur, he dreams that Sweet Heat Jam will be available across the country and help others start their business dreams, too. Nolan received the Fort Bend County Volunteer of the Year Award in 2010 and was named a finalist in H-E-B's Quest for Texas Best in 2014. Nolan donates his profits to other non-profit organizations that help at-risk children and adults. **KM**



KENNAN BUCKNER and her husband Marcus love taking their smiley son Jaxson and happy-go-lucky rat terrier Reba to the park.

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