

Exchange Newsletter December 1, 2010 Volume 16, Number 10

## Publisher

The Exchange Club of Sugar Land

4800 Sugar Grove Blvd. Suite 100 Stafford, TX 77477

## Weekly Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. Sweetwater Country Club Palm Royale Blvd. Sugar Land, Texas

## Officers 2010-2011

President: Amy Mitchell

President Elect: Steve Griffith

Secretary: Vita Goodell

Treasurer: Pat Welsh

Immediate Past President: Betty Baitland

## **Board of Directors**

Shirley Brown

**Roy Miers** 

Jake Messinger

Linda Schoonmaker

**Gladys Brumfield** 

- Patrick Hayes
- John Robson
- Reagan Walters

Webmaster: Jake Messinger website@ecsl.org

Newsletter : Sue Lockwood newsletter@ecsl.org

Calendar: Paul Barnett calendar@ecsl.org



Our National Exchange Mission Statement reads "Exchange is a group of men and women working to make America a better place to live through one national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse, and other community service projects." Exchangites across the USA work toward that mission every day of the year. But we also remember America's children in other ways; educational assistance, Walk With Pride, recognition of outstanding students, and social projects like the Sunshine Specials. In the holiday season we demonstrate to thousands of needy children in our community that there is love and caring for each and every one of them.

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Children have needs – food, clothing, housing, physical care, education, but most of all love. Organizations across America "show them the love" by gathering and distributing toys and gifts to needy children. But fifteen years ago, in 1995 our Club decided on a different approach to distributing the gifts. The traditional "go door to door with baskets of gifts and food" has the unintended effect of embarrassing the parents – someone else is providing for their children, someone else is picking out their gifts, someone else is in the middle of their relationship with their children. So the concept of allowing the parents and caregivers to pick out and actually give the toys and gifts was brought into our Club's holiday efforts.

In 1995, the first ECSL Santa's Exchange was held, located in a dusty, unheated warehouse off Old Richmond Rd. The event, chaired by **Janice Chambers** was a big success, despite some challenges in finding the facility, organizing a new event, and an exploding space heater. It's rumored that even in the unheated warehouse Richard refused to wear a Santa's hat. That first Santa's Exchange stretched an entire weekend, Friday through Sunday, and stretched the volunteers; but as Richard says "the Club members rolled up their sleeves and went to work". In the years since 1996 the event has moved several times and grown several times as large, with the **Sugar Land Rotary, the Fort Bend Exchange Club** and **FBISD** joining in the effort. Santa's Exchange well under way with the Methodist Hospital flu shot drive led by **Kaelyn Stolhand** and a \$15,000 for Santa's Exchange from Rotary. But as the event has grown the need for volunteers and gifts and contributions has grown. So please mark your calendars for December 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> for toy sorting, preparation, and the event itself. **Jennifer Cole** is chairing the event and is signing up volunteers in a range of capacities – there are even a chosen few who get to shop! And if you have a business or organization that would like to contribute cash, supplies, or toys and gifts just let us know.

The last month has certainly been an eventful one. **Sue Sanchez** has agreed to be our Program Chair and has already done an outstanding job. We have been involved in several veterans events including our renewed Giveavetaflagtowave program at Emeritus Assisted Living led by **Jeri Krauss** and **Farha Ahmed**, our wonderful Veterans Day celebration led by **David Kiger** and our attendance at the one Nation Under God Program at Quail Valley Exchange Club. Number of us walked in the Memory Walk for Alzheimer's and, under the leadership of **Kevin Barker** & **Tommy Philips**, participated in the Sunshine Special at George Ranch. We sponsored the Best of the West for ARC for \$1500 and gave \$5,000 to the ESCAPE Center in our efforts to help prevent child abuse. Bob Hargarther led our efforts to provide over 26 turkeys to the Women's Center for Thanksgiving. A number of members including **Harish Jajoo** and **Gladys Brumsfeld** helped recognize our outstanding area youth at local high School Academic Excellence Award celebrations. **Ray Aguilar** coordinated another social at Olives. And finally, Kudos to our Publicity team being chaired by **Pete Beausoleil** with the help of **Susan Whitacre**. We have been receiving all kinds of recognition in the local newspapers related to the Youth of the Month Program, the Red Cross collaboration, Santa's Exchange and more.

The Sugar Land Exchange Club is certainly rising and shining in the community. You should all be proud of how each of you helps make our community a better place.



Amy Mitchell, President



















Photos by Larry Pullen

Debora Galmiche, Arthur Pace, Ashley Lopez, Pete Olson,

Faye Roach, Robert Mitchell Stephen Ewbank, Kevin Barker, Karyn Dean Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers:

Deborah Galmiche has 2 more Grandchildren on the way. Please pray for healthy deliveries. Jake Messinger's brother-in-law passed away.