



Exchange Hotline

"Hands On" Exchange

Exchange Newsletter

December 1, 2005

Volume 11, Number 6

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 2004-2005

President

Norma Reyna (281) 980-2076

President-Elect

Alicia Marra (281) 565-0265

Secretary

Mark Hanna (281) 341-4521

Treasurer

Kay Parker (713) 260-5230

Immediate Past President

Jerry Hurst (291) 499-2310

Directors

Burke Randolph (281) 2631639

Paul Barnett (713) 822-4612

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Press Releases: Marita Pratt

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President's Message: Photo by Larry Pullen

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. 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 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, co-chaired by **Janice Chambers and Richard Early** 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. But as the event has grown the need for volunteers and gifts and contributions has grown. So please mark your calendars for December 12th through 17th for toy sorting, preparation, and the event itself. **Amy Mitchell and Jake Messinger** are chairing the event and will be 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 (best), supplies, or toys and gifts just let us know. And one final thing, if you have not heard Linda Schoonmaker's instructions on volunteer refreshments be sure to attend December 14th breakfast!

So have a safe and happy holiday season and let's gather together to help make a happy holiday for children in our community. Let's get involved.....let's get hands on! **Norma**



The Exchange Club of Sugar Land

SANTA'S EXCHANGE



Photo by Larry Pullen

Co-chairs **Amy Mitchell** and **Jake Messinger** would like every member to bring a new unwrapped toy to ECSL breakfast meetings on December 7 and 14. If you would like to make a monetary contribution email rpk@fittsroberts.com, KWB (Kay will bill!) Boxes are still available for your business or church.

Members of the Exchange Club of Sugar Land, Sugar Land Rotary, Ft. Bend Exchange and FBISD need your help in collecting the thousands of toys needed for this year's event. We not only are going to be providing toys to the over 3000 Fort Bend children we usually serve, this year we also will be trying to address the needs of the Katrina and Rita victims who are presently enrolled in FBISD.

If you have taken a collection box to a Fort Bend ISD school, please collect toys at least once a week, and give the school your contact information so they can call you when the box needs to be emptied. All toys and boxes need to be picked up from the schools on or before December 13, 2005.

Toys can be dropped off at the First Colony Mall service center or First Colony Self Storage at Lexington and Sweetwater Blvd.

You can start bringing toys the to First Colony Church of Christ on December 12, 2005 which is when we will begin sorting and tagging.

Sorting and Tagging: 6-9 p.m.

December 12, 13 - 15, 16

No sorting on Wednesday the 14th

SANTA'S EXCHANGE- SAT.-DEC. 17

SET UP 6:30 a.m.

Main Event 9-4

Cleanup 4-?

We need at least 500 elves (and teen helpers) to set up, work the event, and clean up. Please help in any way you can. Thanks.

Contact: **Jake Messinger** jake@jakes.org or **Amy Mitchell** amitchell@dawray.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SERVICE TO SENIORS

Dec. 2, 2005, 11: 30 a.m.
Help seniors celebrate the Holidays at the 5th Street Community Center in Stafford.



Tony Ackerman
tonyackerman@sbcglobel.net
Mary Jo Salvagio
mjsalvaggio@netzero.net

SANTA'S EXCHANGE DEC. 17



Save the date!

WHITE ELEPHANT PARTY



January 21, 2006

SPAGHETTI DINNER, February 24, 2006

95TH BIRTHDAY OF EXCHANGE, March 27

LIGHT OF HOPE CEREMONY, April 1, 2006

December Birthdays



Stella Falkenhainer, Michael Kaplan, Darren Coughlin, Arthur Pace, Tony Talamini, Ashley Lopez, Pat Houck, Rodney Singleton, Stephen Ewbank, David "Doc" Murdock, Karyn Dean, Geoffrey Simpson, Susie Mosely, Charles Adaway, Wyn Johnson, Burke Randolph, Terri West

The Exchange Club of Sugar Land



www.ecsl.org

Texas Gulf Coast District

www.tlgcd.org

National Exchange

www.nationalexchangeclub.org

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

Grace and Gary Panetti



Photos by Bob Dempsey

We had a very well attended luncheon on November 9, 2005 honoring our Veterans.

Wounded soldiers from **IMPACT PLAYERS** were our special guests. Many thanks **Naren Patel** for chairing a wonderful event and treating the soldiers to dinner and hotel rooms.



Many were brought to tears when Sgt. Michael Pellum spoke about the sacrifices made by our men and women in the service.

YOU MIGHT BE AN EXCHANGITE IF...
by Stewart Jacobson

If you think there's nothing wrong with getting a massage from a flamenco dancer...you might be an Exchangite.

If they couldn't fly the flag in your platoon or on your ship because you cried every time you saw it...you might be an Exchangite.

If your president is provided a paramedic at the national convention...you might be an Exchangite.

If you have more jewelry on your nametag than a River Oaks trophy bride...you might be an Exchangite.

If you start each meeting with more pledges than a fraternity house...you might be an Exchangite.

If your wife lets you have a teenage Brazilian girl for a sleepover...you might be an Exchangite.

If at your Wednesday breakfast table there are five financial advisors, two dentists and one computer geek...you might be an Exchangite.

If your members have survived more motorcycle crashes than Evel Knievel...you might be an Exchangite.

If you think it's not geeky for adults to earn merit badges...you might be an Exchangite.

If you're so relieved that one of your members finally got married and that he could still father a child that you threw him a baby shower at a meeting...you might be an Exchangite.