

Press Release

For Immediate Release



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Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. Fathers & Flashlights is huge success!

West University Place – October 14, 2013 – The 7th annual Fathers & Flashlights urban campout was held on Saturday October 5 and Sunday October 6. Once again this event was a huge success and the gross amount raised for the Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. was \$117,152.

Through the new online registration this year, Fathers & Flashlights sold out in a record three minutes. 498 children and 257 dads took part in this unique and wonderful community event. This year's chairs were Judy and Comfort Cheng, Dee Dee and Jamie Gilder and Ashley and Sam Gumbert.

The hot Saturday temperatures did not slow down the fun for anyone. Tents were pitched and the wide-range of activities began at 4pm. Big hits for the campers were the popular Catch-and-Release fishing, Tie-Dye, Rock Climbing, Giant Slide, Jacob's ladder and an Inflatable Obstacle Course. Camp Russo was once again a must do for the little campers, this year offering Camel rides, a petting zoo and a pumpkin maze.

Dinner was generously donated by Eldoe Street Café & Catering, Chick-fil-A (Holcombe and Buffalo Speedway) and Papa John's Pizza. Desserts by Harper Street Treats, Potbelly and Tiny's No. 5 were enjoyed while dancing to music provided by Tommy Blaze. The Houston Astronomical Society provided telescopes and viewing assistance for the campers to stargaze before lights out.

Before the rain arrived on Sunday morning, the campers were treated to breakfast donated by Goode Company Restaurants, Shipley Do-Nuts and Kolache Factory.

The Chairs and their families enjoyed this fantastic urban campout as much as the almost 750 attendees. This was their first year to chair this event. They along with all the campers were glad that the weather held out for all of the activities on Saturday.

“Fathers & Flashlights was a great success” says event Chair Dee Dee Gilder. “As one father told me, “there are not times anymore where kids can just play free and run around with their friends”. When we grew up we had that freedom but not much today. It is always a treat to see kids having so much fun.”

The Chengs, Gilders and Gumberts would also like to recognize that the night would not have been possible without the help of the volunteers (257 Moms), the City of West U Parks & Recreation Department, West U Elementary, Tri-Sports and Friends of West U Parks underwriters and sponsors.

Direct Energy was once again the Title sponsor of the event. Other donors include Frost Bank, Oppenheimer & Co., Inc., Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co., Maggie Garza, Keller Williams/Old Republic Title, Cadence Bank and Cammarata Pediatric Dentistry. Many other businesses and families donated generously to Fathers & Flashlights 2013 and with the combined generosity from all, the tireless hours of preparation and planning from the Chairs and the commitment from the Event Committee, Fathers & Flashlights was a great success and a unique opportunity for Dads and Children to spend quality time together, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

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The Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. is a volunteer based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising funds for the renovation, expansion, development and improvement of parks and green spaces in the neighborhood parks of the City of West University Place. The board is appointed by City Council and raises money through foundation grants, citizens' bequests, memorials, special events and various other programs and events including partnerships with local businesses.