

Press Release

For Immediate Release



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Friends of West University Place Parks Fathers & Flashlights 10th Anniversary Campout Celebrates Another Huge Success!

West University Place – October 3, 2016 – The annual Fathers & Flashlights campout celebrated the 10th Anniversary event with record attendance and perfect weather on Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2. The highly anticipated and popular event was attended by 529 children and 259 dads, setting up tents and creating memories on the fields surrounding West U Elementary School. Daryl and Aaron Hoover and Jennifer Gatto, the inaugural Fathers & Flashlights Chairs and visionaries of the event served as Honorary Chairs. Children's Memorial Hermann generously supported the event as Camp Boss, the \$10,000 lead sponsor.

Special thanks to the 2015 and 2016 Fathers & Flashlights co-chairs, The Butler, Martinez and Schaefer Families, for planning and organizing another tremendously successful camp out and fundraiser. The event raised \$116,000 for the Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. Friends is a volunteer based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising funds for the renovation, development and improvement of parks and green spaces in the neighborhood parks of the City of West U.

The Saturday afternoon temperatures were near perfect for camp set-up and daytime activities. DJ wonder Tommy Blaze helped get the party started in the afternoon. Activities included t-shirt Tie Dye, Catch-and-Release Fishing, Pony Rides, West U Fire Department Fire Safety House and a number of inflatables. Following a visit from the Chick-fil-A Cow, the campers were dazzled by Houston based magician, illusionist and entertainer, Carter Blackburn. The campers were mesmerized and left in awe from the exciting show. The Houston Astronomical Society provided telescopes and viewing assistance for the campers to stargaze before lights out and DJ Tommy Blaze kept the party happening until lights out. One lucky winner of a raffle draw sponsored by Village Plumbing and Home Services added a Yeti Cooler to their campsite.

Delicious Tiny's No. 5 chocolate chip cookies greeted all arriving campers. Dinner was a much anticipated treat as the campers were teased with wonderful aroma of Fajita's A Go Go slow, smoking pork on-site beginning early afternoon. Fajita's A Go Go served boar sausage corn dogs with dipping sauces as appetizers and pull pork tacos with rice and beans for dinner. Everyone's tastes were satisfied with other dinner treats of Chick-fil-A nuggets, Candelari's pizza and James Coney Island Hot Dogs. Evening desserts were cake pops donated by Harper Street Treats and cookies donated from Potbelly. Cool and refreshing lemonade was donated by Jerry Built Burgers.

The campers were treated to site prepared, make to order breakfast tacos on Sunday morning from Goode Company Restaurants, Shipley Do-Nuts and some sweet and savory kolaches from the Kolache Factory. Fresh brewed, Boomtown Coffee was provided by Avenu Coffee, located inside Avenu Fitness.

Thank you to the volunteers and staff who helped make the event such a fun success. Thank you to the underwriters, sponsors, and in kind donors: Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, Jones Day, Conway MacKenzie, Maggie Garza, John Daugherty, Realtors & Old Republic Title, Heidi Dugan, Greenwood King Properties, Rice Village Animal Hospital, Lauren DeFrehn Photography, Kristine Martinez, John Daugherty, Realtors, Chick fil-A Holcombe and Buffalo Speedway, Goode Company Restaurants, Fajita's A Go Go, The Adkins Family, The Davis Family, The Dopp Family, The Burress Family, Butler Cohen, LLC, Laura Mayer Cyprow, John Daugherty, Realtors, Village Plumbing and Home Services, Tiny's No. 5, Candelari's Pizzeria, Harper Street Treats, iKids, The Butler Family, The Schaefer Family, The Woman's Hospital of Texas Pediatric Center, Republic Services and ROW Studios/Insgroup. For a complete listing of Fathers & Flashlights underwriters and sponsors, please visit westuparks.org. The Chairs are also grateful to the West U Parks and Recreation Department for their tremendous support.

Planning for Fathers & Flashlights 2017 has already begun. The Moorhead, Woody and Williams families are excited to help continue this unique and wonderful community event. Fathers & Flashlights is regarded by campers as the "best day of the year!"

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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, 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.