

NEWS & NOTES

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.



Azalea Committee Co-chairs Larkin and Sally Matthews (left) and The Reverends Elizabeth and Seann Duffin (right) with Azalea Gala Honoree Emily Griffin.

Azalea Gala Celebrates Emily Griffin, CCSC's Mission

More than 500 friends of Christian Community Service Center gathered at the Hilton Post Oak to support the mission and future of CCSC and celebrate the groundbreaking volunteer work of Emily Griffin, one of CCSC's founding volunteers, at Azalea Gala 2019 "A Time to Bloom."

Guests of the Gala, which raises funds for CCSC's six social service programs that aid those in need in our community, enjoyed live music, a wine pull and silent auction, and games and raffles. The night's honoree, Emily Griffin, who volunteered with CCSC from 1978-2015, said of the evening, "It was awesome, very humbling."

Emily, who served CCSC in numerous capacities over the years, including as a



Rev. Patrick Miller of St. Mark's Episcopal Church served as the evening's official Heads or Tails caller.

member of the Board of Directors and on numerous strategic planning and program development teams, said, "(CCSC) is a place of hope. No matter what else people get in there, I think they leave with hope-more than they've had."

Co-chairing the Azalea Gala was a family affair for Sally and Larkin Matthews and The

Reverends Elizabeth and Seann Duffin. Elizabeth is the Matthews' daughter and, like her parents, has a long association with CCSC, and Seann is the senior pastor at Bellaire United Methodist Church, one of CCSC's partner churches.

"CCSC is clear in its mission to help people when they are at their most vulnerable, and that is exactly the kind of ministry that Christ calls us to," Reverend Elizabeth Duffin said. "We chose to support the fundraiser because we've seen the difference that CCSC makes in the lives of families, and we want to increase the awareness of CCSC's work and ministry."

Sally Matthews agreed, "It was an honor to be able to support the ministries of CCSC and introduce this marvelous organization to a new generation."

The Azalea Gala Committee included: Becky Browder, Sandra Buckner, Lori Carper Baker, Cindy Case, Alicia Hartsfield, Andrea Link, Ginnie McConn, Julie Morgan, Karen Nicolaou, and Sherri Smeink.



CCSC Board President Jo Ann Fry and her husband, Bob, chat with CCSC staffers Jane Eixmann and Nolonda Jones.

The Gala grossed over \$210,000 to aid the mission of CCSC and the evening was a joyous celebration of all the individuals who come together to collectively power CCSC. A HUGE thank you to our 40 member churches, auction item donors, table sponsors, underwriters, attendees, auction bidders and volunteers for helping CCSC bloom.

JobNet Workshop Focuses on Personal Finance

Getting a better handle on your finances helps alleviate some of the stress of job hunting. With that goal in mind, JobNet offers its clients financial coaching and



JobNet's recent "Mastering Your Credit Report" workshop in partnership with The Women's Resource.

often partners with The Women's Resource to bring clients valuable information on ways to attain financial stability.

A recent result of that partnership was the "Mastering Your Credit Score" workshop designed to educate job seekers about the importance of money management and knowing your credit score. Tom

Black from The Women's Resource led the workshop and JobNet's newest financial coach, volunteer Elizabeth House, attended. Elizabeth will be providing individual financial coaching to assist JobNet job seekers with solutions to the many money-related problems that arise with unemployment.

JobNet's Guest Speaker Series of workshops provides job seekers with valuable information that enhances the classes and coaching that make up the program's regular services. Community partners, counselors and motivational speakers address problems that job seekers encounter outside their job search.



Elizabeth House and Tom Black.

For more information on JobNet or the Guest Speaker Series, contact JobNet Manager Mickey Hammond at JobNet@ccschouston.org

How Does CCSC's Garden Grow?



Part of the May 4 pepper harvest at the CCSC Garden.

The Christian Community Service Center Garden grows with the help of many volunteers and in May those volunteers welcomed visitors to the Garden's annual Open House.

Some guests came to learn about the Garden and its history; others came to work side by side with experienced volunteers as they harvested 61 pounds of cucumbers and three varieties of peppers. As a bonus, guests left with budding tomato plants to grow at home.

The CCSC Garden has been located on the St. Luke's Gethsemane Campus since 2010 and consists of 27 beds and a small orchard. Clients in need of food at both Emergency Services locations receive fresh fruits and vegetables from the Garden in addition to non-perishable items from the pantries.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Garden or want to learn more, please contact Pat Weatherspoon-Hall at 713-402-5154 or emergency_sw@ccschouston.org

Martha's Way Fast Tracks Summer Classes

CCSC's vocational training program, Martha's Way, will engage aspiring small business owners through two "Fast Track" classes this summer.



Martha's Way students learn the best ways to polish silver.

These special accelerated class (16 hours weekly, Monday-Thursday) cover technical skills and business skills in the field of residential housekeeping.

Two locations will be offered in July: Westbury United Methodist Church (southwest area, 77096) and Mission Milby CDC (southeast region, 77012). At Mission Milby, adult learners may bring their children to participate in summer camp. CCSC is grateful for the hospitality of these host sites/agency partners.

If you know someone who is interested in taking Martha's Way classes, please contact 281-906-8421 or training@ccschouston.org

The mission of the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences.



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