

Society of St. Stephens Back to School Tennis Fundraiser

Society of St. Stephens Back to School Tennis Fundraiser Society of St Stephen, through the generosity of our community and a tremendously successful “Back to School” tennis fundraiser, raises funds to provide school supplies, new backpacks and gift cards for new shoes or additional school supplies for students of registered SOSS client families in our eight zip code service area in Huffman, Atascocita, Kingwood, Porter, New Caney, Splendora and Cleveland. Additional school supplies are shared with an area Women and Children’s shelter, families in the Oasis foster program and students in area school homeless programs.

Last year, in addition to the 600 registered students who received school supplies, we were also able to donate an additional 500+ gift cards to area school counselors, nurses and campus principals for distribution at their schools throughout the school year as the needs arise. Although we helped over a thousand students last year, that is a small percentage of the economically disadvantaged youth in our service area school districts. The need is great!

In addition to the school supplies provided, funds were also available to assist in funding need-based Margaret S. White scholarships for area graduating seniors to attend university community college or trade schools. Over the last several years these students have come from up to 9 different high schools and we have been blessed to award scholarships for up to 10 recipients a year.

With continuing supply challenges, we have all experienced cost increases. School supplies are no exception. We are anticipating at least a 10-15% cost increase on all supplies we will need this year. For the majority of our client families at SOSS, the \$60-\$70 per child average cost of school supplies can be insurmountable and is all but impossible for so many of our clients who struggle to afford basic daily living expenses. But nothing is impossible for our God combined with your generosity and heart for His children. Can you imagine their faces when they go pick out their new shoes for school? Can’t you see them with new crayons, pencils, notebooks and rulers? Can you remember what it was like to get all those new supplies for school? We hope you will remember and that you’ll consider making a difference in the life of a child with your support of our back to school drive program by supporting the tennis tournament fundraiser Tuesday May 7, 2024 as a court sponsor or donor.

Volunteers from Society of St. Stephen, Kingwood Methodist Church, area churches, community groups and organizations will combine forces with smiles and helping hands to organize and distribute the supplies in July at the Kingwood Methodist Gym. For more information about how you can volunteer for school supplies organization and distribution, please contact SOSS at 281-358- 7722 or email us at sosskumc@gmail.com . Please add all these disadvantaged children and their families to your prayer list for the school year. They are definitely starting off the school year with one great lesson: God loves them and He has plans for them to succeed!

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