



Society of St. Stephen volunteers gather to plan tennis tournament to raise funds for needy students' school supplies, shoes and scholarship funds. Pictured, left to right: Carolyn Austin, Lexi Flach, Patty Carter, Linda Berner and Claudette McKee

Charity Tennis Tournament to Celebrate Sixteenth Year

Calling all women tennis players, the Society of St. Stephen invites you to their Sixteenth Annual Ladies' Doubles Tournament to benefit The Back to School Drive for school supplies and new shoes for area needy children. The tournament which will be played on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 will be held at the Clubs of Kingwood Tennis Center.

Players may sign up on April 9 at the Clubs of Kingwood Tennis Center from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The registration fee is \$50 per player, which will include lunch. Space is limited. Players do not have to be a member of Kingwood Country Club to play.

This annual event has been providing school supplies for children from kindergarten to high school for the past 15 years. Last year's tournament raised \$92,000. All supplies are those which are recommended by the schools. Each student will also receive a new backpack and a voucher for a new pair of shoes. Thanks to our tennis players and community sponsors, 600 students were provided with these items. Also an additional 600 shoe vouchers were furnished to our local schools. All totaled, more than 1200 students benefited from the proceeds of this event. Many of the 600 vouchers were for students classified as homeless by Humble I.S.D.

Besides assisting students in our public schools, college scholarships of \$1000, honoring the late Margaret S. White a former Society director, will be awarded to ten deserving area high school seniors from tournament proceeds.

Tournament sponsorships are offered at several levels: Event Sponsor--\$2500, Diamond Sponsor--\$1000, Gold Sponsor--\$300, Silver Sponsor--\$100. In addition to supporting this event, sponsors will receive recognition in the tournament program and all advertising promotions. Community members are encouraged to donate any amount to assist with the purchase of school supplies through Zelle at sosskum@gmail.com or to: kingwoodmethodist.org/give.

The Society of St. Stephen is a 501c3 community food pantry, clothes closet and provider of limited financial assistance for medical or utilities to our underserved neighbors in need in eight area zip codes of Atascocita, Kingwood, Porter, New Caney, Splendora and Huffman. There is no charge for any of its services and is operated wholly by volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome. Donations of gently used adult, teen and children's clothing and shoes, linens, kitchen items and small countertop appliances as well as non-perishable food items are appreciated. They may be dropped off by the back door, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Society of St. Stephen is located at 2307 Crystal Springs Drive, Kingwood, 77339, phone: 281-358-7722. For more information about the tennis tournament, contact Event Chairperson, Carol Kollehner, ckollehner@gmail.com.