

Press Release, for Immediate Release, March 5, 2021

For additional information or questions, contact Diane Blanco

Diane.Blanco@Outlook.com



Society of St. Stephen's Thirteenth Annual Back to School Fundraiser has been scheduled for May 11, 2021. Committee members, left to right: Susan Prichard, Ann Gonzalez and Judy Monaghan are ready to play and accept donations!

Society of St. Stephen seeks sponsors and donors

The Society of St. Stephen (SOSS) is seeking community sponsors and donors for its Thirteenth Annual Back to School Fundraiser on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at the Clubs of Kingwood Tennis Center. Tournament Chair is Claudette McKee, assisted by dozens of enthusiastic committee members!

This annual event funds the SOSS Back to School Program, which last year provided nearly 900 needy, area children with school supplies, a \$20.00 shoe voucher for one pair of new shoes and new backpacks. It also provides additional shoe vouchers for needy children at local schools.

Last year's "virtual" fundraiser raised more than \$71,000. Thanks to our community for their generous donations to meet these families' needs in the midst of the COVID19 pandemic.

Twenty thousand dollars in college scholarships were also awarded to 10 deserving area high school students living within the Humble, New Caney and Splendora ISD's we serve, in honor of Margaret S. White, a former director of the Society of St. Stephen.

The cost of these school supplies, shoes and back packs is \$55 per child, an amount that is out of reach for many families in our eight zip code service area, 77327,

77336, 77339, 77345, 77346, 77357, 77365 and 77372, who are struggling to afford their basic living expenses.

Karen Mashburn is the director of the Society of St. Stephen, which is a community outreach agency staffed 100% by volunteers helping more than 100 families each week with food, clothing and assistance with home utility payments and prescriptions. She added, "At Thanksgiving we distributed food baskets to almost 400 families and at Christmas we provided food for 400 families and \$25 gift cards for their children. None of this would be possible without our wonderful donors and sponsors."

Opportunities for sponsorship are available at the following levels: Silver--\$100, Gold--\$300, Platinum--\$500 and Diamond--\$1000. In addition to supporting this beneficial program, donors will also receive advertisement and recognition in the tournament program and in all advertisements promoting this special event.

Player sign-up for the ladies' doubles tennis tournament will be held on April 13 at the Kingwood Country Club Tennis Center from 8:30 a.m. to noon or afterwards, if openings remain, call the tennis shop at the Club 281-358-2181.

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 neighbors in need in Humble, New Caney and Splendora school district boundaries. There is no charge for any of its services and is operated wholly by volunteers. Donations of gently used children's and teen clothing, as well as non-perishable food items are welcome as are volunteers. Donations may be dropped off Monday, Wednesday or Fridays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Contact Society of St. Stephen at 281-358-7722. The facility is located at 1799 Woodland Hills Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339, and the mailing address is P.O. Box 6989, Kingwood, TX.77325. Donations may also be made online at: <https://www.kingwoodumc.org/give/>, Indicate the amount, select Society of St. Stephen, and in the optional memo, put Back to School Fundraiser.

For more information about sponsorship and donating to the Back-to-School Fundraiser, contact Chairman Claudette McKee at cmckee2007@yahoo.com.