

Proudly serving Katy for over 50 years



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Press Release

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The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated its Annual Gala, "A Tribute to Katy" on Friday, February 26, 2016 with a record crowd. The event was co-chaired by Lori Gunn and Breann Worthy and held at the Safari Texas Ballroom. The elegant evening included a seated dinner. The Gala guests enjoyed complimentary commemorative portraits sponsored by Katy Magazine. Sponsors of the Valet Parking were Modern Pest Control and Silver Eagle sponsored the beverages for the evening. Floral Arrangements were provided by Randall's and graphic and printing design was provided by CAS Graphics. Entertainment was provided by Password and the guests danced until after midnight to the sounds of Password.

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce recognized and thanked their outgoing Directors – Paul Kurt (Kurt & Associates, P.C.), George Purvis and Ben Young (Remedy Roofing). As a token of appreciation each outgoing Director was given an engraved clock to recognize their service to the Chamber.

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce inducted the 2016 Board of Directors and Officers at the Annual Gala. City of Katy Mayor Fabol Hughes administered the Oath of Office to the 2016 Officers and Directors.

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce 2016 Chairman of the Board - Tad Adams (Adams Law Firm, L.L.P.), Vice Chairman of the Board - Marcus Henneke (Dagley Insurance & Financial Services),

Secretary - Christa Clifton (Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital), and Treasurer - Richard White (AXA Advisors LLC). The Immediate Past Chair is Sam Schultze (Country Park Portraits), City of Katy Mayor Fabol Hughes is Ex-Officio and Ann Hodge serves as President/CEO.

The Board of Directors for 2016 are Marcus Dillon (Dillon CPAs, PLLC), Denise Einkauf (Waggin' Tails Pet Ranch), Cristy Fontanilla (Bookkeeping Express), Alton Frailey (Katy ISD), Ida Franklin (Venus Construction), Kelly Gaines (Members Choice Credit Union), Greg Henry (XperNet Services, Inc.), Jason Hodge (Medical Fitness Pros), Lisa Houghton (BP), Del Lawson (Modern Pest Control), Barbara Lazor (Lazor Healthcare Consultants, LLC), Nicole LeBoeuf (AMP Lending), Woody Mann (Vista Equities Group, Inc.), Linda Nichols (Dahl Team Properties), A. Kevin Troutman (Fisher & Phillips, LLP), and Wayne Voss (Houston Methodist West Hospital).

The Chamber recognized our 2016 Volunteers of the Year, Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year. The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce presented these awards at the Gala:

Volunteers of the Year – Christ Clinic

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year is traditionally an honor given to one person who has made outstanding voluntary contributions toward the benefit of the Katy area. This year the honor goes to an organization that is driven by the support of over 200 volunteers every year.

Christ Clinic began in 2000 as a ministry of the Memorial Lutheran Church in Katy. It operated one night a week out of the church gymnasium with volunteer professionals providing medical care for uninsured, under-insured and low-income patients.

As the area grew and more people became aware of the clinic, demand for service required a move to dedicated space. Christ Clinic moved to a location on First Street in 2006 and opened to serve patients 3 days a week. It quickly became clear that the Clinic needed to be more than a church outreach program so in 2011 Christ Clinic and Memorial Lutheran Church began a separation process. The following year Christ Clinic became an independent 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Additional churches began supporting the Clinic, so did Houston Methodist West Hospital, as well as individual supporters. Executive Director Kara Hill, who is responsible for the overall management and operation of Christ Clinic under the direction of its volunteer board of directors, says "We feel

like this is a community effort, If not for the local hospitals, businesses, churches and area residents, we couldn't operate."

In 2015, Christ Clinic saw 3,800 patients with 9,100 visits and those clients do pay a small fee for office visits and lab work. They're served by a staff of 18 full and part time employees, but it is the 60 volunteers who come in regularly, the 200 who come in to help as needed, and the doctors, nurses, and medical professionals who cumulatively volunteered 12,259 hours in 2015, that truly drive Christ Clinic.

Long-time volunteer Joyce Adams said "I'm so proud of the way the Clinic has grown and I get a real sense of satisfaction out of helping the community in this way. There are so many people here that need this help; and so few resources for them to get it".

Christ Clinic moved their team of caring volunteers and staff into a new location at 25722 Kingsland Blvd. this year, more than doubling their space. The new location has a much larger pharmacy, which is stocked with medication samples provided by doctors and medical organizations, and room for the medical records from over 7,500 clients. There is also room for expanded services which will allow for more clients and the need for more volunteers.

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce is grateful to the dedicated volunteers who help offer high quality healthcare and health related services to those in need with love, compassion, respect, and dignity. Congratulations to Christ Clinic, our 2016 Volunteers of the Year!

Business of the Year – Country Park Portraits

Sam Schultze was born and raised in Houston, Texas and he's very proud of being a native. His parents were involved in the television business. Growing up around television stations, commercial sets, different kinds of productions and on-air personalities, Sam naturally planned to enter that field.

After graduating from Sharpstown High School, Sam enrolled at the Art Institute of Houston, where he studied photography with an emphasis on portraiture. Towards the end of his time at the Art Institute, Sam was offered a position at the prestigious Gittings Portrait Studio. He worked his way up to running 2 of their studios in Houston before he purchased Country Park Portraits in 2003.

Two years later he purchased the Tomorrow's Memories Portrait Studio on Park Grove Lane. He moved Country Park Portraits and his other company, Best Business Portraits in Katy, Texas, into that beautiful building.

Sam says his business has been doing well ever since. He specializes in making family portraits, high school senior photos and executive portraits. His work is in the homes and offices of his clients throughout Katy, Houston and beyond. He is also called upon for jobs that require strict confidentiality, and is well-known for protecting the privacy of his clients.

He loves his work and values the relationships he develops with clients. He also loves being part of the Katy community. Sam and his wife Emily are raising their children Bella and Hudson here. He is the Immediate Past Chairman of the Board, Executive Committee Member and Board Member for the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. For the Katy Independent School District, he works as a PIE Board Member, a KEYS Mentor, on the Campus Advisory Team for Hayes Elementary, and more. Sam is now on the Art Institute of Houston Advisory Board and often shares his knowledge with youth and peers.

When asked what it was that made Country Park Portraits so successful Sam had a couple of thoughts. Sam isn't particularly fond of being photographed, so he understands how others may feel uncomfortable in front of a camera. His sense of humor and kindness puts them at ease and results in great photographs. He is most proud of the genuine relationships he has been able to build with his clients. Sam explained, "Our profession has changed so much in the years I've been in it. I've gone from photographing with a 4x5 view camera, to working in a darkroom to spending hours at my computer editing, sorting and backing up files. What has not changed in all of this is the importance of relationships and treating people with respect. I believe we have the ability to make our clients feel important and for them to know how much we care about them. If this is true, I'd say we have been successful."

We think so too Sam, and congratulate Country Park Portraits on being named the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce 2016 Business of the Year!

Citizen of the Year – Woody Mann

Following his education at the University of Arkansas, where he majored in Real Estate and Insurance, Woody Mann, Jr. began his career with Great-West Life Assurance Company in 1963. Two

years later, he became Vice-President of ADF, Inc., a mortgage banking/development company, where he was responsible for commercial mortgage brokerage operations and involved in the Company's residential development activities.

In 1977, Dorado Corporation, a real estate investment company based in Houston, hired Woody to establish a commercial development division. In 1981 he became President of the Company and in 1985, he resigned to co-found Vista Management Company.

With the help and support of his wife Cathie, who is also his business partner, Woody has been responsible for helping direct the growth of Vista from a small property management firm to "The Vista Companies", a collaboration of three entities; Vista Equities Group, Vista Management Company, and Vista Brokerage Services. He currently serves as President of Vista Equities Group and Sr. Vice President of Vista Management Company.

The Vista Companies have a number of projects in the Katy area, but Woody is well-known for opening LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch in 2007. LaCenterra has become a Katy landmark town center with upscale shopping, fine dining, luxury residential apartments, and executive office space. LaCenterra is also home to Central Green, a public park opened in partnership with the Willow Fork Drainage District that has become Katy's favorite outdoor venue for special events, concerts, festivals and community gatherings.

Woody is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Katy Area Economic Development Council. He has served on the boards of Faith Alive, The Diocese of Texas, The Church Corporation, and for twenty one years on the Board of Trustees for St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and St. Luke's Episcopal Health System. He also served as Chairman of the Department of Finance for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas for twenty four years. He is also a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and the University of Arkansas Alumni Association.

Woody and Cathie Mann have been married for twenty six years. They are the parents of three adult children and have five grandchildren. They are members of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, and for the last ten years they have served on the Houston Marathon Race Committee, an event that hosts 27,000 runners and produces in excess of \$40 Million annually to the Houston area economy.

Mann said “I am truly honored to be included among such outstanding past recipients of this award, and am fortunate and blessed to be able to contribute, in some small way, to the on-going growth of the greater Katy community”.

We're grateful for the professional expertise and personal commitment Woody has brought to Katy and thank him for his contribution to our community. Congratulations to the 2016 Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year!

For more information, contact the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce at (281) 391-5289, or visit our web-site at www.katychamber.com.

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