

Service Profile | Lions Club



Courtesy of Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club
Members of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of its Lions Den in 2007.

By Molly Ryan

The Lions Club is a king of community service organizations. According to its website, more than 1.3 million members, or Lions, and more than 45,000 clubs make the Lions Club the largest service organization in the world. Two of these clubs are located in the Northwest Houston area.

Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club

The Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club, founded in 1957, was one of the first in the

Houston area. Like all Lions Clubs, this chapter was designed to serve the local community by raising funds for people and projects in need.

"We are one of the larger clubs, and we are a very active club," said Theresa Casey, the current president. "We have 34 members from all over the Cypress area."

The Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club has raised thousands of dollars for hundreds of charities since its origin in 1957.

Some of the club's most popular projects include raising money to send disabled children to the Texas Lions Camp, a free weeklong camp for special-needs children; participating in Wreaths Across America, a program that adorns veterans' graves with wreaths during the holiday season; and raising money for the Lighthouse for the Blind, an organization that aids the blind and visually impaired through rehabilitation services and advocacy.

"The Lions Club started to preserve, restore and reinstate sight," Casey said. "Along the way, we've picked up other projects. Most people think of eyeglasses when they think of the Lions Club, but it is so much more."

An identifying feature of the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club is its Lions Den, or meeting hall. Casey said the club raises a considerable amount of funds for charities through its den because organizations

can rent it out for events. Also, the den has an outdoor concession stand that services three neighboring baseball fields used by the Cy-Fair Sports Association.

Houston Northwest Lions Club

Although the Houston Northwest Lions Club has only been in existence for five years, some of its members have been Lions for the majority of their lives.

Cliff Burke, the founder of the Houston Northwest Lions Club, became a Lion in 1961 and has since traveled the world helping Lions market their clubs.

"I found out right away that being a Lion meant something," Burke said. "We are the lifeblood for a lot of organizations. Lions all over the world have the same dream—to serve."

The club focuses on raising money for different Lions Club charities including the Texas Lions Camp and Leader Dog Program, which trains and donates Seeing Eye dogs to the blind across the world.

To raise money, the club hosts a handful of yearly fundraising events such as a barbecue chicken sale in April and a hotdog eating contest in July.

Although Burke said raising money for different local charities is hard work, the payoffs are worthwhile.

"It's such a great feeling to see the smiles on the people we help," Burke said.

Lions Club projects

The Lions Club supports thousand of charities throughout the world including:

- **The Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center:** A center in Midland that collects used eye glasses and distributes them to eye clinics and patients who cannot afford glasses
- **Lions Quest:** A school program where children from kindergarten to 12th grade learn how to make responsible decisions and avoid drugs
- **Texas Lions Camp:** A free week-long camp where children who are physically disabled, hearing or vision impaired or diabetic can experience the outdoors and gain self confidence



Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club

Meetings: Evening • Second and fourth Tuesdays of each month • Lions Den 9600 West Little York Road, Houston
Contact Theresa Casey: 281-686-7091
www.houstoncy-fairlions.org

Houston Northwest Lions Club

Meetings: Second and fourth Wednesday of each month • 1 p.m. • Hot Dog Shop 6405 Brittmoore Road, Houston
e-clubhouse.org/sites/HoustonNorthwestTX