

Uptown News Beat

From Our President

Hi ladies. I promised this email would be sent after our planning meeting. Well, it's after. Two WEEKS after, but who's counting? ☺

We had a great meeting on Saturday, June 9. We named Committee Chairs and members. I am going to list our officers and our committee chairs. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please just let us know! (*see separate attached list for the committees.) We are so excited about our upcoming year and look forward to some rewarding programs. Hope to see you all at our next meeting!

Stacy Nelson
Uptown President
2012—2013

Happy 4th of July!!

2012—2013 Uptown BPW Officers

President	Stacy Nelson
Vice President	Debrah Gann
Treasurer	Kuohui Suchecki
Secretary	Evie Gandy
Directors	Mona Bethany Annette Dozier

Calendar

- > July 18—Program Meeting—Noon—Petroleum Club
- > Aug 16—Program Meeting—Noon—Petroleum Club

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Stacy and Jessica.....Mona Bethany

Jessica and Stacy after the surgery



My husband returned from Dallas with the bad news that our great niece was put on the kidney transplant list. Jessica Brown has had Polycystic Kidney Disease all her life. Her family had moved to Dallas shortly after she was born to be close to Baylor Hospital for her to receive the proper treatment. She has been on dialysis for 8 years, 8 hours each 24 hour period and it was taking its toll on her. Jessica had graduated from Texas A & M and was a part-time teacher. She could not work full-time because of her health. This was about three months ago. I sent out a prayer request for Jessica to receive a kidney soon, before it was too late. I only sent it to about five or six people I was close to, people whom I knew not only talked the talk, but walked the walk.

I got an immediate reply from Stacy Nelson saying, "Maybe I can give her one. How do I get tested?" I sat in stunned silence after a resounding "OMG". Shirley looked at me and asked "What's wrong?" I said "I can't believe it. Stacy just offered Jessica a kidney!"

I sat in stunned silence for a minute. This was serious! I had all these thoughts running through my head. What if she doesn't mean it and I tell Jessica and she gets excited and it all falls through? Could this family go through all of this, after close to 30 years of waiting? What if Stacy was hurt in the process, I love her too! Then after a lot of thought, well, maybe this was God's hand touching our family in a loving way and I have to trust that it will be okay. I sent an email back to Stacy saying that she had to be the same blood type or it was a moot point. Stacy emailed me back immediately and said I am O positive. I immediately emailed Jessica and she emailed me back O positive. I thought, "Shoot that leaves anyone in my family out as everyone but me is B positive and they would not take one from me because I am diabetic."

The instant I emailed Stacy this news, she said, "Find out how I get tested". So I got hold of Jessica and told her I had someone interested in being tested to see if she is a match for a live donor. It was explained to me that individuals must have not only the same blood type, but also some matching markers to even be able to begin

the process. If there are matching markers, the potential donor must go through a battery of physical, as well as psychological testing before the transplant team will consider the operation. Our first step was to get the transplant team in touch with Stacy. I told Jessica that at this point I was stepping out of the equation and she and the team could do all the necessary steps.

We held this information to ourselves for awhile and each step in the process Stacy would update me on what was going on.... "I got my test kit.... I got the blood work done..... I went to Dallas for the evaluation and we are waiting"... and waiting and then the day finally came that Stacy texted me that she was a perfect match. In fact, the team said they had never had such a perfect match before! Now I knew that God had His hand on this from the beginning.

Stacy and Jess both had to go through more testing that any one human being should have to. But, at last, we had a date. June 14, 2012.

The night before the transplant we were all invited to dinner by Jessica's parents, Sandra and Bobby Brown. We went to the church following dinner for a blessing for Jessica and Stacy. The warmth and love could literally be felt in the entire church during the laying on of hands ceremony. Bobby made a public declaration to Stacy about being a part of their family and their gratitude. There was nary a dry eye in the audience.

It had started to rain before we left the church and a giant double rainbow was in glorious splendor over the church. We took that as a good sign. Everyone retreated to their respective homes with their thoughts, fears, and comforts from the Church Service, agreeing to meet at the hospital the next day.

What a loving and faithful group of people!

We all met the next morning at the Baylor Transplant Unit and uneasily waited and watched the little line on the board that let us know what stage the surgery was in. We got to know and love Stacy's sister, April, and her Dad, Thomas White. Mr. White was Stacy's champion and would hardly leave her

God
had his
Hand
in this
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beginning

side the whole time she was there. We all fell in love with him.

After about 3 ½ hours, someone yelled the line changed and about that time the Dr. came out and told us that Stacy was doing wonderful and that Dad and April could go in and see her and we all sighed in relief and turned to the board to watch Jessica's line progress. After another approximately three hours, the line changed and her surgeon came out and said it was a success and explained what he had done in addition to the Kidney to make it all work better for Jessica. He was having trouble seeing us for some reason and he mentioned that he had broken his glasses and he could not see well. I thought, "Oh Lord, did he operate without his glasses?!" I must have gotten a shocked look on my face for he hastened to show us the wooden box he was holding and said they were his surgical glasses.

We all held hands after it was over and made a big circle and thanked God for his work! What a jubilant feeling the whole group had.

Stacy was in great pain the next morning as the gas they expanded her abdomen with had settled into her shoulders and it was excruciating. I went in to see Jessica in the ICU and they were having trouble keeping her in bed. She wanted to walk.

The next morning they took Jessica from ICU to the 14th floor in the transplant ward. When Mary Ann and I arrived, there was Jessica, wanting to walk downstairs to see Stacy, because she was worried about her. A wheel chair was retrieved and an announcement was made for transplant patients to stay in their rooms until the Dr. made his rounds. Jessica was chomping at the bit and kept saying, "I need to see Stacy". About that time, we heard the door open and in strolled Stacy, her dad and her husband. The

girls met in the middle of the room in a hug. Jessica gave Stacy a gift of a charm bracelet with a heart on it which contained the Bible verse on the heart that expressed her feelings, John 15:13. The verse reads: Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

I tell you this because it brings tears to my eyes to think about the bond these ladies have formed. They have been changed forever. They will be a part of each other's lives forever. Both these ladies want their stories told. Not for the glamour, or for thank you's, but to encourage others to do their research and donate as a live donor. They will always champion this cause because they have experienced respectively, the blessing it gives. Anyone interested or having questions can feel free to contact one of them. If one other life is saved because they have shared their story, that will be their glory.

Not once did I see either of these ladies' faith shaken, at any point in time.

I am forever grateful to have witnessed God in His finest form. We have all been changed by this experience. We have all been truly blessed!

Respectfully submitted by:

Mona Bethany



**Welcome
New
Member!!**

Nellwyn Barnett
Midland Chamber of Commerce
Cell: 432-599-1272
Birthday: October 3
nellwynbarnett@yahoo.com



Double the Graduation.....Pam Sanchez

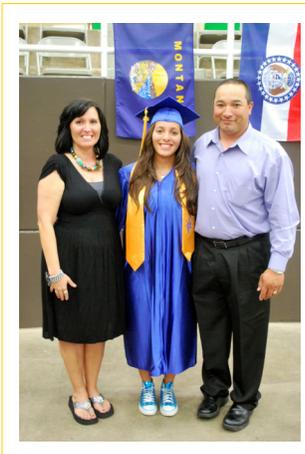
Family—Left to right: Bailey, Alexandra, Michelle, Taylor, Willie , Lindzi



Pam Sanchez’s oldest daughter, Michelle Garcia had her two middle daughters’ graduate this May in Snyder, Texas. They travelled to Snyder the last week of May for the graduation ceremonies and celebrations.

Lindzi, graduated from Western Texas College, she is a member of the National Honor Society and will be attending Texas Tech University in the fall to continue her education. Lindzi is employed by Universal Cheerleader Association, and has been for the past three summer’s. She was asked to come work for them as a camp trainer for Mascot’s. Lindzi was the Snyder High School Mascot for three years.

Taylor, graduated from Snyder High School, she is a Member of the National Honor Society, was elected the Softball Sweetheart, and was nominated for Homecoming Queen, and elected the prettiest senior. Taylor will be attending Western Texas College in the fall and was a recipient of over \$5,000.00 in scholarships.



Girls—Left to right: Bailey, Lindzi, Aldexandra, Taylor

Run-Off Elections. . . . 07/31/2012

Early Voting for the Run-off election runs from 7/23—7/27/12.

4 State contested races—
U.S. Senator—Ted Cruz or David Dewhurst

Railroad Commissioner—Christi Craddick or Warren Chisum

Railroad Commissions (Unexpired Term) -
Barry Smitherman or Greg Parker

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4—

David Medina or John Devine

1 Local (Midland) Contested Race
District Judge, 238th Judicial District (Unexpired Term) -
David W. Lindemood or Elizabeth Byer Leonard

Ector Co has the same contested State races and only 1 or 2 locally contested races.

On Uptowns website on the NEWS link at the bottom are links to the County Voter Offices (sample ballots available)

Community ProjectsDebrah Gann

Uptown BPW made a \$1,000 donation to Centers for Children and Families specifically for the “Kids First Program”. **Ann Bradford EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** and **Robyn LaForge PROGRAM DIRECTOR** with Centers were present to receive the donation. As Community Projects Chair, I was accompanied by Stacy Nelson (President 2012-2013), Kuohui Suhecki (Treasurer 2012-2013) and Shirley Harris (Newsletter and Website Chair Extraordinaire) with the presentation to Centers. Here is a summary of the Kids First Program:

Kids First seeks to promote healthy families by reducing the pain experienced within families that are severely disrupted by custody issues brought on by divorce, abuse and/or neglect. Through parent education and supervised visitation / exchanges, families have the support they need to foster healthy and safe interactions. All economic levels are served and families who are facing financial hardships will continue to be seen. The families that use the Kids First program are experiencing severe conflict. When bonds are re-established, families are healthier as a result. All of the parents in the program have been restricted from seeing their child by the court, the other parent, or CPS. Many parents that are committed are given more time and responsibilities with their child after a given period of time with Kids First. Kids First provides supervised visitations and exchanges at The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity in their Sunday School classrooms in Midland and First United Methodist Church in Odessa. A trained monitor and a video camera are present

at each visitation. Local law enforcement officers are also present.

Because play is the natural form of communication for children, the visiting parent and child are provided with toys, games, art supplies and musical instruments with which to interact in accordance with the child's needs and wishes. Every attempt is made to foster a neutral, emotionally safe environment in which the parent and child may interact. Visitations routinely take place each week on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm-8:00pm and on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays.

Kids First requires an individual monitor for every visit. Therefore, it is required to have between five and fifteen volunteer monitors for each visit time. Kids First currently has thirty trained monitors who volunteer on a regular basis. Some of them volunteer weekly, others once a month. This number reflects individuals from the Foster Grandparent program, church members from Holy Trinity and many Legacy Scholarship beneficiaries.

When families remain in contact with one another through our Kids First program, these families are healthier and there are many benefits to the community. If the families are dealing with less con-

flict, the likelihood of the police having to be involved is decreased. With the families seeing each other at Kids First, domestic violence, child abduction, child abuse and child neglect are all decreased in the community, therefore, a reduction in law enforcement involvement in these families can be anticipated.

Left to right—Shirley Harris, Ann Bradford, Debbie Gann, Stacy Nelson, Kuohui Suhecki and Robyn LaForge



**“KIDS FIRST
seeks to
promote
healthy
families”**

Renewals for May
Kelli Mount Crouse
Robin Reece

Renewals for June
Kellie Withrow

Please check your email for your renewal invoice/notice.
Any questions, please let me know.

Thanks Jerri Rangel— jrangel@mfh.org

And Glenda Knox—r_knox@suddenlink.net

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

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Women
Helping
Women

Gone Crazee.....Shirley Harris

Smitty and I took a 4 day trip over the Father 's Day weekend to Lake Proctor. Lots of water and boats and jet skis and people. There were several family reunions going on the weekend we were there. They have several group camp grounds for gatherings. One had probably 10 hook-ups for trailers/rvs and a big covered table/seating area and across the road from it was one of the public restrooms. (that is convenient)

One of the guys Smitty knows goes there all of the time. He says it is the best place for water and camping.

If you have a boat or jet skis this is a great place to go because it is always full of water. It has lots of spaces right down on the water. There were lots of 5th wheels parked on the waters edge! Lots of happy

kids running and playing!

When we backed into our camping spot our neighbor came over and told us "that isn 't camping " and I laughed and told him that I had gotten to experience enough bugs and cot sleeping as a kid to keep me for a lifetime ". He laughed and said " me too ". 😊

Smitty bought some worms and went fishing several times, (I think you call it worm drowning) but didn 't catch anything worth keeping. He enjoys the quiet.

I took a good book to read (both paper and my kindle) and just lazed around.

It was a nice few days away and we returned recharged and ready to start a new week..

Happy Birthday!

- 7/12 **Delores Schuler**
- 7/23 **Glenna Haskell**
- 7/28 **Lydia E. Madrigal**
- 7/30 **Patti Humphrey**



Sunset over Lake Proctor