

THE LADYBUGS

“Our goal is to flutter about spreading good cheer whenever we can to those in need...”

- Vicki Latham



*Ladybug volunteers
Tina, Vicki, Barbara, and Ann*

SPREADING CHEER IN SUGAR LAND

Local Sugar Land humanitarians are shining examples of how one group can make a difference in the community. Their goodwill and benevolence places a smile on the faces of strangers who soon become friends.

THE LADYBUGS GATHER

Vicki Latham started a local women's organization called The Ladybugs, who dress-up in ladybug costumes and spread kindness to those in need in the community. They gathered for the first time on November 30 of last year and have been going strong ever since. Latham says she got the idea for the group while thinking about the elderly in retirement homes. "I wanted to bring brightness into their lives. So many elderly do not have anyone to visit them," she says. "I hated to think some people don't have basic things they need with no means to obtain those things." She also remembers when she was in the hospital as a child and no one really came to visit her to cheer her up. She decided she wanted to do something to help others in any way she could.

Written
by
Christy Collins

MEETING NEEDS

It all started when Latham called the activities director at the Greatwood Retirement Home to see if they needed some friendly faces to come by and visit with the residents. Since then, Latham has been placing an ad in the Greatwood Newsletter letting people know of The Ladybug services and inviting others to join. Word of The Ladybugs has spread and many people have requested them simply by referral.

The Ladybugs are currently a group of about 12 women that gather on a monthly basis and more often around the holidays. In August they decided to make cards for children in hospitals as well as Christmas and Mother's Day cards. Sometimes they will organize drives for basic hygiene supplies or a raffle to raise money for a more specific need. Whenever they visit, The Ladybugs play a game Vicki calls "Pass the Ball." They toss a beach ball in the air like Hot Potato and when the music stops, whoever has the ball gets a prize like a beautiful potted plant, toiletries, delicious home baked cookies, or candies.

The Ladybugs do have dues of \$20 dollars a year for costumes and supplies and much of what the Ladybugs do for the community is funded by donations from members and non-members alike. "It is a great way to make an impact on your community," says Latham. "And if anyone or their teenage daughter wants to help once or twice without actually joining that would be fine. I think it's great."

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

"Our goal is to flutter about spreading good cheer whenever we can to those in need, however, we also stop and smell the roses," is how Latham summarizes her organization. "We want to give back and put smiles on faces." She encourages people to join her or to start their own group. It is easy to feel lost in our great big world but The Ladybugs are living proof that one little group can have an impact on others in a big way. **SLM**

CHRISTY COLLINS and her husband, Nathan, are busy raising two little girls.

Spreading cheer at a local retirement home



BECOME A LADYBUG!

Call Vicki Latham
281-384-4006

The Ladybugs hold craft sessions to make their costumes and gifts

