



# Fort Bend County Women's Center

A United Way Agency

---

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**February 6, 2006**  
**Contact: Kelly Pedone**  
**281.494.4545 ext. 408**

## **Giggle 'til the Girls Come Home** **New fundraiser gives women a chance to hang out with their gal pals while helping support the fight against domestic violence**

**Sugar Land** – Busy everyday lives rarely lend time for pampering and indulging in life's little pleasures. Often times when time is given toward such activities, guilt is close behind with thoughts about errands that need to be run, children that need tending and dinner that needs to be prepared.

A new Fort Bend County event offers good news for women seeking one night to break from the routine. In addition to having a fun night out with friends, attendees help raise money to fight domestic violence.

Girlfriends Giggle, a STARS event celebrating friendships and supporting the Fort Bend County Women's Center, is tagged as a "big girls" pajama party filled with indulgences, shopping, and female bonding but no chaperones. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 6, at the Sugar Creek Country Club. Tickets are \$50.

Jacki Breckon, event co-chairman, says Girlfriends Giggle is an opportunity for all Fort Bend County women to come out and play.

"Girlfriends Giggle is a diversion from our daily obligations and an opportunity for us to celebrate friendships," she said. "It truly is a comfy, cozy affair that gives everyone a chance to stroll along the shopping alley, have a photo shoot, get your hair and make up done, have a massage, and so many other fun indulgences."

Area businesses including Albert Luiz Salon & Spa, Radiance Med Spa and make up artists from Laura Mercier have volunteered their pampering services for the Women's Center benefit. Each "indulgence" costs three bracelets and each bracelet cost \$1. Five bracelets are included in the ticket price.

In addition, area retailers and private boutiques including Annabelle's, Elizabeth's Boutique, Oh La Lizz, Glamour Beadz and Paper Suitcase will have booths at the event.

### **COMING TOGETHER FOR A PURPOSE**

The idea for Girlfriends Giggle came from a similar fundraiser that benefits the Ronald McDonald House in Houston, said STARS president Lizz Sansone. A couple of STARS members attended the Houston event and thought that its uniqueness would work well in Fort

Bend County. The Ronald McDonald House event's organizers gave the STARS approval to adapt the concept.

"We thought that it would be a great night out for moms and all women to come with their girlfriends," Sansone said. "Who doesn't want a girls' night out? This is an opportunity for women to spend time with their girlfriends while raising money for the Women's Center."

STARS is the Fort Bend County Women's Center auxiliary and a direct service and fundraising arm for the Center. Proceeds from Girlfriends Giggle are earmarked for shelter renovations, Sansone said.

Vita Rogers, executive director for the Women's Center, said that she is excited for the event and the opportunity not only to raise money for the Center but also raise awareness of domestic violence.

"This is going to be a very unique and fun time for everyone involved," Rogers said. "We are grateful to the STARS for coming up with this event and raising the profile of the Women's Center's mission."

In 26 years of serving the community, the Fort Bend County Women's Center has helped more than 20,000 women and children achieve violence-free lifestyles. Community support through fundraisers and donations enables the Center to provide emergency shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, support services and educational outreach to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children.

## **A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH**

In order to boost the fundraiser's profile, STARS members hosted a "Presidential Brunch" in January attended by leaders of many of Fort Bend County's women's organizations. Sugar Land mayor David Wallace also attended the event to show his support.

The intent was to give the women a small taste of what to expect on April 6, Mindy Gross, Girlfriends Giggle co-chairman, said.

"To get a good idea of what the event is all about, guests received comfy treatment by changing out of their heels and into a complimentary pair of slippers. They were indulged with massages and skin care analyses," Gross said. "In an effort to remind everyone why we are asking for their support, the brunch's program included a very touching personal account from a domestic violence survivor."

Seventy percent of the available tickets were pledged or sold by the end of the event giving organizers an early indication that Girlfriends Giggle will be a sold out event.

"I am not at all surprised by the response," Sansone said. "I know how generous everyone in Fort Bend County is and this is a great event."

For ticket information, contact the Fort Bend County Women's Center at 281-494-4545.