A Legacy of Learning

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Legacy Christian Academy Celebrates 25 Years of Christ-centered Education in Frisco

by Lisa Dawson

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Twenty-five years ago, Frisco was a very different city. In fact, it wasn't really a city at all. It was a burgeoning medium-sized town with pockets of residential neighborhoods and a population of less than 40,000 people. Yet even in its earliest stages, Frisco was attracting national attention as an ideal place for families to live and gained a reputation for its great schools.

One of those schools, Legacy Christian Academy, was just a dream that was poised to become a reality in 1999 when a handful of local families felt God's calling to build a school where children could thrive academically and grow spiritually, and families could find community together. Those families included Ricky and Tracy Bush, Jack and Jennifer Frye, Chris and Becky Johnson, Jody Capehart, and others. This year marks

golf, cross country, basketball, softball, soccer, and cheer.



In November 1998, Pastor Wayne Braudrick of Frisco Bible Church reached out to Capehart, who at the time was serving as head of school at another location. “Pastor Wayne lived with us when he went to seminary, and we served on the pastoral staff together at Grace Bible Church. He knew my heart and what kind of schools the Lord leads me to create,” says Capehart. “I prayed about it and felt the Lord’s hand of blessing upon me going forward to create this school for Frisco Bible Church,” says Capehart.

Capehart recounts how Preston Road was only two lanes at the time. She says roads had to be paved specifically to access the school. “Needless to say, things have dramatically changed in Frisco. It was a joy to see Frisco change from the time we started the school until three years later when we purchased property to build a full campus on Legacy Drive. In fact, we called our first campus the ‘cows and corn’ school because all you could see when you looked out the windows were cows and corn.”



Less than a year and a half after their initial meeting, Legacy Christian Academy opened in August 1999 with 135 K-9 students in Frisco Bible Church. In 2002, the school board purchased land for a new home for the school on Legacy Drive, which expanded the school significantly. It also provided room for a sports complex to house football, baseball, softball, and track teams.

While most Frisco residents would assume Legacy Christian Academy was named after Legacy Drive, Capehart says the road came nearly three years after the school was built. “When the Lord put it on my heart to call the school ‘Legacy Christian Academy,’ I said to everyone that our ‘legacy’ is to teach and train our students to each ‘leave a legacy’ wherever God calls them to serve in His Kingdom,” she explains. “I asked the city if they knew which road would be on the west side of our campus. They did not know at the time and said they would call me back. Three weeks later, I received a call and was told the road was an extension of Legacy Drive. Only our great God, in His sovereignty, could place Legacy Christian Academy on Legacy Drive.”



Chris and Becky Johnson's four children attended Legacy Christian Academy and were involved in the school's music and athletic programs. They say after moving to Frisco in 1995 and Chris becoming an elder at Frisco Bible Church, they saw the need for a Christian school. "While the Frisco schools were and are well-acclaimed, we felt that a foundation of education with a distinctly Christian worldview was the best option for our children. At the time, there was no such school in Frisco, and we were transporting our children to and from Richardson every school day," says Johnson.

Becky served as the admissions director for Legacy from 2001-2005 and says she played an active role in those early years, visiting with prospective families, sharing the vision and goals of the school, and hearing the dreams parents had for their children. Chris served as a founding board member and also taught some trade classes through the years. "We attend Legacy banquets, athletic events, and graduations from time to time. It is always incredibly rewarding and encouraging to see the students, to see how they interact, respond to hardship or disappointment, and set bold, definitive life goals that will make a difference in the world. It has been both spiritually rewarding and fulfilling to have participated at the grassroots of Legacy."



During the last two and half decades, Frisco has continued to grow and become one of the top independent school districts in the nation, and Legacy Christian Academy has kept pace. In the early 2000s, the school added a sports complex, a fieldhouse, and additional classrooms. In the mid-2000s, the school added its west wing to accommodate more students, a prayer chapel, stadium seating, a press box, a new gymnasium, and turfed its football field. Most recently, in August 2022, the school opened a new pre-K three and four facility by purchasing the 26,000-square-foot building on Lebanon Road, previously belonging to Starwood Montessori School.

Head of School Kevin Mosley says the physical expansion has only been part of the growth trajectory at Legacy Christian Academy. He says there have been several programs added to increase students' academic experience and prepare them for life after college. "We were the first Christian school in the state of Texas to implement a Spanish immersion program, and about 25% of our students are enrolled in the program," he says. "We start in pre-K, so by second grade, we have students fluent in Spanish."



The school has also developed a program that allows students to prepare for careers in industries such as medicine, engineering and technology, business, and art and humanities. Mosley explains, “Our program, which we call professional schools, helps prepare students for life after college and God’s calling for them. We bring in a variety of professionals in to speak to our students so they can begin to engage and network with people in their profession. It’s part of the school’s purpose to create strong leaders with biblical convictions.”

Halle Hinton graduated from Legacy Christian Academy in 2020 and participated in the professional school’s program. Hinton, who recently graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in biomedical sciences, says her goals of becoming a veterinarian were nurtured in high school. “During the program, I shadowed an equine veterinarian, and it was really fun,” says Hinton. “It gave me a lot of insight into what life would look like after college and helped me see myself in that role.” Hinton, who is marrying her fiancé Jonah Petty, who also graduated from Legacy Christian Academy and graduated from Texas A&M, plans to return to College Station this fall to continue veterinary school.



Landry Farley, a senior at the school, is on the golf team and part of the professional school program's business track. She says so far, she has taken classes in business concepts and will be taking business applications classes this upcoming academic year, in addition to completing a capstone project. "As part of the program, you can choose an internship in a field of your choice. I am hoping to get an in-person job this year in human resources, a field I'm interested in because I'm a people-person," she says. Farley is hoping to attend Auburn University or Stephen F. Austin after graduation and plans to major in communications.

Mosely says that even though the school has evolved, the core beliefs of the administration, teachers, and students haven't changed. "The heart of who we are hasn't changed, and the mission of the leaders who built our school hasn't changed since 1999," he says. "Our mission is integrated into everything we do: to create strong leaders with biblical convictions. We want to give our students the skills and intelligence they need for college and beyond."



Thinking ahead to the next twenty-five years, he says the school is looking for ways to continue growth to accommodate more students and families committed to Christian faith-based learning. “We want to bloom where we’re planted, but we don’t have additional land. We’re asking God what doors He wants us to open.”

For students like Farley, Legacy Christian Academy has been a constant presence in their lives since their earliest memories. Farley says she remembers loving Legacy Christian Academy as far back as pre-school, and to this day, her family is close with her preschool teacher. “The school has always been there for me through everything,” she says. “And something I can always count on.” As the editor of the school’s yearbook since her freshman year, Farley says she has a special title planned for the yearbook. “Just one word,” she says, “Home.”

Lisa Dawson is a freelance writer living in Frisco.

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Frisco's Briar Club's Lasting Impact Across Frisco

From the beginning, Frisco has been known for its people - people who strive to make their community truly one-of-a-kind. At the heart of every thriving community is the need for its residents to take part in building a foundation on legacy and generosity.

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The Briar Club of Frisco, envisioned more than 25 years ago by founding members of the popular and well-known Stonebriar Country Club, helps provide unparalleled support to families in need through the funding of local charities like Frisco Fastpacs and Small World With Love. The idea for the unique Briar Club came from the Salesmanship Club, a widely-recognized philanthropic organization known for its annual association with the Byron Nelson golf tournament.

The Briar Club of Frisco is made up of generous philanthropic men who strongly believe in doing what it takes to provide the essential support needed for some of the smaller local Frisco charities. "We believe in a hand up, not a hand out, approach to charity," says Bob Campbell, the club's president. "It's our philosophy that just because we cannot help everyone or with everything going on in today's world, it's no excuse for not helping where you can. That's what we try to do - be a positive organization enabling the local community."



The Briar Club's golf tournaments, of which there are several throughout the year, are hosted only for members, and they do them for fun. "Our philanthropic activity comes from each member donating a minimum of $400 per year to our foundation. However, many members donate $1,000 or more each year!" Mr. Campbell says.

"We very selectively grow our membership. Four years ago, we only had 60 members. Today, we have 100. We want members who understand that while we do have golf tournaments, that's not our main focus. Our focus is philanthropy. So, while we will consider growing our membership, it's not an open invitation or an endless number. If the right kind of people want to join, including non-golfers, we will consider them!"

In addition to fundraising for the above-named charities, at the Briar Club's annual dinner, Mr. Campbell, an amateur landscape painter, auctions off several of his paintings. While his paintings generally sell for $150-500, he donates 50 percent of his sales to the group's charities. Several generous Briar Club members have paid up to $500-6,000 for his paintings during the dinner event. Even though they were outbid, many bidders have even agreed to apply their bids to the Briar Club Foundation. "That's the kind of men we have as members," Mr. Campbell shares.

The Briar Club's highly anticipated annual dinner event is attended by the benefitting charities Frisco Fastpacs and Small World With Love. Through the Briar Club's financial endowments and donations, other local philanthropic endeavors can expand their generous influence on those who need it most.



Small World With Love

Small World With Love, a designated not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is a partnership of Dallas/Fort Worth area schools, communities, and businesses. The charity's mission is to assist struggling families, focusing especially on the needs of area children. Small World is committed to addressing the void in students' daily needs like food, clothing, and emergency funds. Small World even brightens the holidays by providing various presents found on children's wish lists. The distinct and vital mission of helping children and their families is accomplished while maintaining the anonymity of donors and recipients. Small World facilitates scholarship, back to school, and angel programs.

Small World began in 1996, born from one teacher's vision of working together and committing to caring for the less fortunate. The organization offers child-focused programs that are available regardless of belief, ethnic background, or gender. After starting in Frisco, Small World has expanded to McKinney, Little Elm, and The Colony and continues to grow into other nearby areas.



15 years ago, Don Bolen, a former member of the Briar Club and the Small World board, facilitated this long-lasting relationship between the two groups. Because of this association, the Briar Club has significantly impacted Small World. Small World manages a scholarship selection process and mentors students through their time at Collin County Community College. The Briar Club fully sponsors two-year scholarships to include books and tuition for each student.

Small World works with the Frisco ISD to identify gifted students with high academic results who may come from families that would be considered low-income. At the annual Briar Club fundraising dinner, guests generally hear from a past Small World scholarship awardee who is now an adult and benefitted greatly from this outstanding cause. They enthusiastically share what their own Briar Club-funded scholarship has meant to them and how it has changed their life. "We've had a doctor, a lawyer, and a commercial real estate professional speak to us about what the Briar Club scholarship has meant to them," Mr. Campbell shares.



Thamara Millan, the CEO and founder of Small World With Love, shares, "Through sponsorship deals, donations, and entry fees, the Briar Club raises substantial funds each year, all of which are dedicated to scholarships for deserving students in the Frisco area."

Small World believes in making a real difference in kids, one student at a time. Ms. Millan says, "The impact of the Briar Club's efforts provide financial assistance to students from the Frisco ISD. This great group of men is breaking down barriers to higher education and opening doors for many recipients facing significant financial constraints that would otherwise hinder their ability to attend college."

From the beginning of their partnership, the Briar Club has maintained the belief that education is a truly powerful force for transforming lives. "Community college can be just the right stepping stone to get someone started in a productive professional life. That is what we want to enable and support," Mr. Campbell shares.



Over the years, the Briar Club's ripple effects of generosity have been profound. Graduates who have benefited from these scholarships have gone on to pursue successful careers and become leaders in their fields and industries. "We continue to partner with them for as long as they will have us. Together, we serve the segment of our city in need that is wishing to receive college educations. It is easy to see how much the Briar Club truly cares and provides. With memorable events and grateful local charities, the support from this organization has created a lasting legacy for its members," Ms. Millan says.

To learn more about Small World With Love, make a donation, or find volunteer opportunities, visit smallworldwl.org.

Frisco Fastpacs

Frisco Fastpacs regularly delivers weekend meals to all Frisco ISD campuses, providing free food for more than 1,200 children to ensure they do not go hungry when school is not in session. Every week throughout the school year, Frisco Fastpacs delivers individual, pre-packed meal bags of non-perishable food to local schools. Each bag contains seven meals for these children to have over the weekend. Frisco Fastpacs is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit that operates entirely on food donations and funds from the private sector.



In 2017, a member of the Briar Club invited the Frisco Fastpacs founder, Marian Schulze, to the annual dinner event to speak about the organization's mission. Ms. Schulze recalls that there was not a dry eye in the house after she told of Frisco Fastpacs' beginning - feeling a calling from God to do something about childhood hunger in our area.

The men of the Briar Club found a new charity partner that night and have never wavered in their support since. Hunger in Frisco is a problem that often goes unnoticed in a busy city surrounded by growth and prosperity. Children should never fall victim to this serious need for food. A student who is hungry, at no fault of their own, simply cannot learn. In the beginning, Frisco Fastpacs only served one school and 35 children. Currently, the charity is proudly present district-wide and feeding more than 1,000 students weekly. While this outlet for local students is tremendous, the need of the community's children only continues to grow. Mr. Campbell shares, "Kids cannot learn if they are hungry. We can help fix that."

Obviously, the children that Frisco Fastpacs serve benefit the most from this successful partnership. "The generosity shown by the men in the Briar Club is overwhelming, and we could not do what we do without them," says Heather Canterbury, the executive director of Frisco Fastpacs. “The support Frisco Fastpacs has received from the Briar Club has impacted the lives of thousands of children in our community over the past seven years of our partnership."



“Frisco Fastpacs enjoys working with the Briar Club because the club's selfless members have such servant hearts. They have each joined a philanthropic club that specifically raises money for hyper-local charities in their community. Each year, new members join, which creates an opportunity to share our mission with them and renew our bond with current members who are already sharing our message though their circles of influence in the Frisco community and beyond," Ms. Canterbury says.

Volunteers can make a difference through food drives and both small and large group volunteer opportunities at Frisco Fastpacs. To donate and make an immediate impact on a local child, go to friscofastpacs.org.

Because of the Briar Club's generosity and commitment, Small World With Love and Frisco Fastpacs can pursue their organizations' missions and make a real difference in the lives of others in this wonderful community. The Briar Club’s willingness to fill needs in our community is a testament to the kind of men they are as they seek to continually utilize their time, gifts, talents, and ideas to help others. There is no cap on generosity. Everyone can make an impact!

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