



PATRONS *for* BELLAIRE PARKS

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Bellaire residents respond to parks group's appeal for donations

The non-profit Patrons for Bellaire Parks is seeing impressive results from its new city-wide campaign to raise money for the Bellaire Town Square park.

The parks group is trying to meet a challenge-grant goal of raising \$500,000 between June 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007. If the goal is met, the Wortham Foundation will add its own \$250,000 donation.

The Patrons launched an informational campaign about the Wortham Challenge Grant in mid-March. It mailed large postcards with a color rendering of the new park's conceptual plan to all Bellaire homes. It also sent informational flyers and green donor forms inserted in city water bills.

Within a week, Bellaire residents had responded to the plea with a mailbox full of donations and pledges that pushed the total raised for the Wortham Challenge Grant past \$300,000 – more than halfway past Patrons' goal of \$500,000.

The response included two significant pledges from Bellaire residents, including one for \$30,000 that is the largest amount ever given by an individual to the non-profit group.

The donor, a retiree who prefers to keep her name private, moved to Bellaire from West University Place 35 years ago and still lives in the same home she and her husband bought in 1973. She said her donation was spurred by the Patrons postcard and motivated by her love of Bellaire.

Patrons president Mandy Nathan said, "This woman and her feelings about Bellaire are exactly what this park is all about and why we are spending all this time and money on it. Bellaire Town Square should be a facility worthy of the feelings Bellaire residents have for their community."

The other major donation, received that same day, is a \$10,000 pledge from a relative newcomer to Bellaire who also lived in West University Place until 1 ½ years ago.

Thanks to these gifts and additional generous donations received last week ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, the Patrons president is optimistic that Bellaire residents and businesses will give enough before the end of June to ensure that the park receives the Wortham Challenge Grant.

"It is exciting to see the volume of smaller donations coming in, which reflects the increasing number of people wanting to support Bellaire Town Square," Patrons President Nathan said.

"It is also inspiring to talk to the two residents who made the major donations last week, one of whom is donating because she wants to give back to the city that she feels offered her so much over 35 years, and the other because he is new to Bellaire and wants to make a contribution - literally and figuratively - to the city he chose to make his new home," she said.

For information about Patrons for Bellaire Parks, visit www.bellaireparks.com or call 713-661-PARK (7275).