



JOIN STEEL MAGNOLIA MOMS FOR THE NUTTYCRACKER MARKET

Submitted by resident **Ofelia Vujasinovic** and **Maribel Farish**, Chair of Nuttycracker Market

WHO ARE STEEL MAGNOLIA MOMS? Mothers who have children with special needs. “Special needs” includes vast diagnoses and prognoses, but their joys and sorrows, hopes and fears are the same and bring them together. They are strong and feminine, with uncommon fortitude.

THEIR MISSION: Steel Magnolia Moms is a special group of women who have children with special needs. Their mission is to positively support one another and share in the joys and challenges of raising a child with special needs.

THEIR WHY: Having a child with special needs is an atypical parenting experience and often causes feelings of loss, loneliness, sadness, anger, stress, and isolation. Eighty-five percent of members say they have lost their sense of self since having a child with special needs.

HOW THEY MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Steel Magnolia Moms brings moms together to remind them how important it is for them to take care of themselves and be healthy so, in turn, they can be a better caretaker.

HOW FUNDS ARE USED: Steel Magnolia Moms uses funds to support programs such as: Head to Heart, which provides private psychotherapy to members and a weekly support group, Magnolia Wellness, Moms Camp, and Happy Camper(s) which sends members’ children with disabilities to summer camp.

NUTTYCRACKER MARKET: The inspiration for Nuttycracker Market came several years ago when Elizabeth Elder and Maribel Farish were participating in a support group for moms of children with special needs before Steel Magnolia Moms was founded. One mom in the group had to leave her high-paying career in the oil and gas industry after her baby was diagnosed and considered terminal. Because she had to stay home to meet the demands of caring for her special needs child, she started selling Young Living Oils. She shared how hard it was to start a business with her circumstances, so Elizabeth and Maribel decided to host an event to help her sell her oils.



Nuttycracker Market Committee

This event quickly turned into a house pop-up market with other local female-owned small businesses. That night Elizabeth and Maribel daydreamed about someday growing this concept with a philanthropic purpose.

A few years later, Steel Magnolia Moms was founded, and when looking for ways to fundraise and support the organization, they hosted the first Steel Magnolia Moms Nuttycracker Market in 2018 with 21 vendors. It was a record-breaking cold night in Houston. They were so worried no one would show up, but they had a huge turn out!

COVID-19 kept them from hosting their market until November 2021, when they had over 40 vendors and around 300 attendees, despite having to close early due to heavy rain.

“We may be strong as Steel, but as we’ve learned in our special needs journey, it takes a village. Fortunately for us, we have seen both literally and figuratively, freeze or flood, we have an amazing community who shows up to support us,” Maribel said.

Due to the success of the market and the generous contributions from sponsors and donors, Steel Magnolia Moms continues to expand its programming to support more moms in need of community and resources. This summer, 26 children with disabilities had enriching camp experiences as Happy Camper(s) recipients. While the children are having fun, the moms receiving much-needed respite are Happy Camper(s), too!

Steel Magnolia Moms
Nuttycracker Market
Nov. 2, 2022
11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tickets: \$5
The Powder Keg
Sponsorship opportunities:
contact Maribel Farish maribel@steelmagnoliamoms.com.

Scan here to purchase tickets or to sponsor the event

Do you or a neighbor volunteer at a nonprofit? We would love to hear about it at joanna.ness@strollmag.com to help your cause.



Steel Magnolia Moms’ Table



Elizabeth and Maribel

Houston’s Only Non-Profit Private School for

GIFTED CHILDREN

We have STEM/STEAM certified teachers!

Is Your Child Gifted?
CONTACT US TODAY!

Gifted students and their families choose to attend Rainard for our small student to teacher ratio & dedication to differentiated instruction.

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

713-647-7246 • www.Rainard.org
11059 TIMBERLINE RD • HOUSTON, TX 77043