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Lesley Schick, Beth Clarke, Pat Sorrells

It's not every day that you get to plan a major gala with one of your best friends, but that is exactly what Lesley Schick and Beth Clarke are doing this year for Camp For All, a unique, barrier-free camp, providing unique camp and retreat experiences to children and adults with challenging illnesses or special needs and their families.

Schick was first introduced to the organization through the Camp For All 2U program at MD Anderson, which recreates the camp experience for children and their families who are otherwise unable to leave the hospital.

"My favorite Camp For All memory is the first time Barrett [Schick's husband] and I volunteered at Camp Higher Ground for campers with traumatic brain injuries," said Schick. "I remember watching as campers were lifted from wheelchairs onto horseback and will never forget the joy on their faces as they circled the horse arena."

Schick was so moved by her experiences, she continued to volunteer at Camp For All 2U, chaired Camp For All Houston Friends Board in 2017 and served on the 2019 Gala Committee. Not only that, she also introduced Beth Clarke to the organization through attending a Friends Board meet-



Pictured: Melinda Mogas, Pat Sorrells, Beth Clarke, Jenny Lissonnet

ing. "I saw first-hand not only the great work they were doing but spent time with the amazing staff. It was a powerful experience to listen to the sto-

ries of countless lives they'd touched," said Clarke.

A former teacher, Clarke discovered a passion for working with special needs students early on in her career. She went back to school to earn a master's degree in special education and later worked as a teacher in Spring Branch ISD's APPLE classroom for students with severe autism for several years.

Camp For All relies on fundraising to hosts more than 11,000 campers a year through partnerships with more than 65 not-for-profits in Texas. The annual gala is the largest fundraiser, contributing close to half of funds needed. Understanding the impact camp experience has on campers and their families, Clarke and Schick did not hesitate when the 2020 Gala Chair position was up for grabs and they recently hosted a gala kick-off at Clarke's Memorial-area home.

Both Clarke and Schick are thrilled to co-chair the 2020 Gala. "It really is a place that forever changes lives, and I'm so honored to play a role to hopefully give even more people the opportunity to attend this amazing camp," concludes Clarke.