

## SHOUT OUTS

Facts readers share some love about someone who makes their world special

### CAROL RANGEL

Shout Out to all my family and friends for the birthday wishes and gifts.

### CLARA JOHNSON

Shouts of love and birthday blessings to four of God's chosen vessels — Stella Perkins, Shedrick Helm Jr., Carrie Bailey and Mary Joe Powell. We thank God for each of you being in our lives and for you letting your light of love burn brightly in our hearts. The way you live your life is the loudest message you will ever speak. Remember that, whosoever does God's work will get God's pay. You have remained faithful in the service of the Lord and God rewards the faithful. It's your time so remember that, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." 1st Corinthians 2:9. Certainly we pray that God will continue to bless each of you with many more birthdays.

### DIANNA TAMEZ

Early happy birthday to our grandbaby, Vida Tamez on Sept. 1. We love you soooooo much! Your Welas, D&L. #TeamTamez

### CLARA JOHNSON

Shouts of love and congratulations to Joseph Moore Sr. and Alice Moore on their 16th wedding anniversary. The number 16 in God's arithmetic is the number representing "love," and we know that God is love, and where there is love there is God. God's favor is immeasurable toward you, and His steadfast love is abounding, astounding and His grace is just amazing. We love you and our prayer is that God will continue to bless your covenant of love. "For love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." 1st Corinthians 13:7-8.



KATIE FREZZA/The Facts

Brazoria native Felicha Jones started the nonprofit Smart Scholars Foundation, which gives mentoring opportunities to children as well as bullying prevention.

"This is what I have been created to do. I knew with a nonprofit I could do more and more community engagement."

— Felicha Jones, founder, Smart Scholars Foundation



KATIE FREZZA/The Facts

The Smart Scholars Foundation also provides anti-bullying work with The Bullying Factor program. The program is directed toward the bully and the victim.



KATIE FREZZA/The Facts

The Bullying Factor gives kids of all ages a safe space to open up. Felicha Jones, president of the Smart Scholars Foundation, aims to create a positive impact on children.

## SMART IDEAS

### Brazoria woman starts nonprofit to improve lives of children, families

By CONNOR BEHRENS  
connor.behrens@thefacts.com

#### BRAZORIA

Working toward bettering the education and lifestyles of children means a great deal to Brazoria native Felicha Jones, so much so that she started the Smart Scholars Foundation.

"I knew I wanted to start my own business," she said. "I found myself more and more mentoring kids."

Stepping away from an oil and gas company to explore child care, her passion took her to starting the Smart Scholars Foundation, where she goes to events and also teaches programs for children ages 3 to 12 in Houston and Brazoria County.

The foundation has anti-bullying programs, mentoring services that enhance children's self-esteem and communication skills, suicide intervention for bullied children as well as financial support to families, Jones said.

"We provide educational services," she said. "We will do anything that will help enhance the lives of our children."

This is her calling and it is her chance to have a second career, in a sense, Jones said.

"This is what I have been created to do," she said. "I knew with a nonprofit I could do more and more community engagement."

What she does with children always requires the parents to be actively involved, Jones said.

"They actually have to participate," she said. "They get to see and hear and know what their child is dealing with. It fosters a better relationship in the home. It's going to always involve parent participation. It builds that relationship with the parents and the child to become more loving, become more sensitive to that child."

The nonprofit is in the process of obtaining a

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## Vet shows value of determination

I had dinner last night with my sweet almost-adopted daughter, Dr. DeAnna Carter. She's not only my vet, but she's one of the sweetest people I've ever met. She is also my hero. She is such an inspiration, proving if you want something bad enough, you can do it. It ain't easy, however.

She worked as a lab tech while she went to vet school. She did this as a divorced mom of baby twins. She did have some help from her wonderful real mom, who baby-sat for her. But even so, she worked hard for what she had always wanted. Love her to pieces, and her twin sons — Dillon, who is a husband and father (like when did that happen?); the other half, who is the youngest by several minutes, Blake, is out of state right now.

Of course, if I have adopted DeAnna, the boys come with her. Double glad to have them.

I wish I had her drive when I was young enough to do something



GIN CRAWFORD  
CONVERSATIONS WITH GIN

about it. She is my "sheroe for sure!" Tell your kids they can do whatever they want to do if they are willing to make sacrifices and have tunnel vision. It will be worth it to get out of bed in the morning and go do something you really love. In DeAnna's case, she loves what she does, even though sometimes it is so very hard. She makes a difference and gives the title of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine a whole new meaning.

And let me add real quick, I'm so proud to give a plug to the kids I gave birth to. I want them to know it was very hard labor, but a labor of love! (A little guilt trip there that isn't

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Contributed photo

Texas A&M Higher Education Administration professor Luis Ponjuan speaks about increasing minority student success during the Alvin Community College Fall 2019 Convocation.

## ACC staff hears about importance of inclusiveness

Special to The Facts

ALVIN — In order to meet the mandate to educate more Texans, community colleges throughout the state will have to reach minority students, said Luis Ponjuan, Texas A&M University associate professor of higher education administration.

"It is important to help these students because there are long-term financial implications," Ponjuan said. "Texas is the demographic reality of the country. You play a critical role."

Ponjuan was the guest speaker for the Alvin Community College Fall 2019 Convocation. His speech focused on improving educational outcomes for Hispanic students, a growing demographic in Texas.

Colleges and universities throughout

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