

# THE BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY

SPRING 2024

Changing the way  
the world thinks about  
adults with disabilities.



CELEBRATE  
**BROOKWOOD**



LOVE IN ACTION



VISION FOR  
**BROOKWOOD**



FUN AT  
**BROOKWOOD**





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OFFICER**

Vivian Streit Shudde

**FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR EMERITUS**

Yvonne Tuttle Streit

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**A Note  
FROM OUR CEO**

**CAN YOU SAY BROOKWOOD IN  
SPANISH?**

The Kalimori Community, in Malinaco, State of Mexico, is the most recent example of how The Brookwood Way translates into every language and culture. Several years ago the founders of Kalimori, recognizing the need to care for adults with disabilities, traveled to Brookwood to learn, hands-on, how to create a purpose-filled community where there is a true sense of belonging. Through many visits and interactions with Brookwood team members and especially our Citizens, Kalimori was born and now thrives. Like Brookwood, they began with a day program, moved into residential living, and introduced work programs, like horticulture and ceramics.



Brookwood is truly a beacon of hope to many organizations seeking to awaken a purpose and meaning in the lives of some of God's most special people. Given the strength of our mission and our 40-year history, we have both the opportunity and the obligation to encourage and teach others.

God has put it on my heart to dedicate my time going forward to sharing the Brookwood story to a wider audience, to sow seeds in new and different places. The concept of being good sowers is deeply rooted in scripture as seen in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:3-9, highlighting the significance of sowing seeds in fertile soil to yield a bountiful harvest.

Through the **GRACE of GOD**, The Brookwood Community provides an educational environment that builds a sense of belonging, provides meaningful work, and awakens genuine purpose in the lives of adults with disabilities.



Over the next few months I shall step away from day-to-day management to focus on the greater vision. Brookwood is blessed with strong leadership and capable team members, and I am confident we will continue to grow and flourish. We have retained a national search firm to find a CEO who will embrace our work, while bringing fresh ideas.

I also plan on having a voice in legislative decisions that could affect the daily living and working environment that makes Brookwood so unique. Decision makers, with minimal understanding of the value of our interdependent structure and community living, could adversely affect the very premise of care for adults with disabilities.

I know your prayers will continue. I remain so grateful for you and for the blessings we enjoy. I am truly excited about entering into a new phase for me and Brookwood.

*Vivian Shudde*

**VIVIAN SHUDDE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**GOD RICH Core Values**

<b>GRACE</b>	<b>RESPECT</b>
<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>INTERDEPENDENCE</b>
<b>DIGNITY</b>	<b>CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT</b>
	<b>HONESTY</b>



# Spring EXTRAVAGANZA

Thurs-Sat

May 2-4

9am-4:30pm

*Shop with a Purpose*

Shop a Variety of Local Vendor Booths at **The Gift & Garden Center**.  
Enjoy a Buffett Lunch in **The Brookwood Cafe** and a Wine & Beer Bar in the Garden.



CELEBRATE  
*Mother's day*  
at THE BROOKWOOD CAFÉ  
Enjoy a *Special* Mother's Day  
Lunch Menu

Show your *Love* and make  
your reservation today!

Sat, May 11

Sun, May 12

11am-3pm

Scan the QR Code to learn more about all  
our amazing Brookwood Events or go to  
[www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Events](http://www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Events).





## BROOKWOOD 2024 BENEFIT LUNCH



**BROOKWOOD'S BIENNIAL BENEFIT LUNCH** was held April 2 at Houston's Marriott Marquis. Co-Chairs Barbara Vilutis and Steve Stephens, President/CEO of Amegy Bank, and Honorary Chair Citizen Marcia Smith, helped raise nearly \$1 million for The Brookwood Community.

The Texas Ballroom was beautifully decorated with white and blue hydrangeas and other plants grown by

Brookwood Citizens. HEB sponsored the Citizen-made "puzzle piece" ornaments guests received as a memento of the event.

Deborah Duncan, host of Great Day Houston and Brookwood Advisory Board member, served as Emcee, and Mark Wallace, CEO of Texas Children's Hospital, received the Vicki Lee Streit Inspiration Award. Mark Miller, best-selling author and former Vice President of High Performance Leadership at Chick-fil-A, delivered the keynote address.

A special luncheon feature included the viewing of *The Extraordinary Magic of Brookwood*, produced by Crescent Moon Productions, a gift from

Kingsland Baptist Church.

The Brookwood Handbell Ensemble, directed by Diana Montgomery, entertained the crowd of 750 guests. The Give From the Heart "best-bid" auction, featuring the artwork of Citizen Hillary Kern, raised more than \$75,000 for scholarship assistance for Brookwood Citizens. Many thanks to everyone who attended and made this event so successful.



**Citizen Artist Hillary Kern**



**The Brookwood Handbell Ensemble**



**Honoree Mark & Shannon Wallace and the Tucker Family**



**Mark Miller, Author & Speaker**

## Brookwood Citizens Saddle-Up for RODEO ACTIVITIES

Brookwood Citizens eagerly await Rodeo season each year. **THE RODEO FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON** in the Brookwood Café is one of the premier events to ignite the rodeo spirit. Team members from the Houston Livestock and Rodeo, modeled along-

side Brookwood Citizens, to showcase the latest trends in rodeo attire.

You can't think of the rodeo without thinking about food! Over 30 Citizens enjoyed **THE RODEO COOKOFF** at NRG Stadium, Waste Management tent. Closer to home, Citizens visited

Dickey's just up the road to select their BBQ of choice.

Western attire was on full display when the senior class from Houston Christian High school organized a rodeo carnival for **"GO RODEO DAY"**. Everyone enjoyed a "hee haw" good time!





## INTERNS Bless Us In So Many Ways

**BROOKWOOD INTERNSHIPS ARE AMAZING!** This feeling is shared by the nine interns currently working and learning throughout the community.

Program coordinator, **SARAH PEDERSON**, explains, "We have been growing the Brookwood internship program for 11 years and are excited about the young adults who come to Brookwood. We are seeking individuals interested in learning and living the Brookwood Way. Summer and seasonal non-paid internships are available, including flexible days and times in several areas, with each internship experience including hands-on activities with our Citizens."

**ELDER BEN CURTIS**, a Citizen Life intern, said, "When I first started at

Brookwood, I was excited for the chance to serve the Lord and the Brookwood Citizens. I thought I'd be helping them, and serving them. While I have had that opportunity, what I didn't expect was how much of a blessing this opportunity would be personally. I have learned so much from the Citizens and Community Members here, and experienced so much joy and healing over the past year and a half. Brookwood's just amazing! I've noticed that the closer you look the more amazing you realize it is. I'm a big fan for sure."

Internship candidates must be age 18 or older, should enjoy creativity, be willing to learn in a variety of settings, and have a positive attitude.



Applications are available at [www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Center-for-Learning](http://www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Center-for-Learning), email [interns@brookwoodcommunity.org](mailto:interns@brookwoodcommunity.org), or call **281.375.2148**.

## CELEBRATING EASTER with Friends and Fluffy Companions at The Brookwood Café



Over 300 of our friends gathered at The Brookwood Café to indulge in a sumptuous breakfast buffet and bask in the company of none other than the Easter Bunny himself, along with some adorably fluffy baby chicks, ducklings, and bunnies.

The anticipation leading up to the event was palpable, and we were delighted to extend the festivities over two weekends this year, due to popular demand. The response was overwhelming, with friends old and new joining us to embrace the spirit of Easter.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of **KATY FEED AND TACK**, whose partnership added an extra layer of delight to our Easter festivities. Their commitment to our community and their willingness to spread joy is truly commendable, and we are deeply grateful for their continued support.



## LEARN Over Lunch

Join us at for our monthly Lunch & Learn sessions hosted by **BROOKWOOD HORTICULTURE**. Held on the last Friday of each month, these sessions cover a range of topics, from container gardening to honey bees and hummingbirds, along with hands-on workshops. As an added bonus, thanks to **RIVER OAKS GARDEN CLUB**, everyone leaves with a free gift! Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn, connect, and enjoy a delicious lunch with us.

Visit [www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Events](http://www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Events) to stay updated!



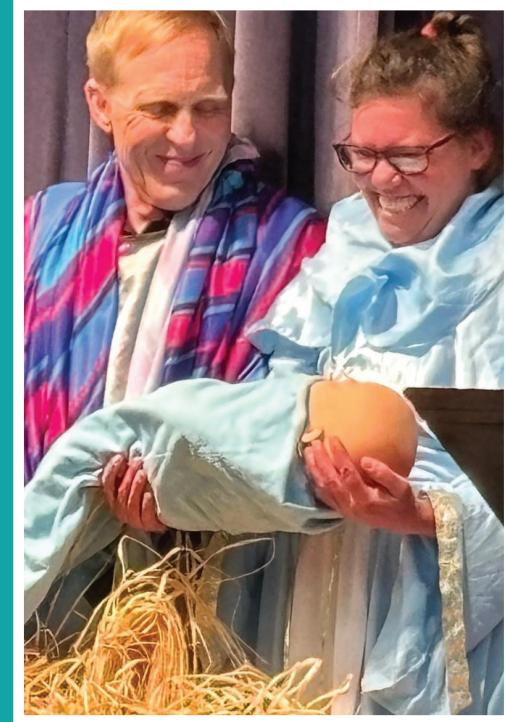
## Make a JOYFUL NOISE

It was truly joyful when 180 youth from **ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** recently came to Brookwood, leading the Citizens in a rousing rendition of "How Great is Our God".

Every Sunday, the worship center rings with joyful noise in a celebration of faith for Citizens, Brookwood staff, and fam-

ily members. You are welcome to join the Citizens for their weekly service at the Brookwood Worship Center every Sunday at 3:00 PM.

In the spirit of Easter the Citizens performed "Jesus and the Twelve", portraying the relationship of Jesus with his Disciples.



## CORPORATIONS Lend a Hand to Brookwood

**BMC SOFTWARE** honored Global Volunteer Day by volunteering at Brookwood. Twenty volunteers were helpful in several workshops on campus. They pulled out their colored markers to create campus signage celebrating the rodeo, then relaxed over a good meal served by Citizens in The Brookwood Café.

**STOUT**, a financial services company with twelve US offices, came to Brookwood and volunteered in Ceramics, Shudde Hats, and the The Brookwood Café. This was their first time at Brookwood and we look forward to welcoming them back.

**GALLERY FURNITURE** provided a huge lift, literally, when they recently

provided trucks and staff to lift furniture and belongings, moving Citizens back into the Meadows Home once the renovations were complete.

As Citizen Joshua entered his new room, he gazed at the DVDs neatly arranged on his bookcase, his face lighting up with a broad smile. The Home Manager approached and asked, "Joshua, are you feeling happy? Welcome..." Before another word could be spoken, Joshua smiled, let out a contented sigh, and whispered, "Home."

Many thanks to Jim "Mac" McIngvale, Gallery Furniture founder and Brookwood benefactor, for helping our Citizens feel at home again.

If your company or organization would like to volunteer, contact Tawana Goodwin at 281.275.2114, or go to [www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Volunteer](http://www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Volunteer).





## Brookwood Extends Warm Welcome to **VETERAN'S** Organization

In February, **TEXAS FOR HEROES** hosted a healing weekend retreat at Brookwood for veterans experiencing emotional, moral, and spiritual wounds resulting from their military service. The retreat culminated in a moving graduation ceremony held in the Brookwood Worship Center. Citizens participated in the closing service.

Anthony Luna, Texas for Heroes staff and board member, said, "The journey towards healing began the moment we set foot on this campus. Thank you to Brookwood for allowing us this amazing opportunity to provide a safe place for

the healing of emotionally wounded veterans."

"We echo Anthony's sentiment. We are deeply honored to have provided a nurturing environment for these veterans to find solace and restoration amidst the tranquil beauty of our campus", said Brookwood CEO Vivian Shudde.

Texas for Heroes will host another healing retreat in May. The entire community is invited to join the graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 19 at 5pm in the Brookwood Worship Center. Anyone interested in attending the pro-



gram or volunteering to support, can visit [www.TexasForHeroes.org/Retreat](http://www.TexasForHeroes.org/Retreat) or contact Samuel Luna, founder and president at 281-704-6800.

## Learning with a Brookwood **TWIST**



**BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE** is specially designed for Citizens to learn new things in a fun environment. Weekly classes encompass "brainy" topics like History Headliners and Music Trivia, as well as Citizen favorites, such as Dominoes, Drums, Classy Cooking, and Brookwood Kindness. Fitness is always part of the fun at Brookwood, so Citizens can join Macho Movement, Candle Light Yoga and Spin Classes. Who wants to spend an evening watching TV when you can learn something new and have fun with friends!

## A Heart for **GIVING**

Brookwood Citizens, knowing they are the recipients of so many blessings, enjoy any opportunity to give to others.

The most recent effort was to raise money to support the Family Hope food pantry. A 5K fundraising walk, with \$1 sponsorships for every Citizen mile walked, garnered nearly \$1000! Sixty residents participated, walking an average of four miles each! **ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

youth and students at the **UTHEALTH SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY** walked alongside as encouragement.

With money in hand, the next step was the grocery store to shop for cereal and other non-perishable food items. The Citizens were wearing big smiles as they worshipped at **RIVER BEND BAPTIST CHURCH** and deposited their food donations for **FAMILY HOPE**. Well done, good and faithful servants!





## Because of Brookwood Scholarships – It’s a **WONDERFUL LIFE**

It’s a wonderful life for **CITIZEN CHRISSEY KOZAKIS** and other Citizens because they receive financial assistance through Brookwood’s Scholarship Fund! According to Chrissy’s sister, Anna Carlson, “Chrissy lives a complete life at Brookwood. She feels a sense of purpose and knows she’s making her own contribution. I saw a new light come into her eyes when she became part of the Brookwood family.”

Chrissy came to Brookwood as a day program Citizen in 2006. She works in the Ceramics Studio and takes great pride in the painting she does there. In 2020, she became a residential Citizen and cherishes rooming with her suitemate Vicky. Her friendships mean everything to her, especially her

Handbell Ensemble friends. According to her sister, Anna, nothing is allowed to interfere with bell practice. She loves the rodeo and sports, especially the Texans.

Chrissy’s family discovered Brookwood when they purchased a piece of pottery with the Brookwood label. They learned the Brookwood story, and upon visiting the community knew they had found the right home for Chrissy.

Anna said, “It’s so important to us to know how well she’s cared for. Her happiness spreads through our entire family. This wouldn’t be possible for us without scholarship support, and we are extremely grateful.”



## Give From the **HEART**. Help Us Give **MORE**.

Chrissy’s story is one of many. Scholarships play a vital role for more than 80 families every year. Brookwood believes no family should be turned away for financial reasons, and in that spirit, provides more than \$1.5 million in financial support annually.

**Please support our Scholarship Program and change the life of a Citizen!**

Please visit **BROOKWOODCOMMUNITY.ORG/DONATE** and choose “**SCHOLARSHIP**” from the dropdown menu. If you select a **TRIBUTE GIFT** and donate before May 8, we’ll send a Citizen-designed Mother’s Day card to your chosen recipient at the address you provide!

## **BROOKWOOD ENTERPRISES** are Deliciously Innovative

Brookwood Citizens have launched a new **FUDGE-MAKING ENTERPRISE**, and the response has been phenomenal! With fudge flying off the shelves of both our Gift Shop and the Brookwood Cafe, it’s clear that

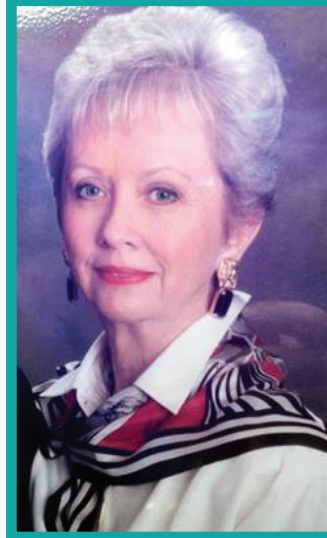
our delicious treats are a hit. Whether you’re visiting Brookwood or looking to order for special corporate gifts, our fudge is sure to delight.

Our Citizen Artists are also hard at work creating custom gifts and marketing items using a wide array of design techniques and mediums. From unique pieces for your special events to tailored corporate functions, we’ve got you covered. Plus, every purchase you make goes towards providing meaningful work and purpose in the lives of adults with disabilities.

For more information, please reach out to our corporate gifts consultant at [corporateorders@brookwoodcommunity.org](mailto:corporateorders@brookwoodcommunity.org).







## VISIONARY SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT: Betty Westbrook

**BETTY WESTBROOK**, a Citizen mom and devoted friend of Brookwood, joins with other special members of the Visionary Society. Her son, Mark, was a Brookwood Citizen from 1996-2008.

“Betty was the most courageous, strong woman I know,” said Brookwood CEO Vivian Shudde. “Betty lost her daughter, her son Mark and her husband to cancer, and was a cancer survivor herself. Betty persevered and lived her life in service, dignity, and a sense of sincerity until she went to be with her loved ones in heaven.”

Brookwood Activities Director, Greg Glauser, shares his memories of Mark. “Mark was blind, but only in the sense of his sight, as he led a beautiful Christian life. Mark was a great walker, using his walking stick carefully checking the curbs and bumps in the road. Likewise, he used his knowledge of

the Bible to navigate the curbs and bumps of the world.” His 24-book set of the Braille Bible will hold permanent place in the Prayer Room of the new Martha and Mary Munz Community Center.

Betty’s love and gratitude is evidenced by sharing a portion of her estate with Brookwood. **If you would like more information about endowments or including Brookwood in your estate plan, please contact Carol Thornburg, Chief Advancement Officer, at 281-375-2110, or [advancement@brookwoodcommunity.org](mailto:advancement@brookwoodcommunity.org).**

## BROOKWOOD Continues to Grow

### IMAGINE AN ORGANIZATION THAT CAN BE BOTH REVOLUTIONARY AND EVOLUTIONARY!

These are important concepts that The Brookwood Community has embraced and mastered. The community is revolutionary in its holistic approach to providing a full and meaningful life for adults with disabilities, and is evolutionary in the way the 485-acre campus has grown strategically from a single building to multiple homes, the enterprise building, fitness facilities, worship center, greenhouses, retail and much more.

And the expansion/growth continues! There are two major additions on the drawing board. Plans are underway to construct two new Type B assisted living group homes, family-centered, each with 10 bedrooms. Because Brookwood is the lifelong home for its Citizens and our population is aging, more single-story living is needed where Citizens have overnight monitoring and easier assisted evacuation, should that be necessary. Creating accommodations for this group of Citizens then opens up space for those on our waiting list wanting to come to Brookwood.

The cost for two homes is \$10 million, with over \$5 million already raised. The good news is that the Mabee Foundation has offered a \$2 million challenge grant and we have one year to raise the funds to receive this gift.



**A Wellness Park is also being planned**, but our Citizens will call it a “fun” zone. This long-awaited park will contain a covered pavilion with basketball courts, putting greens, shuffleboard, picnic areas, accessible swings, and walking paths, designed to foster a sense of well-being supporting overall health.

**If you or your organization is interested in making a donation, or discussing naming opportunities, please contact Carol Thornburg, Chief Advancement Officer, by calling 281.375.2110. Together, we can continue Brookwood’s evolution.**







## Discover Brookwood “IN ACTION”

**Do you want to experience BROOKWOOD IN ACTION and learn more about our Citizen's innovative educational and enterprise work programs?** If so, please schedule an inspirational tour and you will be amazed at what God is doing here. Tours are available Monday through Friday at 9:30am or 12:30pm for groups of 10 or more. Complete your day by visiting the Gift and Garden Center and scheduling

lunch at the Café. For more information or to arrange a date, contact the Tour Coordinator at 281.375.2100, or visit [www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Tours](http://www.BrookwoodCommunity.org/Tours).

**BUT THERE'S MORE!** Elevate your experience by combining your tour with a delectable lunch at our elegant Café and some retail therapy at our Gift Shop and Garden Center. It's a day packed with fun and discovery!



## HOW TO HELP AND HAVE FUN

We could use your gifts and talents! Reach out at [www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer](http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/volunteer) to get involved and help change the way the world thinks about adults with disabilities!



## WISH LIST FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Brookwood has a “Wish List” of needed items for our Citizens and our work programs. Contact Letty Lagos for more information at 281.375.2220 or email [lettyl@brookwoodcommunity.org](mailto:lettyl@brookwoodcommunity.org).



## SHOP AT BROOKWOOD

Join us at the Gift Shop and Garden Center as you start thinking about shopping. for Graduation and End of School Teacher gifts! You can always shop online at [www.BrookwoodStore.org](http://www.BrookwoodStore.org)!

## CAREERS at Brookwood

When you work at Brookwood, it's not merely a job; it's a higher calling. It's an invitation to serve alongside our Citizens as they embrace full and dignified lives. Join our dedicated team and discover how you can ignite meaning and purpose in your own life. For a list of our current job opportunities, please visit [www.BrookwoodCommunity.org](http://www.BrookwoodCommunity.org).



## PRIVATE DINING at The Brookwood Café

Did you know you can reserve a private dining room for up to 25 people at The Brookwood Café? Perfect for graduation parties, baby or wedding showers, anniversaries, or work events! Call the Café at 281-375-2400 for rates and availability. Give the gift of purpose with your event and change the way the world thinks about adults with disabilities, one party at a time!





*You're Invited!*

**VISIT US** at our **EVENTS!**



## COME TO BROOKWOOD

Thurs-Sat | May 2-4

### SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA

Brookwood Gift Shop & Garden Center  
and The Brookwood Café  
9am-4:30pm

Fri | May 10

### PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Brookwood Café  
8-10am

Sat-Sun | May 11-12

### MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

The Brookwood Café  
11am-2:30pm

## LOOK AHEAD FOR BROOKWOOD

### HORTICULTURE LUNCH & LEARNS

May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30

Thurs-Sat | Sept 5-7

### FALL FEST

Brookwood Gift Shop & Garden Center  
and The Brookwood Café

Wed-Fri | Sept 18-20

### CENTER FOR LEARNING THE BROOKWOOD WAY® CONFERENCE

Tues | Dec 3

### LADIES NIGHT OUT

Thurs-Sat | Dec 6-7

### BROOKWOOD OPEN HOUSE



## A PERFECT Gift

Can't decide what to give the person who has everything? Purchase a Brookwood Gift Card and your shopping dollars will help support adults with disabilities. Gift cards may be used in the Café and retail locations.

**Walmart** 

## Registry for Good

Brookwood is part of Walmart's Registry for Good. Go to [www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood](http://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood) and type in BROOKWOOD under "find a local cause." Make your purchase and it will be shipped directly to Brookwood.



# THE BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY

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BROOKSHIRE, TX 77423

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HOUSTON TX



## SHOP & DINE WITH A PURPOSE

### BROOKWOOD GIFT & GARDEN CENTER

1502 FM 1489 | Brookshire, TX 77423  
OPEN Monday-Saturday | 9AM-4:30PM  
SHOP ONLINE at [www.BrookwoodStore.org](http://www.BrookwoodStore.org)

### THE BROOKWOOD CAFÉ

1502 FM 1489 | Brookshire, TX 77423  
OPEN Monday-Saturday | 281.375.2149

- BREAKFAST beginning Aug. 26 | 8-10AM
- LUNCH | 11AM-2PM

The Café is available for groups, private events, weddings, and catering. Book your event today!  
Email [catering@brookwoodcommunity.org](mailto:catering@brookwoodcommunity.org).

CONNECT  
WITH US

 [www.BrookwoodCommunity.org](http://www.BrookwoodCommunity.org)

 281.375.2100

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