



## A FAMILY tradition

“We grew up in Memorial City – It’s in our roots,” said **PHILLIP TORRES, co-owner of Guadalajara Mexican Restaurants** along with his brother, **FABIAN**. Growing up here, Torres recalled when Gessner was a two-lane road, and said he’s watched the area grow since then – and seen his business grow with it. They opened the first Guadalajara in Town and Country Village in 1986, then moved it three and a half miles to Memorial City in 2001.

“MetroNational has done a really good job with the development in Memorial City. They’ve played a pivotal role in bringing key amenities to the Memorial area – Memorial Hermann Hospital, fabulous restaurants, great shopping, a thriving business district, there’s always something new and creative happening at Memorial City and this area has become one of Houston’s top residential areas.”

Forming relationships has been a key element of the Torres brother’s business practice. They’ve headed up the restaurant group founded by their father in 1971 since 1978. Known for its high-quality Mexican food and welcoming atmosphere, the four restaurants aim to be the kind places where guests of all ages have a great dining experience, realizing they are supporting a business that supports its community.

The Torres brothers and their company have been generous donors to multiple Memorial City-area organizations and avid supporters of local sports teams. It was a tradition their father, George, started 44 years ago and it’s an important tradition that the Torres brothers have carried on. “Our father was a Korean War Veteran. He always set a good example for us. He is a big believer in giving back to our community and we are proud to carry on that tradition.”

“Whether we’re giving to a church or a school or a team, the act of contributing is fundamental for us,” he said.

**“IF YOU’RE GOING TO BE PART OF A COMMUNITY, YOU NEED TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY LIFE.”**

“We will always try our best to bring good food to the table,” he said. “We use a high quality beef – aged 21 to 25 days – for our fajitas. The ingredients we’re using are as good as those in steakhouses. We know we have a lot of competition – and that’s good. It helps keep us in line, and pushes us to be our best.” ■

## MEMORIAL CITY

# LEADING THE WAY

For more than 50 years, Memorial City has been an address that’s synonymous with stability and growth. Every day new businesses open, bringing with them new jobs, new opportunities and new people. Our can-do spirit is writ large in our neighborhood, and we take our role in the community very seriously.

The four leaders featured in this month’s Memorial Cityzen section understand that Memorial City is a special place. They all operate well-known businesses here and give to organizations that help the community grow and prosper. Each and every day they work to help others have access to the opportunities that have helped them succeed.

FROM TOP LEFT: DAN WOLTERMAN - MEMORIAL HERMANN HEALTH SYSTEM, JAY GRAHAM - WILDHORSE RESOURCES  
BOTTOM: FABIAN AND PHILLIP TORRES - GUADALAJARA MEXICAN RESTAURANTS



MEMORIAL CITY

Memorial City, the city-within-a-city, is a 265-acre mixed-use development located in the heart of the thriving West Houston market. Owned and managed by MetroNational, Memorial City contains 8.2 million square feet of developed real estate and is a unique blend of Class A office space, retail, luxury midrise apartments, chef-inspired restaurants, upscale hotel accommodations including The Westin Memorial City and the Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, the second-largest medical campus in the Houston metropolitan area.



MEMORIAL CITY

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Business Leaders in the Community | IN THIS ISSUE



## MAKING HEALTH a community priority

For **DAN WOLTERMAN, President and CEO of the Memorial Hermann Health System**, keeping people healthy isn't just part of a job description— it's a necessity for being part of such a diverse, dynamic community. Since 2002, he's led Memorial Hermann, whose corporate headquarters are located in Memorial City. The organization operates 13 hospitals, more than 200 outpatient care sites and has a 108-year tradition of treating people across Southeast Texas.

"Memorial City is a great community and we are proud to be part of it," he said. "As an organization, we know that our success is partly because we are here. And we want to be an active part of the community to improve the quality of life for everyone here. Being able to give back to our neighbors is important to us."

That's one of the reasons the health system has aligned its core care mission with a broad array of outreach programs. Through the work Memorial Hermann does with local schools and the United Way, Wolterman says the organization maximizes its commitment to health, and helps ensure the community has access to great care.

In each of the last three years, Memorial Hermann had donated more than \$1 million to the United Way, something Wolterman says is a powerful statement about the dedication to community service by hospital employees and affiliated physicians.

"We're proud of that contribution, and by giving to the United Way, we help advance the health of people across Southeast Texas," he said. "And partnering with the United Way is a natural fit for us."

That's certainly true, but Memorial Hermann touches a great many lives itself. In addition to those throughout the system, the organization partners with schools in Houston and other districts to run health clinics and dental services vans to provide care to those in need. Memorial Hermann has 10 clinics serving 70 schools, providing access to care to nearly 65,000 children every year. System wide, Memorial Hermann contributes more than \$438 million of free services to the community's indigent population.

### "WE'VE SEEN THAT CHILDREN WHO ARE IN BETTER HEALTH DO BETTER ACADEMICALLY,

their rate of absence plummets, and they show overall improvements in their daily lives," said Wolterman. "We're able to teach them healthy habits and we can provide necessary follow-up care." For Wolterman, who has more than 35 years of experience in the health care industry and has been named to Modern Healthcare Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare list every year since 2007, contributing to the community is not only about community health. It's also smart business.

"By being mindful of our need to give back to the community in these ways, we're taking our non-profit mission and using it to make a greater impact on the health of our neighbors." ■



## GOOD sports

**JAY GRAHAM, Co-CEO of WildHorse Resources**, takes his roots in Memorial City seriously. One of the reasons he started his company here eight years ago was because the area is home and he liked the idea of not having a long commute. When he and business partner Anthony Bahr decided to operate their own upstream oil and gas company, they began with two employees. They knew they would grow, and Graham knew Memorial City was the place to be.

"When we opened in 2007, it was long before the north side of the freeway was developed," he said. "But I really saw the area as the place to be and hoped it would become what it is now. It's actually become bigger than I ever thought it would."

Graham knew then, and it's been proven, that Memorial City was a desirable address. With its concentration of health services; dynamic restaurants, shopping and entertainment options; and excellent housing options, Graham says the area is a great place for himself and his employees to enjoy a tremendous quality of life.

"The amenities here really allow our workers to get things done before, during, or after work. This is a pretty area, and it has a whole different feel than other Houston business centers. And MetroNational, as a landlord helps provide a real community spirit."

Community spirit is important to Graham. Having his business and his home here gives him a feeling of connection to the area. It also allows him a luxury many

dads don't have – the ability to spend more time with his sons, both of whom were born at Memorial Hermann Hospital Memorial City. Graham is the Director of Junior Baseball for the Spring Branch Memorial Sports Association (SBMSA), an all-volunteer association which runs more than a hundred baseball teams for youth ages five to 12. More than 1,300 kids take part in the baseball program, which operate seasonal leagues between February and May and a summer league during the month of July. His sons play baseball with SBMSA and Graham is also a coach on their teams.

"I probably put in 40 to 50 hours a week from December to June as the Junior Baseball Director," he estimated. "And it's not just about being able to be close to my boys and participate with them. My goal is to make SBMSA the best sports association in the country, not only in terms of experience for the kids, but also in terms of sportsmanship, and providing a good, safe program."

The leagues are open to any child regardless of where they live either in the Spring Branch Memorial area or out. In addition to baseball, SBMSA operates softball, basketball, football, lacrosse and soccer leagues.

### "I WANT THE YOUTH IN THIS AREA TO HAVE A GREAT EXPERIENCE, AND LEARN THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE – GOAL SETTING, TEAMWORK

– and this is a way to that," he said. "I just feel that this is where I am supposed to be and what I am supposed to be doing." ■

