

# Leadership Frisco grads get the big picture

By Britney Porter

**H**overing 105 feet in the air, I peered down at my Leadership Frisco teammates and wondered, How does leadership pertain to heights? This wasn't the first time I gambled with gravity. On our retreat at Stony Ranch, my teammates on the ropescourse challenged me to jump off of a 35-foot tall pole and grab a trapeze bar.

I didn't jump. And now jumping was the furthest thing from my mind as I clenched onto the bucket of the fire truck's aerial ladder. A fireman who was controlling the ladder's height and direction warned, "You'll feel a small bump here."

I felt the bump and then I thought, his role is a lot like the community's role – support your leaders and direct and warn them of any bumps along the way.

Leadership Frisco wouldn't exist without support from the community, from Allison Miller who coordinates the monthly meetings to the principal players who give the tours and presentations.



City manager George Purefoy talks to Leadership Frisco about the possibility of turning the former municipal complex into a new home for the Boys and Girls Club.

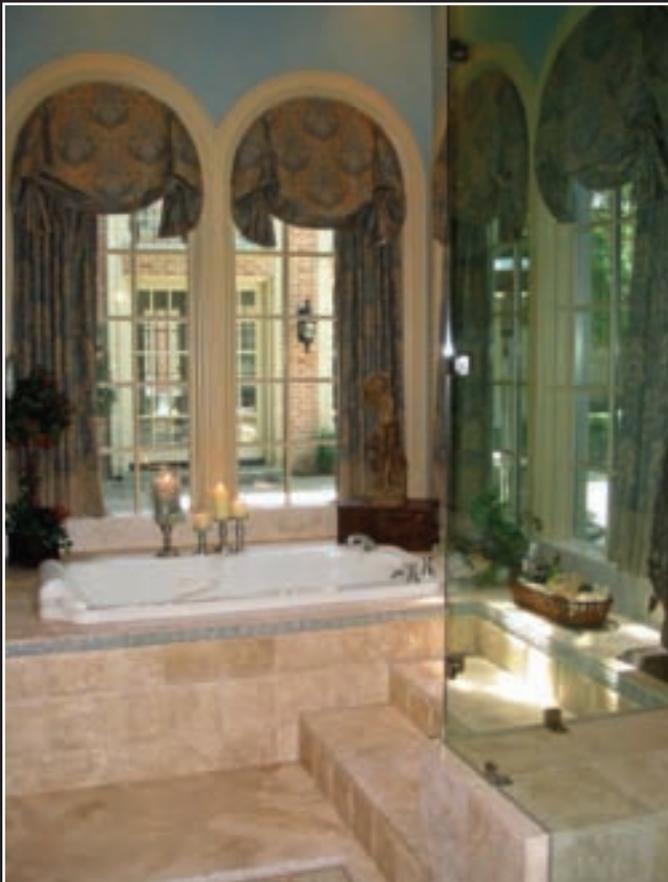
I've had the privilege of meeting Mayor Mike Simpson; FISD Superintendent Rick Reedy; Police Chief Todd Renshaw; and Fire Chief Mack Borchardt, among other Frisco fore-

runners. I've sat down with Bob Warren as he reflected on the early 1900s when

Frisco's population was 332, compared to 95,000 today. I've sat across from Frisco's first and only city manager George Purefoy who, when asked about the naming of the new city hall, said, "It's a compliment beyond explanation. I'll tear up if I talk about it too much."

Leadership Frisco is more than networking. Every class, whether it's in Frisco, Plano or Allen, is responsible for a community project. Our project is three-fold: 1) find the Boys and Girls Club - Frisco Branch a new home, 2) replace their van "Shaky," nicknamed by the kids, with a new \$44,000 one, and 3) revamp the Club's computer lab.

It sounds like a lot to accomplish before graduation, but leadership roles require challenges; some would call them highs and lows. Personally, I've found that with the community's support, Leadership Frisco delivered nothing but highs – even when I was standing with both feet on the ground.



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Profile photos: Britney Porter



Fire Marshall Don Fernandez takes Leadership Frisco on a tour of the new Central Station and Safety Town. Below is an aerial shot of Safety Town taken from a fire truck's ladder. To the left, Geoffrey Davis, Dennis James, and David Prince laugh at Nelson Hewitt's antics before going up the ladder.



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