



HOUSTON
CHILDREN'S
CHARITY

Our Kids are Everybody's Kids®



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Kid Stuff

Spring 2009



Executive Director | Laura Ward

Dear Friends,

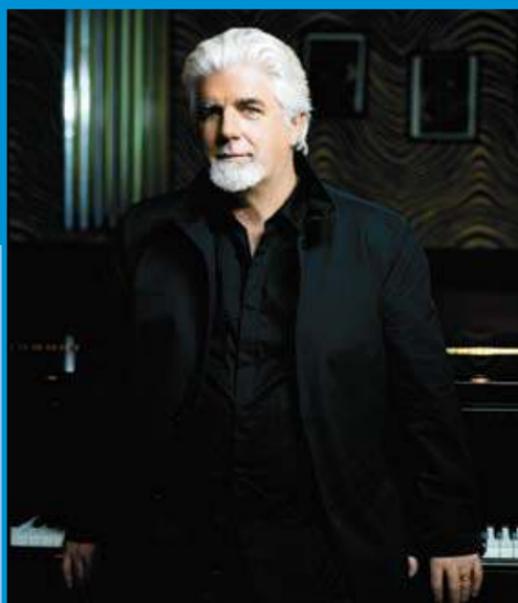
I would like to take a moment to thank all of the advocates, donors, volunteers, staff and Board who contribute to the success of Houston Children's Charity. We are truly blessed with a multitude of caring and compassionate friends in our community. Without your generosity for the past thirteen years we would not have been able to impact the lives of so many special children. And with your continued dedication, we will change the lives of many more in the years to come.

2008 was a significant year for HCC with several programs experiencing tremendous growth: A Better Night's Sleep, Adopt-a-Family and Toy Distribution. In the month of December alone, over 500 beds were distributed to children in need through A Better Night's Sleep; our Adopt-a-Family sponsor participants grew to over 130 supporting 673 children; and because of a grant from the local Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program, nearly 12,000 children received toys hand-picked from their wish list.

As we begin 2009, we are embarking on historic times: both with the election of our Nation's first African-American President and very real economic challenges unlike those experienced in years past. Amidst this time of uncertainty, we must be steadfast in our values and constantly seek to improve our community and enrich the lives of the children we support, as they are our future. It is important to remember that the children we provide for live without the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and healthcare during both positive and negative economic times - and need never takes a vacation. Unfortunately, the number of families that will seek our assistance will only increase over the next year given the widespread financial downturn.

The continued success of Houston Children's Charity depends on you! I realize that tough financial decisions will need to be made and am confident that your generosity will shine through these uncertain times. At Houston Children's Charity, we will continue to seek out those children who have otherwise been left behind and strive to leave no legitimate request for assistance unanswered. I look forward to working with you in 2009. Again, my sincerest thanks for all that you do.

Laura



Featured Entertainment: Blue Eyed Soul Sensation Michael McDonald

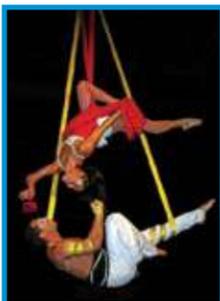


Premier Live Auction Item: 2009 BMW Z4 Convertible

Momentum BMW Southwest & West and Houston Children's Charity announce the 13th Annual Gala October 24, 2009

Houston Children's Charity is proud to announce its 13th Annual Gala to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2009 in the Imperial Ballroom of the **Hyatt Regency Houston**. Our event traditionally features outstanding entertainment, and this year is no exception as we present Blue Eyed Soul Sensation, **Michael McDonald**. We are thrilled to announce our title sponsors, **BMW Momentum Southwest and West**, who have graciously donated a **Limited Edition 2009 BMW Z4 Roadster Convertible** with retractable hardtop to this year's Live Auction. No words can adequately express our gratitude to those of you who have supported us in the past. We whole-heartedly invite you back and encourage you to join us in our goal ... the rainbow that we chase ... to let no legitimate request to assist a child go unanswered. Remember, need never takes a vacation! We look forward to seeing you on **October 24th**. To purchase tickets, call the charity office at (713)524-2878.

Cirque Montage: Circus-Sized Entertainment



The incredible physical feats of performers in **Cirque Imagination's** show "Cirque Montage" wowed all in attendance January 8-11 at the **Stafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre**. Many thanks to **Craig Howard** who donated 700 tickets to the weekend's shows at a value of \$52,000! Through this generous gift, hundreds of children from Houston area agencies were able to enjoy a rare night at the circus - an opportunity many of them would never have.

Rice Owls Football Game

For 100 of Houston's special children, November 29th was a special treat as they watched the Rice Owls defeat the Houston Cougars in a Thanksgiving weekend football game. Many thanks to **Rice University** and **Kramer Lucio** who donated the tickets and coordinated the experience for some of HCC's kids.

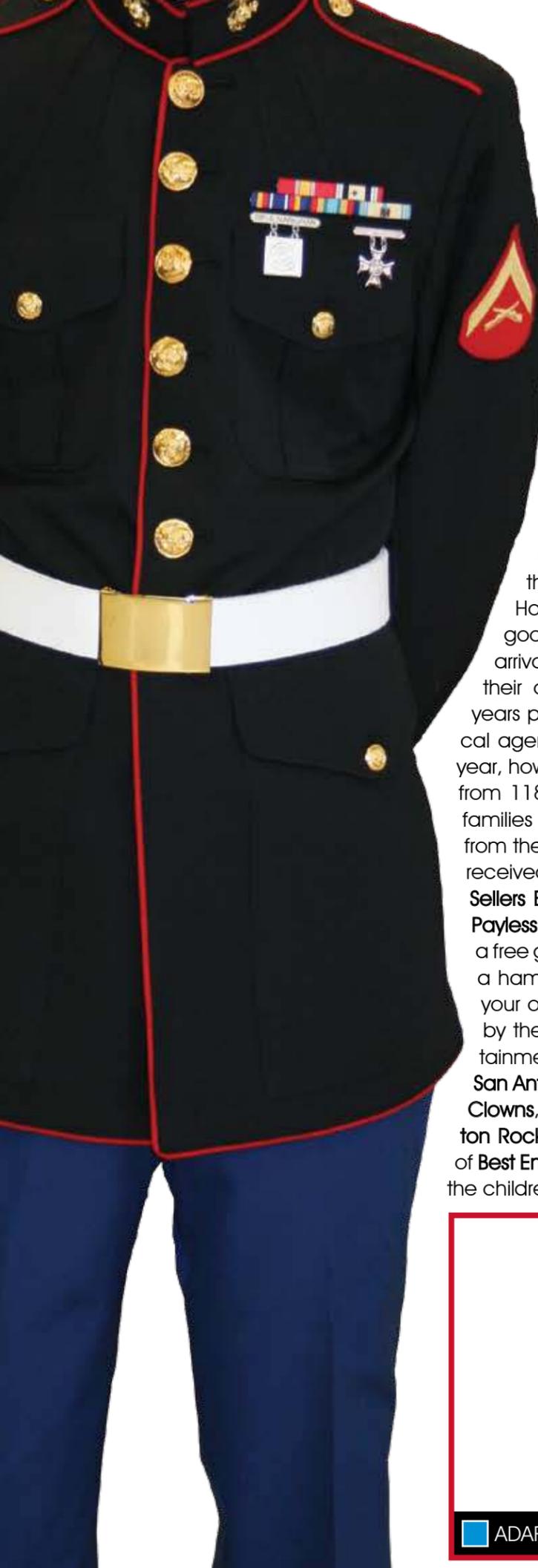


Leaders & Legends: A Celebrity Evening



Join us May 7, 2009 as we salute some of the best & the brightest including **Jeff Bagwell, Elvin Bethea, Kris Brown, Ray Childress, Cynthia Cooper-Dyke, Larry Dierker, Doug Drabek, Clyde Drexler, Elvin Hayes, Commander Mark Kelly, Commander Scott Kelly, Olympic Bronze Medalist Diana Lopez, Olympic Coach Jean Lopez, Olympic Silver Medalist Mark Lopez, Olympic Gold Medalist Steven Lopez, Giff Nielsen, Dan Pastorini, Chester Pitts, Nolan Ryan, Steve Tyrell, Charlie Ward** and many more! The evening will be held at the River Oaks home of hosts **Paige & Tilman Ferritta** at 7 pm.

Funds from this evening will benefit Houston's special children. Tickets are \$1,000 per person. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact the Houston Children's Charity office at 713.524.2878.



Houston Children's Charity's busiest time of year is Christmas. Each year our holiday programs grow – and since 2006 many of them have more than doubled in size...which means that while the need is growing, so is your willingness to assist us in this endeavour. This past year, no group helped us more than the **1st Battalion 23d Marines, 4th Marine Division** who, through their **Toys for Tots** program, donated 50,000 toys. Because of this exceptional giving, the charity was able to provide an abundance of toys for the Annual Christmas Party, Adopt-A-Family program (ADAF) & Toy Distribution.

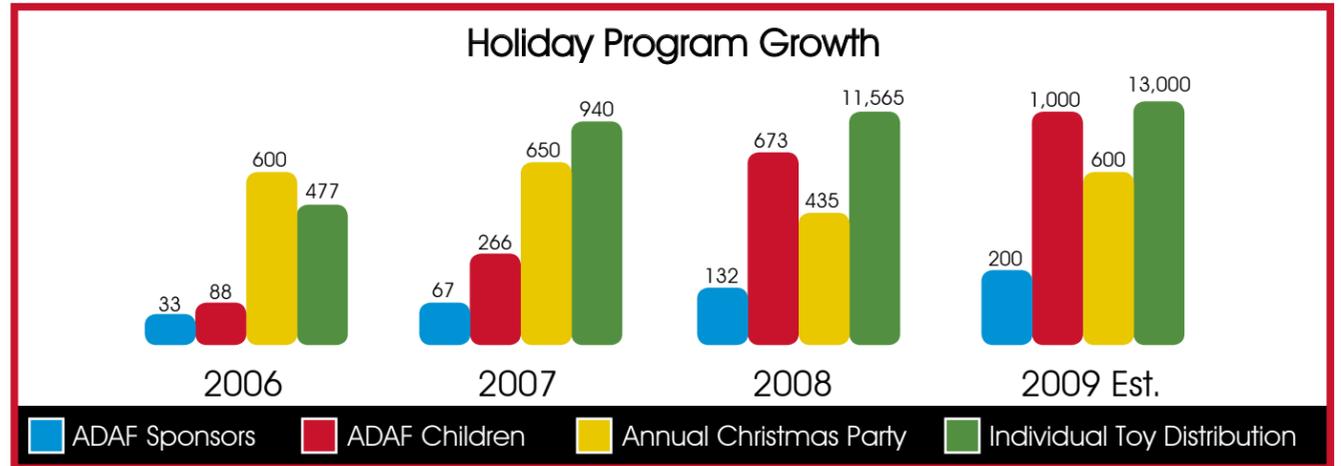
At our Annual Children's Christmas Party December 14, 2008 at the **Hyatt Regency Houston**, children from Houston area families were treated to toys, goodies, entertainment and, of course, the arrival of Santa Claus. Each child received their own personally labeled bag of toys. In years past, the party was attended by many local agencies and the children they support. This year, however, the event hosted over 400 children from 118 families. It was the first year that entire families attended, receiving toys hand picked from the children's wish list. This year families also received vouchers for groceries from **Fiesta Mart, Sellers Bros. & Food Town** as well as shoes from **Payless ShoeSource**, a **Jason's Deli** coupon and a free gallon of **Borden Milk**. The children enjoyed a hamburger and hotdog buffet and a "make your own" ice cream sundae bar, all provided by the Hyatt Regency Houston. Holiday entertainment included Live Animals from **Sea World San Antonio, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Clowns**, an appearance by some of the **Houston Rockets Power Dancers, Roly the Elf** courtesy of **Best Entertainers**, and a holiday performance by the children of **Houston P.A.L.**

Families in need from Houston and surrounding areas also receive assistance when adopted by supporters of our organization. At Christmas, volunteers become "Santa" for families in need, providing requested toys, food and clothing. In 2008 132 sponsors helped 209 families – a total of 673 children. Since 2006, this program has grown over 300% and we expect incremental participation in 2009.

Through our Toy Distribution, families that submitted applications to the program received shopping appointments where they personally selected age and gender appropriate gifts for their children. Due to the incredible support of the local Marine Reserves, 2008 was the biggest toy distribution in the event's history – nearly 12,000 children received toys during the holiday season. The Marines, along with many volunteers, helped organize the effort to reach out to Houston's special children. In total, the program benefited over 4,500 children from 1,514 Individual Families and over 7,000 children from 21 local Agencies.

In January 2009, the Houston area Marine Reserves Toys for Tots Foundation announced that Houston Children's Charity will once again be the recipient of the donated toys for Christmas 2009. We expect this program to grow significantly based on this generous contribution.

A special note of thanks to **Staff Sergeant Andrew Dunn** for his assistance in securing and organizing the Toys for Tots program, to **David Devany** for not only providing warehouse assistance throughout the season but for also making an appearance as Santa during the Annual Christmas Party, to **Patricia and Pat Harrison of Warehouse Associates** for providing the much-needed warehouse space for 50,000 toys, and to **Vicki Matthews Clark** for bringing her exceptional organization skills to the Toy Distribution. The 2008 holiday season would not have been as successful without your help - we thank you!



CHRISTMAS 2008

CHRISTMAS PARTY | TOY DISTRIBUTION | ADOPT-A-FAMILY





Families receive their gifts from Santa, Mrs. Claus & the Marines



Marines with guests at the Christmas Party



Houston P.A.L. and the Marines



Volunteer Vikki Vines with guests at the Christmas Party



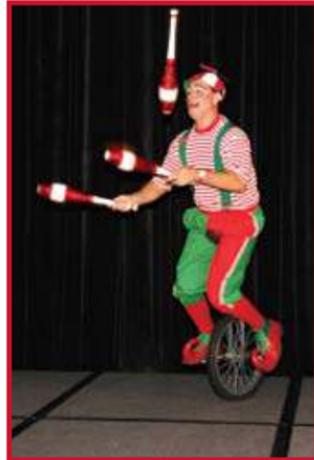
Christmas Party Chairpersons Marti & Kevin Young



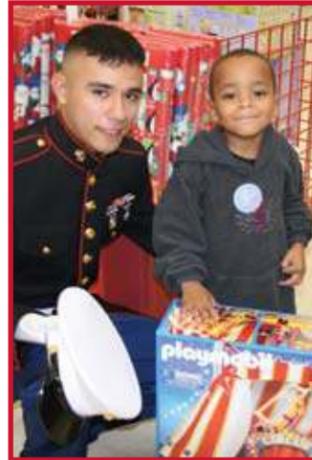
Performance by Houston P.A.L.



Party guests enjoyed a visit from Houston Rockets Power Dancers



Roly the Elf of Best Entertainers



LCpl LermaSanchez helps shop for Christmas toys



A volunteer provides festive facepainting for Christmas Party guests



SSgt Crenshaw with a Sea World representative and Magellanic Penguins



HCC staff members Amy Malone & Wendy Carabali with Staff Sergeant Andrew Dunn at the Toy Distribution



One of our special Toy Distribution recipients



One of our special Christmas Party families.



Assistant Chief Vicki King, SSgt Caron, Officer Erica Fuentes, GySgt Stone, Lieutenant Mike Waterwall



Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Clowns

With need being at an all-time high, Houston Children's Charity along with the 1st Battalion 23d Marines, 4th Marine Division & our many individual sponsors brought holiday cheer to thousands of children & families in our great city.





12TH ANNUAL GALA

LIVE AUCTION PURCHASERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Western Mediterranean Cruise - \$20,000 - Laura & Dave Ward | 8. Nights of Laughter - \$10,000 - Edna Meyer-Nelson |
| 2. Private Dinner with the Stars - \$16,000 - Tad Brown | 9. Diamonds, Hollywood Style - \$17,500 - Vicki & Don K. Clark |
| 3. Think Mink - \$14,500 - Edna Meyer-Nelson | 10. Hit the Slopes, Beaver Creek - \$22,500 - Stephen Lasher |
| 4. Over the Top in Cabo - \$27,500 - R.O. Hunton | 11. Hannah Montana - \$15,000 - Sheila & Walter Umphrey |
| 5. Stardom for a Year - \$21,000 - Inna & Scott Wizig | 12. Golden Nugget - \$60,000 - Penny & Paul B. Loyd, Jr. |
| 6. Coast to Coast Grand Slam - \$30,000 - Harry Leatherwood | 13. 2009 BMW 335i Convertible - \$67,500 - Dee Dee & Wallis Marsh |
| 7. Viva el Tango - \$20,000 - Suzanne Klein | 14. Guitar Legends - \$35,000 - Sheridan & John Eddie Williams |

Somewhere between the doors opening to the decadently decorated ballroom at the **Hyatt Regency Houston** and the raspy growl of featured entertainment **Joe Cocker**, the guests at the 12th Annual Gala reached into their pocketbooks and made the night an incredible success. Despite signs of an economy in turmoil, by the end of the night \$1.4 million had been raised for the special children of Houston.

Thanks to the efforts of Chairpersons **Sheridan and John Eddie Williams**, the night was a truly special one for honorees, Houston Chronicle society columnist **Shelby Hodge** and architect **Shafik Rifaat**.

In what is a continuing partnership, the ever-generous title sponsors **Momentum BMW Southwest & West** were thrilled to be a key part of the evening with their donation of the premiere Live Auction item: a hard-to-get 2009 335i hardtop/convertible which went to highest bidders **Dee Dee & Wallis Marsh** for \$67,500.



High Bidders Wallis & Dee Dee Marsh



Paige & Tilman Feritta, Laura & Dave Ward

The couple also bought an exclusive shopping package for \$7,500. Other high bidders included **Penny & Paul B. Loyd, Jr.** who paid \$60,000 for a stacked weekend at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas, **Sheridan & John Eddie Williams** who bought a surprise item - a guitar signed by 26 rock-n-roll legends, **Suzanne Klein** who purchased a deluxe 5-day travel package to Argentina for \$20,000 and a completely stocked wine bar for \$13,200 and Houston Children's Charity President **Edna Meyer-Nelson** who purchased a Mary McFadden Black Sheared Mink Coat for \$14,500 and a comedy package including personal time with Jimmy Kimmel, Jim Belushi and Sarah Silverman for \$10,000.

In the crowd were **Ericka & Jeff Bagwell**, **Sheila & Walter Umphrey**, **Cindy & Mike Gatewood**, **Cynthia & Bucky Allshouse**, **Linda & Dr. Walter McReynolds**, **Janiece Longoria & Steve Lasher**, **Patsy & Greg Fourtica**, **Donna & Tony Vallone**, **Kristen & Lee Nix**, and **Lauren Clark**.



Penny & Paul Loyd, Jr.



Edna Meyer-Nelson



Edwin Segal, Suzanne Klein, Joel Oppenheim, Bobbi Kirlin



Dror & Helene Zadok



Jess & Beth Moore



Ericka & Jeff Bagwell



Momentum BMW's Monty Meave, John Pham, Maria Moncada-Aloui



Don & Vicki Clark

Underwriter Party for the 12th Annual Gala

Leading up to the largest event of the year for Houston Children's Charity, the Gala event Underwriters gathered at the River Oaks home of hosts and Chairpersons **Sheridan & John Eddie Williams** for an elegant evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and accolades.

HCC President **Edna Meyer-Nelson** presented crystal champagne chillers to Underwriters including **Landry's Restaurants, Inc./Paige and Tiltman Fertitta**, **Becker Family Foundation**, **Edna Meyer-Nelson, Family Funding**, **Christy and Lou Cushman/ Arlene and Marshall Hoffman/ Carol and John Howenstein/ Michelle and Jeff Majewski/ Elaine Block and Dennis O'Rourke/ Ned Barnett**, **Momentum BMW Southwest and West**, **Sheila and**

Walter Umphrey, Sheridan and John Eddie Williams, The Marlon Foundation, and **The Smith Foundation**. Awards were also presented to Benefactors **The Bagwell Foundation**, **BMC Software**, **Gatewood Family Foundation**, **Janet Gurwitch/ Susanne and John Byram/ Patrice Ferguson and John Camp/ Diane Lokey Farb**, **Hyatt Regency Houston**, **Penny and Paul B. Loyd, Jr.**, **Mrs. Margaret Alkek Williams/Ray C. Fish Foundation** as well as Sponsors including **Cynthia and Bucky Allhouse/ Linda and Dr. Walter McReynolds**, **Pat and Dan Breen**, **Bud Light / Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P.**, **Budweiser / Anheuser-Busch, Inc.**, **Momentum BMW Southwest and West**, **Jeanette and Jim Woods** and **The Smith Foundation**.



Lauren Clark, John Eddie & Sheridan Williams



Louis & Christine Messina, Laura Ward



Honoree Shelby Hodge modeling the Black Sheared Mink auction item courtesy of Sakowitz Furs



BMW's George Ault receives an Underwriter gift from HCC President Edna Meyer-Nelson

LUXURY BOARD AUCTION PURCHASERS

1. Completely Stocked Wine Bar - \$13,200 - Suzanne Klein
2. Houston Restaurant Tour - \$7,500 - Steve Gill
3. Elegant Evening at Tony's - \$6,200 - Cindy & Mike Gatewood
4. Red & White Dinner - \$6,500 - Jeanette & James Bocell
5. Del Frisco's - \$4,800 - D. Wayne Turner, Lance Heacock & Darryl Schroeder
6. Rocket Power - \$3,100 - John Pham
7. Houston Sports Extravaganza - \$1,250 - Kyle M. Green
8. Batter Up - \$1,500 - Klm & Richard Rolland

9. Pam Wright Collections - \$4,600 - Christine & Louis Messina
10. Zadok Jewelers - \$5,100 - Jeanette & James Bocell
11. Coral & Beautiful - \$4,500 - Christine & Louis Messina
12. Shop 'Til You Drop - \$7,500 - Dee Dee & Wallis Marsh
13. Sakowitz Fur - \$6,000 - Jeanette & Jim Woods
14. Arabian Nights - \$2,300 - Terry Bodkin-Agris & Dr. Joe Agris
15. Welcome to the Land Down Under - \$7,500 - Joel Oppenheim
16. Colorado Awaits You: Telluride - \$11,000 - Marti & Kevin Young



Judy Nichols & John Leake



Heidi & Shane Battier



Jackie & Dr. Hank Blum



Tad & Janice Brown, Laura & John Johnson



Susan Williams & Jimmy Olguin



Margaret Alkek Williams & Jim Daniel



Kimberly & Frank DeLape



Ed Silliman & Dr. Carolyn Farb



Joann & Bill Crassass



Raymond Baron, Tony & Mary Gracely, Jay Rosenstein



Kristy & Doug Drabek



Ilene Allen & Stan Whitfill



Jennifer Hawkins & Grant Guthrie



Carol & Dr. Tom Sawyer

Wendy's to the Rescue - It's a Bunny Hop

A tisket, a tasket and 400 Easter baskets will make for an incredible day of fun in the sun for underprivileged youngsters at the 11th Annual Houston Children's Charity Easter Extravaganza Saturday, April 4, 2009 at Northland Christian School. With no food sponsor in sight, **Wendy's Old Fashion Hamburgers®** came to the rescue! Wendy's will provide 400 Hamburger Meals for the kids and 200 Chicken Sandwich meals for the volunteers and chaperones. We are so very thankful to have Wendy's on board.

The generosity continued from there with **Coca-Cola North America®**, our new Beverage Sponsor, who is kindly providing soft drinks for the event along with our faithful friends at **Borden's®** who, once again, are generously providing a donation of milk and assorted juices for the day.

Children, ages 5 to 12 from both individual families and area agencies will come together for a rare afternoon of Easter partying. Fun events throughout the day will include a petting zoo, ponies, face painting, moonwalks, and of course a meeting with the Easter Bunny.

Houston Children's Charity would especially like to thank **Steve Lemm** from Northland Christian School for the hard work and generosity he puts into making this day possible each and every year for our special children.



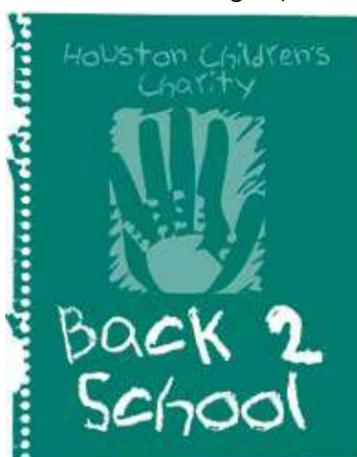
Making a difference for Houston's

Back-2-School

For parents, getting their children ready to begin a new school year can be an expensive and daunting process. With programs like Houston Children's Charity's Back-2-School program, though, that load can be lightened for some of our city's neediest students.

During the summer months, Houston Children's Charity will be taking applications for assistance with the 2009-2010 school year with plans for a distribution of supplies in August. Items including uniform vouchers, backpacks and supplies galore will be given to our underprivileged recipients.

If you or your organization are interested in being a part of this wonderful program, please call the charity office at (713)524-2878.



BMC Software for 3!

They shoot, they score! In an incredibly generous and creative move, Dan D'Armond of BMC Software announced that his company would be donating \$25 for every 3-point shot made in a Houston Rockets game through the end of the season. As seen in the picture below, the amount as of March 6th totaled 560 3-pointers! Special thanks to **Dan D'Armond** of **BMC Software** and **Tad Brown**, CEO of the **Houston Rockets**, for making this donation possible.



Executive Director Laura Ward receives a check from Dan D'Armond of BMC Software and Tad Brown, CEO of the Houston Rockets

A Better Night's Sleep

There are thousands of children in Houston who do not have their own bed, many of them sleeping on the floor or the sofa, or perhaps sharing with multiple siblings or parents. We receive letters that describe conditions such as children sleeping on the floor, the sofa, in a box or a drawer, children with mattresses so badly worn that the springs are poking through, and children sleeping on water damaged mattresses to avoid sleeping on the floor.

Scientific research links better performance in school to a good night's sleep. Following are some observations from various studies illustrating some of the difficulties faced and the behavioral changes in children with sleep problems:

- Children who nap longer during the day have longer attention spans.
- Toddlers who sleep more are more sociable, & less demanding.
- Children with higher IQs -- in every age group studied -- slept longer.
- For ADHD children, improvements in sleep dramatically improved peer relations and classroom performance.



Houston Children's Charity strives to have a positive, transformational impact on our community. One of our newest programs, A Better Night's Sleep, seeks to help Houston's special children sleep well every night. The goal of this program is to provide beds to children who are sleeping on the floor, never having had a restful place to lay their head. HCC will also provide a bed frame, sheets, pillows, pillow cases and blankets for each bed given to a needy child.

This program has experienced tremendous growth over the last year. Most recently, following Hurricane Ike we received over 600 application requests. **Mattress Firm**, a local retailer donated mattress and box spring sets to help meet the need of our community and made it possible

for HCC to distribute over 500 twin beds in December 2008 alone. A Bed Distribution was held at six local Mattress Firm locations in early December. This event's success is attributed to the help of volunteers including: **Jeff Majewski** - Chair of the Sleep Team, **Carol Sawyer** and **Ilene Allen** - Sleep Team members, as well as volunteers **Debbie Adams**, **Tracy Frye**, **Michelle Majewski**, **HCC staff** and **Mattress Firm employees**. A second bed distribution was held at the HCC warehouse later in December for those unable to attend distribution at the Mattress Firm locations. Additionally, beds were provided to agencies in the most affected areas of our community including: **Galveston Multi Cultural Institute**, **Brazoria County Youth Homes**, **Albertine Yeager Youth Crisis Center**, **Family Crisis Center**, **The Forge for Families**, **The Hope Shelter**, and **Holy Family Catholic Church**.

Since the program's launch and the outstanding support from the 11th Annual Gala in October, HCC has provided many children in Houston with exactly what the program offers: a better night's sleep. To date the program has distributed over 1,500 beds to children in the Greater Houston area.

Our continued goal is to provide 100 beds per month to children in need. If you wish to support this program, \$100 will put a child in a bed (including mattress, foundation, frame, sheets, pillow and blanket). Contact us at 713-524-2878 to make a donation or visit our website at www.houstonchildrenscharity.org.



HCC Families picking up beds from one of our Mattress Firm locations



Mattress Firm's Kevin Warman helps a family load their new beds



HCC Families picking up beds from one of our Mattress Firm locations



Sleep Team members Carol Sawyer, Jeff Majewski & Ilene Allen with the "A Better Night's Sleep" truck

Special Children

Melcher Donation

In these troubled economic times, moments of generosity are getting much harder to come by, which made a \$20,000 donation from The Melcher Charitable Foundation all the more special. This is the second sizeable donation from Melcher and with so many non-profits appealing for assistance, we are especially grateful they have chosen to support Houston Children's Charity.



Chairman of the Board Tilman Fertitta receives a check from Trey Melcher representing the Melcher Charitable Foundation

Support HCC on eBay

The next time you're browsing eBay and thinking of posting your most recent sale item, keep Houston Children's Charity in mind. Through eBay's charitable Giving Works program "MissionFish" sellers can give proceeds from a sale to their favorite nonprofit. In addition, nonprofits like HCC can also receive donations from eBay users through the Donate Now feature, which lets anyone with a PayPal account donate right away – without buying or selling anything.



In order to assist Houston Children's Charity through MissionFish, simply follow these steps:

- Go to www.missionfish.org
- Search for "Houston Children's Charity"
- Select either "Sell" to send proceeds to us from the sale of your item or "Donate Now" to make a monetary donation directly to the charity.

Houston Children's Charity Board of Directors

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We are always in need of caring
volunteers for our Children's events.

Please contact the HCC Office at
713.524.2878 or email us at
hcc@houstonchildrenscharity.org with your
name, address, phone
number and availability.

We appreciate your support!

For further information, visit our website at
www.houstonchildrenscharity.org

2009 Upcoming Events

Children's Easter Party - April 4, 2009
Celebrity Evening - May 7, 2009
Back to School Program - August 2009
13th Annual Gala - October 24, 2009



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