We are happy to announce that Momentum BMW Southwest and West will be back again as Title Sponsor for the 16th Annual Gala on November 3, 2012 featuring Olivia Newton-John.

Ballroom erupts over $100,000 surprise gift

On a night of record-breaking moments, the biggest highlight came from Underwriting Chairmen Sheridan and John Eddie Williams. When called to the stage, this amazing philanthropic duo announced a $100,000 donation for Houston's special children that brought the house to its feet. Longtime supporters of Houston Children's Charity, Sheridan and John Eddie set the bar for the entire evening!

More than 650 guests filled the Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown Imperial Ballroom for Houston Children's Charity 15th Annual Gala. The 2011 Gala was chaired by Amber and Steve Mostyn and honored Soraya and Scott McClelland. This year's Underwriting Chairmen were Sheridan and John Eddie Williams and Phoebe and Bobby Tudor. Without the support of these outstanding couples, the Gala could not have been such a phenomenal success. We thank each of you.

Thanks to the creative genius of Executive Director Laura Ward and Darryl Murchinson of Darryl & Co., guests entered the ballroom surrounded by breathtaking décor. The focal point of the room was a dramatic piano keyboard gracing the entire dance floor in the center of the room. A spectacular laser-light display, including four immense screens, transformed the room into a Hollywood-style set that even Frankie Valli could appreciate. Never one to disappoint, Houston Children's Charity set the stage for HCC supporters to make this annual fund-raiser Houston's party of the year.

As always, General Manager Steve Trent and Director of Catering Leo Hamil of the Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown surpassed our expectations. Thanks to Denise Ehrlich of Rathbone Wine Group and Leon Sierra of Bronco Wine Company and Mid-State Wine for the fine wines throughout the evening:

As he has done in past years, Monsignor Frank Rossi generously provided his time and blessings. This year, Ilona Carson of ABC Chanel 13 Eyewitness News took over MC duties for the evening. After all of the business was done, the lights dimmed and the crowd boogied until the wee hours to music by Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

Despite signs of an economy in turmoil, by the end of the night, $1.1 million had been netted for the special children of Houston. Houston Children's Charity owes a very large part of the success to the
**A Gathering of Champions**

We are “happy” to announce that Houston Children’s Charity 14th Annual Easter Party is set for Saturday, March 24 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Northland Christian School. Over 350 children from Houston area agencies will be treated to a day filled with over-the-top fun. The exciting afternoon will include face painting, a petting zoo, a giant slide, pony rides, a moonwalk, train rides, a sea of balls, games and lots of yummy food. As always, the Easter Bunny will also make a special appearance as kids participate in an Easter egg hunt and take home their Easter Basket.

Houston Children’s Charity is greatly indebted to Jim Lennm from Northland Christian School for his hard work and steadfast generosity. HCC would also like to thank Wendy’s, PepsiCo, H-E-B, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Clowns, Kroger Co., Randalls’ Awesome Events, McDonald’s, Academy Sports and Outdoors, James Conney Island and Chic Treats by Ashley. Thanks to all our Easter Party sponsors for making this annual event such a tremendous success! Our gratitude to those sponsors who responded beyond our print deadline.

**The stars are the jewels of the night, and perchance surpass anything which day has to show.” —Henry David Thoreau**

The star-studded gems were shining in Houston last spring! Paige and Tilman Fertitta graciously hosted the Celebrity Dinner on April 15, 2011, at their home. This over-the-top evening showcased an outstanding lineup of sports personalities, athletes and heroes. This unforgettable event raised over $140,000 for the kids. Guests mingled throughout the evening with celebrities and collected memorabilia and autographs. Those celebrities in attendance were Jeff Bagwell, Elvin Bethea, Bobby Boswell, Captain Gene Cernan, Ray Childress, Brian Ching, Roger Clemens, Eric Dickerson, Larry Dierker, Clyde Drexler, Ken Hamlin, Elvin Hayes, Robert Horry, Captain Mark Kelly, Mike Lee, Diana Lopez, Jean Lopez, Mark Lopez, Steven Lopez, John Lucas, J.J. Moses, Dan Pastorini, Chester Pitts, Robert Reid, Nolan Ryan, DeMeco Ryans, Joe Sambito, Matt Schaub, Roabaire Smith, Spencer Tilman, Charlie Ward, Joe Washington and Eric Winston.

Special recognition goes to a few people who helped make this event possible: thanks to John B. Johnson of Bud Light/ Silver Eagle Distributors, for the donations of Stella Artois Deluxe Picnic Baskets and for supplying the beverages. Thanks also go out to Paige and Tilman J. Fertitta of Landry’s Restaurant, Inc., who underwrote the evening.

David Jacquin and James Walsh were the high bidders in the auction. Each of these men took home an autographed group photo of themselves and all celebrities in attendance. Congrats on the picture-perfect bids!

Join us for this year’s Celebrity Dinner on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, as we once again salute the best and the brightest! As always, the event will be held at the home of Paige and Tilman Fertitta and only 150 tickets will be sold. If you would like to purchase tickets or need more information, please call our office at 713-524-2878.

This is one evening you don’t want to miss!

---

**Letter from the Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

Where do I begin? Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the Board members, advocates, sponsors, staff and volunteers who assisted in making 2011 our “Best Year Ever!”

The 15th Annual Gala netted over $1.1 million to support Houston’s special children through our ongoing programs.

We are truly blessed to have a multitude of caring and compassionate friends who support our community. Without your generosity for the past 16 years, we would not have been able to impact the lives of so many of Houston’s special children. And with your continued dedication, we will change the lives of many more in the years to come.

In 2012, we must be steadfast in our approach to making a difference in the lives of the children we support. I measure success by the number of children’s lives that are touched by you. It has been said that through your initiative, good becomes great, smart becomes brilliant, and the impossible becomes attainable. We will continue to seek out those children who have otherwise been left behind and strive to leave no legitimate request for assistance unanswered.

The Board of Directors and I want to thank each of you, not only for the unwavering support you’ve given in the years past, but for the wonderful moments of generosity that you will surely be a part of in the future. You are helping us to make a difference, one child at a time. And for that I thank you.

Warm regards,

---

**A new program!**

Due to an overwhelming need for air conditioners for families in our community, Houston Children’s Charity is launching a new program, **Kool Kidz**.

Our monthly mission will be to provide 50 air-conditioner units to single-family dwellings in the Houston area.

We are pleased to announce that Soraya McClelland, a longtime friend of the charity, will spearhead this effort. We thank Soraya for caring so much about the kids.

**BMC Software** will make the first donation to the **Kool Kidz** program on Thursday, April 26, 2012, on the floor of Toyota Center. Join us for this exciting evening!
Launching HCC’s A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP program in 2007, Executive Director Laura Ward introduced the idea that, with a donation of $100, we can purchase the basics for a good night’s sleep: a twin bed, box springs, mattress, pillow, blanket and a complete sheet set for a lucky child.

Like all other HCC programs, A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP depends on the enthusiastic efforts and generous gifts provided by our volunteers and donors. Our utmost appreciation also goes to the volunteers who help bring smiles to the faces of the families at each bed distribution. Along with the big-hearted Melissa and Brad Juenec, who have magnanimously underwritten the cost of the HCC warehouse space, each of them tirelessly steps up to help.

Together, we can provide the foundation to help kids rise each day — rested and equipped — to undertake any challenges that lie ahead. If you are interested in learning more about this program and helping us ensure sweet dreams for our children, please contact us at 713-524-2878 or visit our Web site at www.houstonchildrenscharity.org.

Two of the many happy clients who received beds.

### Luis Gonzales and Paola Torres

The story is quite simple: Luis Gonzales and Paola Torres decided to throw a Halloween party. They selected Houston Children’s Charity A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP bed program as the beneficiary of guests’ donations. Since Luis and Paola came from underprivileged homes, this program hit close to their hearts. Sales for food and drinks resulted in $800 being donated to HCC’s A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP bed program. A handful of restaurants, bars and bands donated their time and/or gift cards for a costume contest. Taking part in the success of this party were The Corkscrew, Reserve 101, Big Star, SC Photography, P for Flamingos, Electric Attitude, Morgue City, Le Mistral, Beaver and Xuc Xicada, Coppa, Flying Saucer and The Creeks. The party is on the books again for 2012.

### Apache Corporation

In November 2011, Apache Corporation made a $5,000 donation to the Houston Children’s Charity A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP program. On January 14, 2012, Apache Corporation volunteers helped with bed distribution.

### British School of Houston

It all began when the Ball committee, consisting of four parents — Elaine Waterland, Jo Hayter, Aileen Riley and Jo Ralph — started to plan The British School of Houston Annual Summer Ball. At this annual event, the school usually holds a raffle or silent auction during the evening to raise money for a local charity of choice.

The committee members decided that the donation was to go to HCC’s A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP program, and they hoped to raise enough money for 20 beds at the June 11, 2011, event.

On the Friday before the Summer Ball, all of the students could opt to wear red clothing instead of their uniforms, by bringing in a minimum of $2 each to donate to HCC. To the Summer Ball committee’s delight, the children raised $1,600 — enough to pay for 16 beds. Aileen Riley said, “This amount is the most we have ever raised on a nonuniform day, so we knew that it had touched people’s hearts!”

The following night at the Ball, the committee challenged the parents and teachers to beat the children’s bed count. To the absolute amazement of the four committee members, they raised an additional $8,000 (another 80 beds) bringing the total to $9,600 (96 beds!). Aileen stated, “Each of the committee members agreed that this exceeded our expectations by a mile, and we are extremely grateful for everyone’s generosity.”

We owe a huge thank you to the students, faculty and parents of The British School of Houston for their big hearts! With so many non-profits appealing for assistance, we are especially grateful they chose to support Houston Children’s Charity.

### AWTY School

Fifth graders from The AWTY International School in Mr. Darren Donaldson’s citizenship class chose Houston Children’s Charity to receive the funds raised during their Fun Run Charity race.

Mr. Donaldson said, “I am extremely proud of the efforts the students made in going around to their friends and family to collect pledges prior to running the 5k on Friday, December 2, 2011.” Their efforts raised a total of $2,124.11 for HCC’s A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP bed program. The students liked the idea that the money raised was going to be used to help purchase beds for children in the Houston area.

The race involved a total of 84 students (from both the French and International sections of grade 5/CM2) and received the support of their five homeroom teachers. Administrators from the Lower School and many parents turned out to support the efforts of the students.

AWTY International School fifth graders raised $2,124.11 for HCC.

### Houston Children’s Charity

In November 2011, Apache Corporation made a $5,000 donation to the Houston Children’s Charity (HCC) A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP program. On January 14, 2012, Apache Corporation volunteers helped with bed distribution.

### British School of Houston

It all began when the Ball committee, consisting of four parents — Elaine Waterland, Jo Hayter, Aileen Riley and Jo Ralph — started to plan The British School of Houston Annual Summer Ball. At this annual event, the school usually holds a raffle or silent auction during the evening to raise money for a local charity of choice.

The committee members decided that the donation was to go to HCC’s A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP program, and they hoped to raise enough money for 20 beds at the June 11, 2011, event.

On the Friday before the Summer Ball, all of the students could opt to wear red clothing instead of their uniforms, by bringing in a minimum of $2 each to donate to HCC. To the Summer Ball committee’s delight, the children raised $1,600 — enough to pay for 16 beds. Aileen Riley said, “This amount is the most we have ever raised on a nonuniform day, so we knew that it had touched people’s hearts!”

The following night at the Ball, the committee challenged the parents and teachers to beat the children’s bed count. To the absolute amazement of the four committee members, they raised an additional $8,000 (another 80 beds) bringing the total to $9,600 (96 beds!). Aileen stated, “Each of the committee members agreed that this exceeded our expectations by a mile, and we are extremely grateful for everyone’s generosity.”

We owe a huge thank you to the students, faculty and parents of The British School of Houston for their big hearts! With so many non-profits appealing for assistance, we are especially grateful they chose to support Houston Children’s Charity.
Filling up closets for those in need

Laura Ward, Executive Director of Houston Children’s Charity, and Adam Gracely, a longtime friend and financial adviser of T.J., teamed up again to bowl the perfect game. On each of the lanes — which were sold at $2,000 apiece — four people plus a celebrity bowled for one and a half hours. During the tournament, Adam Gracely & T.J. worked the phones to get friends to show up and bowl for a good cause.

Along with the generous donations, two bowling pins, signed by all celebrities in attendance, were up for auction. DeeDee and Wallis Marsh and Laura and John Johnson were the high bidders and walked away with the coveted autographed bowling pins. This event raised a grand total of $32,175 for Houston Children’s Charity.

Celebrities bowling for strikes included: D.J. Augustin, Avery Bradley, Maurice Evans, James Posey and Shaun Rogers.

With several of the 2009 winners back in competitive form, everyone brought their “A” game in attempts to bowl that perfect 300. After a couple of hours, food, friends, fun and great bowling, the high scores were from the winning team of E&G Advisors, LP. The team consisted of Mark Easley, Adam Gracely, A.J. Gracely and Tony Gracely and their celeb bowling partner Royel Ivey. The high score individual player award went to Garrick Hatfield of Alex Rodriguez Mercedes-Benz.

A huge debt of gratitude goes to T.J. Ford, Adam Gracely, the Gracely Family, Adidas, all the supporters of this event and, of course, the celebrities! Funds from this event made it possible for the CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN program to purchase two vans. Since the program’s inception, HCC’s CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN has awarded a total of 88 vans and 3 box trucks to over 79 agencies and individual families over the past 15 years.

Stay tuned for the date of the 3rd Annual T.J. Ford Celebrity Bowl-A-Thon! You will not want to miss out on this amazing event!

T.J. Ford of the San Antonio Spurs.
Houston-area nonprofits devoted to helping children are often hindered by budget restraints, creating an endless need for assistance with transportation. One of Houston Children’s Charity’s long-standing and most successful programs, **CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN**, has done it again! On December 13, 2011, generous supporters of the charity, Melissa and Brad Juneau, donated a 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid to Houston Children’s Charity. The Juneau donation of this exceptional car gives **CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN** the opportunity to give another car to an organization that will use it in helping the youth of Houston. HCC Executive Director Laura Ward turned over the keys to this beautiful car to Joni Robertson, Senior Development Specialist of Devereux Texas Treatment Network of League City, Texas. Ms. Robertson said, “This car means a lot for the children and adolescents in our residential program, and we’re very grateful to have HCC’s generous support.” Thank you to Melissa and Brad Juneau for this amazing donation!

**Making It Better (MIB)** is a local nonprofit, founded in 2006 by Jerry Davis, to address the severe disadvantages faced by low-income children in the Houston area by providing them with academic intervention, positive activities and adult role models. MIB works directly with teachers and administrators at each school to identify the needs of each child, thereby enabling tutors to give individualized support, customizing programs to fit the student’s unique needs. MIB is the only agency providing tutoring services at no cost to at-risk children in west Houston.

**Gary J. Lynn** was born with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and is unable to walk. He is currently a patient at Texas Children’s Hospital. To transport him, his parents must use a manual wheelchair and lift him in and out of the family car. This wheelchair has to be broken down and placed in the trunk for each car trip. This alone is becoming more difficult. HCC has awarded this family a van to assist with Gary’s transportation.

Since the **CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN** van program began in 1996, Houston Children’s Charity has awarded 88 vans and 3 trucks to 79 deserving agencies and 5 individual families, at a cost of $2,266,461. If you would like to make a donation to the **CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN** van program and help HCC provide safe and reliable transportation to Houston’s special children please call our office at 713-524-2878 or visit our Web site at www.houstonchildrenscharity.org.
ever-generous BMW Momentum Southwest and West, the 2011 Gala Title Sponsors, who donated a 2012 BMW 650i Convertible. The proceeds from this item greatly contributed to the evening’s bottom line. Although the festive atmosphere roared strongly throughout the evening, chairmen Amber and Steve Mostyn reminded the crowd that the less fortunate of Houston need their support more than ever. Amber introduced Andrea White, wife of former Houston Mayor Bill White and author of SNUGGLES, a book about HCC’s ABETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP program. Steve also made a call to action for the bed program. The crowd responded by donating over $51,180. Thanks to these efforts, the night was truly special.

High bidders for the evening were Paige and Tilman Fertitta, winning both the 2012 BMW 650i Convertible and the “Singing in the Rain” package; Sheridan and John Eddie Williams are headed to sunny Key West on a Hawker 900XP and the Bahamas on the Azimut Yacht; Brian Techman outbid others for the “Cinco by the Sea” package; Laura and John Johnson will be headed to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; Amber and Steve Mostyn raised their hands and won “We Both Got Style,” his and her boots and the stunning Valobra Jewelry; DeeDee and Wallis Marsh scored a Touchdown!; Ginny and Floyd Price will spend the year traveling with the “Don’t Forget Your Passports” package; Debbie and Mike McGhan went home with the stunning Wayne Smith Jewels piece; Allen Becker was the winner of “Gil Bruvel’s Magic” package; and friends of Houston Children’s Charity by Laura Ward and friends of Houston Children’s Charity were firsthand witnesses.

Friends of Houston Children’s Charity joined Executive Director Laura Ward and Gala Chairmen Amber and Steve Mostyn at Wayne Smith Jewels on the evening of September 9, 2011. During this meet-and-greet event, Wayne Smith unveiled a unique treasure designed exclusively for the 2011 HCC Gala Live Auction. This stunning 18th-century Italian glass intaglio in a custom 18k hand-hammered mounting is surrounded by cultured Tahitian pearls, moonstones and diamonds. This one-of-a-kind piece can be worn as a broach or pendant. Debbie and Mike McGhan were the lucky bidders and walked away with this exclusive, custom-designed treasure.

Gucci raises a glass to HCC

At an evening dedicated to a time-honored craft, Gucci, The Galleria, Houston with Sheridan Williams, Kristen Nix and Lauren Clark, hosted a cocktail party on Thursday, October 20, 2011. To celebrate Gucci’s 90th anniversary, The Artisan Corner brought in five incredibly talented craftsmen to showcase their techniques during custom-built workshops inside the Gucci store. These artisans assembled a saddle-soft lux leather “Jackie” shoulder bag that was auctioned off at the 2011 Gala. Executive Director Laura Ward and friends of Houston Children’s Charity were firsthand witnesses.
Michelle and Robert Marsh walked away with the “Surprise KISS” package at the end of the evening.

In the crowd were Allen Becker and Diana Brackman, Richard Dole and Linda Ferrante, Shelby Hodge and Shafik Rifaat, Karen and Byron Hood, Captain Mark E. Kelly, Captain Scott J. Kelly, Suzanne Klein, Cathy and Jesse Marion, Karen and Mike Mayell, Captain Mark E. Kelly, Captain Scott J. Kelly, Suzanne Klein, Cathy and Jesse Marion, Karen and Mike Mayell, Edna Meyer-Nelson, Trish and Rock Morille, Jocelyn Poplack, June Poplack, Carol and Dr. Tom Sawyer, Lillie Schechter, Donna and Tony Vallone and Dancie Ware.

We are forever grateful for all of your 2011 Gala contributions. Growing support from friends like you add critical assistance to our pledge to ensure that no child is left behind.

The 2011 Gala Underwriters gathered at the home of hosts and Gala Chairmen Amber and Steve Mostyn for cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and accolades on the evening of November 17, 2011.

The night kicked off with HCC Chairman of the Board Tilman J. Fertitta and Executive Director Laura Ward presenting Amber and Steve Mostyn a Donna Karan Artisan Glass Vase. This award was for their amazing work as the 2011 Gala Chairmen.

The 2011 Gala Chairmen gladly presented Donna Karan Vases to the event underwriters including Sheridan Williams, Soraya McClelland, and The Lester and Sue Smith Foundation.

The Mostyns then presented Aram Wisteria Vases to Edna Meyer-Nelson, the Becker Family Foundation, Dee Dee and Wallis Marsh and Hyatt Regency Houston.

Other awards were handed out to sponsors Gil Bruvel, Gucci, Wayne Smith, RAG Printing, Franco Valobra, Tootsies, Catering by Culinaire, Judith Ann Jewels, Renaissance Wine Marketing, Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown, Darryl & Co., Bronco Wine Company, Nobel Vines, and Bull Shirts.

Without each of your contributions, the Gala would not have been such a success. Laura Ward recognized the many generous individuals who help to make the Gala a success each year and accepted spectacular auction items and donations for the 2012 Gala.
Excellence in education begins with preparation! Think back to your childhood: Go to end of July or early August. It’s school time again. You’re probably feeling excited and maybe a little sad that summer is over. Some kids feel nervous or a little scared on the first day of school because of all the new things they encounter: new teachers, new friends, and maybe even a new school. Unfortunately for some of our students in the Houston and surrounding areas, this time of year causes significant stress, discouraging feelings or considerable embarrassment. The ever-growing list of school supplies needed for academic success should not leave families struggling in these hard economic times. All children should walk into school on day one with the basic tools they need and be able to start the year off right foot, armed with school supplies, hope and confidence.

In 2010, HCC teamed up with The Rod Ryan Show of 94.5 The Buzz and Joe Dotterweich of Bull Shirts to host the 2010 BACK 2 SCHOOL program. Rod Ryan called upon his loyal fans to lend their support by donating to Houston’s underprivileged children. As Ryan puts it, his listeners are “second to no one when it comes to helping those in need . . . and they have come through for us time after time.” And they did. The campaign was an overwhelming success and The Rod Ryan Show and Bull Shirts generously donated 2,200 backpacks and supplies to the 2010 HCC BACK 2 SCHOOL program. HCC is proud to report that the 2011 BACK 2 SCHOOL program was a tremendous success due to our sponsors and donors. Funds for this important program were raised through a variety of sources. Momentum BMW West and Rod Ryan of 94.5 The Buzz held a Casino Night at the dealership which generated $5,410 — enough to purchase 560 backpacks. Rich Howells, owner of City Line Cycles of Deer Park, rolled in $1,635 with the 2nd Annual “Ain’t Going to Sturgis” Fun Run on August 6, 2011. The event included live music, a silent auction, door prizes and 50/50 drawings at stops along the route from Deer Park to Kemah.

Donna Williams and the booster club of Aon Risk Solutions in Houston organized a back-to-school drive. With the company matching the donations of 70 employees, $1,276 was raised via cash, check and online donations. Along with amazing donations from Rod Ryan and Bull Shirts, HCC received backpacks from the Office Depot Foundation, backpacks and KinderMat mats from Transocean and backpacks from Sasol. Many of the backpacks were purchased from Blusource of Oklahoma, a company which specializes in providing high-quality donated items at lowest possible prices to nonprofit organizations.

This year’s program eased the worries of over 2,600 needy students in our area. For those families that were not able to make the mass distribution, items were handed out the remainder of the week. The road to success is paved with basic foundations, readiness and preparation! Today’s youth face tremendous pressures and new workloads in our classrooms. Sadly, for underprivileged children, not having the basic tools is a constant source of anxiety that hinders their ability to focus on their academic tasks. A backpack full of supplies can alleviate this avoidable stress and put students on the path to success. HCC extends a whole-hearted thank you to Bull Shirts, The Rod Ryan Show and our dedicated volunteers for helping our kids begin the 2011—2012 school year ready to charge down that path of academic success.

Rice Owls
Big thanks go out to Mark Laney, Assistant Athletic Director—Development/Donor Relations at Rice University, who spearheaded the RICE 100 donation of 200 tickets (valued at $15,000) to each home football game at Rice University.

Men’s Wearhouse bike giveaway!
Men’s Wearhouse had a team-building exercise by building kids’ bikes. HCC was called and asked to provide children for the bicycles. Three boys’ bikes and four girls’ bikes were built by the teams.

Due to the generosity of the Men’s Wearhouse, three families were helped.

1 Rod Ryan, 94.5 The Buzz. 2 HCC Board of Directors members DeeDee Marsh, Walls Marsh enjoying Casino Night. 3 Office Depot Foundation Board Member Cassy Althum and District Manager Jeff Insell present backpacks to Rosemary Loponte. 4 Rich Howells, owner of City Line Cycles. 5 Rod Ryan and Jessica from 94.5 The Buzz, HCC staff members Sherry Shell, Elizabeth Ashley, Mike Speier and volunteers on distribution day. 6 Jason Staph of Bull Shirts. 7 Rod Ryan and Jessica of 94.5 The Buzz, along with Mike Speier, HCC Financial Assistance Coordinator, hand out backpacks to a family in need on distribution day. 8 Larissa DeLeon of Sasol. 9 Donna Williams of Aon Risk Solutions. 10 Smiles all around!
**Tickets galore**

In these challenging times, moments of generosity are getting much harder to come by. With the donation of tickets to different Houston-area sporting events, many such special moments will be enjoyed.

**Houston Children’s Charity**

is especially grateful to the Houston Aeros, Royal Purple Raceway for tickets to multiple events. Also, big thanks go to Martha Cunningham for her donation of 12 Houston Astros tickets. It is the support from local individuals and organizations like these that enables HCC to make outings like these possible.

**Agencies receiving the tickets:**

Devereux Treatment Network has served as a place where children, adults and families can overcome their mental illness for 50 years — experiencing what it truly means to have hope.

**Generation One** is committed to the spiritual growth and physical rebuilding of the impoverished areas of the Houston’s Third Ward through tremendous investments of time, love, and education.

**No More Victims, Inc.** was created in 1993 for the purpose of reducing victimizing behavior in society by using creative and innovative programming with a special focus on the parent-child relationship.

**Valero**

Employees of the Valero Houston Refinery raised money through sponsorship of the 2011 Valero Texas Open Benefit for Children Golf Classic in San Antonio, Texas. We are happy to announce that Houston Children’s Charity was one of the recipients and, in October 2011, we received a $17,500 donation.

“For years, the Benefit for Children Golf Classic has been giving back to the community, and we’re proud to be able to do so this year during a time of such need,” said Mark Skobel, Vice President and General Manager of the Valero Houston Refinery. I know these donations will make a significant impact in the lives of thousands of children across the area,” he said.

**Valero Houston Refinery**

has served as a place where children, adults and families can overcome their mental illness for 50 years — experiencing what it truly means to have hope.

**Generation One** is committed to the spiritual growth and physical rebuilding of the impoverished areas of the Houston’s Third Ward through tremendous investments of time, love, and education.

**No More Victims, Inc.** was created in 1993 for the purpose of reducing victimizing behavior in society by using creative and innovative programming with a special focus on the parent-child relationship.

**Tami and Robert Ernst**

On July 2, 2011, siblings and co-hosts Tami and Robert Ernst gathered close friends and family for a patriotic party at the home of their parents, Donna and John Speer. The original idea came about because Tami — the youngest member of the Gala Auction Committee — wanted to do a fundraiser to increase awareness among younger people and bring attention to the amazing work of HCC. And to continue to drive this theme home, most of the 125 people in attendance were young professionals.

HCC is forever grateful to the many guests and underwriters who contributed to the evening’s success. Underwriting the 2011 party were Donna and John Speer. Big thanks go out to this amazing couple and long-time HCC supporters. Additional sponsors for the event included:

- Monty Meave of Momentum
- BMW Southwest
- Pura Vida Tequila
- DJ John Tran (aka DJ King Foe)
- Angela Lewis
- Robert Ernst and Nita Pirkle

This year’s party included a silent auction which raised $6,000. The silent auction items came from:
- Anita Couture
- On Time Transportation
- Nita Pirkle

**Valero**

Executive Director Laura Ward receives a check from Dan D’Armond of BMC Software and Sarah Joseph, Director of Community Relations for the Houston Rockets.

**Houston Rockets**

When the Houston Rockets shoot, HCC scores! Dan D’Armond of BMC Software announced that his company would be donating $25 to Houston Children’s Charity for every 3-point shot made at Houston Rockets home games through the end of the 2011 season. The Rockets shot 631 3-pointers and, on April 11, 2011, the amount totaled $15,775. A special thanks to Dan D’Armond of BMC Software and Sarah Joseph, Director of Community Relations for the Houston Rockets, for setting in motion the idea that made this generous donation possible.

**Tami and Robert Ernst**

On July 2, 2011, siblings and co-hosts Tami and Robert Ernst gathered close friends and family for a patriotic party at the home of their parents, Donna and John Speer. The original idea came about because Tami — the youngest member of the Gala Auction Committee — wanted to do a fundraiser to increase awareness among younger people and bring attention to the amazing work of HCC. And to continue to drive this theme home, most of the 125 people in attendance were young professionals.

HCC is forever grateful to the many guests and underwriters who contributed to the evening’s success. Underwriting the 2011 party were Donna and John Speer. Big thanks go out to this amazing couple and long-time HCC supporters. Additional sponsors for the event included:

- Monty Meave of Momentum
- BMW Southwest
- Pura Vida Tequila
- DJ John Tran (aka DJ King Foe)
- Angela Lewis
- Robert Ernst and Nita Pirkle

This year’s party included a silent auction which raised $6,000. The silent auction items came from:
- Anita Couture
- On Time Transportation
- Nita Pirkle

**Valero**

Executive Director Laura Ward receives a check from Dan D’Armond of BMC Software and Sarah Joseph, Director of Community Relations for the Houston Rockets.

**Houston Rockets**

When the Houston Rockets shoot, HCC scores! Dan D’Armond of BMC Software announced that his company would be donating $25 to Houston Children’s Charity for every 3-point shot made at Houston Rockets home games through the end of the 2011 season. The Rockets shot 631 3-pointers and, on April 11, 2011, the amount totaled $15,775. A special thanks to Dan D’Armond of BMC Software and Sarah Joseph, Director of Community Relations for the Houston Rockets, for setting in motion the idea that made this generous donation possible.
As the weather turns colder, Houston Children’s Charity holiday programs heat up. This is easily becoming the busy time of the year for several of our programs. As our Christmas programs continue to grow, we are very thankful for the willingness of our donors, sponsors and volunteers to assist us in this ever-growing endeavor. For the past four Christmas seasons, the one donation that has dramatically changed the landscape of our seasonal programs is the one from the 1st Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. The Marines have again chosen HCC as the recipient of toys donated through the Houston Area Toys for Tots program. We are ever so grateful for this continued support to help Houston’s special children. Donations like these make our Christmas programs nothing short of extraordinary.

On December 11, 2011, HCC hosted its annual Children’s Christmas Party at the Hyatt Regency Houston where 517 children from 125 Houston area families were treated to toys, goodies, entertainment and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus (thank you David Dronan and Jeannine Budnes). The children and families enjoyed a hamburger-and-hot-dog buffet and a “make-your-own” ice-cream sundae bar, all provided by the Hyatt Regency Houston. Partygoers were entertained with face painting, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Speakers Committee Rodeo Clowns and Denim & Diamonds Line Dancer Teams, a family photo shoot, Roly the Clown (courtesy of Best Entertainers), children dancers from Houston PAL, Houston Rockets Power Dancers and Clutch, and special friends from SeaWorld San Antonio. Appearances by the Cookie Monster, a lion and a panda also brought smiles to the children’s faces.

A very special thank you is due to Roy and Beth Acton for organizing the Hyatt Christmas party for the second year in a row. This dynamic duo outdid themselves this year. Beth took a team of volunteers to the warehouse to handpick the toys that were made available to HCC by American Patchwork and Quilting Association. Roly personally introduced each family as they entered the ball room. This very simple but special touch made our families feel special. Beth and Roy, you are true Christmas angels.

In a year when the economy dictated downsizing and hardships, Houstonians’ generosity continued to shine. We received more cards than ever from people who wanted to truly feel the Christmas spirit of giving. Houston Children’s Charity ADOPT-A-FAMILY program was a huge success and, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, we were able to help 402 families with 1,218 children.

The majority of our families are single mothers raising their children alone, struggling to afford the most basic necessities. Christmas presents are a luxury completely out of their reach. It is our goal during the holiday season to provide families with wonderful, high-quality gifts. We rely entirely on your generosity and donations to do this. The ADOPT-A-FAMILY program connects sponsors with families. This year we had over 251 new sponsors who participated in the program for the first time. Christmas miracles do happen!

HCC’s Toy Distribution for underserved children has continually increased in size in great part due to the Marines Toys for Tots program. This past holiday season, we were able to assist over 23,000 children with toys. Without the assistance of Houston First Corporation–George R. Brown Convention Center and the 125,000 square feet of donated space, HCC would not have had the venue appropriate for the vast number of families we needed to assist.

The families involved with our Christmas programs were touched with a giving spirit and toys that will bring those special memories that every child deserves. This year all three of our programs broke records—amazing! Special note of thanks to Sergeant Jaime Sejoe for his assistance in securing and organizing the Toys for Tots program, to Beth and Roy Acton for organizing the Hyatt Christmas party, to the 402 sponsors who participated in the ADOPT-A-FAMILY to the Houston Police Officers for securing our Christmas programs, and to over 450 volunteers who made all three programs exceed our wildest dreams. The 2011 holiday season would not have been as successful without the help of all sponsors, volunteers and donors—we thank you!
We have been adopting families from Houston Children’s Charity for the last 6 years at Christmas. Nothing makes the holiday season brighter than seeing those kids’ faces when we come barreling into their homes with gifts upon gifts. The mothers are in disbelief that this is happening as we hand them groceries for their Christmas dinner.

This year we had two families, each with single mothers. The first family had two little girls and they lived in a run-down complex off MLK. The most important items the mother told us her kids wanted for Christmas were school uniforms, so we bought them five sets each so the girls would have fresh uniforms for every day of the week. Since no Christmas is complete without pretty dresses and shoes for church, we purchased them and also bought warm jackets and winter clothes, along with sneakers and boots. And of course, we bought lots of toys: dolls, games, a karaoke machine, coloring books, and so on. The girls were wide-eyed when we drove up and started carrying gifts up the stairs. When we handed the mother the bags of uniforms (those did not need to be wrapped), she cried. The girls were so excited about this simple gift. Yes, they were way excited about their wrapped gifts, but they were extremely excited about having uniforms for school. This family didn’t ask for much, but needed so much more. They had a ripped recliner in the living room and in the one bedroom that the three of them shared there were two mattresses with thin blankets on the floor. As soon as we left, Brittany Blake Interiors owner Sherri Zucker made a phone call and within a couple of days, donated furniture from a client was delivered. Other clients donated blankets, towels and pillows. The family was so happy and appreciative, but their #1 gift was still the uniforms. Amazing, isn’t it?

The second family we saw lived off Greens Road. The mother worked and was trying to take care of her three boys. She didn’t ask for much for them, just maybe some pants and sneakers as the boys had five pairs of pants between them. The boys got many new clothes as well as remote-control cars, games, skateboards, Legos — all the things little boys should have to play with, no matter what the situation. It was cold that day, and the mother came outside to help bring in the mounds of gifts. Sherri asked her where the mom’s coat was (she was wearing a thin sweatshirt zipper jacket). She said that was all she had; Sherri went and got $100 from her purse. The woman refused to take the money, it is freezing and she is crying telling us that she cannot take the money. Her boys were going to have the best Christmas they ever had and maybe ever will and she couldn’t take her money. She told me to tell Sherri no, and I laughed and said, “No one can do that! Take the money and do what she tells you, sweetie.” One of the little boys asked his mom why she was sad; she said she was crying for happiness. He gave her a big hug. That was so sweet and so heartwarming.

They both contacted me after Christmas to thank Sherri and me and everyone involved for a wonderful holiday.

— Dina Connolly
Volunteers Needed!

We are always in need of caring volunteers. Please contact the HCC office at 713-524-2878 or e-mail us at admin@houstonchildrenscharity.org with your name, address, phone number and availability.

We appreciate your support!

Stay connected!

www.facebook.com/houstonchildrenscharity
www.houstonchildrenscharity.org

2012 Upcoming Events

A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP
(bed distribution) — monthly

HCC CLOSET
monthly

CHILDREN’S EASTER PARTY
March 24
(at Northland Christian School)

CELEBRITY EVENING
May 2

KOOOL KIDZ
April 26
(kickoff with the Houston Rockets)

BACK 2 SCHOOL
August

16TH ANNUAL GALA
November 5
(at Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown)

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 9
(at Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown)

ADOPT-A-FAMILY
December

TOY DISTRIBUTION
December