



kidstuff



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!

MOMENTUM BMW SOUTHWEST

MOMENTUM
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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.



Steve Mostyn, Amber Mostyn, Bobby Tudor, Phoebe Tudor, John Eddie Williams, Sheridan Williams



Monty Meave, Maria Moncada-Alaoui, Scott McClelland, Soraya McClelland, Amber Mostyn, Steve Mostyn

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

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In this issue:



A GATHERING OF CHAMPIONS



We are "hoppy" 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 **Steve Lemm** 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., Randall's, Awesome Events, McDonald's, Academy Sports and Outdoors, James Coney 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 13, 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, Robaire 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!

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!



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,

Laura



Two of the many happy clients who received beds.

Helping kids get A Better Night's Sleep



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 Juneau**, 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.

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 Xuco 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.



Apache Corporation volunteers, along with Mike and Sam Speier, at bed distribution on January 14, 2012.

British School of Houston

It all began when the Ball committee, consisting of four parents — **Elaine Waterland, Jo Hayter, Aileen Riley** and **Jo Rolph** — started to plan **The British School of Houston Annual Summer Ball**. At this annual event, the school usually holds a raffle or silent auction



HCC Financial Assistance Coordinator Mike Speier accepts a donation from British School of Houston parents and head girls of each school.

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

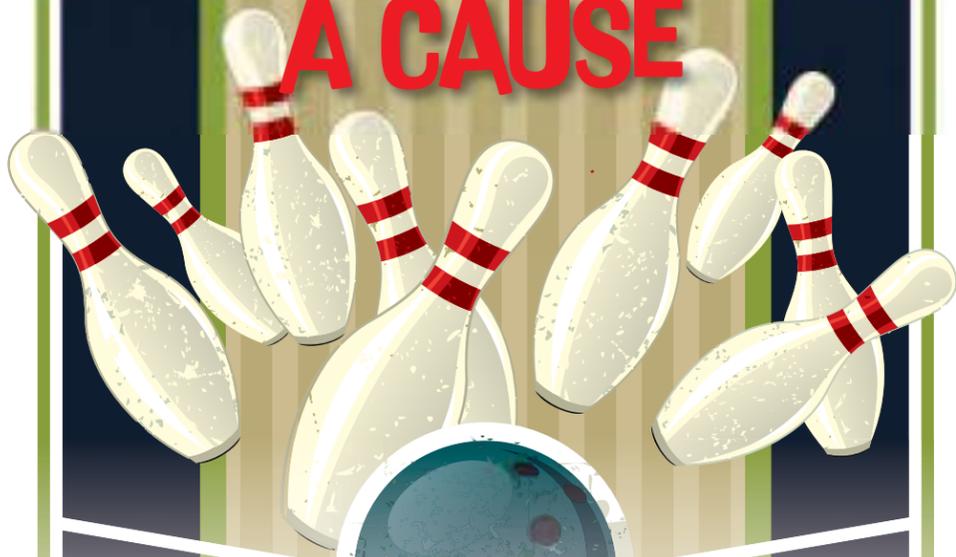
their friends and family to collect pledges prior to running the 3k on Friday, December 2, 2011." Their efforts raised a total of **\$7,234.11** for HCC's **A BETTER NIGHT'S SLEEP** bed program. The students liked the idea that the money raised was going to be used to help purchase beds for children 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 \$7,234.11 for HCC.

STRIKES FOR A CAUSE



Former University of Texas basketball standout **T.J. Ford** and several of his celebrity friends were back at it again. Bowling that is. On July 10, 2011, at **300 Houston Bowling Center**, T.J. and a number of his close friends showed up to bowl a few games and raise money for a great cause. Let the competition begin!

T.J. Ford, Royel Ivey, Rashard Lewis, Justin Mason, Antonio McDyess, 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 of 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**.



Mark Easley, A.J. Gracely, Tony Gracely, Mary Gracely, Adam Gracely, Lizzie Speier, Liz Gracely, Jill Gracely.

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.

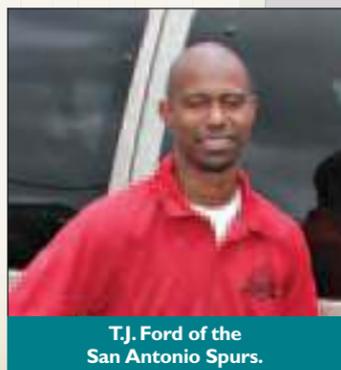
Celebrities bowling for strikes included: **D.J. Augustin, Avery Bradley, Maurice Evans,**



Bowl-A-Thon Chairperson DeeDee Marsh and Wallis Marsh.

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.

Filling up closets for those in need



Melissa Juneau



Jennifer Grigassy and Melissa Juneau

After opening its doors in August 2009, **Melissa Juneau** smiles when recounting her many rewarding experiences as chairperson of the **Houston Children's Charity HCC CLOSET**. The entire idea behind this HCC program is to provide gently used clothing free of charge to those families in need of the basics. The **HCC CLOSET** is stocked with clothing for babies, young children, teens and adults. Various accessories, baby-care items, toys and books are also to be found in the aisles of this exclusive shop.

The retail boutique atmosphere is a tribute to the numerous hours that Melissa and her assistant, **Jennifer Grigassy**, spend creating very happy and distinguished surroundings. Jennifer states, "The **HCC CLOSET** is unique and very special because all of the items that have been donated give people in need the opportunity to 'shop with dignity.'" One unparalleled feature that sets the **HCC CLOSET** apart from all others — there is absolutely no charge to the families for these items.

Individual families make an appointment to visit the **HCC CLOSET** where volunteers are on hand to help them choose items

that are useful for each family member. Melissa and Jennifer find new inspiration each time a family catches the first glimpse of the **HCC CLOSET's** overflowing aisles and "their faces just light up."

Jennifer recounts, "After phoning the families to make appointments, I realized that sometimes life throws you curve balls, but the simple respect one gets while conducting a shopping outing can make the day for our clients." Melissa and

Jennifer hold a shopping spree every four to six weeks for families in need.

Our families are forever grateful to Melissa and Jennifer for their dedication and to our generous supporters for their continued donations. We would like to thank **Melissa and Brad Juneau** for graciously supplementing the monthly costs to keep the doors open at the **HCC CLOSET**.

It's that time of year again to start cleaning out your closets. Is there anything in your closet that should be in ours? We will gratefully welcome donations at our office. For any larger donations, please call ahead and we'll meet you at the **HCC CLOSET, 713-524-2878**.



2011 Chairman's Award

Congratulations, **Melissa Juneau!**

Each year, the HCC Board of Directors presents this award to a well-deserving board member who has gone above and beyond. Without a doubt, Melissa Juneau and her support for the **HCC CLOSET**, along with all other HCC events, has far exceeded these standards. Melissa is a blessing to **Houston Children's Charity** and the special children we serve.



Melissa Juneau

On the road again . . .

2012 CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN van recipients

■ **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.



Jerry Davis, Kelly Bukolt, Jacque Daughtry and Mike Speier.



Gary J. Lynn

■ **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.



John Johnson, Andrea Lynn and Grant Guthrie.



Another generous donation



Joni Robertson, Senior Development Specialist at Devereux, and Laura Ward, HCC Executive Director.

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!

A wheelchair for Aun Bin Yousaf



The **House of Charity** is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to improve the quality of life of underprivileged and impoverished children and youth of Greater Houston and surrounding areas. Founded in 1996, our mission is bringing hope, help and healing to children and their families.

Aun Bin Yousaf is a very bright young boy suffering from muscular dystrophy. He is very mentally active, attends West Side High School and is part of a program at House of Charity that will provide him physical and occupational therapy to make him completely independent.

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**.



PRECIOUS TREASURE
~ FROM ~



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 brooch or pendant. **Debbie and Mike McGhan** were the lucky bidders and walked away with this exclusive, custom-designed treasure.



1 Laura Ward, Sheridan Williams, Wayne Smith, Soraya McClelland and Amber Mostyn. **2** Wayne Smith, Diane and John B. Connally III. **3** Michael McGhan, Debbie McGhan and Bob Ogle. **4** Scott McClelland, Soraya McClelland, Wayne Smith, Amber and Steve Mostyn. **5** Scott McClelland, Soraya McClelland and Michael C. Linn. **6** Suzie Atkins, Steve Gordon, Edna Meyer-Nelson and Carol Sawyer. **7** Brian Becker and Norelle Lundy.



continued from page 1

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 **A BETTER 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

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

Hors d'oeuvres & accolades



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, 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Soraya McClelland, Lester Smith, Sue Smith. | 10 Charles Sheffield, Sharon Bush. |
| 2 John Eddie Williams, Frankie Valli, Sheridan Williams. | 11 The Honorable Bill White, Andrea White. |
| 3 Captain Scott Kelly, Tilman Fertitta, Captain Mark Kelly. | 12 Brian Teichman, Andy Cordes. |
| 4 Jesse Marion, Cathy Marion. | 13 Michael Trevino, Ileana Trevino. |
| 5 Shelby Hodge, Shafik Rifaat. | 14 Michael Hctor, Debbie Vasquez. |
| 6 ABC 13's Ilona Carson and husband Jim Colasanto. | 15 Laura Ward, Frankie Valli, Tilman J. Fertitta. |
| 7 Tilman J. Fertitta, Margaret Alkek Williams, Dave Ward, Laura Ward. | 16 Jackie Blum, Dr. Hank Blum. |
| 8 Pat Trent, Steve Trent. | 17 Michelle Marsh, Robert Marsh. |
| 9 Norelle Lundy, Brian Becker. | 18 Tony Vallone, Donna Vallone. |
| | 19 Susan Vick, Carol Sawyer. |
| | 20 Grant Guthrie, Leslie Golden. |

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 and John Eddie Williams, Paige and Tilman J. Fertitta, Soraya and Scott 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.

to the meticulous attention to detail and superb craftsmanship involved in the creation of every item in the Gucci leather goods collection. At the 2011 Gala, Laura Ward was the highest bidder on a beautiful, paprika-colored handbag.



Chairs Kristen Nix, Sheridan Williams, Lauren Clark and Gucci America President Laura Lendrum

- 1** John Eddie Williams, Sheridan Williams, Amber Mostyn, Steve Mostyn. **2** Amber Mostyn, Steve Mostyn, Edna Meyer-Nelson. **3** Doroteo (Bullet) Ramirez, Jr., Maria Ramirez. **4** Steve Mostyn, Tilman Fertitta. **5** Monty Meave, Theresa Foster, DeeDee Marsh, Wallis Marsh. **6** Jason Staph, Joe Dotterwiech. **7** Amber Mostyn, Franco Valobra. **8** Leo Hamel, Pat Trent, Steve Trent, Barbara McKnight, Lance McKnight.

Helping 2,600 kids get



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 their supplies, not empty-handed. Luckily, the "new" worries only stick around a little while.

Since its creation in 2005, the **Houston Children's Charity BACK 2 SCHOOL** program has helped many children in Harris, Fort Bend, Galveston, Brazoria and Montgomery counties. These deserving kids walk into the jam-packed halls, sit down for class

and are able to start the year off on the 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 Dotterwiech 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 360 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 the 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.



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.

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.



From left: **Chad Kocian**; **Grant Guthrie**, HCC Board of Directors Vice President/Funding Co-Chair; **Marc Laney**, Assistant Athletic Director—Development/Donor Relations at Rice University.

1 Rod Ryan, 94.5 The Buzz. **2** HCC Board of Directors members DeeDee Marsh, Wallis Marsh enjoying Casino Night. **3** Office Depot Foundation Board Member Casey Ahlbum and District Manager Jeff Insell present backpacks to Rosemary Lozano. **4** Rich Howells, owner of City Line Cycles. **5** Rod Ryan and Jessica from 94.5 The Buzz, HCC staff members Sherry Shelf, Elizabeth Atkins, 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!

Friends of HCC

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.



Thanks to the generosity of Valero's business partners and sponsors, the Valero Texas Open remains one of the most charitable tournaments on the **PGA TOUR**. **Rich Marcogliese**, Valero's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer said, "This is a true partnership among Valero employees, our sponsors and the PGA TOUR."

"We appreciate all that these agencies do to improve children's lives.

It gives us great joy to support the children of the greater Houston area once again," stated Skobel.

HCC is very grateful to Valero, and we know this will help in enhancing the lives of children by providing assistance to our variety of services and programs.

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.



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.

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 Vitda Tequila**, **DJ John Tran** (aka DJ Kung Foo), **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**, **JVL Consulting**;



Tami Ernst and fellow partygoers.



Robert Ernst and friends.

LUXE Bar & Lounge; Uptown Sushi, PubFiction; Branch Water Tavern; Francesca's; Gravitas; Vision Production Group; Anne's Fine Gifts & Clocks; Cypress Trails Equestrian Center; The County Line Bar-B-Q; Therapy Hair Studio; Penny Wright and **Valobra Jewelry**. **Houston Children's Charity** received 100% of the silent-auction proceeds.

A special thanks to our sweetheart Tami, who set an inspiring example of how thinking out of the box, a generous spirit and hard work can turn a little backyard barbecue into an incredible fund-raising event!

CHRISTMAS 2011

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 617 children from 125 Houston area families were treated to toys, goodies, entertainment and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus (thank you **David Devaney** and **Jeanne Bulnes**). 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 and package the toys in handmade pillowcases (donated to HCC by **American Patchwork and Quilting Association**) and handed out by Santa and Mrs. Claus. At the event, Roy personally introduced each family as they entered the ballroom. 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 calls 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 Sojos** 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!

1 Santa getting a special thank you from a very excited guest. 2 Cookie Monster with a Christmas Party volunteer. 3 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo clowns. 4 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo line dancers. 5 Members of the 1st Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment. 6 Roly the Elf of Best Entertainers juggles for Christmas Party guests. 7 HCC President John Johnson, his son Brian and an excited HCC volunteer. 8 Lion with special Christmas Party guests. 9 Christmas Party Chairpersons Roy and Beth Acton. 10 SeaWorld Animal Ambassador Missy Lamar with Tafari the Red Ruffed Lemur. 11 A performance by Ms. Foote and the Houston PAL dancers. 12 Two Christmas Party guests with the Houston Rockets Power Dancers. 13 HCC Vice President/Funding Co-Chair Grant Guthrie and HCC Advisory Board member Bob Ogle. 14 It's a Christmas she'll never forget. 15 Everybody loves face painting! 16 Christmas Party entertainers and guests participating in an all-time party favorite — the Chicken Dance. 17 Tables filled with lots of toys for girls and boys. 18 HCC volunteers excited to spread Christmas Magic to families. 19 Lines outside of the Houston First Corporation—George R. Brown Convention Center. 20 Who's ready to play Monopoly? 21 An HCC Volunteer, a Marine and HCC Funding Coordinator Mike Speier.



Note: This letter to HCC was submitted by **Dina Connolly**, General Manager of **Brittany Blake Interiors**.



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



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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

KOOL KIDZ
April 26
(kickoff with the Houston Rockets)

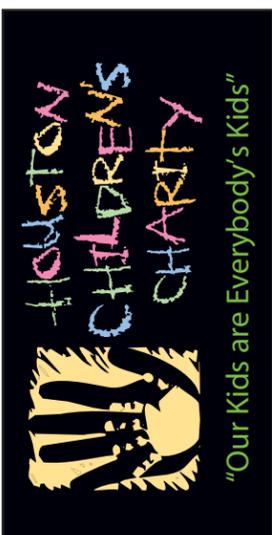
BACK 2 SCHOOL
August

I6TH ANNUAL GALA
November 3
(at Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown)

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

ADOPT-A-FAMILY
December

TOY DISTRIBUTION
December



230 Westcott
Suite 202
Houston, TX 77007
713-524-2878