When Houston Children’s Charity Founding Executive Director Laura Ward began planning the organization’s 20th anniversary celebration, she wanted it to be a thank you to those who had helped the charity aid more than 1.5 million children and assist more than 300 agencies in its two decades. A freebie was declared.

With generous underwriting from the Hyatt Regency Downtown (where the gala has been held each of those 20 years), Ward was able to pull off a midday miracle. More than 500 guests poured into the hotel ballroom for a three-course lunch, a full court press of thank you’s and the promise of a $1 million gift to Texas Children’s Cancer and Hematology Centers. And guests didn’t have to pay a thing.

Mayor Sylvester Turner presented board chair Tilman Fertitta, board president Penny Loyd and Ward with a proclamation declaring it Houston Children’s Charity Day.

Mayor Turner, Penny Loyd, Laura Ward, Tilman Fertitta

“WHAT AN INCREDIBLE CHARITY. I THINK HCC EMBODIES THE SPIRIT OF HOUSTON, WITHOUT QUESTION. THEY HELP TEXAS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL WITH OUR YOUNG CANCER PATIENTS, MANY OF WHOM LITERALLY DON’T HAVE RUNNING WATER OR ELECTRICITY IN THEIR HOMES, AND WHO FRANKLY COULDN’T RECEIVE TREATMENT IF NOT FOR THE HOUSTON CHILDREN’S CHARITY EMERGENCY FUND. I’D LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE SUPPORTERS OF THIS CHARITY ON BEHALF OF EACH OF OUR PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.”
— DAVID G. POPLACK, M.D.

BMW Celebrates 10th Anniversary as Gala Title Sponsors

FOR THE 10TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, Houston Children’s Charity’s Board of Directors is excited to announce that both BMW of West Houston & Momentum BMW Southwest will be the 21st Annual Gala Title Sponsors!

We would like to extend a special thank you to Maria Moncada Aloui – BMW of West Houston and Tommy Kuranoff – Momentum BMW Southwest for their profound dedication. Their generous contributions are unparalleled and have truly made a difference in the lives of countless special children.

Thank You Maria and Tommy for continuing your steadfast support of Houston Children’s Charity!
Thank You, Madam President

LAURA WARD has served as Houston Children’s Charity’s Founding Executive Director since the organization’s inception in 1996. Her steadfast leadership and resolve to care for Houston’s special children make her one of Houston’s leading non-profit executives. For that reason, and many more, Houston Children’s Charity’s Board of Directors unanimously voted to elect Laura as the organization’s first-ever President & CEO at the last board meeting of 2016.

“It is hard to put into words the level of impact that Houston Children’s Charity has had, not only on my life as its Chairman, but for the tens of thousands of children who reap the benefits each year. For the past 20 years, I have had the opportunity to work alongside Laura Ward, our board, the staff, and volunteers who dedicate so much of themselves toward the betterment of our community. Laura’s determination and her belief that ‘need never takes a vacation’ ensures that thousands of underserved children receive the help they so desperately need every year. I have stood back at countless events where smiles and tears of joy can be seen on everyone’s face – and I know that the work being done has truly made a difference. I’m proud to have and continue to be a part of a wonderful group of special individuals that make up Houston Children’s Charity.

—TILMAN FERTITTA, Chairman of the Board

Thank You, for Being Restless for OUR Cause, Carlos!

HOUSTON ASTROS PLAYER, CARLOS CORREA, announced his partnership with Houston Children’s Charity’s “A Better Night’s Sleep” program at the beginning of 2016 through his Restless for the Cause initiative. Since then, his generosity and sincere want to make a difference in the lives of Houston children has served as an inspiration to many. Carlos’ participation and support at numerous bed distributions has made a lasting impression and given hundreds of children the opportunity for a better night’s sleep!
Carlos Correa, recipient of the Shining Star Award, added his plaudits to praise for HCC. “HCC takes care of many needs for children,” Correa told the gathering, “but the one that I felt was most special and where my work could help the largest amount children was A Better Night’s Sleep.”

Fertitta and his wife, Paige, received the Landry’s Inc. Corporate Commitment Award in a long string of honors that included the Voice of Children Award to ABC-13 news anchor Dave Ward, the Lifetime of Giving Award to Sue and Lester Smith, the Spirit of Service Award to John Nau III and Silver Eagle Distributors, the Heart of Houston Award to Trini Mendenhall, the Media Champion Award to Dancie Ware, the Guardian Angels Award to Maria Moncada Alaoui and Tommy Kuronoff of BMW, and the Dedicated Support to Tom Netting of the Hyatt Regency. Longtime HCC volunteer Carol Sawyer was presented the Making A Difference Award.
HOUSTON CHILDREN’S CHARITY’S founding chairman, Tilman Fertitta was a shoo-in for the organization’s 20th anniversary “Man of the Year” award.

On Saturday, in celebration of two decades of serving underprivileged youth, 705 black-tie supporters packed into the Hyatt Regency hotel downtown and ultimately raised $1.76 million for the cause. The live auction, helmed by Gallery’s Vikki Vines, alone brought in $426,000 within a 30-minute window.

The non-profit’s founding executive director, Laura Ward, booked a big-name performer to match the occasion: Foreigner.

“We wanted to change the direction. We had never put rock ‘n roll onstage before,” she said. “It was overwhelmingly well-received. The dance floor was packed from the first 10 minutes through the end of the 75-minute set.”

Her husband, KTRK-13 news anchor Dave Ward, presided over the celebration. Honorary chair and Houston Astros shortstop Carlos Correa offered poignant remarks on HCC’s “A Better Night’s Sleep” program, which provides beds to disadvantaged children. Every time the 2015 Rookie of the Year scores a hit, “A Better Night’s Sleep” scores individual donations up to $20 through pre-committed pledges and sponsorships.

The evening’s other big draw was the chance to appear on Fertitta’s reality TV show, “Billion Dollar Buyer.” CNBC producers handed out video release forms and filmed throughout the night.
Terri & John Havens graciously hosted Houston Children’s Charity Underwriters at their French-inspired home in celebration of the charity’s 20th Annual Gala for the second time. The evening was filled with accolades and heartfelt thanks to this year’s Underwriters.

HCC Executive Director, Laura Ward, began the evening by welcoming this year’s Man of the Year, founding Board Member and Chairman, Tilman J. Fertitta, to the front of the room and thanking him for his two decades of commitment and leadership. Gala Honorary Chair and Houston Astros player, Carlos Correa, was also recognized for his support of HCC through his initiative, Restless for the Cause.

The first award of the night went to Title Sponsors, Maria Moncada Alaoui of BMW of West Houston and Tommy Kuranoff of Momentum BMW Southwest. Maria and Tommy have been Title Sponsors for 9 consecutive years and their on-going generosity has truly helped to change the lives of hundreds of HCC’s special children.


Laura also recognized the following donors for their support, Gil Bruvel, Jim Crane, Emily Davis, Claudine Cassagnol, Lesley Davis, Joe Dotterweich, Tracy & Harry Faulkner, Martin Fox, Ellie Francisco, Rachel Gordon, Grant Guthrie, Leo Hamel, David Huntington, David Levin, Chef Frank Majowicz, Barbara McKnight, Taft McWhorter, Karen & Murry Penner, Bullet Ramirez, Sybil Roos, Rod Ryan, Carol Sawyer, Wayne Smith, Susan Stading, Team Correa, Robert Tijerina, Bill Truman, and Dancie Ware.

“It was truly fitting that the generosity of the benevolent donors and supporters were shown appreciation and honored in the resplendent, exquisite home of John and Terri Havens. It was a glorious and heartfelt evening with gratitude to each valued contributor.”

—CAROL SAWYER
We Love Our Community Partners!

For the past 20 years, Houston Children’s Charity has relied on the support of the Greater Houston community to fulfill its mission of improving the lives of our special children. Time and time again the Houston community has shown its support through donations and fundraisers as well as volunteering their time, skills, and efforts. And this year was no different.

As HCC entered into its 20th year, the community celebrated as well by raising awareness and funds for the programs that care for more than 40,000 children every year. Your donations and involvement help to show our special children that they will not be left behind.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, HCC participated in, or was the grateful beneficiary of, more than 40 events and fundraisers culminating in more than $80,000 raised!

- Burberry Americas – “Shop for a Cause”
- Emerson Processing Fundraiser
- Gap Foundation
- Lambda Phi Epsilon
- Safeway, Inc.
- PrimeWay Federal Credit Union – Easter Fundraiser
- Talbots – “Shop for a Cause”
- Reynolds & Reynolds – “Casual for the Cause”
- Big Give Houston
- Exotic Auto Show
- Tristar – 30th Annual Houston Collectors Show
- Houston Young Lawyers Association – Backyard Bash
- BMW of West Houston & Momentum BMW Southwest – “Drive for a Cause”
- H-Town Classic Charity Basketball Tournament
- 501st Legion at Battlefield Houston
- Platinum Divas – “Christmas In July”
- Altar’d State – “Shop for a Cause”
- DeNeve Insurance – Community Cause Campaign
- Ouisie’s Table Restaurant, Bar and Gardens – Charity Menu
- Texas Mattress Makers – #OneForOneBed Event
- NES Global Talent Golf Tournament
- CALC/TASP Conference
- D. Miller & Associates Fundraiser
- CCI Thermal Community Fundraiser
- Klein Oak High School – Charity Fundraiser
- NES Global Talent Christmas Party
- Holiday Tea Extravaganza
- Coke Holiday Caravan
- Yelp Foundation
- David Yurman – Holiday Event
- BMW Winter Wonderland
- Christmas Card Donation
- Mod Pizza Grand Opening
- KSBJ/NGEN Ministry Spotlight

“We love the support that HCC gives to children within the Houston community. Each event that we support shows just how committed HCC is to the cause and WE JUST LOVE being a part of it all. It’s all about #CompassionForward #Asurion.”
— VANESSA HENDERSON, Asurion Compassion Forward Liaison

A Texans Christmas Surprise...

HOUSTON TEXANS PLAYER, DeAndre Hopkins surprised seventeen of Houston Children’s Charity’s clients on Tuesday, December 20th with a shopping spree. The NFL wide receiver teamed up with HCC and Champs Sports at Memorial City Mall just 5 days before Christmas. What first began as shoe shopping, quickly turned into purchasing complete outfits including socks, hats, and backpacks for every child.

Afterward Hopkins posed for photos and signed autographs for the families. The grand total for his shopping spree came to $6,927!

“Coming out here and hanging out with these kids is a blessing – it humbles you. Being able to give back really means something, words can’t really describe that feeling.”
— DIANDRE HOPKINS

“Working with HCC has been unbelievably rewarding. When life gets busy, it is tough to choose which organization you will dedicate your spare time to. Seeing, first hand, the beautiful impact HCC makes in the lives of local children has made that choice easy for me! This organization is unlike any other in the Houston area, and I am constantly impressed at its dedicated and hard-working staff.”
— ELIZE SPEIR, Houston Young Lawyers Association
Thanks to the support of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program, plus more than 800 volunteers and thousands of individual donations, Houston Children’s Charity was able to provide Christmas Magic to more than 20,000 children in need through 3 programs!

Houston Children’s Charity hosted more than 600 children at the Hyatt Regency Houston for its Annual Christmas Party! With the help of more than 100 volunteers and countless donations, the children and their families were treated to an afternoon of Christmas Magic including toys, goodies, entertainment and, of course, the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus (thank you Bill Sharyck and Rhonda Burrage!!)

Each guest enjoyed a hamburger/hotdog buffet and a make-your-own ice cream sundae bar. Jenny Man Photography added a special touch to the day’s event with their photo booth area. Partygoers were entertained with face painting, and crafting stations courtesy of Izzie’s Jewels and the Houston Aquarium Downtown brought Rolo, a red-tailed boa. Mingling throughout the crowd were Zsa Zsa’s Party Parrots, Regency International Pageant Titleholders, Scooter from Best Entertainers, and even a Bubble Man. Special appearances were made by Dynamo Diesel, and Houston Rockets Launch Crew Cheerleaders & Clutch. Master Chuck Sears and the West Houston ATA Team in conjunction with Brian Patrick Reynolds from Champions Against Bullying captivated the children with their martial arts demonstration while the PAL Dancers kept those in attendance grooving to the beat with several holiday-themed dance numbers performed on stage.

Each toy bag had a handcrafted tag from the members of the NCL Wildflowers along with 50 hand-decorated gift bags from Girl Scout Troop 146013. Maggie & Don Henderson donated Snicker bars and Whataburger donated cookies and coupons to those in attendance. Both Sylvia Garza with Salvage Photography and Liz Macias with LM Photography donated their services to capture the memories of the day. HCC also received donations from Klein Collins High School Student Council, PepsiCo, Taco Cabana and Borden Dairy Products.

Of course, the event wouldn’t be the same without Chairs, Shar & David Levin. As many of you may know, preparation for this event begins weeks before anyone steps foot in the ballroom. Both Shar and David led a team of volunteers, who hand-picked and packed age-appropriate toys handed out by Santa and Mrs. Claus. At the event, both introduced each family as they entered the ballroom and were called to the stage for their toy bags. These unique touches made our families feel welcome and special.

We also thank Sherri Zucker and Dina Connolly with Brittany Blake Interiors. Their entire team, along with LTD Moving & Storage, stepped in to move more than 600 toys bags from our warehouse to the Hyatt. We cannot thank them enough for their unwavering support and commitment to this organization and the special children we serve. Their quick thinking (and moving) helped save Christmas!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Program, Houston Children’s Charity held its annual two-day toy distribution at the George R. Brown Convention Center. For the 7th consecutive year, Houston First Corporation donated 125,000 sq ft over a 7-day period in order for HCC and volunteers to organize and distribute toys to the parents of more than 17,000 children just in time for Christmas! This program would not be possible without the help of the 1st Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. Once again, they lent their efforts to picking up and delivering more than 80,000 toys via dozens of box trucks and two 18-wheeler vehicles. We are so grateful for the work of both Sergeant Seth Meade and 1st Sergeant Sonny Medina who put their all into this program.

“What I like about this event, which is the week before Christmas, is that we are giving the toys to the parents. The parents then take the toys home, wrap them and create Christmas for their children. We do this with the help of more than 500 volunteers and hundreds of donations from both businesses and individuals. In the future, what we’re hoping for is to increase the amount of donations for our teen clients. Toys for Tots has the commotion of being for the younger group, but we can’t leave out our older children either.”

BOB OGLE, Houston Children’s Charity Founding Board Member

2016 Christmas Impact

“I love about this event but we’ve been volunteering for years. There’s nothing better than seeing the families walk in and watching the faces of each child light up as they are handed their very own toy bag from Santa.”

—SHAR & DAVID LEVIN, Christmas Party Chairs

STARTING IN OCTOBER, more than 400 eager Adopt-A-Family sponsors signed up to adopt more than 2,000 children this year! We are truly grateful for the unwavering support of our sponsors, many of who are repeat sponsors and donate year after year. Without their help, countless children would miss the opportunity to learn the true meaning of Christmas and the giving spirit.

The Adopt-A-Family program allows our sponsors the opportunity to put their own personal touch on Christmas with face-to-face interactions while making Christmas miracles happen!

Calvetti Ferguson’s Sponsor Story

“The 2016 Holiday Season was the first year that Calvetti Ferguson had the pleasure of participating in the Adopt-A-Family Program through Houston Children’s Charity. The employees at Calvetti Ferguson adopted two families located near downtown Houston. Once we were introduced to the families, we wasted no time in planning for the big delivery. We received prior approval from the families to have Santa himself deliver the presents.

Once all of the gifts were donated by Calvetti Ferguson employees, the firm hosted a wrapping party within its conference rooms where the whole firm gathered to participate in wrapping all of the gifts. The next day, Santa and his elves loaded up his sleigh and took off to deliver the gifts to both families. Both of the families were so excited to see Santa, they couldn’t help but control Santa’s deliveries were met with pure joy. They were so excited to see Santa, they couldn’t help but control their excitement. Each child was allowed to open one gift before Christmas, and of course, they all picked their excitement. Each child was allowed to open one gift before Christmas, and of course, they all picked

”—LAURA LEDY, Calvetti Ferguson

Ryder Scott Company LP Sponsor Story

“Ryder Scott chose to participate in Houston Children’s Charity’s Adopt-A-Family program because we find it extremely rewarding. Being able to hand deliver the gifts and meet the families is one of the best parts. You really get to see the excitement on the children’s faces. With this program, you actually get to talk to the families beforehand and ask what their wants or needs are and help make some of their Christmas wishes come true. We really get to know the whole family and you realize these children are no different than our own.”

—SUSAN MITCHELL, Ryder Scott Energy Analyst
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2017 Upcoming Events

“A Better Night’s Sleep”
(bed distribution) – Every Month (Saturday)

“HCC Closet”
Semi-Monthly visits (Tuesday only)
Monthly weekend visits (Saturday only)

“Chariots for Children”
Spring - Fall

“Kool Koz”
Spring - Fall

Children’s Annual Easter Party
April 8, 2017
(at Northland Christian School)

Children’s Christmas Party
December 10, 2017
(at Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown)

Adopt – A – Family
October - December

Toy Distribution
December 15, 2017 (Friday)
December 16, 2017 (Saturday)

Volunteer Corner
We are always in need of caring volunteers. We appreciate your support!
Please visit us at www.houstonchildrenscharity.org to register.

Stay Connected
www.houstonchildrenscharity.org
www.facebook.com/houstonchildrenscharity
www.instagram.com/houstoncharity
twitter.com/houcharity

Out in the Community
We are always looking to reach more families in need. If you have a community event that you would like us to attend, please contact us.
(713) 524-2878 ext. 202 or email us at caitlynp@houstonchildrenscharity.org.

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