



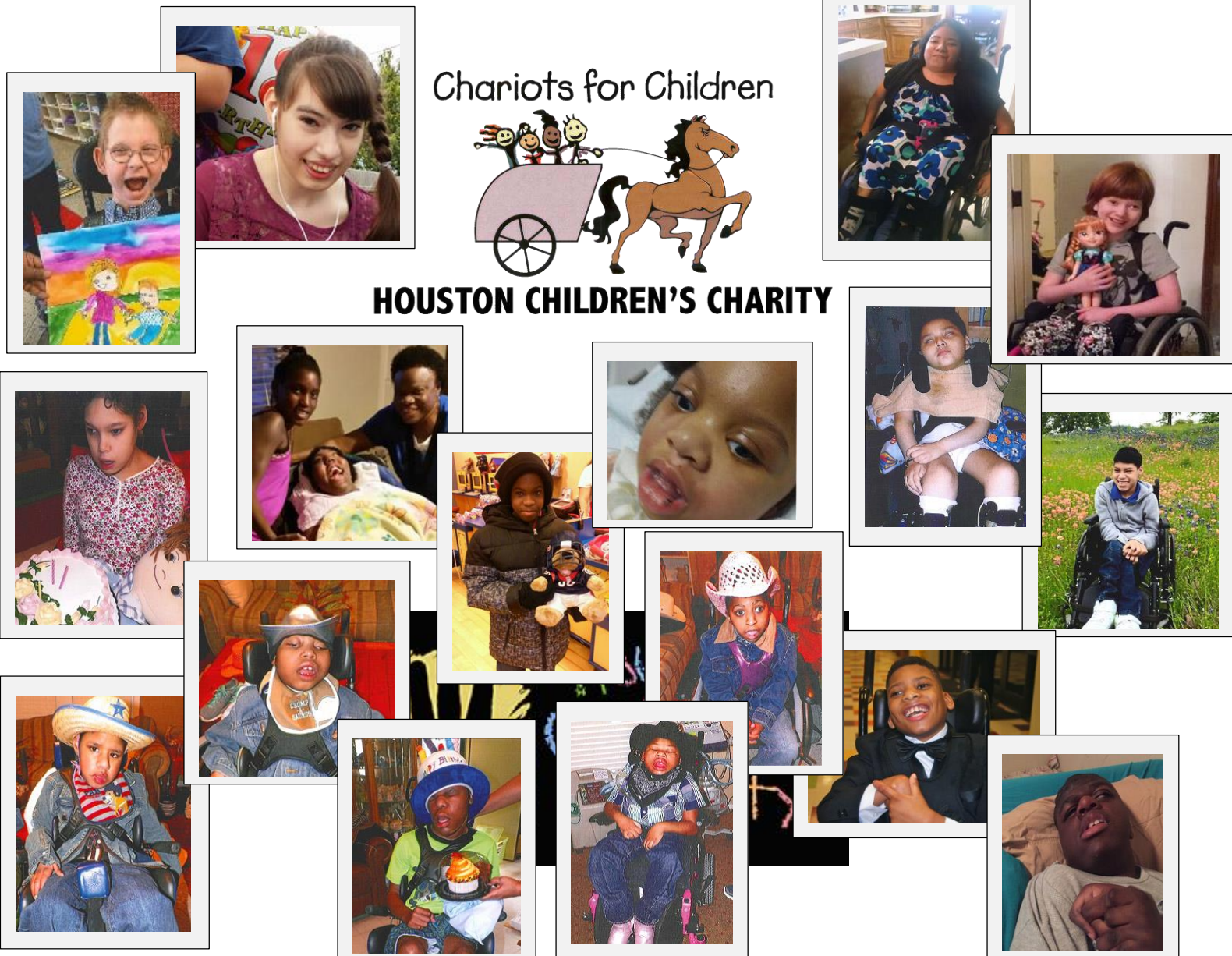
The “*Chariots for Children*” program was created in 1996 to grant organizations with transportation needed to increase their impact on the underserved communities of Houston. We are proud to say that in the last 20 years we have awarded **89 passenger vans, 39 handicapped accessible vehicles, 3 box trucks, 1 car and 2 vehicle modifications** to **93 agencies** and **41 individual families** all while helping impact the lives of tens of thousands of children locally.

In 2002, this program expanded to include wheelchair modified vehicles for families whose children suffer with debilitating illnesses. For many children, these vans provide transportation to treatment or therapy. For some, it is a first-step into a larger world by delivering mobility freedom not otherwise available.

### Chariots for Children



### HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY



**HCC has awarded 89 passenger vans, 36 handicapped accessible vehicles, 3 box trucks, 1 car and 2 vehicle modifications to 93 agencies and 38 individual families:**

**1998**

**CASA DE ESPERANZA DE LOS NINOS**

**15-passenger van**

Casa de Esperanza de los Niño's is a safe place for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect or HIV/AIDS. They provide residential, medical, and psychological care to meet the individual needs of each child and offers counseling to the family.

**HOUSTON POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE**

**Two 15-passenger van**

Houston Police Activities League transports at risk children to various educational, social, athletic and cultural programs. Youth are picked up from park cites, schools, apartment complexes, community centers and occasionally from their homes, and returned there by van.

**1999**

**A CHILD IS BORN FAMILY OUTREACH**

**Two 15-passenger vans**

A Child Is Born provides outreach to girls, ages 3-18, residing in foster homes, group homes, and emergency shelters. The girls are transported to activities that are designed to meet the unique emotional, social, and academic needs of girls in temporary placement.

**CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTER**

**15-passenger van**

Children's Assessment Center aids children who are victims of child abuse. Children are transported to medical and therapy appointments.

**HOPE SHELTER**

**15-passenger van**

HOPE Shelter provides residential care and treatment to 13 teenage boys suffering from chronic substance and alcohol abuse. The children come from violent home environments and are transported to necessary school, medical care, and social activities.

**ODYSSEY HOUSE TEXAS, INC.**

**Two 15-passenger vans**

Odyssey House Texas, Inc. aids children with chronic drug and alcohol problems who are involved with the juvenile justice system. These children suffer from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Children are transported for medical care, legal assistance and to both social and psychological services.

**ZINA GARRISON'S ALL COURT TENNIS FOUNDATION**

**15-passenger van & 8-passenger van**

Zina Garrison's All Court Tennis Foundation aids underprivileged, inner city youth by providing a free, year-round, character building program via tennis and mentoring programs. Children are transported to tennis lessons and tournaments.

**2000**

**"I HAVE A DREAM" – HOUSTON**

**15-passenger van**

"I Have a Dream" - Houston helps break the cycle of hopelessness and poverty in inner city youth by giving disadvantaged children the support and encouragement necessary to earn a high school diploma. Children are transported to after school educational programs.

**INTERFAITH MINISTRIES**

**15-passenger van**

Interfaith Ministries aids refugee children arriving in the United States with a variety of handicaps. Some have physical handicaps as a result of war, and all must adjust to being uprooted, learning a new language, making new friends and living in a new culture. Children are transported to interviews and appointments.

**JAYCEE'S CHILDREN CENTER**

**15-passenger van**

Jaycee's Children Center is a residential treatment center serving adolescent females ages 12 through 18 suffering from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Children are transported to medical care, psychological counseling, social services, and educational programs.

**ST. JOSEPH'S INN**

**12-passenger van**

St. Joseph's Inn provides group foster home and emergency shelter to infants and children to age 10 who are innocent victims of the crisis facing their parents and families. Children are transported to school, church, doctor's appointments, enrichment and educational activities, parks and libraries.

**2001**

**CONROE ISD POLICE ACTIVITY LEAGUE**

**15-passenger van**

Conroe ISD PAL actively promotes better relationships between police officers and kids on the street. The program creates a bond between the police officer and "at risk", underprivileged, homeless or abused child through athletics, recreational activities and educational programs. PAL gives youth the opportunity to discover themselves, gain self-esteem and a positive attitude toward police officers, our laws and society. PAL encourages youth to learn that there are alternatives to gangs, drugs and crime and allows them to see themselves fitting into a world they never knew existed.

## **COVENANT HOUSE TEXAS**

### **12-passenger van**

Covenant House of Texas provides care for children suffering from emotional, physical, and substance abuse as well as those that are homeless. Children are transported to Children's Protective Services, to medical care, legal assistance, educational and training programs, and psychosocial counseling.

## **EASTER SEALS**

### **Two 15-passenger vans**

Easter Seals has a 90-year history of providing services to persons with disabilities. Their mission is to provide and coordinate direct services and education to help persons of all abilities achieve equality, dignity and independence.

## **FAMILIES UNDER URBAN & SOCIAL ATTACK**

### **15-passenger van**

FUUSA is an eleven-year-old community based nonprofit program serving families in Harris County. FUUSA's mission is to address societal problems that affect families by empowering the community through education, prevention, research, advocacy, intervention and collaboration. The underlying philosophy of FUUSA is that change happens!"

## **HOUSTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER**

### **15-passenger van**

HAWC is the only agency in Houston that provides comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, as well as the crucial community education needed to prevent violence against women and children. HAWC's services include emergency shelter, crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, referrals, legal advocacy, job training, transitional housing, and community outreach.

## **KIPP ACADEMY**

### **15-passenger van**

The mission of KIPP Academy is to prepare students with the academic, intellectual and character skills necessary to succeed in high school, college and the competitive world beyond. A state charter school serving students in grades five through nine, KIPP students and teachers commit to attending school from 7:30am to 5:00pm during the week, four hours on Saturdays and one month during the summer.

## **WILLIE C. MCDUFFIE TREATMENT CENTER**

### **15-passenger van**

Willie C. McDuffie Adolescent Treatment Center strives to mainstream adolescents to normalcy within the family and the community. By creating a positive home environment, they are committed to changing lives of those who will share the future. They are devoted to encouraging our children to dream and strive for the unreachable.

## **TEXAS ADAPTIVE AQUATICS**

### **15-passenger van**

Texas Adaptive Aquatics promotes the instruction and opportunity of water sports for physically and mentally challenged adults and children. TAA features the outstanding adaptive water skiing program allowing people with disabilities the opportunity to discover the thrill and excitement of water skiing.



## **WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER**

### **15-passenger van**

Wesley is a multipurpose agency that serves people of all ages: infants in early childhood development programs, school age youth, adults and families and senior citizens. Our mission statement is: "Wesley Community Center ministers to the needs of individuals and families by helping people help themselves and each other."

## **LA ROSA**

### **15-passenger van**

La Rosa's mission is to assist at no charge families affected by domestic violence and abuse. This assistance comes by offering programs such as emergency/crisis intervention, teen support groups, workshops, tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and youth intervention. La Rosa believes in promoting the health and safety of children through positive family support, instructional outreach, and educational programs. Since 1995, La Rosa has proudly served over 25,000 individuals through all programs combined.

## **THE CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC.**

### **15-passenger van**

The Children's Center, Inc. has provided services in the Houston-Galveston area of Texas since 1878. It currently provides child and family advocacy, childcare for at-risk and special needs children, emergency shelter services for children, youth and families, transitional living programming for youth and therapeutic foster care.

## **2002**

## **THE CENTER FOR SUCCESS AND INDEPENDENCE**

### **15-passenger van**

It is the mission of the Center for Success and Independence to provide comprehensive, compassionate, and quality treatment to youth, ages 12-17, with behavioral and emotional disorders that are interfering with effective functioning in life. Utilizing sound clinical methods of treatment, clients will be prepared to successfully reintegrate into the community and to become fully functioning adults.

## **THE HAMPTON FAMILY**

### **Wheelchair Accessible 15-passenger van**

Greg and Pola Hampton care for six medically fragile children in their foster home. The Hampton's are seeking a license to become a group home caring for 12 medically fragile children.

## **NEHEMIAH CENTER**

### **15-passenger van**

The Nehemiah Center is a Christian-based center that offers academic, emotional, cultural and spiritual enrichment to the children and their families in the MacGregor Elementary School area in Houston's Third Ward. "Neighbors helping neighbors create a safe haven in which children are motivated, inspired and equipped to realize their God-given potential."

## **PRO-VISION**

### **15-passenger van**

Pro-Vision's singular mission is to improve the life chances of marginalized youth by the reconciliation of individuals, families and communities caught in the vicious cycle social dysfunction, economic disparity and educational deprivation. Through the holistic application of firm moral, cultural and educational process, Pro-Vision is able to articulate success in the hearts and minds of young people.

## **SEARCH AND THE HOUSE OF TINY TREASURES**

### **15-passenger van**

SEARCH serves Houston by assisting homeless people with dignity and providing those who choose to change their lives, the resources necessary to become productive citizens.

## **SEABORNE CHALLENGE CORPS-DIRECTIONS FOR TEXANS**

### **15-passenger van**

The mission of the Seaborne Challenge Corps program, supported by the "Direction for Texans" Youth Foundation is to target youth who are at the greatest risk, with the highest potential for reversal, to provide those youth with the tools and experience to succeed and, to turn those youth into productive, employed, and law-abiding, taxpaying citizens. The goal of the program is to develop and enhance the skills, educational levels, and employment potential of at-risk youth through structured, quasi-military training. The program is designed around an intervention model that identifies eight core components to improve individual skills and aid the holistic growth of participants. The Seaborne Challenge Corps provides a comprehensive education, training, and community service alternative for youth who commit themselves to change in lifestyle and establish a life plan that will make them a productive resource for their families and communities.

**2003**

## **COVENANT HOUSE TEXAS**

### **15-passenger van**

Covenant House of Texas provides care for children suffering from emotional, physical, and substance abuse as well as those that are homeless. Children are transported to Children's Protective Services, to medical care, legal assistance, educational and training programs, and psychosocial counseling.

## **HOPE SHELTER**

### **15-passenger van**

HOPE Shelter provides residential care and treatment to 13 teenage boys suffering from chronic substance and alcohol abuse. The children come from violent home environments and are transported to necessary school, medical care, and social activities.

## **NEW HOPE YOUTH CENTER**

### **15-passenger van**

“Dedicated to providing a safe, loving and caring home.” The mission of New Hope Youth Center is to provide youth with the best possible treatment. They believe that this mission can be accomplished with the help of parents, agencies, managing conservators, case managers and the program working together. Our treatment program is designed to give each youth the opportunity to be successful, to assume responsibility for his behavior, treatment progress and to ensure a positive treatment environment.

## **PHOENIX OUTREACH YOUTH CENTER**

### **15-passenger van**

The Phoenix Outreach Youth Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to providing programs and resources to the children in Houston’s Fifth Ward community. The program addresses the needs of the entire family unit because a holistic approach to outreach is very important in the inner city. Information and resources are the most important tools for the success of a person; therefore, these tools place children and their parents on the fast track towards success. Preparing the next generation to meet their obligation to themselves, their family, their community, and their God.

## **RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF HOUSTON**

### **15-passenger van**

The Ronald McDonald House of Houston is a home away from home for families with children being treated in the Texas Medical Center for cancer or other serious illness. The mission of the house is to strive in all ways possible to relieve the stress and pain of daily illness by offering these special families a warm, caring environment where they can share their concerns, and by supporting the advances in medical treatment for cancer at Texas Children’s Hospital.

## **TEXAS ADAPTIVE AQUATICS**

### **15-passenger van**

Texas Adaptive Aquatics promotes the instruction and opportunity of water sports for physically and mentally challenged adults and children. TAA features the outstanding adaptive water skiing program allowing people with disabilities the opportunity to discover the thrill and excitement of water skiing.

## **TRINITY CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

### **15-passenger van**

Trinity Children and Family Services was incorporated in 1966. Their mission then and now, is to reshape the lives of abused, socially deprived, and emotionally troubled boys and girls, regardless of race, creed or socioeconomic background. Through residential treatment campuses, group homes, a foster care agency, and other services they extend care to children and their families. Trinity Children and Family Services provide each child, family and adult in their care with quality therapeutic treatment, Social services and educational programs in a supportive and nurturing environment so they may lead healthy, productive lives.

**2004**

## **CONROE ISD POLICE ACTIVITY LEAGUE**

### **12-passenger van**

Conroe ISD PAL actively promotes better relationships between police officers and kids on the street. The program creates a bond between the police officer and “at risk”, underprivileged, homeless or abused child through athletics, recreational activities and educational programs. PAL gives youth the opportunity to discover themselves, gain self-esteem and a positive attitude toward police officers, our laws and society. PAL encourages youth to learn that there are alternatives to gangs, drugs and crime and allows them to see themselves fitting into a world they never knew existed.

## **THE FURNITURE BANK**

### **1 box truck**

The Furniture Bank serves Houston area residents through local agencies and non-profit organizations. Our focus is to be a complement of an existing and organized effort to assist those that have a living condition that lacks the basic furnishings. Making empty houses homes means:

Children don't have to sleep on the floor / Families can sit at a table together for their meals / Everyday items can have a place other than in a box. The Furniture Bank collects and distributes furniture and home furnishings free of charge for people in need that have received housing assistance through a social service agency or charity in the Houston area.

## **HOUSTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER**

### **12-passenger van**

HAWC is the only agency in Houston that provides comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, as well as the crucial community education needed to prevent violence against women and children. HAWC's services include emergency shelter, crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, referrals, legal advocacy, job training, transitional housing, and community outreach.

## **JAYCEE'S CHILDREN CENTER**

### **12-passenger van**

Jaycee's Children Center is a residential treatment center serving adolescent females ages 12 through 18 suffering from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Children are transported to medical care, psychological counseling, social services, and educational programs.

## **L'ARMOR VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY**

### **12-passenger van**

L'Amor Village Residential Treatment Facility provides a caring and supportive therapeutic environment for children ages 12 to 17 in the custody of Children's Protective Services. The van will be used to transport these children to medical appointments, family visits, church, school and recreational events, just to name a few.



## **REFUGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

### **12-passenger van**

RCDC is to empower Urban and Suburban families through real partnership. The challenge to RCDC is to provide the many elements of a “home” – a safe haven, combined with holistic services in the Third Ward/Astrodome areas and offering a compassionate hand up to those who truly want a way out.

## **SOLUTIONS 2 CHANGING LIVES**

### **12-passenger van**

Solutions 2 Changing Lives takes pride in being “The Road People Take to Change.” Along this road we are able to help build POWERFUL FAMILIES! Solutions does this through their youth development programs, which focus on life and social skills, college readiness, and cultural arts classes. It is the intention of Solutions to create avenues that can help level the playing field for those who are in need.

### **2005**

## **ANOINTED CHILD CARE, INC.**

### **12-passenger van**

Since inception, ACCI has provided almost \$6,000 in services to low-income, at risk families at no cost. The organization goal is to provide compassionate support to children, youth, and families from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds in Northeast Houston communities. ACCI’s mission is to “train up a child in the way that he should go,” by providing educational learning events through registered child care, family mentoring networks and community support.

## **BOYS AND GIRLS COUNTY**

### **12-passenger van**

Boys and Girls Country provides an environment where children are safe -- and where they have the opportunity to develop to their full potential. We accept children as young as five years old. According to the individual situation, a child may stay with us temporarily until the family situation stabilizes (three years on average) or may grow up here. The focus at Boys and Girls Country is to help each of our 128 children grow up into a mature, responsible adult.

## **COVENANT HOUSE**

### **12-passenger van**

Established in 1983, Covenant House Texas is a non-profit human services agency that offers emergency shelter, crisis intervention, outreach and prevention, medical care, transitional housing, educational/vocational training and community-based services to run away, homeless and “throwaway” youth under the age of 21. CHT offers youth sanctuary from the dangers of street life and abuse, structure in their unstructured lives and the necessary emotional support to help them choose workable life alternatives. CHT is part of an international network founded in New York City in 1968.

## **TREASURE OUR COMMUNITY, CDC, INC. (TOC)**

### **12-passenger van**

Treasure Our Community's mission is to educate and enrich lives of underserved and "at-risk" children and youth in the community, academically, socially, and physically in a safe and drug-free environment. We also help alleviate juvenile crimes and gang activity in the neighborhood. TOC serves as a vital link between the home, school, and community.

**2006**

## **THE CENTER FOR SUCCESS AND INDEPENDENCE**

### **12-passenger van**

It is the mission of The Center for Success and Independence to provide comprehensive, compassionate, and quality treatment to youth, ages 12-17, with behavioral and emotional disorders that are interfering with effective functioning in life. Utilizing sound clinical methods of treatment, clients will be prepared to successfully reintegrate into the community and to become fully functioning adults.

## **CASA DE ESPERANZA DE LOS NINOS**

### **Mini van**

Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos is a safe place for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect or HIV/AIDS. They provide residential, medical, and psychological care to meet the individual needs of each child and offers counseling to the family. This is the 2nd vehicle given to Casa since 1998.

## **CITY WIDE CLUB OF AMERICA**

### **12-passenger van**

The City Wide Club is better known for its Holiday Feast on Thanksgiving & Christmas at the George R. Brown Convention Center where 35,000 under privileged families are served hot meals, receive clothes, jobs, toys, housing and etc. The mission of City Wide Club of Clubs (CWCC) is to provide social services through the 107 chapters located in 50 states and 62 cities.

## **SEARCH AND THE HOUSE OF TINY TREASURES**

### **12-passenger van**

SEARCH serves Houston by assisting homeless people with dignity and providing those who choose to change their lives, the resources necessary to become productive citizens. This is the 2nd vehicle given to SEARCH since 2002.

## **FAMILIES UNDER URBAN AND SOCIAL ATTACK, INC. (FUUSA)**

### **12-passenger van**

FUUSA is an eleven-year-old community based nonprofit program serving families in Harris County. FUUSA's mission is to address societal problems that affect families by empowering the community through education, prevention, research, advocacy, intervention and collaboration. The underlying philosophy of FUUSA is that "change happens!" This is the 2nd vehicle given to FUUSA since 2001.

## **GRIDIRON HEROES**

### **Two customized 12-passenger vans**

Gridiron Heroes Spinal Cord Injury Foundation provides immediate, as well as, long term resources and support to individuals sustaining a catastrophic spinal cord injury through activities associated with high school football. Two vans were awarded to two boys from Gridiron Heroes Spinal Cord Injury Foundation and specially customized to fit their lifestyles.

## **PREVENT BLINDNESS TEXAS**

### **12-passenger van**

A voluntary health and human service agency focused on preventing blindness; preserving sight; and enhancing and extending the quality of vision life for all Texans. We strive to serve the greatest number of Texas residents by continually improving the delivery of services through our network of branch offices and volunteers. We help our clients and their families with free vision screening, eye examination referrals, counseling and education to enable them to live as full and normal a quality vision life as possible.

## **THE FURNITURE BANK**

### **1 box truck**

The Furniture Bank serves Houston area residents through local agencies and non-profit organizations. Our focus is to be a complement of an existing and organized effort to assist those that have a living condition that lacks the basic furnishings. Making empty houses homes means: Children don't have to sleep on the floor / Families can sit at a table together for their meals / Everyday items can have a place other than in a box. The Furniture Bank collects and distributes furniture and home furnishings free of charge for people in need that have received housing assistance through a social service agency or charity in the Houston area.

## **THE HOUSE OF CHARITY**

### **12-passenger van**

Strives to improve the quality of life for impoverished children around the world. We are a team of humanitarians dedicated to achieving maximum results and keeping our services free of discrimination.

## **TIMOTHY PROJECT**

### **12-passenger van**

Our mission is to embrace and enhance the spiritual and life skills of youth, and to empower them to do the same for others. We envision that young people who suffer from a variety of spiritual, emotional, and/or behavioral problems, who have a history of being socially or economically disadvantaged, or whose parents are incarcerated and/or addicted to drugs/alcohol will pursue fulfilling and self-sufficient lives, become mentors to other youth in need, and function as effective witnesses and laborers in the kingdom of God.

## **PLEASANT HILL ACADEMY**

### **15-passenger van**

Pleasant Hill has developed a plan to initiate change in the educational standards and services of Fifth Ward and to raise the future prospects of its residents. This is accomplished through arts and technology education. It is specifically designed to study global cultures in an across the curriculum unit approach through fine arts activities. The instructional model used, characterized by hands-on learning, increases the probability of individual student achievement. The school currently serves K-5 and each year another grade level will be added up to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**2007**

## **THE SALVATION ARMY IRVINGTON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

### **12-passenger van**

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible and its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

## **SHAMAR HOPE HAVEN RTC**

### **12-passenger van**

Exemplifies state of the art technology in the treatment of behavioral health and substance use disorders. Dedicated to providing research based, culturally and developmentally appropriate therapeutic modalities to clients and their families. Committed to excellence in the mandate of teaching their clients the skills necessary to live health and drug free lives. A place where everybody is somebody.

## **HOPE SHELTER, INC.**

### **12-passenger van**

HOPE Shelter provides residential care and treatment to 13 teenage boys suffering from chronic substance and alcohol abuse. The children come from violent home environments and are transported to necessary school, medical care, and social activities.

## **CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL**

### **12-passenger van**

We provide care for children in more than 30 pediatric subspecialties. Our caring staff treats everything from life-threatening injuries to routine medical procedures in children ranging from premature infants to teens. Through a creative blend of education, play and support services, our staff helps make hospitalization a more positive, understandable experience for children.

## **DEPELCHIN CHILDREN'S CENTER**

### **12-passenger van**

Recognizing that a child's needs are best met in a family environment, DePelchin Children's Center strengthens the lives of children and their families in our community by providing a continuum of services to prevent and resolve social and emotional crisis.

## **POOH'S PANDA SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY**

### **12-passenger van**

The mission of Pooh's Panda Special Needs Academy, Inc. is to provide comprehensive, affordable child care that promotes an exemplary continuum of quality service to children with special needs through innovative programs that instill and foster their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development.

## **THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON HARRIS COUNTY PSYCHIATRIC CENTER**

### **Two 12-passenger vans**

The University of Texas Harris County Psychiatric Center is dedicated to excellence and leadership in the provision of patient care and the growing need for treatment of persons with mental illness residing in Harris County. UTHCPC has the unique additional missions of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, which includes conducting research into the treatment of mental illness, educating professionals in the care of the mentally ill and providing the resources and knowledge of our staff to the local community.

### **2008**

## **COVENANT HOUSE TEXAS**

### **Mini van**

Covenant House of Texas provides care for children suffering from emotional, physical, and substance abuse as well as those that are homeless. Children are transported to Children's Protective Services, to medical care, legal assistance, educational and training programs, and psychosocial counseling.

## **THE FORGE FOR FAMILIES**

### **Two 12-passenger vans**

The mission of The FORGE for Families is to enrich the spiritual, educational, vocational, and leadership development of inner city families through Christ-centered mentoring, bringing transforming growth to Houston's Third Ward community.

## **THE FURNITURE BANK**

### **1 box truck**

The Furniture Bank serves Houston area residents through local agencies and non-profit organizations. Our focus is to be a complement of an existing and organized effort to assist those that have a living condition that lacks the basic furnishings. Making empty houses homes means: Children don't have to sleep on the floor / Families can sit at a table together for their meals / Everyday items can have a place other than in a box. The Furniture Bank collects and distributes furniture and home furnishings free of charge for people in need that have received housing assistance through a social service agency or charity in the Houston area.

## **HOPE FOR YOUTH**

### **15-passenger van**

Hope for Youth transport at-risk youth of Houston to Christian maturity by providing spiritual, educational and recreational programs through the vehicle of relationships with adult staff and volunteers. Fun Friday nights, weekend's activities, College Prep classes, and weekly church attendance help students to mature into strong Christian adults who live out their faith in ways that are practical, visible, and impact the people around them.



## **IMPACT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

### **12-passenger van**

A mission to inspire, equip, and guide urban youth to LIVE! The program serves children from the Greater Fifth Ward. Currently, YDC operates an after-school academic remediation program that addresses literacy development for inner city students in grades 3 - 8.

## **NO MORE VICTIMS, INC.**

### **12-passenger van**

Created in 1993 for the purpose of reducing victimizing behavior in society by specifically addressing the needs and issues of both the child and adult. The organization seeks to deter the violent, abusive, and victimizing behavior in our society by using very creative and innovative programming for the purpose of specifically addressing these issues with a special focus on the parent-child relationship and the effect this relationship has on our lives.

## **PRO-VISION, INC.**

### **12-passenger van**

Pro-Vision's mission is to inspire hope and purpose for individuals, families and communities through the moral, cultural and educational opportunities. With little more than a burning desire and no outside resources, the founders of Pro-Vision embarked upon a journey to develop young men of character, dignity and purpose. Since 1989, Pro-Vision has been a beacon of hope and touched the lives of thousands of young men in the Greater Houston area. Pro-Vision is committed to the moral, social, and economic reconciliation of disenfranchised youth, their families, and communities, and serves as a catalyst for establishing moral alternatives for living.

**2009**

## **ARETHA WEST-MILES FAMILY**

### **Wheelchair Accessible 12-passenger van**

Aretha West-Miles is a handicapped mother of four. She has been diagnosed with scoliosis and COPD and is in need of a lung transplant. In addition to her handicap, Aretha has a six year old handicapped daughter who is battling Spina Bifida.

## **BETHEL'S PLACE**

### **12-passenger van**

The mission of Bethel's place is to positively affect the lives of the people in our community by providing resources that are imperative to enhance their quality of life. They offer outreach programs and enrichment activities to the community because it is their desire to empower the members of the community to rise above their circumstances by offering various programs designed for the entire family.

## **THE BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS**

### **12-passenger van**

The mission of The Bridge is to offer support, provide safety, and prevent domestic and sexual violence. The Bridge provides access to critical services for those in crisis situations. Over its 31 year history, The Bridge has grown to become the 6th largest comprehensive crisis centers of its kind in Texas serving more than 20,000 people annually. In addition to being one of the largest crisis centers in Texas, The Bridge is also the only agency of its kind serving southeast Harris County-a population of approximately 526,000.

## **BRIGHTER VISIONS CHILD CARE SERVICES**

### **12-passenger van**

By providing a continuum of wholesome family services and professional support, Brighter Visions Child Care Services creates social, mental and academic excellence in the lives of children. Brighter Visions recruits, orients, trains and supports foster families who develop their capacities to provide a nurturing and structured environment for children and youth, pending their return home, adoption or transition into independent living.

## **HAVE HAVEN**

### **12-passenger van**

Have Haven, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that helps children who have been victims of abuse and/or neglect and are unable to live at home with their families. We provide them with a safe, nurturing place to live, where they can receive intensive, individualized counseling services, group therapy, medical care, and educational support.

## **MISSION OF YAHWEH**

### **12-passenger van**

We are a faith-based shelter that Empowers, Enriches and Restores the lives of homeless women and children and provides outreach services to low income communities. The Mission of Yahweh has empowered homeless and abused women and their children for over 47 years. The doors are always open for women in crisis. We are a truly unique refuge that not only gives food, clothing and shelter, but also is committed to rehabilitating women to become self-sufficient, productive members of society. At The Mission of Yahweh, we shelter, clothe, feed and support more than 1,600 residential stays each month. We also support thousands of Houston/Carverdale-area residents with donations of food, school supplies and other necessities.

## **2010**

## **DEVEREUX TREATMENT NETWORK**

### **12-passenger van**

Are proud to be involved in redirecting, empowering and changing lives. For 50 years in Texas, Devereux has served as a place where children, adults and families can overcome their mental illness – experiencing what it truly means to have hope.

## **MARY SCALISE**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Mary is a single mother of five children. Three of her children were adopted from Casa de Esperanza and have special needs. She was in need of a handicap accessible van for her adopted son, Luke. He was placed in her home at 5 months old and was severely neglected and malnourished at the time. Luke is also diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, failure to thrive, and Epilepsy. He is now 5 years old and continues to thrive. His wheelchair weighs over 250 lbs and could not be lifted into their vehicle.

**2011**

**MAKING IT BETTER**

**12-passenger van**

Making It Better (MIB) is a local non-profit, 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 them 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**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

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 back and forth his parents must use a manual wheelchair. This wheelchair has to be broken down and placed in the trunk for each car trip. Gary is now 19 years old and continues to grow so transporting him is becoming more difficult. This van gives him freedom.

**DEVEREUX TREATMENT NETWORK**

**Ford Fusion Hybrid**

Are proud to be involved in redirecting, empowering and changing lives. For 50 years in Texas, Devereux has served as a place where children, adults and families can overcome their mental illness – experiencing what it truly means to have hope.

**2012**

**GABRIELLA J. POOLE**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Gabriella J. Poole was born 28 weeks (premature) and later at the age of 3 was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. Her handicap condition is high muscle tone that impairs her from walking and impairs her independence. To transport her back and forth her parents must use a manual wheelchair. This wheelchair has to be broken down and placed in the trunk for each car trip. The Poole's have adapted to the challenge when it comes to transporting Gabriella from one place to another. It has become more of a physical challenge to the family as Gabriella is growing. They no longer have to limit themselves from going out because of transportation issues.

**JASON L. MACKEY**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Jason L. Mackey was born with Nemaline Myopathy Neuromuscular Disease. He is in an electric wheelchair, has a trach and ventilator, and has 20 hours / 7 days of home nursing care a week. It has become more of a physical challenge to lift him. Jason, 13, is growing and his weight is increasing and this alone presents a challenge during transportation. This van will give him more freedom.

## **MISSION OF YAHWEH**

### **12-passenger van**

We are a faith-based shelter that Empowers, Enriches and Restores the lives of homeless women and children and provides outreach services to low income communities. The Mission of Yahweh has empowered homeless and abused women and their children for over 51 years. The doors are always open for women in crisis. We are a truly unique refuge that not only gives food, clothing and shelter, but also is committed to rehabilitating women to become self-sufficient, productive members of society. At The Mission of Yahweh, we shelter, clothe, feed and support more than 1,600 residential stays each month. We also support thousands of Houston/Carverdale-area residents with donations of food, school supplies and other necessities.

## **GRACEWOOD**

### **12-passenger van**

Gracewood, is a transitional housing and family care program serving single at-risk mothers and children in the Greater Houston area. Gracewood was opened in Houston in 2001 by Texas Baptist Children's Home (TBCH), a residential childcare ministry founded in round Rock in 1950 as a home for dependent and neglected children. In 1979, TBCH introduced a group residential program called *Family Care* to extend help, hope and the love of Christ to single mothers and their children who are at risk for homelessness and poverty. In 2001, TBCH extended this highly successful ministry to Houston with the opening of Gracewood's first campus. A second campus followed in the Spring of 2010.

## **COVENANT HOUSE TEXAS**

### **12-passenger van**

Covenant House of Texas provides care for children suffering from emotional, physical, and substance abuse as well as those that are homeless. Children are transported to Children's Protective Services, to medical care, legal assistance, educational and training programs, and psychosocial counseling.

## **MARY SCALISE**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Mary is a single mother of five children. Three of her children were adopted from Casa de Esperanza and have special needs. She was in need of a handicap accessible van for her adopted son, Luke. He was placed in her home at 5 months old and was severely neglected and malnourished at the time. Luke is also diagnosed with cerebral palsy, failure to thrive, and epilepsy. He is now 5 years old and continues to thrive. His wheelchair weighs over 250 lbs and could not be lifted into their vehicle.

## **2013**

## **KASEY BENNETT**

### **Wheelchair Accessible Conversion**

Kasey Bennett is an 11 year old boy with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Disease. This is a slowly progressive disease that deteriorates the muscles until they no longer work. Kasey is confined to a wheelchair and as he grows it will become more difficult to load him and the wheelchair into the van. Having a handicap accessible van allows his mother the ability to transport Kasey without lifting him in and out of the families 2009 Dodge Grand Caravan.

### **CARLOS A. CHAVEZ**

#### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Carlos A. Chavez is a 4 year old boy with Mitochondria Disorder. Mitochondrial diseases are categorized according to the organ systems affected and symptoms present. Carlos has generalized muscle weakness and global developmental delay, medically and developmentally fragile. The family has one car and it is constantly breaking down. A handicap accessible van has changed their world. They are able to get to the doctors, schools and other outings as a family.

### **YOUNG LIFE HOUSTON CENTRAL**

#### **12-passenger van**

Young Life Houston Central is a non-profit campus youth ministry, working with inner-city and at-risk kids to provide guidance, direction, and hope with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The awarded 12 passenger van makes it possible for teens (11 – 18) to have transportation services to and from activities where they will receive guidance and help that they would not otherwise receive.

### **DIANA REYNA**

#### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Diana Reyna is a 10 year old girl with bone cancer who is also quadriplegic. Diana's parents carry her nearly everywhere, even sustaining their own injuries trying to do so. The new handicap accessible van allows Diana an entirely new life as she will be able to go to the movies, grocery store and trick-or-treating which she could not do before.

### **MIGUEL AGUILA**

#### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Miguel Aguila was diagnosed, at the age of 8 months, with Cerebral Palsy, only later to find out he had been misdiagnosed. At 7, the doctors informed his parents that his true diagnosis was Spinal Muscular Atrophy (type 2) along with Scoliosis. Miguel's parents have had to rely on friends and family to transport him to doctors' appointments, family outings, birthday parties, high school football games to see his sister dance and other places. He continues to grow and it has made it very hard to transport him because of his condition. A handicap accessible van now allows Miguel, now 9, and his family to continue to go places and not be left behind.

### **KARINA MARTINEZ**

#### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Karina Martinez, 21 years old, is considered a special health care needs child, because of her numerous medical conditions and daily level of care necessary. Karina is confined to her wheelchair. She must travel with medical equipment and supplies, as well as her medications. In transporting Karina, her parents have to take her wheelchair apart and have 2 to 3 people to lift her into the family car. This handicap accessible van will change the world for Karina and her family. They can now transport her without assistance and the quality of her life has greatly increased.



**2014**

**KIDS' MEALS, INC.**

**12-passenger van**

Kids' Meals on Wheels program is for pre-school aged children living in poverty. Nutritious meals are delivered to the doors of hungry, innocent children. Kids' Meals is ending hunger among children by delivering 1,700 nutritious meals daily. For some of these children, this is the only meal they will receive all day. The children receive a healthy meal that consists of a whole wheat sandwich, a fruit and/or a snack, and 100% juice or milk. Bags of groceries, fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods and other donated foods from restaurants and grocery stores are delivered throughout the week as well.

**SOFIA MONTERROSA**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Sofia Monterrosa was born premature and diagnosed with a cleft lip plate, cerebral palsy and trisomy 18 (Edwards Syndrome). Due to her numerous medical conditions and daily level of necessary care transportation had become more difficult. She was restricted to ambulance transportation (for medical appointments only) due to her need to travel with medical equipment and supplies. The awarded handicap accessible conversion makes a world of difference for mom when transporting Sofia to doctor's appointments, therapy sessions and family outings.

**JESSICA HERRERA**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Jessica Herrera is an 8 year old girl with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (Type 3). This disease includes a progressive muscular weakness and has left Jessica wheel chair dependent. She is not able to stand independently and is now too big for her parents to carry or lift her into the car. The handicap accessible van is LIFE ALTERING for Jessica and her family. It has allowed Jessica's family to transport her comfortably to therapy sessions, the hospital, school or family outings.

**LUIS J. FRANCO**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Luis J. Franco was diagnosed, at the age of 18 months, with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. This neuromuscular disease has left his muscles very weak causing Scoliosis. By the age of 12, Luis had endured multiple back surgeries. Due to the condition of his back, family trips to therapy sessions would pose a challenge to his health. This new handicap accessible van allows Luis to concentrate on life without pain during a simple car ride – opening doors to new adventures for him and his family.

**LEVI GRAHAM**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Levi Graham was born a healthy baby boy; but at five months, he was a victim of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS). Today, at 15 years of age, Levi has many special needs. He is confined to a wheelchair, and he cannot talk or walk. Transporting Levi has become extremely difficult. This handicap accessible van will assist his mother in traveling from place to place. The days of lifting him and his wheelchair are gone – This has been LIFE ALTERING!!!

## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

### **12-Passenger Van**

HCC awarded a van to Youth Development Center in 2007. Their work has continued to be exemplary. YDC provides afterschool academic intervention programs for at risk students in grades 1-6. Many of YDC's students suffer from physical handicaps and learning disabilities like Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, in addition to the cultural handicap of residing in the economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods of the Greater Fifth Ward of Houston. YDC picks up 90% of its students from their school campuses each day and delivers them to their homes at the end of each program day.

## **WILLIAM RIVENBARK**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

William Rivenbark has Muscular Dystrophy associated with lifelong progressive generalized weakness and requires a power wheelchair for mobility. His motorized wheelchair weighs 300 lbs. and takes multiple people to lift, so he has had to use a manual wheel chair most of the time. It has become difficult for Ms. Rivenbark to carry William due to his weight. William is in the 10th grade and likes to play video games, enjoys Science and his dream is to become a paleontologist. This handicapped accessible van will support William and his family in their everyday life adventures – creating new opportunities for everyone.

## **ERIC RODRIGUEZ**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Eric Rodriguez, age 12, has Muscular Dystrophy and has lost most of his muscle strength. He can still lift his arms, but finds it difficult to hold any weight. Eric has a motorized wheelchair but the family can no longer lift him due to his weight. He does not leave home unless it is for doctor visits or school. He has aspirations to have a career in graphic design. Eric also enjoys going to the grocery store with his mother. This handicapped accessible van will allow Eric to get out of the house and spend more time doing activities with his family.

## **AMANI SUDDS**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Amani Sudds was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy at six. Currently he is 16 years old, weighs 126 lbs. and is a sophomore in high school. Amani uses a motorized wheelchair to be mobile but only leaves home for school and doctor visits. Amani's great-grandfather, who is 77 years old, is Amani's registered Home Health Care Provider. It has become difficult for Armani's great-grandfather to lift Amani due to his weight. Amani, like most teenage boys, loves video games, going to the movies, dinner at Dave & Buster's and participating in other social activities with his peers. This new handicapped accessible van will be LIFE ALTERING to everyone in the family and help Amani work to achieving his future goals.

## **STEPHEN HILL**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Stephen was born with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) but was not diagnosed until the age of four. He lost the ability to walk when he was ten years old. At 13, Stephen had Scoliosis surgery. Rebecca Howell, a single mother with a small car, had to physically transport Stephen from her car to any destination because his motorized wheel chair was too big to transport in their family vehicle. Because of the lack of adequate transportation Stephen has to spend time at home rather than go on outings with his mom. Stephen does not leave home unless it is for doctor visits or school. This handicapped accessible van greatly improves Stephen's mobility needs for the future...its LIFE ALTERING!!!

**2015**

## **Elizabeth Ellerbe**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Elizabeth Ellerbe was diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease at the age of 5. This is a disease of the peripheral nervous system that causes muscle wasting, lower and upper extremity atrophy. The Ellerbe's do not own a vehicle and must borrow a vehicle from a family friend just to make it to doctors' appointments. This handicap accessible van is LIFE ALTERNING for Elizabeth and her family. They can now transport her without assistance, the quality of her life has greatly increased and she will never be left behind again.

## **Jasmine Gonzalez**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Jasmine Gonzalez is an 8 years old girl who suffers from Congenital Muscular Dystrophy (CMD). CMD is a genetic muscle disease that occurs at birth. Jasmine's mother, Jane, is a pediatric nurse and Jasmine's dad is unemployed because of the frequent days off to take Jasmine to the doctor.

Due to Jasmine's size Jane is no longer able to lift her and is dependent on Jasmine's dad for transport in and out of her wheelchair. A handicap accessible van allows Jasmine and her family to go places with significant ease.

## **JULIAN RUIZ**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Julian Ruiz is a 14 years old boy that suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). Julian's mother, Angela, works full-time and his grandmother cares for him after school. As a growing teenager, Julian's increased weight gain has made it difficult for his mother to lift him in and out of their truck. This handicapped accessible van allows Julian to get out of the house and spend more time doing activities with his family and friends... LIFE ALTERING!!!

## **ABIGAIL McDOUGLE**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

At age 18, Abigail McDougle has had 3 major heart surgeries, with the first being when she was a year old. She suffers from Down Syndrome, Pulmonary Capilitas and was placed on hospice in 2008. Abigail is able to stand but only for a number of seconds due to a totally dislocated hip caused by the lack of muscle strength from the heart condition. She is homeschooled by her mother, Sharon. The addition of a van for this family has eliminated some of the pain endured when Abigail is transferred from her wheel chair.

## **SEBASTIAN DRIVER**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Sebastian Driver was born prematurely with Cerebral Palsy. His mother, Garia, is a single-parent that works as a pediatric nurse. At 13 years of age, Sebastian participates in a number of out of school activities and with his continuous growth it has become even more difficult to transport him without a wheelchair accessible vehicle. This new van is LIFE ALTERING to everyone in the family and help Sebastian work to achieve success in his activities.

## **KAALAN WILSON**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

At the age of 5, Kaalan Wilson was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). Today, at age 19, he is 5'1" tall and weighs 89 lbs. Kaalan is a student at Lone Star College but lives with his mother. This wheelchair accessible van will support Kaalan and his family in their everyday life adventures and his quest for a college degree – creating new opportunities for everyone...LIFE ALTERING!!!

## **JOSE JARAMILLO**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Jose Jaramillo, 12 years old, suffers from chromosomal deficiency in Chromosome 17 and Epilepsy. Jose's family has a van but it is not wheelchair accessible. In the past, Jose's mom had to lift him in and out of the vehicle in order to make doctors' appointments and simple trips to the grocery store. Now that he is much bigger it has become increasingly difficult to lift Jose. This new handicap accessible van allows Jose to concentrate on the simple things in life – opening doors to new adventures for him and his family.

## **ALEXI OLIVEIRA**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Alexi Oliveira is diagnosed with Schizencephaly, Microgyria and Cerebral Palsy. All of these disorders inhibit her physical movements. At age 12, she is 4'8" tall, weighs 90 lbs., has no physical movements and cannot speak. Alexi's mother, Alisha, is her sole care giver and had to transfer Alexi from the wheelchair to their car and out just to visit the doctor or go to school. The days of lifting her to and from her wheelchair are gone – This has been LIFE ALTERING!!!

## **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS**

### **12-passenger van**

Founded in 1950, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) has been mentoring the youth in the Houston area for over 65 years. They currently mentor over 1200 children. These children come from moderate to high risk categories of need – defined as poverty, non-traditional parenting, and/or impacted by incarceration. The addition of a 12-passenger van has provided students in the "Beyond School Walls" program transportation to the BBBS offices each day.

**2016**

**JACAH JEFFERSON**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Jacah Jefferson was born on September 23, 2006, a healthy baby. Less than one year later, on March 2, 2007, Jacah was diagnosed with Shaken Baby Syndrome. Shaken baby syndrome can result in permanent brain damage or death. It usually occurs when a parent or caregiver severely shakes a child in frustration or anger, often because the child won't stop crying. Stacy Williams, Jacah's grandmother and legal guardian, has cared for him since he was two years old. Due to Jacah's disorder, he is prone to having seizures at any moment. Jacah has broken a leg twice while riding in vehicles that aren't equipped for wheelchair passengers making it very unsafe for him to go anywhere with his family. Despite suffering from cerebral palsy, seizures, and developmental delays, Jacah is always smiling and enjoys listening to music. Receiving a wheelchair-accessible vehicle has been LIFE-CHANGING. Jacah can now safely travel with his family.

**BEAU AUBIN**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Beau Aubin is 8 years old and has Cerebral Palsy. He was born 13 weeks early and weighed just over two pounds. Today, Beau has grown considerably and is now almost as tall as his mother Julie. With Beau's continued growth, it has become almost impossible for Julie to lift Beau in and out of the car. Beau has a wheelchair that is very heavy and cumbersome. In order to travel, the wheelchair has to be broken down into two separate pieces just so it can fit in the family vehicle. A handicapped accessible vehicle allows Beau and his mother to travel without the burden of manual labor and additional planning. Beau can now easily go on adventures and see new things – providing him with a much better quality of life.

**BRIANCA & LUCY GOFF**

**Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Sisters Brianca and Lucy Goff both suffer from Spinal Bifida. The girls were adopted by Lisa and Brian Goff when Brianca was just 4 weeks old and Lucy was 18 months old. The Goff family moved to Houston in 2002 to be near Texas Children's Hospital and get the best medical care for both girls.

Brianca, now 21-years-old, has endured many complications throughout the years. As a result of Arnold Chiari Malformation, she is partially paralyzed in her upper-body. Despite her medical conditions, she is a wonderful young lady that works hard for her independence.

Lucy, age 12, is paraplegic and has severe epilepsy. She doesn't have the upper body complications Brianca does, but she doesn't have any chance of ever walking. Her hips are greatly deformed and don't rotate at all. She is very functional in her chair and climbs in and out freely.

This new handicap accessible van allows both girls to gain more independence and The Goff Family to concentrate on the simple things in life – opening doors to new adventures for the entire family.



## **LAUREN GREEN**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Lauren Green was born 24 weeks premature and remained in the NICU for nine months. During that time, she spent several days in a coma and had fluid buildup in her brain. Lauren has several medical diagnoses ranging from Microcephaly to Cerebral Palsy to Scoliosis and many other things in between. At the age of 14, she is non-ambulatory and weighs 125 pounds. Due to Lauren's weight her mother is no longer able to transport her. Now, Lauren is home-bound and only travels by ambulance to medical appointments. A handicap accessible van allows Lauren and her family to have casual outings with significant ease. LIFE ALTERING!

## **ARACELI GUERRA**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

18-year-old Araceli Guerra was diagnosed with Microcephaly and Cerebral Palsy at 9 months old. At age 4, she began having small Myoclonic Seizures which progressed and was later diagnosed with Epilepsy at 10. Because of Araceli's size, it has become increasingly difficult to be lifted to/from the. The wheelchair must be taken apart and reassembled any time she has to leave home. Houston weather, site locations, and other risk factors play a role if the trip is necessary, let alone, safe to make. Araceli can't be exposed to a freezing car or sweltering heat. On rainy days, she's stuck inside because it takes so long just to load and unload for each trip exposing her to the elements. This new van assists everyone in the family and helps Araceli to be successful and accomplish her goals.

## **AMY, JOSIAH & LEOPAUL JONES AND JESSE PERRY**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Charlesetta Jones is a single mom with four children. Amy, Josiah, and LeoPaul (LeoP) Jones have all been adopted by Ms. Jones and Jesse Perry is under her foster care.

At the age of 18, Amy's numerous diagnosed conditions include Cerebral Palsy and being legally blind. LeoP, an 11-year-old boy, suffers from Shaken Baby Syndrome. Josiah, 13 years old, has Spinal Bifida and Scoliosis. Jesse, 16 years old, has Cerebral Palsy.

Each child has multiple disabilities and are non-ambulatory. The vehicle used to transport the children has become too small because of their size and lack of wheelchair storage. A handicap accessible van allows everyone to go places with significant comfort and ease. LIFE CHANGING for the entire family.

## **ARMANI & JOSHUA LEWIS**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Both, Armani and Joshua Lewis, adopted by Henry Etta Lewis, have challenges that can make daily life difficult.

Armani age 8, has a primary diagnosis of localization-related Epilepsy with Infantile Cerebral Palsy. She also has many other disorders due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). She is confined to a wheelchair. Joshua, a 15-year old boy, also has Cerebral Palsy but he can walk.

Due to the lack of transportation, Ms. Lewis must call an ambulance to transport Armani to her various doctor appointments. Currently, Ms. Lewis has to leave the children with a sitter just to go to the grocery store. This wheelchair accessible van will allow the family to transport Armani and Joshua without outside assistance. The quality of has greatly increased for everyone in this family.

## **JEREMY MOLINA**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Jeremy Molina was born prematurely at 33 weeks with Cerebral Palsy. He also suffers from seizure disorders and has recently been prescribed Baclofen to help relax his spastic muscles. At the age of 13, he currently attends James S. Deady Middle School and is in the 7th grade.

Ms. Molina, Jeremy's mother, has to lift Jeremy in and out of their vehicle and Jeremy's wheelchair has to be placed on a carry ramp in order to transport him. This wheelchair accessible van supports Jeremy in his everyday life adventures and creates new opportunities for the entire family.

## **EMMANUEL PEREZ**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

8 year old Emmanuel Perez has been blind since birth and he also suffers from Epilepsy. Due to Emmanuel's condition, he has severe developmental delays and is unable to walk or talk.

Emmanuel requires constant care and now weighs 50lbs, creating difficulty with lifting him in and out of the family vehicle. A wheelchair accessible van changed this family's world....it will be LIFE CHANGING!!! They will be able to get to doctors' appointments and other family outings with much more ease.

## **JAYLEN SANSOM**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

Jaylan Sansom, 13 years old, suffers from Shaken Baby Syndrome. Jaylen was adopted by Ms. Judith Sansom following his mother's parental rights being terminated but after the adoption, Ms. Sansom began suffering symptoms of dementia. Ms. Swoopes, Jaylen's nurse, the niece of Ms. Sansom, has watched him grow since age 3 and now cares for him on a daily basis. Jaylen is non-verbal and only has muscle function in one arm. He has a great sense of humor and loves joking with his nurses. Today, Jaylen is 4'8" and weighs 101lbs. and continues to grow. A wheelchair accessible van assists and eases the daily struggles -- creating new firsts for everyone in the family.

## **JADA & ERITA SIMON**

### **Wheelchair Converted mini van**

The Simon family has two children that are trach/ventilator dependent. Jada, 13, has Rubenstein-Taybi Syndrome. Erita, 12, suffers from Upper Respiratory Deficiency and Scoliosis. Both girls were adopted by Ms. Simon after years of fostering. Because both children are growing up fast, they require wheelchairs for mobility. The family relies on travel by non-emergency ambulance any time they leave home. A wheelchair accessible van now allows the family the freedom to transport the girls and leave the house and to go places at any time....LIFE CHANGING!