HOUSTON CHILDREN’S CHARITY kicked off its fall Chariots for Children van distribution event on Wednesday, November 6th, 2019 and concluded on Thursday, November 7th. In total, 15 families were awarded with brand new, state-of-the-art wheelchair-equipped vans, instantly transforming their lives by giving the gift of mobility to these children and their families.

Following opening remarks from HCC President & CEO, Laura Ward, Patrick Fertitta presented on the first day, which featured 10 vans donated through the generosity of HCC’s partners:

- Briggs Equipment, The Fant Foundation (Jana and Richard Fant), Suzanne Klein/Edna Meyer-Nelson, Tommy Kuranoff/Momentum BMW Southwest, Ms. Trini Mendenhall, The Valero Foundation and You First Foundation/ASG Results. Houston Children’s Charity partners with Adaptive Driving Access to purchase the vehicles at a reduced cost.

Friday, December 20th marked the opening of Houston Children’s Charity’s 2-day Annual Toy Distribution event at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston. Since 2008, the organization’s clients have been the recipients of the U.S. Marines’ Toys for Tots donations collected from official drop-off sites citywide. For nearly two decades, HCC has hosted the gifting event – first partnering with the U.S. Marines in 2008 and then, through the generosity of the Houston First Corporation, moving into the 115,000 square foot GRBCC in 2010. In total, this year’s distribution served 16,828 children in need by giving away an estimated 67,000 toys.

Newly re-elected Mayor Sylvester Turner stopped by on Friday morning to visit with parents in line, walk the grounds with HCC President & CEO, Laura Ward, and even participated in a giveaway for those awaiting their turn inside the ‘toy store.’

Continued on Page 6
Dear Friends,

I hope you will feel full of pride and accomplishment as you read this newsletter. 2019 was, indeed, a tremendous year for Houston Children’s Charity. Your attendance at our events, assistance with program services, volunteering and devoting your time to our mission have been our super ingredients. And each and every one of you is a SUPERHERO!

Each year we set goals to chart our progress and designate success. 2019 was truly our best year ever! To experience all of this from new offices at The Post Oak Hotel was truly a joy.

Houston Children’s Charity has a unique mission as we provide services for our special children. We are grateful and honored to devote ourselves to this cause day in, day out. To each of you who contributes in your own special way to the success of our year, we thank you.

With love and gratitude,

Laura S. Ward
AS A VALUED PAST, PRESENT OR FUTURE SUPPORTER, we invite you to join us as we Colour My World for Houston’s special children on FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020 at THE POST OAK HOTEL AT UPTOWN HOUSTON for an evening of unparalleled excitement at our 23rd Annual Gala.

Our Board of Directors, along with our Title Sponsors, BMW of West Houston & Momentum BMW Southwest are pleased to present... Chicago – one of the most successful American rock bands of all time and inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2016. They are self-described as a “rock and roll band with horns” – this is THE party that you don’t want to miss!

OUR 2020 GALA CHAIR is the very accomplished HALLIE VANDERHIDER, the 2019 Houston Business Journal Women Who Mean Business Lifetime Achievement Award Winner. “Equal parts social butterfly and philanthropic powerhouse,” Hallie’s life is focused on hard work and giving back. Vanderhider currently serves as managing director at SFC Energy Management while previously serving as managing partner at Catalyst Partners, LLC. She is as passionate about her charitable causes as we are dedicated to improving the quality of life for our city’s underprivileged, abused, and disabled children, who might otherwise be left behind. REMEMBER “OUR KIDS ARE EVERYBODY’S KIDS” AND YOUR SUPPORT IS MORE CRITICAL NOW THAN EVER!

For more information on the upcoming gala please visit www.houstonchildrenscharity.org.

Call today to reserve your seats: 713-524-2878 Ext. 201.
Romano E. Marciano – Age: 8

Roman was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Developmental Delay. His three younger siblings – Victoria, Valeria and Rodrigo – all love to play hide and seek with him. Roman’s favorite places are the beach and park because he dreams of walking and running with his siblings.

Osama Mustafa – Age: 17

Osama, Mohamad, and Mariam have all been diagnosed with Congenital Disorders of Glycosylation and Global Developmental Delay. The siblings have a sister, Rayan, who helps each of them with everyday activities. Osama is always watching movies.

Mohamed & Mariam Mustafa – Age: 15, 5

comedy shows, Mohamed loves to talk and laugh with his family and Mariam enjoys trying on new outfits. The children adore listening to Turkish and English music and often ask for trips to the park. These siblings all have a secret language amongst themselves and frequently share inside jokes.

Elvin Ponier III – Age: 7

Elvin has been diagnosed with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, Dysphagia, Developmental Delay and Neuromuscular Dilation in both hips. Elvin loves his younger siblings, Elson and Etaliah; they watch over him, especially when they visit the zoo. Elvin’s favorite food is ice cream and his favorite toy is an emoji smiley pillow. He likes listening to Gospel music like “Smile” by Kirk Franklin.

His goals are to walk and stand. You can always find him smiling.

Luis & Angel Rodriguez-Favela – Age: 8

Luis and Angel are twins and were both diagnosed with Dysphagia. Luis was also diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Quadriplegic and Epilepsy. They love watching Mickey Mouse and listening to music. Elmo’s songs are their favorites! The brothers are extremely close and they do everything together. They love football and going to the park. Being outside is what they absolutely love the most.

Abigail Ruguleiski – Age: 16

Abigail was diagnosed with Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, Hyponatremia and Developmental Delay. She has a very close bond with her younger sister Aniska. Abigail absolutely loves all types of music, especially when waking up to it. Her favorite moves are High School Musical, Aladdin and The Lion King. She loves to try and trick people into thinking someone is at the door. Abigail’s dream is to go fast; she loves to be in races and she wants to do as many as possible.

Jacinto Sandoval – Age: 7

Jacinto is diagnosed with Epileptic Encephalopathy and Quadriplegia. He has three older siblings, Inocencio, Yesica and Roberto, who all take turns taking care of him. Jacinto will never decline eggs and beans because one of his favorite things is eating delicious food. He can watch anything Disney, especially Coco. Jacinto’s wish is to be able to walk someday.
Despite heavy rain, five additional vans were distributed the next day. “The social worker from the hospital... recommended this program,” Roxannie Vasquez Martinez, the parent of 2-year-old van recipient, Jacob, said. “When I received the [notification] email, I think I was crying for two or three days... it’s just a blessing, it’s just a gift from God.”

HOUSTON CHILDREN’S CHARITY • SPRING 2019

HOUSTON CHILDREN’S CHARITY • WINTER 2020

2019 was a phenomenal year, which brought so much happiness to 30 wonderful children and their families. With the help of our partners, the Chariots for Children program awarded 30 vans to children in need, gifting them with the freedom of mobility.

UNPRECEDENTED!

This was made possible by the generosity of several Houstonians who came forward to donate and underwrite these vehicles.

The Fant Foundation
Jana & Richard Fant

The Guill Family

Brian Becker Family / Gary Becker Family
Briggs Equipment

Suzanne Klein / Edna Meyer-Nelson

Tommy Kuranoff / Momentum BMW Southwest
Ms. Trini Mendenhall
Leticia & Stephen Trauber
You First Foundation / ASG Results
The Valero Foundation

1. The Rymas & Ahmad Alsalman Family
2. Grant Guthrie, Laura Ward, The Roman Marcano Family, Santa
3. The Cordova Santillan Family
4. HCC Volunteers: Marcelo Mendez, Chris Merritt, Justine Guine, Steven Merritt, Cassandra Colilla
5. Edna Meyer-Nelson, Santa, The Jorge Cabrera Family
6. Laura Ward, Patrick Fertitta
7. The Duas, Mohammad & Mirela Mustafa Family, Ms. Claus, Santa
8. Laura Ward, Ms. Claus, Grant Guthrie, The Scott Maldonado Family, Gary Becker, Santa
9. The Jovin DeGuzman Family
10. Laura Ward, Angel Rodriguez-Favila
11. Ms. Trini Mendenhall
12. The Abdul Rezaei Family
13. Mike Murphy, Karen Maldonado, Ashley Smith, Anna Souk, Jeff Keate
14. Connel & Don Gonzales, Betty Castillo Smith, Lydia Guine Blackward, Lora Adams
15. Beau Correa, Karen Maldonado, Anna Souk, Ashley Smith, Jeff Garbison
16. Isaiah Guine
17. Maurice Wells, Frank Holstead, Debi Little, Mark Schults

"The last couple of days have been simply amazing for 15 families that received wheelchair and handicapped-accessible vans through Houston Children’s Charity’s Chariots for Children van program," Laura Ward said at the event’s conclusion. "The happy tears were abundant as moms and dads of these precious children received the keys to this life-altering vehicle. This is truly why we do what we do."
WORLD KINDNESS DAY was celebrated by hosting an advance screening of the highly-anticipated holiday season film, A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.

THE GODDARD SCHOOL donates over 10,000 items to the HCC Closet through their “Goddard Cares Clothing Drive.”

NES GLOBAL TALENT hosted its 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament benefiting HCC’s A Better Night’s Sleep program.

TIFF’S TREATS honors HCC during their newest location in Webster, TX Grand Opening with “Cookies for a Cause.”

HOUSE OF BLUES HOUSTON hosted a Charity Happy Hour to benefit HCC.

TACO CABANA honored HCC for its “Dine Out for a Cause” event.

The University of Rice Athletics Department has generously gifted HCC with 50 tickets to each of the Owls’ home football games. This donation is valued at $6,789. The special children of Houston can’t begin to thank you enough for this opportunity to watch your athletes in action!
In an effort to provide educational needs to underprivileged and at-risk youth, Houston Children’s Charity resurrection the KIDSMART Program which began in 2002 and has been dormant since 2009. The first recipients were The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation and TEACH – To Educate All Children.

$35,000 – TEACH

TEACH provided the following services to Blackshear Elementary (a magnet Montessori school located in the Third Ward) for the 2018 – 2019 academic year; Principal Coaching, Teacher Training, Teacher Coaching, Admin Shadow Coaching, and Specialized Workshops. TEACH serves more than 1,000 teachers and 16,000 students per year. TEACH schools contribute an average of $15K for program services each year thereby leaving a $35K funding gap.

“Laura, we are so grateful to HCC for its generous support of Texas Children’s... you make sure our families can focus on getting well instead of paying bills – such a blessing!! All the best to you in 2020!!" Diana
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“Our Kids Are Everybody’s Kids”
Houston Children’s Charity, with the support of dedicated sponsors and committed volunteers, works to create a world where every child has their very own bed, clothing, school supplies, transportation, health services, and joyful holidays. We are making progress, assisting one child at a time and measure our success by the number of children’s lives that are touched.

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May 2, 2020
Northland Christian School

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August TBD

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October – December

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New Year, New Site
We listened to you and agreed that our site was due for some changes that aren’t just cosmetic (even though we love the new look), but these improvements will help us to more easily connect with our site’s visitors and better serve our clients, volunteers and, most importantly, the needs of our special children! We would like to thank Michele Caldwell from Houston Web Design and Hosting, Inc. for all of her hard work and expertise.

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