IN 1996, Houston Children’s Charity has awarded wheelchair-accessible vehicles and passenger vans to deserving families and agencies with a similar mission in the Greater Houston Area through its “Chariots for Children” program.

On May 15, 2018, Houston Children’s Charity awarded 12 more wheelchair-accessible vehicles through its Chariots for Children program. The day was made possible by sponsors: Jana & Richard Fant with The Fant Foundation and Tony Buzbee who donated FIVE VANS each!

HCC’s President & CEO, Laura Ward, alongside sponsors Jana & Richard Fant and Tony Buzbee proudly introduced each van recipient while presenting the keys to the individual family’s brand-new wheelchair-accessible vehicle. HCC Chairman of the Board, Tilman J. Fertitta, graciously provided the venue, Willie G’s Post Oak, along with a delicious lunch for more than 80 attendees.

---continued on Pg 4---
Welcome New Board Members!

Melissa H. Juneau
Director
Woman of Distinction – ABC13 Houston 2019 Winter Ball, benefiting the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation - South Texas Chapter

John L. Nau, III
Advisory Board
Most Admired CEO Award – for-profit category – Houston Business Journal

Laura S. Ward
President & CEO
Most Admired CEO Award – non-profit category – Houston Business Journal

Edna Meyer-Nelson
Treasurer
2018 Outstanding Business Woman Honoree – YWCA Houston

Gary Justice
Richard Fant

Congrats to HCC Board Members!

21st Annual Gala Underwriter Event

The Annual Underwriter Awards Party showcases and celebrates the donors and table purchasers for Houston Children’s Charity’s only major fundraiser, the Annual Gala.

This year, over 100 guests enjoyed an evening at the home of Gala Chairs, Leticia & Stephen Trauber where party-goers were greeted with passed hors d’oeuvres catered by Tony’s and an awards presentation lead by HCC’s CEO, Laura Ward.

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 10 consecutive years and their on-going generosity has truly helped to change the lives of hundreds of HCC’s special children.

Laura continued the presentation by honoring the following Distinguished Underwriters with awards courtesy of Stacey Swift / Neiman Marcus: Tilman J. Fertitta, Tony Buzbee, Kriste & Bill Garrison, Sue & Lester Smith, The Loyd Charitable Foundation, Leticia & Stephen Trauber, Kristina & Paul Somerville, Robin Young-Ellis & Joe Ellis, Becker Family Foundation / Markowitz Family, Richland Companies / Edna Meyer-Nelson, Silver Eagle Distributors / Bud Light, Melissa Juneau, Betty Castillo Smith / Houston Culture Committee / Briggs Equipment, Jana & David Saperstein / Sherri and Brittany Zucker

Dear Friends,

As Houston Children’s Charity enters into its 22nd year, I continue to be in awe of the strides we’ve made together for the special children in our community. Each step we take that furthers our mission would not be possible without our supporters and volunteers – you are the heart of our organization.

We began 2018 with a record-breaking Gala – both in attendance and funds raised. The success of this event has ensured that our special children will continue to receive access to health care, a bed to sleep on, clothing, school supplies and even the basic holiday joys in life that they need to thrive.

We then continued that momentum as our office moved into what will be Houston Children’s Charity’s “forever home” at the Post Oak Hotel. I know that the future of Houston Children’s Charity will grow and prosper for years to come in our new home.

I have never been more proud to lead this organization and I look forward to another year of serving the underprivileged, abused and disabled children right here in Houston. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank each of you for your commitment and the difference that it continues to make throughout our community and the special children we serve.

Warm Regards,

Laura S. Ward

Letter from the President & CEO
Combining months of preparation, three date changes, generous sponsors, special guests, and a record-breaking number of attendees, the 21st Annual Gala on March 23, 2018 was one of the most memorable evenings of the year. Held in the newly opened ballroom of The Post Oak Hotel with a jaw-dropping performance by world-renowned artist, Pitbull, the evening symbolized the unbreakable spirit of Houston.

The sold-out gala, which was the first black tie event to be held at the new venue, was chaired by Leticia & Stephen Trauber and honored Penny & Paul Loyd, Jr. for their continued generosity and support. BMW of West Houston and Momentum BMW Southwest served as the event’s Title Sponsors for an unprecedented 10-year run!

Upon arrival, party-goers mixed and mingled while they enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, including a signature libation crafted by Landry’s mixologist and Houston Children’s Charity CEO, Laura Ward.

As the dinner chimes rang, nearly 750 guests were ushered into the Grand Ballroom, which had been transformed to mimic a Hollywood stage set for show-stopping elegance.

No detail was spared in the preparation of the extraordinary triple entrée dinner, created by Jean Luc Royere, the executive chef at The Post Oak. It began with a unique chopped salad followed by plates of surf and turf and finish off with chocolate cherry mousse cake beautifully laden with edible gold dust.

Following dinner, guests participated in exciting live and big board auctions. Sought-after items included a trip to the home plant of the BMW Group in Munich, Germany to pick out your 2018 all new BMW M5 purchased by Tilman Fertitta, a Golden Nugget Las Vegas experience at 15 premier U.S. courses; a VIP golfing experience; a golfer’s dream – one round of golf for four, with lunch, hosted by world-renowned artist, Sir Anthony Hopkins original artwork; a golfer’s dream – one round of golf for four, with lunch, hosted by world-renowned artist, Tony Buzbee, Tulmin Fertitta’s private jet for two nights of pure luxury; and a road trip to an out of town game! Top bidders include, Laura Ward, Amy & Rob Pierce, Penny & Paul Loyd, Youval Meicler and John Johnson.

The excitement didn’t stop there! The highlight of the night was when world-renowned artist, Pitbull, aka “Mr. Worldwide,” took the stage to perform, creating an instantly-packed dance floor.

The annual event raised a record-breaking $2.2 million for Houston Children’s Charity’s various programs focused on improving the quality of life for Houston’s underprivileged, abused and disabled children who might otherwise be left behind.
Chariots for Children Van Distribution!

The vehicles provided are awarded through a partnership with Adaptive Driving Access. Recipients of this program gain a safe and efficient way to travel as a family not only to much-needed treatment and doctor’s appointments, but to after-school activities and adventures that were once unattainable.

Since its inception, Chariots for Children has awarded 90 passenger vans, 74 wheelchair accessible vehicles, 3 box trucks, 1 car, and 2 vehicle modifications to 94 agencies and 73 individual families.

In the crowd were: Chita & Lane Craft, Grant Guthrie, Don Holden, Wallis Marsh, Edna Meyer-Nelson, Dr. Lois Moore, Bob Ogle, and Dave Ward.

2018 Van Recipients

Since 1996, HCC has awarded 90 passenger vans, 74 wheelchair-accessible vehicles, 3 box trucks, 1 car & 2 vehicle modifications to 94 agencies & 73 individual families.

Christopher Allen – Age: 9

Christopher loves to play on his iPad and listen to music while dancing in his chair. His favorite toy is his talking Elmo and his glowworm that he never goes to bed without.

Christian Ballard & Zane Anderson – Ages: 17 and 9

Christian is a great older brother who loves to play board games, video games and be outdoors. Christian’s favorite thing to do outside is throw the baseball. Zane is a sweet and caring child who loves to give hugs. He also enjoys making new friends at school, church and even the park.

Milagros Gomez – Age: 15

Milagros enjoys trips to the county fair and going to the park. She loves singing and watching YouTube videos. When Milagros grows up, she wants to be a pediatric care taker.

Destinee Jackson – Age: 11

Destinee enjoys music, light up toys and loves the sound of her family’s voice. She likes being outside and swimming or sitting on the swing. Her favorite toy is a dinosaur that reads stories to her.

Aalyah Jauregui – Age: 9

Aalyah loves music. She refuses to sleep unless her parents play her favorite radio station, 107.5. Her favorite toys are her stuffed animals and a blanket that goes with her everywhere.

Ashley Manzanares – Age: 10

Ashley loves coloring, listening to music and watching the Disney Channel. She also enjoys going to the park and playing on the swings. Ashley says that she wishes she could spend every day at the park.

Amy Monroy – Age: 17

Amy loves trying new foods and her favorite thing to do is go to the park or out to the grocery store with her mom.

Angel Ortiz – Age: 12

Angel loves to sing and play games on his iPad. When he grows up, he’d like to be a singer like his favorite performer, Marco Antonio Soliz.

Bibiana Rubio – Age: 15

Bibiana loves music and going outside. She enjoys going to the movies and seeing nature. When she grows up, she’d like to be an artist.

Luis Sandoval – Age: 17

Luis loves to play with toys that light up and make sounds. His favorite TV station is the Cartoon Network. He also loves to ride his special bike outside.

Adrian Tobar – Age: 11

Adrian loves watching baseball and football. His favorite player is JJ Watt. When he grows up, he’d like to be a police officer or join the Army.

Clay & Gage Veuleman – Ages: 6 and 4

Clay loves music and the Disney movie Fantasia. He really enjoys swimming and having his mom push him on the swing.

Gage loves dogs, any kind of food and all bodies of water. He especially enjoys watching the fish in the aquarium and doing anything outside.

HOUSTON CHILDREN’S CHARITY
Houston Rockets head coach Mike D’Antoni and his wife Laurel teamed up with Houston Children’s Charity’s “A Better Night’s Sleep” program to provide 200 beds to families in need that were impacted by Hurricane Harvey in August of 2017.

The D’Antoni’s along with HCC President & CEO, Laura Ward, were on site at Christian Tabernacle Church in East Houston to help distribute the beds, which were provided by Houston Charity. Every child received a mattress, box spring, frame, sheets, pillow and a blanket.

Since the launch of the “A Better Night’s Sleep” initiative in 2007, Houston Children’s Charity has donated over 24,000 beds!

FOR THE 9TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, The Rod Ryan Show, from 94.5 The BuZZ, has lead the way in helping to get our special children “Back2School.” Each year, Rod Ryan and his crew team up with local businesses to raise funds through a radio campaign and sales from their online store created by Brand Management Systems. Every purchase made online went to providing backpacks full of supplies for underprivileged, school-aged children in the Greater Houston Area. Volunteers from Greystar, Whataburger, Methodist Hospital I-Care, Asurion, Landry’s Inc., CarMax Auto Superstores Inc. Cypress, Young Houstonians for Houston Children’s Charity, U.S. Coast Guard, Consolidated Services of North America, SP Waltrip Lodge, Inframark, Community Associations Institute and Briggs Equipment helped distribute more than 3,000 backpacks on August 18, 2018!

For the third year in a row, Asurion donated uniforms for children in need who are required to wear a uniform to school. This year, they raised enough to purchase 168 uniform sets plus an extra 85 polo shirts! We’d also like to give a special thanks to ACME Party & Tent who donated the large tent for our distribution this year.


We’d like to thank all of our sponsors for their unwavering support. With their help, we’re able to supply thousands of students in our community with the supplies needed to succeed in school.

Since the launch of the “A Better Night’s Sleep” initiative in 2007, Houston Children’s Charity has donated over 24,000 beds!

HCC HERO Spotlight: Vanessa Henderson & Asurion

• Which came first…Vanessa’s volunteering or Partnership with Asurion? How did you get involved with HCC? Asurion’s Compassion Forward team connected with HCC due to a lot of similar goals and challenges around our youth in Houston and education.

• What year did the partnership with Asurion begin? 2015.

• Asurion has been involved in most every program, what’s the driving factor? Most all the programs that HCC sponsors are efforts that our Houston site was contributing to throughout the city. Working with HCC has made what we do easier and made for a more seamless partnership.

• List the programs you have volunteered for HCC. Toys for Tots distribution; Annual Christmas & Easter Parties; Back2School; HCC Closet; A Better Night’s Sleep; and the Annual Gala.

• Is there a moment that stands out to you? A part of my fabric is the type of work that HCC does in the community. Each time I volunteer with HCC, I get that same feeling of heartfelt compassion of “servant leaders.” This makes you want to give more and more of your time with HCC.

• What does the future hold? Hmm, that I am not sure, but I am pretty sure it will be “most delightful!” I will continue to give of my time with the HCC organization.

• Do you have any advice for someone who is considering becoming an HCC volunteer or a company that is looking for a charity to partner with? My advice would be “Get in where you can fit in.” Surely the “children are our future” and if we don’t give back, how will they know how it is done. We must help lay down the foundations.
As we learn how to navigate the different obstacles life hands us, with the help of 371 sponsors, we were able to create CHRISTMAS MAGIC for more than 1,500 children in 2017. This program allows Houstonians the opportunity to open their hearts and become a "sponsor" of Christmas Miracles. Please allow us to find the family for you to "adopt" for this upcoming holiday season.

Houston Children's Charity will begin accepting 2018 Adopt-A-Family sponsor applications on October 1st. Visit www.houstonchildrenscharity.org for more information.

Believe In The Magic Of Christmas!

On June 21, 2018 Young Houstonians for Houston Children's Charity (YHHCC) celebrated its first year with a BIG Birthday Bash at Hotel ZaZa. Over 170 guests enjoyed a fun evening of networking and cocktails while working to make a difference in the lives of under-served children. YHHCC Founding Chair, Rachael Gordon, along with event Title Sponsor and Texas Mattress Makers owner, Youval Meicler, addressed the crowd, welcoming guests and thanking them for their participation and continued generosity. Additional event sponsors include Amegy Bank and Weaver & Tidwell, LLP. Lite bites were served courtesy of Hotel ZaZa while guests were also treated to bundtinis donated by Nothing Bundt Cakes, two birthday cakes donated by Bundt Cake-A-Holic and decorations provided by Big Ass Balloons.

Raffle tickets were sold with the chance to win various items and experiences including 4 box level seats to see the Houston Astros, a custom BMW Bicycle donated by BMW of West Houston, a spa party for 10 donated by Rodan + Fields, a day of golf for 4 at Wildcat Golf Club, and a luxurious staycation at Hotel ZaZa Houston!

The evening raised more than $12,000 to benefit Houston Children's Charity's Chariots for Children program.

If you’re a young professional in the Houston-area and would like to make a difference while networking, visit yhhcc.org/join to become a member today!
In Our Community

It's no secret that Houston Children’s Charity’s success and ability to manage more than a dozen programs and events is due largely to the fact that we have a fervent group of supporters who continue to stand behind us and the special children we proudly serve.

Year after year, Houstonians have shown their support through donations and fundraisers as well as volunteering their time and efforts. This year has been no different. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, HCC has been the grateful beneficiary of events and fundraisers culminating in more than $85,000!

The donations raised so far in 2018 help increase awareness and involvement throughout Houston. Thank you for helping us show our special children that they will not be left behind.

- Houston Rockets 3rd Annual Clutch City Cares for Kids
- Clear Falls Tennis Tournament
- The Learning Experience Art Gallery
- Texas Farmhouse Pottery
- Memorial Hermann Volunteer Assembly
- PayPal Giving Fund
- Elements Montessori
- Synchrony
- D. Miller & Associates
- Dior

“Make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

If you’d like more information on how your company or organization can become involved, please email us at caitlynp@houstonchildrenscharity.org.

Clutch City Foundation Cares for Kids!

Thanks to The Houston Rockets and Clutch City Foundation, 12 of HCC’s special children and their families were able to attend a Houston Rockets game at Toyota Center in a VIP Suite! In addition to a fun family night out with dinner, the children were also treated to a special surprise when they were allowed on center court during the first quarter break! That night, Clutch City Foundation raised over $50,000 through memorabilia sales toward supporting HCC’s mission.

Downtown Aquarium Hosts 3rd “HCC Day”

Thanks to HCC Chairman of the Board, Tilman J. Fertitta, and Landry’s League Volunteer Group, more than 100 children were able to enjoy a fun-filled day at the famous Houston Downtown Aquarium for the third year in a row! Each attendee received an all-day ride pass, two tickets for free games, a lunch voucher and retail discount!

A special thanks to Tilman J. Fertitta and Landry’s for always going above and beyond for our special children.

VIP Draft Party Experience

Thanks to HCC friend and longtime supporter, Jackie Blum, Charities for Children van recipient, Edgar Pacheco, and his family were able to attend the Houston Texans VIP Draft Party at NRG Stadium. Edgar not only got to watch the draft as a VIP but he also met several players while enjoying the draft and dinner!

Run for a Reason Houston

Are you interested in running the Chevron Houston Marathon, Half Marathon or 5K? Support Houston Children’s Charity while you run!

Contact HCC Marketing & Communications Director at 713-524-2878 x 202 caitlynp@houstonchildrenscharity.org

HOW TO MAKE YOUR MILES MATTER!
Houston Children’s Charity
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Tad Brown, Past-President
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2018 & 2019 Upcoming Events

"A BETTER NIGHT’S SLEEP"
Bed Distributions – Every Month (Saturday)

"HCC CLOSET"
Semi-Monthly visits (Tuesday only)

"CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN"
Spring – Fall

ADOPT – A – FAMILY
October – December

TOY DISTRIBUTION
December 21, 2018 (Friday)
December 22, 2018 (Saturday)
at George R. Brown Convention Center

22nd Annual Gala
February 15, 2019
at The Post Oak

ANNUAL EASTER PARTY
April 6, 2019
at Northland Christian School

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/houstonchildrens
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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 OR
if you would like to start a fundraiser on behalf of HCC, please contact us.
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