Laura S. Ward, President & CEO of Houston Children's Charity, presented a $35,000 check to Susan Sarofim, Co-Founder of TEACH – To Educate All Children. This is the second donation in 2 years for the sponsorship of Blackshear Elementary School. These funds provide limitless possibilities for the scholars, teachers, faculty and the entire Third Ward Community.

School climate is a critical factor that determines the overall success of a campus. TEACH is helping this campus create calmer and safer classrooms, which is a recipe for increased student engagement and academic achievement. TEACH provides the skills and coaching that allow teachers to preserve their energy and focus on what matters most: relationship building, teaching and learning.

Educators are provided intensive training in de-escalation and conflict resolution to promote calmer and more productive classrooms, decreasing disciplinary referrals and improving student achievement. Blackshear Elementary School has 400+ students that are enriched beyond measure by this continued training and coaching. Houston Children's Charity is proud to partner with TEACH to provide these bedrock services to Blackshear Elementary School.

In The Crowd: Laura Ward, Amy & Rob Pierce, Grant Guthrie, Bob Ogle, Jeffery Boyett, Susan Sarofim, Lora & Jason Adams, Dr. Mary Ann Reynolds Wilkins, Nory Angel, Laura Ward, Grant Guthrie, Taiam Simmons, David Spragve, Bob Ogle, Mary Angel, Laura Ward, Grant Guthrie, Taiam Simmons, Alex Penland, Alexis Peltier, Bullett Ramirez, Carol Sawyer, Michael Walter, and Dr. Mary Ann Reynolds Wilkins. Also in the attendance were HCC Board Members Gary Becker, Amy, Rob Pierce, and his wife Amy, and Bob Ogle. We would also like to extend our thanks to our TREMENDOUS volunteers who helped us with this event: Allen Hord, Kim & Craig Finnigan, and Stevie Merrill.

A Pandemic Couldn’t Stop This Day!

As events all over our city, state, and the world are being postponed, rescheduled, or even canceled, Houston Children’s Charity has brought positive momentum and smiles to faces during a dark time. On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, Tilman Fertitta, HCC Chairman of the Board and owner of Landry’s, Inc., opened the doors of Willie G’s Seafood and hosted a Chariots For Children van distribution instantly transforming the lives of Houstonians.

Practicing social distancing, HCC President & CEO, Laura S. Ward, personally welcomed everyone on this very special day. She proudly announced each family and introduced SIX wonderful children. During each presentation, van sponsors handed over the keys to the brand new wheelchair-accessible vehicles. One of the most unforgettable moments jumped-start our day when the entire audience sang Happy Birthday to van recipient Christopher – who joyously celebrated with us a few days early. Simply AMAZING!

These SIX vehicles awarded were through partnerships with Adaptive Driving Access and the individual van sponsors: Amy & Gary Becker Foundation, Briggs Equipment, Donnie Di Domani, Stewart Title Commercial, TD Securities, Texas Mattress Makers, Valero Benefit for Children and Young Houstonians for Houston Children’s Charity. Laura announced that even after today’s distribution, our Chariots For Children program will still have a wait list that we must meet head-on.

This program has been dedicated to providing the freedom of mobility to those who have had restricted access to transportation since 1997. Recipients obtain this program has been dedicated to providing the freedom of mobility to those who have had restricted access to transportation since 1997. Recipients obtain these funds provide limitless possibilities for the scholars, teachers, faculty and the entire Third Ward Community.

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Dear Friends,

As we entered 2020, we were riding on the high of our 2019 accomplishments. Flipping through the highlights, it was one of our best years ever! In facing a new decade of commitment, to continue the journey we began in 1996, nobody could have predicted we would be amid a global pandemic. Even though we must brace for the “new normal,” we are dedicated to serving the underprivileged and special children of the Greater Houston area.

We are grateful for the generosity of our sponsors and donors, as well as the tireless efforts of our dedicated volunteers. Without each of you our various programs would not have seen such a success! We would like to thank you for wholeheartedly being a part of our mission. We are looking forward to much more in 2020 when COVID-19 begins to release its hold on us. We are so happy to have you on our team.

The leadership of Houston Children’s Charity – our Board of Directors and myself – thanks you for joining us as we move forward and plan great things.

Laura S. Ward
We have altered the way we provide services to our clients. Our distributions have become “No Contact” events. This is for the health and safety of all involved during these uncertain times. Hopefully each client who attends an HCC event will have peace of mind and will leave knowing that we did everything possible to protect them during that distribution.

Protecting Ourselves and Others
Everyone can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with protective actions. Houston Children’s Charity has taken steps to protect Board Members, Staff, Volunteers and Clients during our scheduled events.

Stopping the Spread of Germs

- Protective Masks
- Gloves
- Hand Sanitizer Stations
- Avoiding Close Contact
- Informational Signs
- Drive Thru Bed Distributions
- Smaller Events
- Social Distancing

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Protective Masks
Gloves
Hand Sanitizer Stations
Avoiding Close Contact
Informational Signs
Drive Thru Bed Distributions
Smaller Events
Social Distancing

Kids Tell It Like It Is

Name: ALEX M.  Age: 8
School/District: West Memorial Elementary / Katy ISD
What have you missed from your normal routine during this COVID-19 quarantine? Going to the stores, mostly the toy stores.
What is the best advice for people during this pandemic? SIX FEET AWAY!!! Oh, and wear a mask.

Name: AUBREY M.  Age: 9
School/District: Terrace Elementary / Spring Branch ISD
What have you missed from your normal routine during this COVID-19 quarantine? I have missed my friends and teacher.
I would like to go do Flyball because it is one of the things that I love.

Name: LAYLA P.  Age: 11
School/District: Creech Elementary / Katy ISD
What have you missed from your normal routine during this COVID-19 quarantine? I miss getting to see my friends at school and I also really miss visiting my grandma and grandpa in Brownsville.
Have you been exercising? Yes. I just learned how to ride a bike without training wheels and now I go every day.

Name: ASHLEE M.  Age: 14
School/District: West Memorial Junior High / Katy ISD
What have you missed from your normal routine during this COVID-19 quarantine? Going out and doing things with my family.
Have you been exercising? Yes. I am drawing in more inspiring ways towards advocating human rights.

Name: HARRISON A.  Age: 15
School/District: Klein Collins High School / Klein ISD
What have you missed from your normal routine during this COVID-19 quarantine? I miss seeing all of my friends. I miss the structure that school gives you every day.
What is the first thing you want to do / place you want to go once the quarantine is over? I want to play football with my friends.
I would really like to visit my grandparents.

Name: ANDRE W P.  Age: 15
School/District: Slocum High School / Slocum ISD
What have you missed from your normal routine during this COVID-19 quarantine? I have missed my friends.
What are you doing to keep your mind healthy? Schoolwork. Working on AG equipment. Fishing. I’m trying to do a little bit of everything.

Name: Rosemary M.  Age: 18
School/District: Northbrook High School / Spring Branch ISD
What have you missed from your normal routine during this COVID-19 quarantine? Going to the hospital to help out the nurses and learning from them since this is my major in college.
How are you adjusting to the “new” homeschooling? Turning in assignments without deadlines. More flexibility.
Volunteer Spotlight: Rhonda Burrage

• List the HCC programs that you have volunteered for. All of them! My favorite program is giving handicap adaptable vans to those families that struggle with caring for children with disabilities (and serving as Mrs. Claus of course).

• Why did you decide to become a volunteer? The slogan “Our Kids Are Everybody’s Kids” and since they are our future, they all deserve a helping hand and assistance with meeting their needs.

• What do you like best about serving as a HCC volunteer? I love being a small part of such a big impact in the lives of so many children who, without the assistance of HCC, would go without the bare essentials every child deserves.

• Do you have any advice for someone who is considering becoming an HCC volunteer? JUST DO IT! Though it pulls at your heartstrings, there will not be a more rewarding experience than giving your time and talents to such a worthy cause – you are making a difference in the lives of those who, due to circumstances beyond their control, truly deserve a hand up!

2020 SPRING VAN RECIPIENTS

Since 1996, HCC has awarded 91 passenger vans, 132 wheelchair-accessible vehicles, 3 box trucks, 1 car and 2 vehicle modifications to 95 agencies and 132 individual families.

Christopher Coreas – Age: 18
Christopher, diagnosed with Chronic Static Encephalopathy and Epilepsy, is the youngest of 3 children. Both of his older siblings, Eric (23) and Katherine (19) adore and help take care of him. He often smiles when his siblings talk to him. Christopher loves to watch cartoons on TV. His favorite thing to do is laugh along with his family. Sometimes it bothers Christopher that he is unable to express himself or go outside. This wheelchair accessible vehicle will be life-changing for this family.

Miguel De Jesus Ramirez – Age: 11
Miguel, diagnosed with Spastic Quadriplegia, is the only child of a single-mom, Elida Garza. He enjoys music and dancing; both make him burst out laughing. He loves to take rides in the car and always looks forward to listening to music he can clap his hands to. He is very affectionate and enjoys hugs, kisses and even being tickled. Miguel is a happy child at heart because he is always smiling.

Jesus Axel Flores – Age: 13
Jesus was born with a Chromosomal Abnormality and Global Developmental Delay. He loves eating his favorite meal of macaroni and cheese. Juan lights up when his older sister, Gloria, takes him for walks. They pretend they are going to be astronauts and run for takeoff into orbit. He doesn’t really enjoy music as much as his sister, but they both like learning games. While inside, Juan can play with his toy cars and ambulances all day. He often fondly looks at photos of their father who passed and whom they miss very much.

Juan Cavazos – Age: 8
Juan was born with a Global Developmental Delay. He loves eating his favorite meal of macaroni and cheese. Juan lights up when his older sister, Gloria, takes him for walks. They pretend they are going to be astronauts and run for takeoff into orbit. He doesn’t really enjoy music as much as his sister, but they both like learning games. While inside, Juan can play with his toy cars and ambulances all day. He often fondly looks at photos of their father who passed and whom they miss very much.

Jimena De La Cruz – Age: 14
Jimena, diagnosed with Cerebellar Hypoplasia and Cerebral Palsy, has a great relationship with her two brothers, Anadely and Alejandro. They all adore each other. She is their princess. Jimena smiles when her mom, Rafaela Torres Herrera, sings to her. Listening to Christian music and watching Bible stories for children is her favorite pastime, but one thing she doesn’t enjoy is getting dirty. Jimena’s favorite toys are talking dolls or toys that play music. She loves going to the zoo with her family to see the animals and ride the train.

Glenn Gordon III – Age: 15
Glenn was diagnosed with Hypertonia, Polycythemia, and Developmental Delay. His favorite foods are sweet potatoes and meatloaf. Glenn listens to all types of music, especially all of the Disney songs from movies. He likes toys that make noise and sitting outside on the porch. Overall, Glenn is a happy boy enjoying life as best as he can.
Set the alarms. Make lunches. Put out the clothing. It’s school time again!

Most students in our area haven’t been inside of a school since they left for their Spring Break vacation. School buildings abruptly closed to forestall the coronavirus pandemic in March and turned to online learning.

Everyone might even feel nervous or a little scared about the first day of school because of all things “new” since COVID-19: new teachers, new friends, a new school, new guidelines, and new precautions for everyone. On Saturday, August 8, 2020, Houston Children’s Charity will present backpacks containing age appropriate school supplies to approved clients.

Teaming up with Rod Ryan of The Rod Ryan Morning Show and 94.5 The Buzz, along with volunteers, HCC will host its annual Back2School backpack distribution day.

Excellence in education begins with preparation...Thanks to all of our partners for collaborating with us to equip students, with the necessities, to make a difference. Our kids are NOW prepared to succeed!

The CarMax Foundation has approved support for Houston Children’s Charity in the amount of $10,000.00. The grant funds will support our A Better NIght’s Sleep program operating needs due to COVID impacts.

Maddy’s Annual Children’s Book Drive: Vanessa Streavel

- It has been 6 consecutive years since this partnership began. How did you first become involved with Houston Children’s Charity’s and the “Back2School” program? I was looking for charities to donate books to in and around the Houston area. I came across Houston Children’s Charity and started donating books in 2014. The following year it was communicated to me that the books were being given out during the Back2School drive. This is what spurred our involvement.

- How many books have you donated to HCC’s “Back2School” program in the years involved? 10,752

- Is there a moment during the years that stands out to you? The first year that I had the pleasure of witnessing the Back2School drive. It was amazing to see so many people volunteering their time to give to children in need. I remember thinking, “This is where we’ll be donating all of our collected books. It’s perfect!”

- What is the mission behind Maddy’s Annual Children’s Book Drive? The book drive has been held annually since 2013 in memory of my daughter, Maddy. It is done on or around her birthday in celebration of her life and her love for books. The mission of the book drive is to get a book into the hands of every child regardless of their circumstances, a book they can keep...a book of their very own.

- Where do you see the program going in the future? We are in this for the long haul! It is a beautiful way to honor Maddy. And as long as there is a need for books at HCC, we will continue giving as many as we can collect to this great charity. It is a great honor and privilege to be able to give out books at the Back2School program, and Maddy’s Annual Children’s Book Drive is looking forward to participating in all the years to come.

Rosemary Lozano

- How did you first learn about volunteering for Houston Children’s Charity? After overhearing me speak Spanish & English to a friend, I was asked by an HCC employee, Mike, if I would like to volunteer for HCC. I said sure so he gave his business card to me and I called him the next day to ask about the volunteering.

- Why did you decide to become a volunteer? I love helping out the community and working in anything that I can help out.

- What do you like best about serving as an HCC volunteer? I love helping HCC during the events. I can also teach my kids what volunteering means and how to help.
A few too many, or not enough? How many hours did you get last night? Where did you sleep? Did you know that there are countless children sleeping on make-shift beds – either sharing with multiple siblings, or worse, sleeping on the floor? Of course, there’s the issue of the children who do have their own beds, but are still sleeping on the floor. With the launch of the innovative program, A Better Night’s Sleep, Houston Children’s Charity aimed to provide beds to children, many of whom have never had a restful place to lay their heads. President & CEO Laura S. Ward introduced the idea that a $100 donation enables HCC to purchase the basics for a good night’s sleep: a twin bed (box springs and mattress), frame, pillow, blanket and complete set of sheets for a deserving child.

Since the first beds were distributed, HCC has provided beds to over 25,000 children in and around the Greater Houston Area through our monthly bed distributions. This program not only provides every child with a bed, but also the opportunity to awake every morning well-rested and prepared for the day that awaits them.

Together we can provide the foundation to help kids rise each day – rested and equipped – to undertake any challenges that come their way. A Better Night’s Sleep enables HCC to purchase the basics for a good night’s sleep: a twin bed (box springs and mattress), frame, pillow, blanket and complete set of sheets for a deserving child. This program not only provides every child with a bed, but also the opportunity to awake every morning well-rested and prepared for the day that awaits them.

A calendar of Virtual Events was born! In May, YHCC kicked off a new, social-distancing-approved way to mix and mingle with “Quar-ingo” (Quarantine Bingo). The two-hour event was hosted through Zoom and saw nearly 100 active participants coming together to sip a cocktail and play a game all for a great cause. Thanks to generous donations from Armando’s, Whataburger and Six Flags Fiesta Texas, the event raised over $1,200 in support of Houston Children’s Charity’s Back2School program!

For a full list of events or for more information on how to become a YHCC member, visit www.yhcc.org and follow along on social media for the latest updates.

**Volunteer Spotlight:** Jonathan Holub
# of Years Volunteering: 2+ years

- **How long have you been a volunteer for HCC? What programs?** I have been volunteering for 2 and a half years. A Better Night’s Sleep, Christmas Toy Distribution, Easter party, Back2School, Gala and Run for a Reason.

- **Why did you decide to become a volunteer?** I have always seen my parents and family give back to their community around them and wanted to myself. I was very lucky and fortunate that I found someone so close to my heart that was so involved herself. It was easy to jump into after seeing all the good that HCC does.

- **Do you have any advice for someone who is considering becoming an HCC volunteer?** Yes! Do it, jump in fully head first and enjoy every second of it. It’s absolutely worth the time, effort, sweat and joy you put in.

**Volunteer Spotlight:** Shar Levin
# of Years Volunteering: 8+ years

- **How did you first learn about volunteering for Houston Children’s Charity?** My beautiful sister!

- **Why did you decide to become a volunteer?** To help others any way I can.

- **What do you like best about serving as a HCC volunteer?** I love the Christmas program and knowing the kids will be so excited for their toys.

- **Do you have any advice for someone who is considering becoming an HCC volunteer?** Yes! Do it, jump in fully head first and enjoy every second of it. It’s absolutely worth the time, effort, sweat and joy you put in.
Q&A with YHHCC Board

**Name:** ALECS PELTER  
YHHCC Board Position: Chair  
Employer / Title: JPMorgan Chase  
Membership: 3 years  
Positions held on YHHCC Board: Treasurer (2 years)

**What is your favorite HCC program to be involved with?**

The Easter party! It’s tons of fun seeing the kids run around and pick up eggs – plus I get tons of joy out of wearing a funny animal costume and making the kids laugh.

**Favorite or most impactful memory during your time on YHHCC?**

During our YHHCC mixers. Everyone in attendance is learning about HCC and the community at the same time. Sure, we’re raising money for the cause, but what I love most is that we’re planting seeds for the future – future donors, advocates, and leaders in our community!

**With all of the Young Professionals Groups in the Houston community, why have you chosen to be a part of Young Houstonians for Houston Children’s Charity?**

Young Houstonians for Houston Children’s Charity? YHHCC’s community outreach and focus on helping the children of Houston was instrumental in my decision to join the organization.

**Favorite or most impactful memory during your time on YHHCC?**

My most impactful memory during my time in YHHCC would have been at our 2018 Christmas distribution, and a grandmother who was taking care of her grandchildren teared up and hugged me thanking me. I will never forget that moment.

**Favorite or most impactful memory during your time on YHHCC?**

I joined YHHCC as I am passionate about giving back to the community and believe the youth will shape our future and thus it needs to be given the best of opportunities. Given that YHHCC works for Houston’s underserved kids it naturally appealed to me and seemed a good fit.

**What are some short-term goals for YHHCC in 2020?**

I want to see the organization continue to grow both in membership and leadership opportunities. It started out with just 3 people deciding they wanted to do more and in less than 3 years we now have 7 Leadership Board Members and 4 Committees. I can’t wait to see what we’ll accomplish in 2020.

**With all of the Young Professionals Groups in the Houston Community why have you chosen to be a part of Young Houstonians for Houston Children’s Charity?**

I’ve been able to see firsthand how much good HCC has done for our community. The number of lives touched is immeasurable and something I’m so proud to be a part of.

**What are some short-term goals for YHHCC in 2020?**

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"Our Mission"
Houston Children’s Charity is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for Greater Houston’s underprivileged, abused, and disabled children who have been otherwise left behind. The scope of our support is limited only by the availability of resources. Our goal is to leave no legitimate request for assistance unanswered.

"Our Vision"
“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.

Officers
Tilman J. Fertitta, Chairman of the Board
Gary D. Becker, Vice Chairman of the Board
Laura S. Ward, President & CEO
Tad Brown, Past-President
Grant W. Guthrie, Vice President / Funding Co-Chair
John B. Johnson, Vice President / Funding Co-Chair
Edna Meyer-Nelson, Treasurer
Penny Loyd, Secretary

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Rob Ball
Dr. Susan Blaney
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Dr. Lois J. Moore
Robert E. Oglesby
Robert R. Pierce
Dr. Jorge Salazar
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Robin L. Young-Ellis

Advisory Board
Donald J. Henderson
Paul B. Loyd, Jr.
John L. Nau, III
Michael F. Rogers
David H. Ward

2020 & 2021 Upcoming Events
“A Better Night’s Sleep”
Bed Distributions – Every Month (Saturday)

“HCC Closet”
Semi-Monthly visits (Tuesday – by appointment only)

“Chariots For Children”
Adopt – A – Family
October – December

Toy Distribution
December TBA

24th Annual Gala
February 19, 2021

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
houstonchildrenscharity.org
facebook.com/houstonchildrenscharity
linkedin.com/company/houstonchildrenscharity
instagram.com/houstonchildrenscharity
twitter.com/houcharity

Out in the Community
We are always looking to reach more families in need.
If you have a community event that you would like us to attend OR if you would like to start a fundraiser on behalf of HCC, please contact us.
Phone M-F 9am to 5pm: (713) 524-2878 ext. 202
Email: hcc@houstonchildrenscharity.net