

A Miracle on tol

As **Houston Children's Charity** learned how to navigate the different obstacles 2020 handed us, with the help of The Fertitta Family, The Houston Rockets, and U.S. Marines Toys for Tots, we were able to provide "Christmas Magic" for 12,000 children at the Toyota Center! With a transformed framework of the program, this year looked very different with a contactless drive-through distribution. Hundreds of volunteers spent the beginning of the week setting up our Holiday Shop, sorting through the toys and organizing by age and gender, and handpicking toys for age-appropriate toy tags. During our two-day drive-through distribution, families stayed in their vehicles, popped their trunks, and volunteers loaded the gift bags.



thank you to Whataburger for providing lunch for all of our staff and volunteers during this long, but very rewarding, weeklong event!

happen!

Without the support of our community, partners, sponsors, and volunteers, Houston Children's Charity would not have the toys, the venue, or the helping hands to serve the vast number of families in need. The "Christmas Magic" throughout the holiday season would not be possible without everyone coming together to serve Houston's underprivileged, abused and disabled children. More than ever before, Houston was in dire need of Christmas cheer and together we made this

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DISTRIBUTI

- . Laura Ward, SSqt. Eric Ouesada,
- 2. Toy Donations
- 3. Children waiting on toy bags
 4. Toyota Center
 5. Laura Ward, 50 Cent
- 6. Maricella Reed
- 7. Sqt. Mendez 8. Child who just received toys



kids happy. Because of you guys my kids will have smiles on their faces. So very grateful to each one of you that have made this event happen. From the people that donated to the people that work handing out the toys FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS We thank you "

SANDY, 2020 CHRISTMAS

Board Members



GRANT GUTHRIE: • Executive Producer of

Bill & Ted Face The Music



ROBIN YOUNG-ELLIS:

- 9th consecutive year as a Texas Best of Structured Settlement firm
- #1 for Houston for 2019-2020 as the Top Rated Structured Settlement Firm
 - 6th consecutive year in Texas Lawyer 2020 Texas Hall of Fame



EDNA MEYER-NELSON:

- Sue Trammell Whitfield Award for Resiliency
- 2020 Largest Houston-Area Women-owned business



Letter from the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

What a year!!! Every one of us has grappled with the changes and challenges of 2020. As we began to navigate these uncertain times, to serve the children who count on us. With a 35% increase in need, we had to make tough decisions and we had to ask more from our supporters than ever before – YOU did not let us down!

This is a testament to the perpetual commitment and compassion of our hands-on Board, partners, advocates, volunteers, and staff. Since 1996, we have collectively improved the lives of over 3.5 million underserved children in our community. In 2020 alone, 20,000 children received assistance from HCC. We did not standstill. We could not standstill - there was not time for that. Our special children count on us every day.

Through A Better Night's Sleep, we distributed over 900 twin size beds to children who did not have a comfortable place to lay their heads on at night, providing them with a mattress, bed frame, box spring, linens, and a pillow. Through wonderful sponsors who noticed the need in our community not giving up amidst the pandemic, Chariots for Children awarded 15 families with handicap accessible vans to provide mobility freedom.

The HCC Closet welcomed 125 families to shop gently used and new items free of charge. In August, to equip children with their new online learning, we supplied 3,000 age-appropriate through innovation and determination, we quickly pivoted to continue backpacks through our Back2School program. In addition to our hands-on programs, \$100,000 was donated to Texas Children's Hospital through the Houston Children's Charity Family Emergency Fund. We also awarded \$35,000 to TEACH – To Educate All Children through our KIDSMART program. Our Annual Toy Distribution served 12,000 children with help from our partners, The Fertitta Family, Houston Rockets, and Toys for Tots.

> So many of Houston's darkest times have been followed by our finest hours and 2020 was no exception. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your unwavering support of our mission. We are truly blessed by a resilient community that deeply cares about the wellbeing of every child in our city. As we embark on a new year, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve Houston's children who need us most.











"Houston Children's Charity never forgets its mission even in a pandemic."

~ LAURA S. WARD

Houston Children's Charity, President & CEO



15 vans given to children and their families for mobility freedom!



mobility freedom! HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY



The pandemic might have slowed down other Young Professional groups but not the Young Houstonians for Houston Children's Charity (YHHCC).

They hosted a virtual event "Quaringo" (Quarantine Bingo) on May 14th! AMAZING...this virtual bingo event, via Zoom, raised \$1200 and had almost 100 young professionals in attendance. Given the current climate — many individuals may find themselves wanting to volunteer their time, but are unsure how they can do so safely. YHHCC was in this boat and came up with the BEST initiative for everyone in this situation! YHHCC wanted to bring the joys of literacy into the homes of children all over the community with Virtual Story Time! Members recorded themselves reading a book and posted them on social media for everyone to enjoy!

Other YHHCC events included a **Virtual Trivia Night**, a **guest speaker** from a **Wealth Management firm** to talk about planning your finances during the pandemic, and a **virtual workout** from a professional personal trainer.

Stay Tuned for upcoming events in 2021!



125 families shopped at the HCC closet!





Nine More Vans!

During this sustained time of uncertainty, our *Chariots for Children* program awarded **NINE** additional handicapped-accessible vans to children in need bringing our totals to FIFTEEN GIFTS **OF MOBILITY** this year!

On Wednesday, September 9, 2020, a little afternoon rain shower could not dampen our spirits as we celebrated our second van distribution in 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 these Houstonians. His outstanding generosity for our special kids and our community is truly over the top!

On this afternoon, HCC President & CEO Laura S. Ward, while practicing social distancing, welcomed everyone and wished for all safe days during this pandemic. Laura was proud to announce that these NINE vans were made possible by our partnership with Adaptive Driving Access and individual van sponsors: The Fant Foundation, Moody Endowment, Suzanne Klein / Edna Meyer-Nelson and Texas Mattress Makers / Youval Meicler.

To watch these families arrive in multiple automobiles, or a taxi, and then leave in their very own handicapped-accessible vehicle is just MARVELOUS! Sponsors, Allan Matthews (Moody Endowment), Frances Moody, Robert Moody III (The Moody Family), Youval Meicler, Rachael Gordon (Texas Mattress Makers) and HCC Board Members in attendance, Edna Meyer-Nelson and Bob Ogle helped award the keys to the family's new mode of transportation.

Days like this, where we can hand the keys to a wheelchair-accessible vehicle for NINE families simply





Jaelyn Asberry – Age: 16 Sponsor: **Moody Endowment**

Jaelyn's diagnosis of Mitochondrial Disorder and Chorea does not stop her from enjoying her favorite things in life like spaghetti tacos, listening to hip/hop music and watching Grey's Anatomy with her mom, Margarita. She loves her older siblings, Xavier,

and Cartier, so much. They have a very close bond and enjoy spending time with each other. Jaelyn wants to become a cosmetologist when she gets older.



Mackenzie Brawdy & Gerald Thorton - Age: 5 & 11 Sponsor: **Moody Endowment**

Mackenzie is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy Quadriplegic, Epilepsy and Congenital Hypertonia. Mickey Mouse Playhouse is her favorite show and her nickname is 'Macky-Macky'. She enjoys outdoor activities like going to the park or birthday parties outside.

Gerald is also diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy Quadriplegic and he is ventilator dependent. He loves to watch Barney and Friends all day long and greets everyone with a warm smile. He enjoys it when you sing or whistle a tune to him. Their loving parents, Chinyere and

Victor, love playing games and watching TV with their entire family, which includes siblings, Chisom, Kamsi, and Emmauel.



Tennon Fitzgerald - Age: 6 Sponsor: **Moody Endowment**

Tennon, diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Delayed Developmental milestones and has an Intraventricular Hemorrhage, enjoys the little things in life. He likes fresh avocados or throwing things across the room, and of course, playing with his brothers, Jay,

Brian and Ethan. Tennon's personal goal is to sit unassisted and even walk, which is why he works so hard during his physical and occupational therapy sessions. At the end of the day, he is soothed when his mom, Tanisha, speaks to



Tia & Mia Hardy - Age: 21 Sponsor: The Fant Foundation

Tia and Mia love being together, regardless of the circumstances, and have a strong twin bond. Tia & Mia are diagnosed with Restrictive Lung Disease and Scoliosis, while Tia is also diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, blindness, Developmental Delay, and Chronic Lyme Disease.

Older sister Tia is very protective of her younger twin. She can only eat soft foods, but her favorite is McDonald's french fries. Tia is legally blind but loves being the center of attention, especially with her family and friends. The best way she can

express herself is through her warm smile.

Mia's favorite sport is tennis; even though she has never played, she loves to watch any match. When having a bad day, she can turn on any song and feel better. Latricia, the twins' mom, says both of her daughters work very hard at whatever they do.



William Hartsoch – Age: 20 Sponsor: The Fant Foundation

Will is diagnosed with Down Syndrome and other limitations, including disproportionate limbs. He has two sisters, Kristen and Hannah, who both look out for their brother. Even though Kristen lives far away, she video chats with

him almost daily. Hannah enjoys taking Will on adventures to the park or movies. He and his mom, Lauri, love everything Disney and his favorite thing to do is listen to Disney music. Will is very artistic and expresses himself through his creations.



Paris Lowe – Age: 6 Sponsor: The Fant Foundation

Paris, diagnosed with Dandy-Walker Malformation and Global Developmental Delay, loves to eat, especially pizza and french fries. Her favorite song is "Baby Shark" and she loves dancing to any music. All of her most cherished toys are musical. Paris is a mischievous and playful child

who plays pranks on her mom, Anabel. She will never say no to a trip to the pool and playing in the water.



Mason C. Marshall - Age: 16 Sponsor: The Fant Foundation

Mason is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Secondary Dystonia and seizures. Homemade chicken & dumplings cooked by his mom, Dawn, is his favorite food. He loves watching reruns of iCarly and Scooby-Doo. Mason has a special

connection with his little brother, Tanner, so much so that Tanner can tell you how Mason is feeling. Even though Mason is severely to profoundly deaf, he still enjoys feeling the vibrations of music.

2020 Fall Van Sponsors

Thank.uvu

The Fant Foundation

Jana & Richard Fant

Moody Endowment

Suzanne Klein / Edna Meyer-Nelson

Texas Mattress Makers /

Youval Meider

Tremendous! Amazing!



Isac Abram Medeles – Age: 15 Sponsor: **Suzanne Klein / Edna** Meyer-Nelson

Isac has Cerebral Palsy and dislocated hips. He loves it when his brother, Manuel, takes him for walks in the park. Isac always has the biggest smile when his parents, Judith & Manuel, speak to him.

When he is waiting or being patient, he will start playing with his hands to pass the time. Isac loves watching any kind of Christian cartoons; the shows with songs are his favorite. His parents know Isac just wants to be happy and healthy.



Daniel Okunuga – Age: 18 Sponsor: Texas Mattress Makers / Youval Meicler

Daniel, diagnosed with Duchene Muscular Dystrophy, is the oldest of his five siblings, Sharon, Faith, Paul, Beloved and Solomon, and he loves being a big brother. He and his parents. Yetunde and Akin-

tunde, can re-watch The Lion King every day. Daniel also has a passion for sports, especially basketball. When he cannot watch sports, he often passes the time by playing with his Beyblades. Daniel's dream is to become a video game designer or animator.wants to be happy and healthv.

Chariots for Children



HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY



HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY

to my children in these difficult times. I am

- GISSEL, 2020 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM CLIENT

very grateful."

RENEE MANNING

PASADENA, TX

SHAMROCK FARRELL, A BENNETT COMPANY

Many Christmas miracles happened

this year because of our Sponsors' BIG

hearts and families enjoyed the magi-

cal Christmas experience that every

child deserves.



TOGETHER IS THE PLACE TO BE! This year the start of school looked a bit different, for everyone. Did your child hear the bell ring and walk the halls of their school? Did you choose for your children to attend their classes via

> ZOOM meetings? No matter the decision made in each household, children headed back to school and they are looking for a bit of normalcy to return into their lives.

As the alarm goes off, it is ok to have those first day jitters. Students and teachers alike are allowed to feel nervous about the first day of school. This year is no exception, because of all things "new" since COVID-19. However, we are here to say COVID has nothing on the amazing young minds of the Greater Houston Area.

YOU GOT THIS!

On Saturday, August 8, 2020, Houston Children's Charity teamed up with Rod Ryan, of The Rod Ryan Morning Show / **94.5 The Buzz**, to distribute backpacks to approved families. Over 1,000 families received backpacks, containing ageappropriate school supplies.

During our "No-Contact" distribution, more than 3,000 **children** received a few surprises accompanying their backpacks. Special thanks to donations from Maddy's Annual Book Drive (books), Charles E. Dyer, IV, D.D.S., M.S. (dental bags), Whataburger (coupons & PEZ dispensers), and Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers (pencils, folders & achievement awards) for helping top off the event!

Acme Party and Tent donated a very appreciated 15x30x8 shade tent for everyone to escape the Texas heat. Volunteers from

Methodist I-Care, Asurion, U.S. Coast Guard, SP Waltrip Lodge, NCL Wildflowers, NorthShore's Best, 501st Legion, Milanza Enterprises, LLC, Yancey Concrete, and Kinetic Promotional Product Services were unstoppable. **EVERYONE** was part of the success of that day.

Additional sponsors for the 2020 Back2School program include Brand Management Professionals, PrimeWay Federal Credit Union, Squeezed Online, Wingstop Restaurants, Jim Adler The "Texas Hammer" & Associates, Girl Scout Troop #11039, Asurion, Arnold & Itkin, LLP, Mountain Tarp Pioneer, and Workforce Solutions. Daniel Ortiz Photography, Stevie Merrill, and **Craig Finnigan** captured the memories of the day.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for their unwavering support, even during a global pandemic. With your help, we were able to equip students with the necessities to make a difference. Our kids are **NOW** prepared for academic success!



In Memory of Dinah Powers

Back2School Partner from 2013-2019.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Eva Pearson, Bessie Pearson, LaShaunda King

of Years Volunteering - 7+ years

How did you first learn about volunteering for Houston Children's Charity?

We first learned of the opportunity to volunteer with Houston Children's Charity through the Houston Methodist volunteer site. We did not realize, when we first registered, how much joy this opportunity would provide, but we cannot imagine not being able to serve with this organization.



- How long have you been a volunteer for HCC? We have been volunteering with Houston Children's Charity for 7 years.
- List the HCC programs that you have volunteered for. We have served in the Back2School and A Better Night's Sleep programs, as well as the annual Houston Children's Charity Galas.
- Why did you decide to become a volunteer?

We are thankful for what we have been given, and we wanted to use our lives to help others and give back to the community. All three of us have serving hearts that want to make a difference. It seems cliché, but we feel that we are put here to be an encouragement and serve others.

What do you like best about serving as a HCC volunteer?

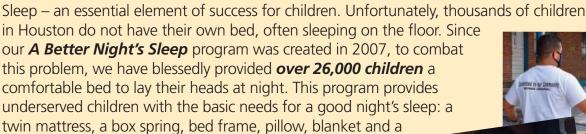
Of course, there is nothing like the smile that lights up these children's faces, but as parents, we also see the thankfulness of the children's parents in helping to provide for those most precious to them.

• Do you have any advice for someone who is considering becoming an HCC volunteer? If you volunteer for the Annual Gala, WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES! But truly, come join us! It does not matter if you like to be behind the scenes or in the front of the crowd, there is a place that is a perfect fit for you. You only need a heart and a compassion for people. Everything else will fall into place. Come join our community of giving back!



Sweet Dreams for All!

900+ beds distributed this year!!!



During the global pandemic, the need for beds has gone up significantly this past year. We restructured our program to be a contactless distribution and reopened as soon as it was safe to do so, requiring personal protective equipment and following all CDC guidelines.

complete set of sheets.

There is no other existing program in the Houston area providing new twin beds and bedding on a monthly basis to children in need.

HCC Closet

Each bed represents an opportunity for **SWEET DREAMS** and a comforting place to lay their head.





Our wonderful, generous friends at Macy's Galleria and Macy's Memorial City donated 2,500 beautiful prom dresses and other Sunday's best clothing!

We are so excited for our families to adorn themselves with these lovely selections.

> Our doors are always open on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to accept donations at 5151 Mitchelldale St. Suite A4.



stributions wouldn't be the same vithout Whataburger breakfast!

THANK YOU for your continued support of ou Two is Better

than One!

underserved children!

RUN FOR A REASON!

Houston Children's Charity was one of 61 official charities for the 2021 Chevron Houston Virtual Marathon Run for a Reason Charity Program. The program was designed for runners to raise funds and awareness for local charitable organizations while competing. This year, runners tied up their laces and went running individually on Sunday, January 17, 2021, raising over \$2,400!

Next year, we are proud to be back as an official Run for a Reason Charity for the 2022 Chevron Houston Marathon. If you are interested in running for HCC, contact us today at: 713-524-2878 or email socialmedia@houstonchildrenscharity.org

Thank you to our 2021 Runners: Homies on the Run

Houston Cares. Houston Gives.

Houston is one of the most philanthropic cities in the United States. As always, Houstonians answered the call to improve the quality of life for Houston's underserved children.



R E S P E C T Find out what that means to Leila!

Arnold & Itkin LLP hosted their 5th annual RESPECT Contest – a contest that inspires children to recognize and appreciate the rights, beliefs, practices, and differences of other people. 5th Graders from around the Houston area were asked to explain what respect means to them, why it is important, and to include an illustration to complement their explanation. Judge Dedra Davis judged the entries, and the winners received a small cash prize for themselves, a donation to their school, and a donation to a charity of their choice. Houston Children's Charity is very honored to be Leila's charity of choice at Leo A. Rizzuto Elementary.

"Respect is everything. What is respect you may ask. Respect is kindness, being caring, a good citizen, and so many other traits. You can respect people at home, at school, or in public. I respect my teachers and friends, as well as they respect me. Remember to respect people no matter if they are your friend or enemy. This is respect to me." - Leila, 5th Grader



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.

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"OUR KIDS ARE EVERYBODY'S KIDS"

1600 West Loop South

Houston, Texas 77027

Suite 610

2021 Upcoming Events

"A BETTER NIGHT'S SLEEP"

Bed Distributions – Every Month (Saturday)

"HCC CLOSET"

Semi-Monthly visits (Tuesday)

"CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN" Spring - Fall

BACK2SCHOOL August TBA

24TH **ANNUAL GALA** October 8, 2021

ADOPT – A – FAMILY October – December

Toy Distribution December TBA

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/houstonchildrens





Instagram.com/houstonchildrenscharity_



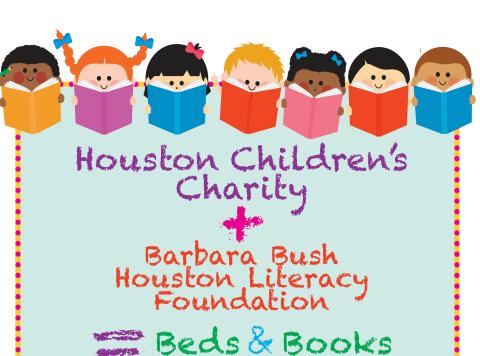
twitter.com/houcharity

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: (713) 524-2878 Email: hcc@houstonchildrenscharity.net





In September at our monthly bed distribution, HCC collaborated with **Barbara Bush**

Houston Literacy Foundation to surprise children

with a bag of



age-appropriate books! Their mission is to improve lives through the power of literacy, and our special children were so excited to be recipients and start their very own

Home Library. Thank you

Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation!

