The 80s Never Looked So Good

SHELBY HODGE | PaperCity Magazine | 10.10.21

It wasn't just the persuasive encouragement of trial lawyer Tony Buzbee, dashing in a black-sequined dinner jacket, that sent proceeds

soaring for the many youngsters served by Houston Children's Charity. The nonprofit's CEO Laura Ward did her share

to nudge loose considerable dinero while auctioneer Vikki Vines wielded the gavel that confirmed it all. The final take for the charity's gala held at The Post Oak Hotel was a record \$2.8 million.

The live auction, where this threesome successfully worked the crowd, added \$420,000 to the bottom line. While most live auctions cast a dim shadow on gala ambience, this one actually rocked as Michael Hoctor made the winning bid of \$135,000 for the 2022 BMW 4 series convertible (MSRP \$64,595). And as David Ybarra of Gringo's Tex-Mex bought four \$40,000 vans in the Chariots for Children raise, Gary Petersen bought three and all total 22 vans were on the books for wheelchair-confined children. (An additional five had been purchased previously at the underwriter party, hosted by the Buzbees in their River Oaks home.) Contributing a five-figure enticement was Valobra Master Jewelers, which contributed an amazing pair of \$25,000 diamond and sapphire earrings to the live auction.

ABOVE: Tommy Kuranoff, Laura Ward

Buzbee and his bride, Frances Moody Buzbee, chaired the 24th annual Houston Children's Charity Gala that featured '80s icon Cyndi Lauper as headliner. The sellout crowd of 597 was encouraged to dress in homage to the 68-year-old wild-maned singer, who held her own on stage. Femmes in wigs, '80s dress and finger-less gloves along with costumed gents crammed the stage front and danced in the aisles as Lauper

belted out her infinitely singable tunes including "Time After Time" and "True Colors." She saved her most popular tune, "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," for the finale which had the entire ballroom of partygoers on their feet.

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Quarter Century of Caring

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. Now for 25 years, HCC has provided support for over 300 agencies and more than 3,500,000 children. The founders of HCC A Quarter were steadfast in their Century of belief that they must

something to help children in need across Houston, and all are still involved in our efforts today. We are eternally grateful to these visionaries who began our work in 1996: Gary D. Becker, Tilman J. Fertitta, Grant W. Guthrie, Donald J Henderson, Robert E. Ogle, Michael F. Rogers, and Laura S. Ward.

CARING

A grand celebration of A Quarter Century of Caring was hosted by Houston Children's Charity on November 10, 2021 at The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston in the Grand Ballroom. Mistress of Ceremonies Shelby Hodge of PaperCity Magazine welcomed nearly 400 guests there to commemorate our work. Also, we were honored with a proclamation by City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who named it Houston Children's Charity Day!



Tilman Fertitta, Laura Ward, Gary Becker

HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY • WINTER 2022 • 1



Letter from the President and CEO



Looking back over 2021, Houston Children's Charity had much to celebrate. After serving more than 3.5 million children in our first quarter century, we are even more committed to ensuring a world where every child has their very own bed, clothing, school supplies, transportation, health services, and joyful holidays.

Your support of our mission over those 25 years makes our work possible – every day, every week, every year – for every child we serve. In 2021, YOU helped our direct service programs touch the lives of 25,000 children, and the thousands more reached through our work with partner agencies. None of this is possible without a supportive board, generous donors, and an amazing cadre of volunteers.

We thank each of you for your efforts on behalf of the children we serve as 2021 was a year of many challenges for families in our area. But 2022 will be no different. With rising costs on everyday needs, our families will continue to look to Houston Children's Charity to support their children. And while the year will almost definitely bring unforeseen challenges, we know YOU will be there to support our efforts and our clients. Because "Our Kids Are Everybody's Kids."

With my deepest gratitude,

Laura

Laura S. Ward President & CEO





CA Leader Left Speechless..

PRESIDENT & CEO LAURA WARD was surprised with an honor of a lifetime. HCC Vice Chairman of the Board Gary Becker, on behalf of the founders and board members, presented Laura with a Leadership Award. Adding to the honor in recognition of Laura's 25 years of dedication to HCC and

Child Life Room at Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center Outpatient Clinic at the Mark Wallace Tower was renamed as the Laura S. Ward, Houston Children's Charity Child Life Room.

the 3.5 million children served, the

Laura S. Ward
Houston Children's Charity
Child Life Room

HOUSTON CHILDREN'S
CHARITY WAS AWARDED
THE OUTSTANDING
FUNDRIAISING PROGRAM
< \$2M AWARD BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF
FUNDRAISING
PROFESSIONALS,
GREATER HOUSTON
CHAPTER.



What's Better Than Kentucky Fried Chicken?

We are proud to partner with **KFC franchise KBP Foods** for their **Charity Coupon Book Campaign**. For every \$1 coupon book that was sold during the month of September, KBP Foods donated that dollar to HCC to benefit our special children for a total of \$37,851.89! We are so grateful for this contribution and know it will make a significant impact in the lives of many special children during challenging times! Endless thanks to KBP Foods and the thousands of our supporters who love their chicken!

This campaign was such a success it is happening AGAIN for the second year! From April - May, you can visit your local KFC restaurant and purchase your coupon book that will benefit Houston's most vulnerable children.



A Totally Tubular Evening

The Underwriter Party showcases and celebrates donors and sponsors for Houston Children's Charity's only major fundraising event, the Annual Gala For our **24th Gala, Frances and Tony Buzbee** graciously opened the doors of their home to host an Underwriter Party for more than **90 guests** on

September 17, 2021.



The evening was filled with accolades and heartfelt thanks to this year's Underwriters. HCC President & CEO, Laura Ward began the evening by thanking our Gala Chairs, Frances and Tony, for hosting and their long-standing commitment to improving

our community. She continued her gratitude to **Title Sponsors** of **13 years**, Maria Moncada Alaoui of BMW of West Houston and Tommy Kuranoff of **Momentum BMW Southwest.**

A big round of applause followed the announcement of their donation of a 2022 BMW M440i Series Convertible for the Gala's live auction.

While HCC never considers the Underwriter Party a fundraising event, Frances and Tony planned to use the evening to raise enough funds to cover the cost of one van for our **Chariots for Children** program – their favorite! But with Tony's masterful and persuasive nature, he managed to gather enough funds to purchase FIVE vans! Laura elatedly thanked the donors of the evening:

Amy & Gary Becker, Ali Choudri, Michelle Edgerly & Dennis Byrd, **Brian Kapiloff**, Chris Kase, Tommy Kuranoff, Larry & Mimi Levine, Edna Meyer-Nelson, Carl Norton, Maricella & John Reed, Renee & Scott Rice, Tom & Carol Sawyer, Connie Stagner, Robert Tijerina, Michele Till, and Franco Valobra.

We are so appreciative of our gracious Gala Chairs for hosting a wonderful kickoff partv that had all guests excited and eager for what was to come at our Gala, and thank you to everyone who attended this monumental and

unforgettable party that raised 5 vans surprising and significant!

- HCC Board of Directors, from Left to Right:
 Melissa Juneau, Laura Ward, Grant Guthrie, Edna Meyer-Nelson,
 Dr. Jorge Salazar, Gary Becker, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Bob Ogle,
- 2. Tommy Kuranoff, Laura Ward, Maria Moncada Alaoui
- 3. Gary & Amy Becker, Tracy & Harry Faulkner Tommy Kuranoff, Veronica Nemeth, Frances & Tony Buzbee, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Omar Alaoui

- 6. Mimi & Larry Levine
- Youval Meicler, Laura Ward, Rachael Gordon
 Melissa Juneau, Brian Kapiloff
- 9. Frances & Tony Buzbee, Laura Ward, Tina & Dave Strickland
- Franco Valobra, Tony Buzbee, Laura Ward, Frances Buzbee
 Rick & Shannon Walker, Ashley & Rob Ball



Edna Meyer-Nels Gary & Amy Bec



Chariots for Children



HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Charging Forward with Chariots

Since 1996, **Houston Children's Charity** has been awarding vans to help transport underserved children. Initiated as a program supporting other non-profit agencies, HCC now provides these vital vehicles to families with wheelchair-bound children. Our Fall event was hosted again by **HCC Chairman of the Board Tilman J. Fertitta** at **Willie G's Seafood** and delivered another **7 vans** for a total of **254 life-altering vehicles**.



This program could not have grown without the tremendous support of generous community donors. Sponsors of these vans include **The Fant Foundation** and **KBP Foods** who supported seven families and eight children this past fall. It was another beautiful day for the distribution, with the sunshine only surpassed by the brightest smiles as families and children explored their new vans.

We are so grateful to our sponsors who are dedicated to our mission to support these children. The vans provide more than transport, they provide the freedom that comes with mobility. And now eight children have the opportunity to explore endless possibilities!

- September 2021 Chariot Recipients with Adaptive Driving Access Team
- 2. Grant Guthrie, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Bob Ogle, Rob Pierce
- 3. Axel Lopez & Family
- 4. David Atkins, Carlos Delgado, Joe Anchondo, Dimitriya & Jaqualin Pate & Family, Laura Ward, Gary Becker
- 5. Daniela Gomez & Family
- 6. Ahmad Aldaim & Family



ONE OF THE LARGEST GIFTS IN HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY HISTORY!

There truly are no words to describe how grateful we are for this donation from the **Ortega Family**. This will significantly change the lives of so many children in Houston and the future of our organization!

Tilman Fertitta, Denise Ortega, Laura Ward

A Better
Night's
Sleep

Good Night, Sleep Tight.

Since 2007, *A Better Night's Sleep*has had the sole mission of ensuring
every child gets the sleep they
deserve through our monthly bed
distributions. A **\$100 donation** is
all it takes to ensure a child in need
has a comfortable place to rest their
head each night and that is in large part
due to Texas Mattress Makers. Since 2014,
Texas Mattress Makers has been a beacon

of hope for children seeking a new bed. From providing discounted mattresses to raising funds and

awareness through in-store promotions, Youval Meicler and Texas Mattress Makers have done it all. We're thankful for another year of partnership and the generous donation of **250 mattresses** in 2021!

Only time will tell if there is a professional sports star, future President of the United States, Fortune 500 CEO, or even a beloved teacher who is among the 25,000 children we have assisted to date. Together, we can provide the foundation needed to help them rise each day — rested and equipped — ready to undertake any challenges that lie ahead. To find out more about how you can donate toward *A Better Night's Sleep*, call us at **713-524-2878!** Applications for beds are available online year-round.





We would like to especially highlight a few special contributions. HCC Board Member John B. Johnson and Silver Eagle **Distributors** sent two 18-wheelers to move toys from the US Marines storage facility to the George R. Brown Convention Center. HCC Board Member Robin L. Young-Ellis wrangled a group of Rodeo volunteers to load the trucks destined for the distribution space. HCC Board Member Morris Smith and Arca Continental Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages ensured

our helping hands stayed hydrated with donated water, and our friends at Whataburger provided breakfast and lunch to keep our volunteers fueled through the distribution. Other board members who provided event support include **Bob Ogle**, **David Atkins**, Dr. Susan Blaney, and Dan D'Armond.

These treasures, toys, and talents contributed to another successful event and, even more importantly, provided joy to children at Christmas. Endless thanks are not enough for all that YOU did to make this a happy holiday for so many

underserved kids



A TIME FOR GIVING Starting in October, 545 eager Adopt-A-Family sponsors signed up to adopt 1,972 children! Sponsors discovered the joy of spreading holiday cheer to families who would otherwise go without while solidifying the true meaning of the season -giving We are truly grateful for the unwavering support of our sponsors many who are repeat sponsors year after year. Without your help, countless children would miss the opportunity to experience the magic of Christmas morning, something

WISH LIST Grand Total \$75,000.

Thank you for donating to our Christmas Wish List to provide Christmas Cheer to underserved children in need!

that every child deserves.

Aamir Aftab Ilene Allen Shayna Andrews Anonymous Vida Antwi **Arrow Exterminators** Shawn Baksh Carly Banwell Joshua Bell Vienna Bement **Briggs Equipment Bright Funds** Foundation Susan Bruch Gretchen Buchmeyer Cindy Cabrera Jessica Campbell Ruby Cantrell

Jan Carson Joshua Chacko Brad Clausen Cecelia Clemens Champions Choice Pain & Injury Clinics Cynthia Combs Brian Corless **Donellen Cornelius** Lori Ginsberg & Dan D'Armond Hope Daus **DEC Engineering** Jack Dinerstein Donohue Donohue Ken Ebeling Ann Ekwue Alberto Esquivel

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"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. - CORETTA SCOTT KING

Thank you to our great community for your love and support!

Celebration of Events hosted by Modern Luxury and invited by Valobra Jewelers

Football Game Tickets donated by The Houston Texans

Football Game Tickets for all home games donated by Rice University

Emerson's Birthday Fundraiser

Hank's Blankets, Socks, and Underwear donations to the HCC Closet

Kailyn's Lemonade Stand

Rooms To Go Grand Opening Donation

Run for a Reason

Talos Energy - NYSE 98th Annual Tree Lighting in New York City

Truist Bank Lighthouse Project

\$50,000 Donation from an Anonymous Donor

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

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

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"OUR KIDS ARE EVERYBODY'S KIDS"

1600 West Loop South

Houston, Texas 77027

Suite 610



2022 Upcoming Events

A BETTER NIGHT'S SLEEP

Bed Distributions – Every Month (Saturday)

HCC CLOSET

Semi-Monthly visits (Tuesday only)

CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN

Spring – TBA

BACK2SCHOOL Summer – TBA

25[™] ANNUAL GALA

October 14, 2022

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

October - December

ANNUAL TOY DISTRIBUTION

December – TBA

WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF CARING VOLUNTEERS. Please visit us at **www.houstonchildrenscharity.org** to register.

Stay Connected



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in linkedin.com/company/houstonchildrenscharity



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twitter/com/houcharity

Out in the Community

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 8:30am to 5pm: (713) 524-2878 ext. 202 Email: hcc@houstonchildrenscharity.net



A Better Night's Sleep

703 children awarded beds

Back2School

4,446 children received backpacks

HCC Closet

2,113 children received clothing

Houston Children's Charity Emergency Fund at Texas Children's Cancer Center **\$100,000** donated

Annual Toy Distribution

15,740 children provided with Christmas gifts

Adopt-A-Family

1,972 children adopted by **545** Sponsors

Chariots for Children

16 families awarded wheelchair-accessible vans

All DRESSed Up & Easter READy

1,425 children provided with Easter outfits/prom dresses