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 ambiance, 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.

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.
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 S. Ward
President & CEO
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.
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:


We are so appreciative of our gracious Gala Chairs for hosting a wonderful kickoff party 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!
20s Never Looked So Good
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!

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.
The end of every year can bring much hustle and bustle for families as the shopping begins for holiday gifts. But there are many families where the season brings only the stress of how they can celebrate the holidays without the resources to provide presents for their children.

Fortunately for thousands of those families, that stress is relieved through the **Annual Toy Distribution** program by Houston Children’s Charity and the generosity of this community. Once again in partnership with US Marine Toys for Tots and Houston First, HCC was able to distribute nearly 80,000 toys to more than 5,000 families for almost 16,000 children at the George R. Brown Convention Center just before Christmas.

This spirit of the season comes from so many: 120 donors contributed $75,000 to ensure we could purchase the toys to supplement gifts donated; hundreds of individuals, families, and companies collected and donated thousands of new, unwrapped toys as in-kind gifts; and countless volunteer hours supported every aspect of our efforts.

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.

**WISH LIST**

Grand Total $75,000.

Amaril Altub
Ilene Allen
Shayna Andrews
Anonymous
Vida Aneta
Arrow Extterminators
Shawn Baksh
Curtis (Cass) Barnett
Joshua Bell
Venna Bement
Biggs Equipment
Bright Funds
Foundation
Susan Bruch
Gretchen Bulkheimer
Cindy Cabrera
Jessica Campbell
Ruby Cantrell
Jan Carson
Johanna Causse
Brad Clausen
 Cecilia Clemens
Chambers Choice
Pain & Injury Clinics
Cynthia Combs
Brian Costales
Donellin Cornelius
Lori Gribnoff & Dan D’Armond
Hope Daus
DEI Engineering
Jack Dinnenstein
Donohue Donohue
Kim Edling
Ann Ekue
Alberto Esquivel
Jana & Richard Fant
Kimberly Flores
Reba Forbes
Maureen Ford
Cullen Franz
Thomas Galloway
Grace Gevers
Alex Gomez
Mary Gracy
Harid Hamadandan
Kimberly Haney
Samme Hanks
Patricia Healy
Sharon Hill
Michael Hoang
Catherine Hoffman
Houston Association of Health Underwriters
Dannette Jasper
Thalia Jenkins
Myrtle Josenudi
Lubna Kamal
Donna Knoke
Shirley Lawson
Virginia Ledwell
Tyee Lee
Amy Leibman
Sharon Link
Jena Lozano
Lucy Family Fund
Magazin Oil and Gas
DeeDee & Wallis Marsh
Kathy J. Marshall LLC
Tamela McCoy
April McGee
Michele McGovern
Virginia McIntyre
Gwen Mierlitzin
Michael Mitchell
Diana Mortensen
Mary Jane Mudd
John L. Nau, III
Margaret Nelson
Victoria Nikitin
Naureen Ntouala
Krista & Ted Ogden
Succeed In Spite Of
Maria Olsimede
Mary Perry
Amy & Rob Pierce
Gary Preite
Muralitharan
Ramanaraimohan
Robert Ray
Eric Robertson
Coxen Rogers
Anne Romaro
Sallenblash Family
Charitable Fund
Marino Sheervy
Ashley Smith
Stahlman Fund
April Stephens
Susan Stephens
Stewart Title
Tina & Dave
Stockland
Monique Studak
Dylan Suiter
Stephanie Swain
SWEAT Houston
Melissa Tansey
Raphaela Tchani
Jeremy Tislon
Sonny Tan
Rebecca Tripathy
Thomas Trust
John Turala
Jonathan Vargas
Diane Wilman
Amy Yakachis
Cecilia Yu
Jane Wagner
Elizabeth Williams
Tammy Williams
Joe Ron Young

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

**Thanks 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

_The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members._

— CORETTA SCOTT KING
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
Tilman J. Fertitta, Chairman of the Board
Gary D. Becker, Vice Chairman of the Board
Laura S. Ward, President & CEO
Grant W. Guthrie, Vice President / Funding Co-Chair
John B. Johnson, Vice President / Funding Co-Chair
Edna Meyer-Nelson, Treasurer
Robert E. Ogle, Assistant Treasurer
Penny Loyd, Secretary

DIRECTORS
David B. Atkins  DeeDee H. Marsh
Rob Ball  Maria Moncada Alasou
Dr. Susan Blaney  Dr. Lois J. Moore
Daniel R. D’Armond  Robert R. Pierce
Brandon Dewan  Dr. Jorge D. Salazar
Jana Fart  Morris Smith, MBA
Melissa H. Juneau  Kristina H. Somerville
Gary D. Justice  Robin L. Young-Ellis

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

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

25th Annual Gala
October 14, 2022

Adopt-A-Family
October – December

Annual Toy Distribution
December – TBA

Volunteer Corner
We are always in need of caring volunteers. Please visit us at www.houstonchildrenscharity.org to register.

Stay Connected

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

25,000+ children served through our direct services

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