Rocking Out Record Numbers for the Children

On an electrifying Friday night in mid-October, Houston Children's Charity hosted its **25th Annual Gala** at **The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Park**. The **Grand Ballroom** was the perfect setting for months of preparation to come to fruition. Generous sponsors and special guests were among the 650 guests in attendance to see a **RECORD BREAKING \$3.6 MILLION** raised for various programs that are focused on improving the quality of life for Houston's underprivileged, abused, and disabled children who might otherwise be left behind.

Title Sponsors BMW of West Houston (GM Maria Moncada Alaoui) and Momentum BMW Southwest (GM Tommy Kuranoff) were back to support Laura Ward and Houston Children's Charity for a 14th straight year. UNPRECEDENTED! One of Houston's most philanthropic residents, Sheridan Williams, chaired the "Rock & Roll Glam Cocktail" attire event, which saw so many firsts in the ballroom. Todd Kalas went from the TV booth to our ballroom as the night's emcee. Logan Thomas kept the energy level high during the Live Auction. Tony Buzbee and John Eddie Williams both closed out the evening's program with a bang. The iconic duo of Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo then took the stage to perform their hits.

Guests took their seats to enjoy a night full of fun, laughter, and purpose. Following dinner, partygoers took part in a record-breaking live and big board auction led by Houston Children's Charity President & CEO Laura Ward and auctioneer Logan Thomas. Kris Cogliano secured an Escape to Mexico, while Suzanne Ebrahimi won a Timeless Piece from Wayne Smith Jewels. Trini Mendenhall will be watching our World Series Champions Astros next year with the Double Play package, and Sheridan & John Eddie Williams will be dining, with 20 of their friends, with a Hall of Famer and 7-time Cy Young winner. The auction continued, with the highest bidders for the 3-piece Sakowitz Furs lot being Hannah & Cal McNair AND Joanna & Brad Marks. Regina Balderas will be at the Final Four and Tina Maria Bradley Hit The Jackpot this year! Erin & Muhmmad Aziz have the custom- designed Franco Valobra Ring of Passion. John Johnson and his friends will be on the Sails Pitch in the Gulf of Mexico soon. Jennifer & Brandon Dewan are headed to Kentucky to learn about whiskey at Buffalo Trace Distillery. Edna Meyer Nelson and Judson Merritt will be treated like VIPs on the Houston Rockets team plane, while Monica & Russell Ybarra will be treated like VIPs courtside in Tilman Fertitta's owner seats. Patricia Sturion and Hector Villarreal, owners of LUCHO Houston, purchased an all-new, all-electric **BMW i4 M50**. The auction ended with Laura announcing a SURPRISE *Houston Astros* Trifecta. Steve Dujka raised his paddle high and often to end the night with a win!



Maria Moncada Alaoui



continued page 4—

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS!!!

We are excited to announce that **BMW of** West Houston and Momentum BMW **Southwest** are confirmed as **Title Sponsors** of the 26th Annual Gala.

Houston Children's Charity Board of Directors would like to extend a special thank you to Maria Moncada Alaoui – BMW of West Houston and Tommy Kuranoff -Momentum BMW Southwest for their **UNPRECEDENTED** support for the past **15 years**. Their generous contributions have made a huge difference in the lives of so many children. We are grateful for their continued loyalty and unwavering support.





///MOMENTUM BMW SOUTHWEST



Letter from the President and



Dear Friends,

Since it's inception in 1996, I have been reminded that no organization becomes great on its own. This past year was no exception!

From an economy recovering from a pandemic to a World Series, there is nothing quite like the support of a Houstonian. Each year I continue to be in awe of our volunteers and donors for their dedication and support. 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.

The special children who we serve needed us more than ever and, because of you, we were able to answer their call for help.

Through your profound generosity, we tackled our biggest mountains yet. From our Saturday bed distributions to the backpacks handed out in August or gifting the keys of mobility to families at our chariot distributions, we have only just begun. The 25th Annual Gala garnered unbelievable numbers that will help us achieve bigger and better milestones this year.

In 2023, we remain steadfast to ensure that we help create a world where children have their own bed, clothing, school supplies, transportation, health services, and a joyful holiday season. In addition, 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."

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank each of you for your renewed commitment and the difference that it continues to make in the community we serve. Your unwavering support to assist our special children has enabled us to raise our standards and continues to remind us of our essential purpose.

With our deepest gratitude,

Laura S. Ward

President & CEO

Sleep Like a Baby...IN YOUR NEW BED! There are children in the greater Houston area

that are growing up without a bed to sleep in each night. These children have the potential for an incredibly bright future ahead of them, and could one day be a pro athlete, teacher, Fortune 500 CEO, chef extraordinaire or future doctor. However, too many of Houston's children do not have the basics that we too often find ourselves taking for granted;

like the beds we sleep in each night. These children are sleeping on worn-out mattresses, makeshift beds or even on the floor.

Every Child Deserves A Good Night's Sleep!

Thus, in 2007, Houston Children's Charity created the *A Better Night's Sleep* program, which provides every approved child with a mattress, bed frame, box springs, blankets and clean sheets. We host monthly distributions, which has allowed us to provide these nighttime fundamentals to over 26,000 children, and about 1,475 beds in 2022 alone.

Each bed represents an opportunity for SWEET DREAMS and a relaxing place for these special children to lay their heads. A \$150 donation is all it takes to ensure a child in need has a comfortable place to rest their head each night and sleep, which is in large part due to Texas Mattress Makers. Since 2014, Youval Meicler and Texas Mattress Makers have joined forces with HCC, and together, we provide the foundation to help these children rise each day – rested and equipped – ready to undertake any challenges that lie ahead.

To learn more about this program and help us ensure sweet dreams for our children, please contact us at (713) 524 – 2878. Applications for beds are available online year-round at www.houstonchildrenscharity.org.



WANTED: Sleep Sponsors

Every night there are so many of Houston's children that are sleeping on make shift beds, sharing, or worse, sleeping on the floor. This program provides every child with an opportunity to sleep better by having a brand new twin mattress set, bed frame, sheets, pillow and blanket.

We are looking for **CORPORATE PARTNERS** to join forces with HCC to help give these special children A Better Night's Sleep. Together, we can provide the foundation to help these children rise each day - rested and equipped – ready to undertake any challenges that lie ahead.

Like all other HCC programs, this program depends on the tireless efforts and generous gifts provided by our compassionate volunteers and donors. Your corporation will be awarded the heartwarming opportunity to distribute beds at the monthly distributions, just as Spirit Airlines and The Houston Rockets have done. We look forward to having Spindletop Charities in February at Texas Mattress Makers to help make SWEET DREAMS happen.

To learn more about this program and help us ensure sweet dreams for our children, please contact us at (713) 524 - 2878.



Welcome New Board Members



FRANCES MOODY BUZBEE



CEO of Smart Financial Credit Union President of the Smart Financial Foundation



BRADLEY H. MARKS Owner of I W Marks Jewelers



Houston Children's Charity submitted their articles for review and we are happy to announce that HCC meets the Better Business Bureau's "Standards for Charity Accountability!"

Giving the Gift of Mobility

ince 1996, Houston Children's Charity has been awarding vans to help transport underserved, wheelchair-bound children. Initiated as a program that supports other non-profit agencies. HCC now provides these vital vehicles to families with wheelchair-bound children. On August 24, 2022, HCC Chairman of the Board Tilman J. Fertitta hosted our fall event once again at Willie G's Seafood. Ten families and one organization received keys to a brand new wheel-chair accessible van, bringing the total number of Chariots on the roads in Houston to 284!

Laura Ward, HCC President and CEO, welcomed families, friends, and sponsors to this monumental event, and emphasized the importance of these life-altering vans. Vehicles such as these provide families with the gift of mobility, enabling them to travel safely and efficiently to medical treatments and appointments, after-school activities, family outings, and adventures that were previously inaccessible. Since our partnership with **United Access** began in 2019, they have converted each van into a wheel-chair accessible Chariot for these families. **Mike Murphy** and his staff explains to the families, in detail, how to incorporate the vehicles into their daily lives. We cannot thank them

enough for collaborating with us to change these families' lives.

This program has grown tremendously over the years thanks to the support of our generous community sponsors. Sponsors of these vans include Gilbert Garcia, **KBP Foods, BMW of West** Houston, and Momentum **BMW Southwest** to name a few! Would you like to see your name on the back of one of these life-changing chariots? So would we! Contact our offices if you would like more details on how to become a Chariot Sponsor. 713.524.2878

Not even the rain could wash away the smiles as families and children explored their brand new van for the first time. We are so grateful for 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!

- Tilman Fertitta, Laura Ward
- Spurlock Family, Bob Ogle Gilbert Garcia, Trigueros Family
- Santos Family, Bob Ogle, Laura Ward
- Jody Merritt, Rob Morgan-DeBeir, Emily Miller, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Laura Ward, Edna Meyer-Nelson
- Vitol Foundation, Carol Sawyer, Dr. Tom Sawyer, Palomo Family, Jeff Bagwell, Rachel Bagwell



- KBP Foods, Buosi Family, Laura Ward Hernandez Family, Gilbert Garcia
- Gary Becker, Gonzalez Family
- Maria Moncada Alaoui, Curry Family
- Jones Family, Shayna Andrews, Laura Ward Grant Guthrie, Castillo Family, Laura Ward
- Recipients' New Vans



HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY

August 24th, 2022 Chariots

Van Sponsors

- Gilbert Garcia
- Anonymous
- Shayna Andrews
- Norelle & Brian Becker
- Rvla Bouchier

- Ali Choudhri Brian Kapiloff KBP Foods
- Anonymous / The Bagwell Family / Tara Bueno / Island Famous Inc. / April McGee / Carol & Dr. Tom Sawyer / Vitol Foundation
- BMW of West Houston / Horry Foundation / Suzanne Klein / Jody Merritt / Edna Meyer-Nelson / Momentum BMW Southwest

Van Recipients

- Jimena Trigueros
- Veronica Hernandez
- Andrea Gonzalez
- Mario Castillo
- Courtney Jones
- Santez Lamb
- Hannah Santos
- Avaena Palomo
- Andres Buosi
- Talina Bryant
- Arbor School







An Evening of Grace & Beauty

On a picturesque September evening, donors and sponsors gathered in the Garden of a Versailles-inspired ground of Gala Chair Sheridan Williams. Along with her husband, **John Eddie**, they opened their exquisite River Oaks home to host the **Underwriter Party** for more than **110**

> guests to kick off the celebrations for Houston Children's Charity's only major fundraising event, the Annual Gala.

Isaac Khalid set the mood for a great evening as he displayed his musical talents and sang for

the guests. The evening was filled with accolades and heartfelt thanks for this year's Underwriters. HCC President & CEO, Laura S. Ward, began the evening by thanking Sheridan & John Eddie for hosting. She reminded everyone of their

> kind and gracious hearts and steadfast loyalty for improving the community. Laura continued to express her gratitude to **Title** Sponsors of 14 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 an i4 M50 all-electric, first vehicle of its kind in BMW's history, for the Gala's live auction.

Laura then turned the program over to Sheridan, who then she thanked the Underwriters and auction donors in attendance.

Everyone shared in the grace of the evening and was thrilled for what was to come on October 14 at The Post

Oak Hotel at Uptown Park.

However, before everyone continued to mingle the night away, 10 incredible philanthropists stepped up to the plate and sponsored a van for HCC's Chariots for Children program. Bruce Buckley, Kendall Miller, Chris Kase, Gary Becker, Wayne Smith, Edna Meyer-Nelson,

both Sheridan & John Eddie Williams each donated \$5,000 towards a handicapped accessible vehicle that will change the life of one family very soon!

Sue Smith, Maricella Reed, and

We are so grateful to our Gala Chair for hosting this gathering. The night was filled with great music, delicious food, amazing donors, and overwhelming support for Houston Children's Charity. What an incredible night!

- 1. Gala Chair Sheridan Williams
- 2. Gary Becker, Laura Ward, Sheridan Williams, Isaac Khalid
- Joanna & Brad Marks, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Tommy Kuranoff
- 4. Lori Ginsberg, Dan D'Armond
- 6. Wayne Smith, Laura Ward
- 7. Jeff Bagwell, John Eddie Williams
- Nancy & Hans Strohmer, Carol Sawyer, Edna Meyer-Nelson
- 9. Omar Alaoui, Franco Valobra
- 10. Maricella & John Reed
- 11. Marian McClendon, Michael Cooper,
- 12. Bruce Buckley, Kendall Mille
- 13. District Attorney Kim Ogg 14. Mary & Jack Balagia
- 15. Lillian (Mickie) & Ronald Huebsch 16. April & Dr. Jorge Salazar
- 17. Beth Wolff, Cheryl Byington,
- 18. Debbie & Bob Ogle 19. Dana & Taft McWhorter
- 20. Shelley Taylor Ludwick, Sue Smith, Rania Mankarious

Rocking Reco

"Rocking Out" continued from page 1—

With assistance from Houston's renowned trial lawyers, Tony Buzbee and John Eddie Williams, the next event of the night was greeted with even more enthusiasm! Both men took the stage to fight for the children of Houston. Tony encouraged the crowd to donate a record number of 31 Chariots for Children to families with wheelchair bound children. John Eddie, side-by-side with wife Sheridan, led multiple bidders as they battled it out for the title of "Last Paddle Standing." At the end of the night, that title belonged to Frances Moody Buzbee who had won the generous prize from **Tenenbaum Jewelers** with her last paddle standing. The evening concluded when the lights went down and the music started for Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame Queen Pat Benatar and powerhouse guitar player **Neil Giraldo**. Their 80s and 90s hits like "Heartbreaker," "Shadows of the Night," and "We Belong" proved that rock 'n' roll is not dead! Thanks to all of our gracious supporters for making this such a memorable one!

FACES IN THE CROWD: Margaret Alkek Williams, Gary Becker, Hallie Vanderhider, Paige Fertitta, Kristina & Paul Somerville, Sue Smith, Shelby Hodge & Shafik Rifaat, Mayor Sylvester Turner, DA Kim Ogg and Olivia Jordan, Gary Petersen, DeeDee & Gilbert Garcia, Rachel & Jeff Bagwell, Janet Gurwich and Ronald Franklin, Shanna Andrews, Paula Goldstein, Sen. John Whitmire, Jackie & Jeff Badders, Michael Hoctor, Paulina & Jim McGrath, Amy & Rob Pierce, April & Dr. Jorge Salazar, Lauren & Bill Sparks, Michele & Youval Meicler, Tracy & Harry Faulkner, Yarnia & David Huntington, DeeDee & Tommy Fibich, Ali & Haydeh Davoudi, April & Wells McGee, Katie & Mike Lowenberg, Carol & Dr. Tom Sawyer, Rania & Dr. Ramy Mankarious, Tina & Dave Strickland, Lia Vallone, Kristen Cannon, Fady Armanious & Bill Baldwin, Rev. Mary & Tony Gracely, Roberta & David Rude, Beth Wolff, Sherri Zucker, and **Edward Finger.**

HCC Board Members: Grant Guthrie, Bob Ogle, Dan D'Armond, Dr. Lois Moore, Melissa Juneau, Robin Young-Ellis, Dr. Susan Blaney, **Gary Justice,** David Atkins, Morris Smith, and LeAnn Kaczynski.









May All of Your Christmas Wishes Come True

hristmas came early this year as Houston Children's Charity held its **Annual Toy Distribution** in the beginning of December to provide toys to children in need. With the end of the year bringing on the stress of holiday shopping, HCC partners with the **Marines Toys for Tots** program to provide the resources for parents through our community's generosity.

As our Christmas program grows, we are very thankful for the willingness of our contributors, sponsors and volunteers to assist in this endeavor. We are forever grateful for the 1st Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division and Houston First Corporation partnerships. Once

again, due to these partners, HCC distributed nearly **80,000 toys** to more than **5,000 families** for almost **16,000 children** at the **George R. Brown Convention Center** in early December.

Our appreciation goes out to **Gunnery Sergeant Allanzo Arrindell** for his assistance in securing and organizing the 2022 Toys for Tots program. A huge thank you to **Kroger** for once again donating shopping carts which are vital to the organization of toy sorting and stocking throughout the week. Another big thank you to **Arca Continental Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages, Whataburger**, and **The Frenchy's**

Companies for supplying beverages and food for our volunteers during the week. Special shout out to HCC board members that provided event support including Tilman Fertitta, Bob Ogle, Grant Guthrie, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Rob Pierce, Morris Smith, and Ernest Hunter.

many: **120 donors** contributed **\$75,000** to help purchase 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.

This spirit of the season comes from

During the two-day distribution, parents "shopped" for toys with each child in mind. HCC would like to extend a special thank you to the **HPD Officers** for securing our Christmas programs. In addition, our gratitude has no limits for the **1,000+ volunteers** who made the entire Christmas program happen. The 2022 Holiday Season created "Christmas Magic" because of you... Thank

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Christmas Wish List, which raised an incredible \$31,777.67! Your generous donations helped provide Christmas Cheer to underserved children in need!

Aamir Aftab Julie Barrett Brooke Bartell Ashley Bates Gary Becker Joshua Bell Keith Bethel Daniel Bihn Susan Blaney Mandisa Blanton Boardwalk Pipelines Boardwalk Pipelines Jeanne Bulnes Veronica Camarillo Omeisha Capdeville J.Z. Casey Yvonne Chen **Brad Clausen** Caryn Cohan Cynthia Combs Cameron Cook Casey R Dalton Matthew Daniel

Daniel DArmond Sara Dodd Andrew Ehle Ann-Marie Ekwue **Emily Ervin** Dave Falzareno Tilman Fertitta Footballswami.com Jigar Gaglani Nohely Gonzalez Maddy Goorley Marcille Magness Lisa Graham-Garza Suketu Guhya Shymala Gutta Donald Haas Anna Hamilton John Hanus Lisa Higgins Teagan Holmes Iron Doggy, LLC Leticia Jaroski Danette Jasper

Candy Jepsen Kevin Jones Carolyn Keys Ladybird Burgers Mex LLC Aaron Leach Aaron Lint Nitzia Mangold Diane Marsh Susan McCluggage Donald McIntosh Michael Mitchell Donald H. Nelson Tonglip Ng Novetus Engineering Charlotte Parrott Proman USA, Inc. Nuvis mileth Quevedo Ann Radney Diana Ramirez Jay Rieger Franelle Rogers Natalie Schultz Caitlin Sheatsley

Shannon Shock Six Bullets Karen Skaggs Tua Smith-Burke **Peter Staples** Jason Stittleburg Dylan Suhor **Christopher Tackett** Martha Thornton Sandra Torres Trang Tran Rebecca Tripathy Glen & Linda Rev Trust John Turala Ann Ulvskjold Bryan Vu Dave Ward Jo Watterson Jeffrey Windham Victor Wisher Jamie Wolf Russell Ybarra **Bridget Yeung**

The Cift that Keeps on Civing

The holiday season began in early October when 230

eager Adopt-A-Family sponsors signed up to adopt





Sweet Treat!

Milk Mustache is a gourmet cookie company that was born from an idea of spreading joy to others. A simple act of kindness. Bake and donate cookies to sweeten up someone's day. At the grand opening of their Fountain View location on December 3rd, Milk Mustache donated a portion of their proceeds to Houston Children's Charity. HCC's President & CEO, Laura Ward, and family attended the event and loved the gourmet cookies. HCC is so grateful to

Milk Mustache for supporting our cause, and spreading joy throughout the community... one cookie at a time.

CLOSET CALL!

Time for SPRING CLEANING! Time for CLOSET **CLEANING!** Please consider donating those items that you neither need nor wear anymore to our HCC Closet!

As the calendar moves to our new year, so does our SPRING and SUMMER clothing drive. We are in great need, now more than ever and ask your help.

We are ALWAYS in need of boys clothing - it is an all-year donation request. And what could be better to your self-esteem than to feel good in newer clothing?

We have **semi-monthly** closet days for the families we assist. Our doors at **5151 Mitchelldale St, Unit A4** are open on Tuesday's from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm to accept your donations.

DONATE TODAY!



NES Fircroft held its 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, October 28, at BlackHorse Golf Club, drawing over 100 participants. All tournament registration fees and proceeds from the luncheon raffle items benefited HCC's **A Better** Night's Sleep program. We are so thankful for this continued partnership and NES Fircroft's contributions to give our special children beds for a proper night's rest.

Run jor a Reason!

On January 15, 2023 Houston Children's Charity participated in the Chevron Houston Marathon as an official charity in the "Run for a Reason" Charity Program! Our supporters stepped up and put foot to pavement all for our special children.

Next year, we are proud to be back as an official Run for a Reason Charity for the **2024 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 2023 Runners:

Jessica Hilleshiem **Serenity Glazer Sanmiguel** Nina Castro-Koshy





Darrin Henke, President & CEO of Ranger Oil Corporation, presented Houston Children's Charity with a \$10,000 check after employees voted for & selected HCC out of 10 other charities to donate to. We are so grateful for this wonderful donation! Director of Special Events & Donor Development, Elizabeth Atkins, accepted this generous donation and thanked the entire Ranger Oil team for their support.

Finger Lickin' Good Deals

We are proud to partner with KFC franchise KBP Foods for their Charity Coupon Book Campaign. For every \$1 coupon \$47,080.42! book that was sold during the month of September, KBP Foods donated that dollar to Houston Children's **Charity** to benefit our special children for a total of **\$47,080.42!** 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!



Chevron Houston Marathon

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.

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"OUR KIDS ARE EVERYBODY'S KIDS"

1600 West Loop South

Suite 610

Houston, Texas 77027



2023 Upcoming Events

A BETTER NIGHT'S SLEEP

Bed Distributions – Every Month (Saturday)

HCC CLOSET

Semi-Monthly visits (Tuesday only)

CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN

April 19, May 24, TBD

26TH ANNUAL GALA

October 13, 2023

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

October – December

ANNUAL TOY DISTRIBUTION TBD

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

Stay Connected

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inkedin.com/company/houstonchildrenscharity



@houstonchildrenscharity_



@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



◯ 30,000+ children served through our direct services

2,380 children approved for beds

5,312 children received backpacks filled with school supplies

2,206 children received clothing

Houston Children's Charity Emergency Tund

at Texas Children's Cancer Center \$100,000 donated

Annual Joy Distribution

19,240 children provided with Christmas gifts

663 children adopted by 230 Sponsors