



“OUR KIDS ARE EVERYBODY’S KIDS”



50 Cent, Andre Johnson & Tilman Fertitta Bring Super Star Power to Record \$6.2 Million Party Night For Houston Children’s Charity

Laura Ward Somehow Raises the Bar Yet Again

BY SHELBY HODGE // 10.23.24

Only weeks before the laser lights shot across **The Post Oak Hotel** ballroom at the start of **Houston Children’s Charity’s 27th Annual Gala**, CEO **Laura Ward** was giddily anticipating raising a record \$5 million. But this female fundraising juggernaut was not satisfied and her donors continued giving at her urging. By night’s end, the gala had raised an astonishing **\$6.2 million**.

The funds will be used to buy beds for kids that sleep on the floor, purchase wheelchair accessible vans for families in need and fund programs aimed at improving life for the city’s underserved and disabled children.

Since 2007, **Houston Children’s Charity** board chair **Tilman Fertitta** told the throng of 700 that the nonprofit has *delivered more than 25,000 beds*. Since its founding in 1996, HCC has *distributed 372 vans*. Last year alone, the charity *distributed Christmas toys to 17,000 youngsters*.

Fertitta and **Gary Becker**, HCC board vice chairman, both praised Ward for this year’s remarkable feat.

The record dollars were just part of the surprises during the evening that saw **Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson** and NFL Hall of Famer **Andre Johnson** on stage in support of the nonprofit’s lively auction. Likewise, those who had doubts about the musical wherewithal of headliner band **Chicago** turned out to be pleasantly surprised with attendees acknowledging, “Those geezers can rock.”

That remarkable bottom line was reached in part thanks to gala title sponsors **Porsche River Oaks** and **Porsche West Houston** which donated outright **Porsche’s all-electric Macan 4** for the live auction. **Ghadi Ali** made the top bid on that beauty. The **private dinner in the swank Post Oak Hotel penthouse** brought in a whopping \$500,000 thanks to the deep pockets of **Gary Petersen**, **Katie and Mike Lowenberg**, **Randy Hopper**, **Anthony Pusch** and **Chi Nguyen**.



1. Richard Fant, Jana Fant, Laura S. Ward, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Marianna Brasel, Robert Dale.
2. Tilman J. Fertitta, Mike Lowenberg, Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson, III, Gary Petersen, Barbara McKnight, Andre Johnson, Laura S. Ward
3. Gala Honorees Jana & Richard Fant
4. CHICAGO Bowling after their Performance

Other high bidders keeping auctioneer Johnny Bravo on his toes were **Hayden Kelly**, **Edna Meyer-Nelson**, **Brandon Dewan**, and **Kris Cogliano**. And then came the biggest surprise of the night. **Jana and Richard Fant**, longtime Houston Children’s Charity supporters, joined Ward on stage to announce their purchase of **30 vans** in the **Chariots for Children** program. A monumental gift that led Fant to quip that he would have to get a night job.

PC Seen: Mayor John Whitmire, former District Attorney Kim Ogg, Bess and Rob Wilson, Maria Moncada Aloui, Robert Dale, Marianna Brasel, Rachel and Jeff Bagwell, Julia Morales and Matt Clark, Hallie Vanderhider and Bobby Dees, DeeDee and Tommy Fibich, Youval and Michelle Meicler, Alicia and Lance Smith, Carol and Dr. Tom Sawyer, and Jana and Scotty Arnoldy.

—27th Annual Gala continued on page 4

2024 IMPACT REPORT

<p>1,300 BEDS AWARDED</p>	<p>30,000+ CHILDREN PROVIDED WITH SERVICES</p>	<p>4,400 BACKPACKS SUPPLIED</p>
<p>1,145 CHILDREN RECEIVED CLOTHING</p>	<p>\$200,000 DONATED TO TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL EMERGENCY FUND</p>	
<p>1,006 CHILDREN ADOPTED BY 255 SPONSORS</p>	<p>20,000 CHILDREN PROVIDED WITH CHRISTMAS GIFTS</p>	
<p>46 VANS GIFTED TO FAMILIES & ORGANIZATIONS</p>	<p>27TH ANNUAL GALA \$6.2 MILLION RAISED</p>	

The Gift of Mobility

On a beautiful afternoon in September, **15 families** were blessed with the **GIFT OF MOBILITY** at the **Chariots for Children** Fall event at **Willie G's Seafood**, hosted by **HCC Chairman of the Board, Tilman J. Fertitta**. Friends of the charity, Board Members, and sponsors gathered to exchange keys to a new wheel-chair accessible van for families who are in need of safe transportation for their children with disabilities.

Houston Children's Charity's Executive Board of Directors members, Gary Becker, Vice Chairman of the Board, and Grant Guthrie, Vice President / Funding Co-Chair, emceed the event with a presentation highlighting something special about each recipient to a room full of love and gratitude. There is truly nothing like seeing first hand a family's life changed forever!

The afternoon represents the family's new outlook on life! These vans enable transportation that was originally not possible, from doctors' appointments to family vacations, it is a whole new world! Van sponsors, **The Fant Foundation, Nikki & Benny Agosto Jr., Carol & Dr. Tom Sawyer, James & Nicole Lassiter, Chita & Lane Craft, GHOST Foundation, Jarod, Jeremy, Norelle, and Brian Becker Foundation, Vanderhider Foundation, El Toro Mexican Restaurants, El Matador Foods, The Herr Family, Texas Mattress Makers, Friends of Houston Children's Charity** have made an incredible impact on these families that will be cherished forever. After this life-changing year, there are a total of **372 Chariots** on the roads of Houston.

Thank you to our partners at **United Access, General Manager Mike Murphy**, and his staff for providing the vans and for personally explaining to each family about the different features the van offers. We are honored have such an amazing group be a part of this extraordinary event!

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and blessing a family with a chariot, please contact our office at **713-254-2878 ext. 201**.



1. Chariots
2. Grant Guthrie, Gary Becker
3. Ryan Tarokh
4. Anna Reger, The Wyche Family, Bob Ogle, Rachael Natanelov, Sarah Zubowski
5. Dr. Tom Sawyer, Carol Sawyer, The Emedem Family
6. The Thomas Family
7. Grant Guthrie, The Li Family, Gary Becker
8. Sheila Ybarra, The Rice Family, Moses Ybarra
9. Russell Ybarra, The Kibble Family
10. The Boada Family
11. The Miller Family
12. Bob Ogle, Former DA Kim Ogg, Russell Ybarra, Anna Reger, Grant Guthrie, Paige Fertitta, Blake Fertitta
13. Friends of HCC sponsored van
14. The Wyche Family, Youval Meicler
15. The Moreno Family, Gary Becker
16. The De Leon Family, Blayne Fertitta, Blake Fertitta
17. Youval Meicler, Rachael Natanelov, The Cordoba Family, Sarah Zubowski, Caitlin Holub
18. United Access Staff
19. The Gamino Family, Bob Ogle
20. The Hall Family, District Attorney Kim Ogg and Team



2024 Chariot Sponsors

Nikki & Benny Agosto, Jr.
Shayna Andrews
Erin & Muhammad Aziz
Brian Becker / Jarod, Jeremy, Norelle, & Brian Becker Foundation
Gary Becker / Ghost Foundation
Frances Moody Buzbee & Tony Buzbee
Troy Chandler
Michele & Robert Chiste
Chita & Lane Craft
Ms. Crystal Del Toro, Attorney at Law
Captain George Dodge
Jana & Richard Fant / The Fant Foundation
DeeDee & Tommy Fibich / In Memory of Kaitlin

Cinda & Perry Forrester
Sydney Free & Mike Duvall
Gary Petersen
Paula Goldstein
The Guill Family Foundation
Gregg Harrison, Attorney at Law
Cathy Herr / The Herr Family
Ronald Hornberger & Kristina & Paul Somerville
Nitzia & John Johnson
Chris Kase / In memory of Walter Kase
KBP Foods
Niki & James Lassiter
Mimi & Larry Levine / Levcor Inc.



Katie & Mike Lowenberg / Lowenberg Law Firm PLLC.
Youval Meicler / Texas Mattress Makers
Trini Mendenhall-Royalty & Philip Royalty
Edna Meyer-Nelson / The Richland Companies
Dr. Laura Murillo
DA Kim Ogg
Nozomi & John Rowe / Hope Marie Rowe RSM US LLP.
April & Dr. Jorge Salazar
Carol & Dr. Tom Sawyer
Jordan Seff / The Seff Family
Sky High For Kids

Smart Financial Credit Union
Sue Smith
TALOS Energy
Rebecca & Robert Tijerina / Titanium Tequila
Hallie Vanderhider / Vanderhider Foundation
Phil Walsh / Time Machine Capital
KK & Scott West / The West Law Firm
Roland Ybarra / El Toro Mexican Restaurants
Monica & Russell Ybarra / Gringos Tex-Mex / Jimmy Changas
Sheila & Moses Ybarra / El Matador Foods

2024 Fall Recipients

"Van Distribution Day is one of the most meaningful days in our family's year. It is such an honor to meet the amazing families whose multiple challenges are hard for anyone to fully comprehend... they are exemplary of courage, resilience, and faith and we are so grateful to you for giving our family a vehicle in which to give them transportation. Several of us have had the fun of driving behind a HCC van... a special reminder of an organization dear to our hearts."
-Cynthia Guill with The Guill Family Foundation



Zheng Li
Age: 17

Sponsor:
The Fant Foundation

Run Li
Age: 17

Isiah De Leon
Age: 9

Sponsor:
The Fant Foundation

Miracle Thomas
Age: 15

Sponsor:
The Fant Foundation

Roc'King Kibble
Age: 19

Sponsor:
The Fant Foundation

Wisdom Emedem
Age: 12

Sponsors: **The Fant Foundation**
Nikki & Benny Agosto Jr.
Friends of HCC | Carol & Dr. Tom Sawyer
James & Nicole Lassiter | Chita & Lane Craft

Cynthia Moreno
Age: 28

Sponsors:
GHOST Foundation | Jerod, Jeremy, Norelle, and Brian Becker Foundation

Tyler Miller
Age: 10

Sponsor:
The Fant Foundation

Jayla Pineda
Age: 9

Sponsor:
The Fant Foundation

Saul Gamino
Age: 15

Sponsor:
The Fant Foundation

Ryan Tarokh
Age: 8

Sponsor:
The Fant Foundation

Jeremiah Wyche
Age: 10

Sponsor:
Texas Mattress Makers

Angelo Corboda
Age: 17

Sponsor:
Texas Mattress Makers

Nevaeh Hall
Age: 12

Sponsor:
Friends of HCC



Letter from the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

Thank you, once again, for helping make 2024 an incredible and impactful year of service to Houston's special children. Your commitment of time, resources, and engagement is deeply appreciated by myself and the entire Board of Directors. As we begin a new year, preparations are underway for first-time special events to enhance our existing programs.

Fundraising records were set throughout the year. Not only was more money raised for our *Chariots for Children* van program than in previous years, but our 27th Annual Gala raised a record \$6.2 million, setting us apart from any local charity in the state of Texas.

Records are not set without your support. We are grateful beyond measure and ask you to continue this journey with us in 2025 as we embark on a mission to help even more of Houston's special children.

With enormous gratitude and love to each of you,
Laura Laura S. Ward, President & CEO

Another Year Spreading Christmas Cheer

The holiday season can be a stressful time for many families. Year after year, **Houston Children's Charity** works to relieve the holiday worry by providing presents for many families in our community.

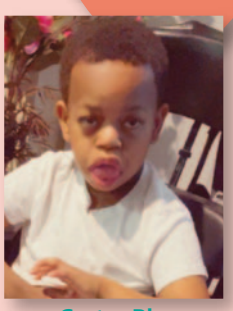
On December 21, 2024, the **Annual Toy Distribution** allowed families to have a carefree shopping experience at the **George R. Brown Convention Center**. Through a partnerships created over **15 years ago** with the **U.S. Marines Toys for Tots** and **Houston First Corporation**, along with over **70** incredible corporations, and generous people in our community, HCC was able to provide **90,000** toys to **20,000** children in the greater Houston area, making it another successful year of creating Christmas magic for families in need.

Houston's top leader, **Mayor John Whitmire**, stopped by Hall E to see the impact that HCC has on the community during the holidays. He deemed our program the largest toy distribution in the city!

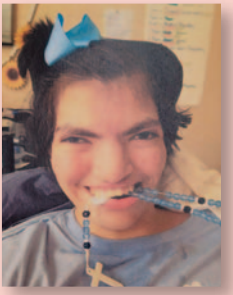
Just like Santa, we have our elves that lend a helping hand during the holiday season! Thank you to our co-chairs, **HCC Board of Directors members, Ernest Hunter II** and **LeAnn Kaczynski**, for working so hard to make this the most successful Annual Toy Distribution to date! **The Frenchy's Company** provided a delicious lunch for our staff and hardworking volunteers. All of our amazing volunteers were kept hydrated throughout the week thanks to **HCC Board Member, Morris Smith** and **Arca Continental Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages**. We enjoyed a hearty breakfast on distribution day on behalf of **Whataburger**. Even throughout the hustle and bustle of the day, our spirits were high thanks to the amazing radio DJ's at **RadioOne Houston!** Our families were so glad to have shopping carts for assisting in toy transportation throughout our toy store provided by **Target** and **H-E-B Store #744**. We are also thankful for **Sysco** providing two 18-wheelers that transported toys from warehouses to our toy store. The success of our events rely on those who devote their time to our mission. We are thankful to the **1,100 volunteers** who attended this year and created CHRISTMAS MAGIC. Until next year...



"Thank you Houston Children's Charity for all you have done for my son, Kanard Degrassa (Chariot Recipient, May 2024). You guys are a life saver. I still cannot stop crying and praising God for you guys. The Lord works wonders through wonderful people like you!"
 - Demetra Florence



Carter Rice
 Age: 12
 Sponsors:
 Vanderhider Foundation
 El Toro Mexican Restaurants
 El Matador Foods
 The Herr Family | Friends of HCC



Carlota Boada
 Age: 19
 Sponsor:
 Friends of HCC

WISH LIST

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Christmas Wish List

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Maria Moncada Alaoui
Adeola Ayanwale
AMEGY BANK
Gary Becker
Joshua Bell
Zach Binder
Twigg V. Bogle
Barry Boone
Kerri & J. Downey Bridgwater
Lauren Brown
Todd Burford
Margot Burke
Frances Moody Buzbee & Tony Buzbee
Brenda Cabaniss
Christi Crane
Immanuel Capdeville | Brian Corless
Marilyn Darlene Cox
Angela Crutch
Victoria Cummings
Michael Curtis
Randolph Davis
Selcuk Dincal
Vicky Donaldson
Ann-Marie Ekwue
Damian Escobar
John Fahy
Fidelity Charitable Donor
First Community Cares Foundation
Karen Fortson
Give Clear Foundation | PayPal Giving Fund
Fidelity Charitable
Donor-Advised Fund
Evani Garcia
Annel Garcia
Madison Garrison
Dariel Garza / Trident Houston
Charles Gay
Lauren Gervasio
Giving Foundation
Haley Goren
Jasmine Green
Silvia Guerrero
John Haskins
Caris Hatfield
Steve and Marian Hoffman | Mogens Jepsen
Andrew Johnson
Jillian Johnson
Edward Jointer
JZC Designs
LeAnn & David Kaczynski
Karena Kane
Marlon Khan
Kristina Lambricht
Cody Laughlin
Vanessa Prohl-Leger
Local Genius Marketing LLC
Laura Lochridge
Diana Maldonado
DeeDee & Wallis Marsh
Susan Martin | Guadalupe Martinez
C.W. McCluggage
April & Wells McGee
Owais Mirza
Dr. Lois J. Moore
Elizabeth Mullany
Don Murdock
Robert Murray
NCourage Investments
Edna Meyer-Nelson
Bobbi Norris
Debbie & Robert Ogle
Dianne Orth
Ebenezer Owusu
Carolyn Parker
Sai Pasupuleti | Leslie Patterson
Lauren Paxton
PayPal Giving Fund
Lea Polinger-Hyman
Jake Preuett
Eddie Provoat
David Raudabaugh
Anna & John Reger
Rachel Rogers
Patricia A. Rozendal
Cheryl Rubenstein
Saad Saleem
Carol C. & Dr. Tom Sawyer
Mary Katherine Schober
Karl Schmitz
Clifford L. Shock | Sameer Shroff
Morgan Smillie
Morris Smith & Toni Mooney Smith
Napoleon Spencer
Lucas Strom
Jeanette Strickland
Sarah Terrazas
Kuno Trostmann Jr.
Jennifer Upshaw
Annie Van Zyl
Amy Vlachakis
Carlyle White
Richard Wresneski
Andrea Wykman
Marc Ybarsabal
Robin Young Ellis & Joe Ellis |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|

Adopt-A-Family

As part of HCC's Annual Christmas program, many individuals, companies, and organizations are able to **Adopt-A-Family** and give them a holiday season to remember. This year, **255 sponsors** generously took part in this one-of-a-kind program and adopted **351 families** creating a joy like no other for **1,006 children**. This allowed the parents and children in these families to experience the magic of Christmas that they deserve!



GOHS Boys Basketball Booster Club
 "We had an amazing experience with all five families and our basketball program. Overall, the players loved being able to make the kids smile. Everyone was in great spirits, and we will definitely be participating again and looking forward to a long lasting relationship."

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center
 "I want to thank you for selecting us to be able to help a family have a great Christmas. Although we did not take any pictures, we left there with full hearts. My team and I met with the parents to deliver the gifts, and it just brought tears of joy and warm hearts to everyone. The family was so grateful for what we were able to give to them. This is truly a blessing and so thankful we could be a part of it."
 (NDC Zone Manager)

27th ANNUAL GALA Underwriter Party

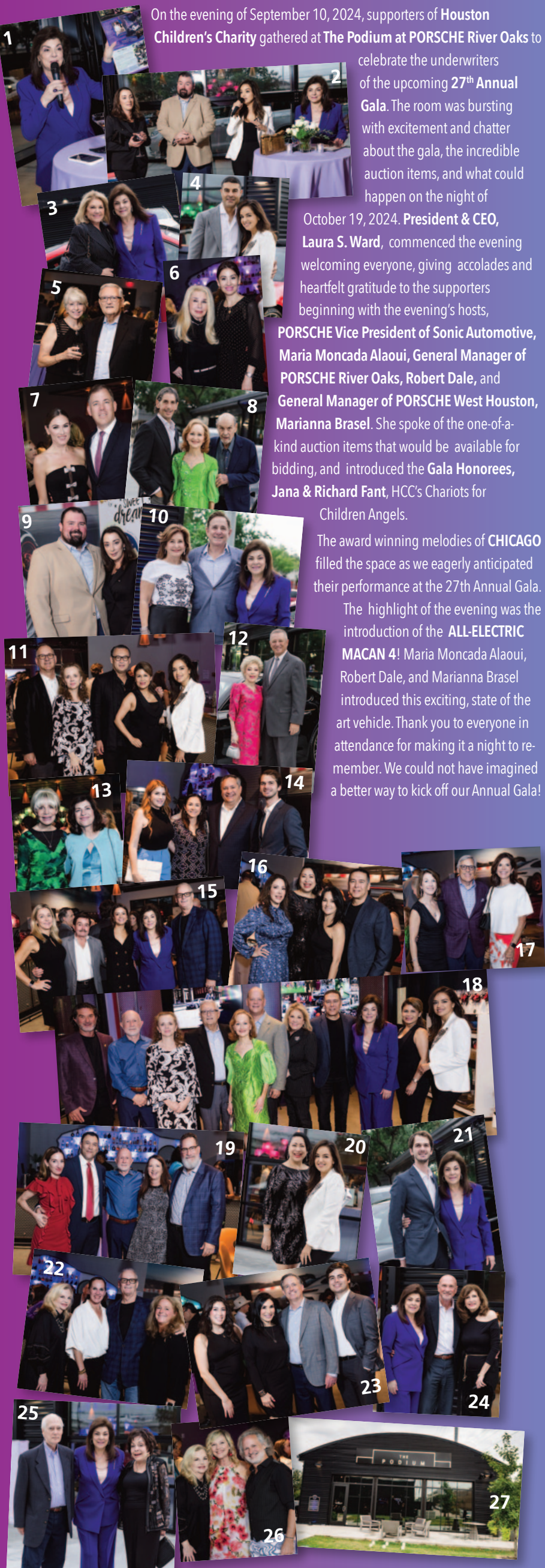
On the evening of September 10, 2024, supporters of **Houston Children's Charity** gathered at **The Podium at PORSCHE River Oaks** to

celebrate the underwriters of the upcoming **27th Annual Gala**. The room was bursting with excitement and chatter about the gala, the incredible auction items, and what could happen on the night of

October 19, 2024. **President & CEO, Laura S. Ward**, commenced the evening welcoming everyone, giving accolades and heartfelt gratitude to the supporters beginning with the evening's hosts, **PORSCHE Vice President of Sonic Automotive, Maria Moncada Alaoui**, **General Manager of PORSCHE River Oaks, Robert Dale**, and **General Manager of PORSCHE West Houston, Marianna Brasel**. She spoke of the one-of-a-kind auction items that would be available for bidding, and introduced the **Gala Honorees, Jana & Richard Fant**, HCC's Chariots for Children Angels.

The award winning melodies of **CHICAGO** filled the space as we eagerly anticipated their performance at the 27th Annual Gala. The highlight of the evening was the introduction of the **ALL-ELECTRIC MACAN 4!** Maria Moncada Alaoui, Robert Dale, and Marianna Brasel introduced this exciting, state of the art vehicle. Thank you to everyone in attendance for making it a night to remember. We could not have imagined a better way to kick off our Annual Gala!

"Saturday in the Park"



- 1. Laura S. Ward
- 2. Marianna Brasel, Robert Dale, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Laura S. Ward
- 3. Edna Meyer-Nelson, Laura S. Ward
- 4. Omar Alaoui, Maria Moncada Alaoui
- 5. Debbie Ogle, Bob Ogle
- 6. Sheri Zucker, Perri Palermo
- 7. Helen Winchell, Marc Laborde
- 8. Gregory Prioli, Carol Sawyer, Dr. Tom Sawyer
- 9. Robert Dale, Marianna Brasel
- 10. Suanne Nichols, Randy Nichols, Laura S. Ward
- 11. David Kaczynski, LeAnn Kaczynski, John Reger, Anna Reger, Maria Moncada Alaoui
- 12. Margaret Alkek Williams, David Wuthrich
- 13. Leisa Holland-Nelson, Ellie Francisco
- 14. Beth McEntee, Jessica Givens, Mike Lowenberg, Michael Fertitta
- 15. Stephanie Willis, David Huntington, Yanira Huntington, Laura S. Ward, Michael Hoctor
- 16. Sandra Smith-Cooper, Dr. Laura Murillo, Monica Ybarra, Russell Ybarra
- 17. Dr. Susan Blaney, Tom Segesta, Robin Segesta
- 18. Gary Becker, Grant Guthrie, LeAnn Kaczynski, Bob Ogle, Carol Sawyer, Rob Pierce, Edna Meyer-Nelson, Russell Ybarra, Laura S. Ward, Anna Reger, Maria Moncada Alaoui
- 19. JoAnna Nicolaou, Chris Nicolaou, Grant Guthrie, Shar Levin, David Levin
- 20. Dr. Laura Murillo, Maria Moncada Alaoui
- 21. Michael Fertitta, Laura S. Ward
- 22. Kim Padgett, Lisa Hoover, Michael Hoctor, Shelley Ludwick
- 23. Erica Mercado, Maricella Reed, John Reed, Austin Reed
- 24. Laura S. Ward, John Evans, Sharon Abercia
- 25. Leland Dykes, Laura S. Ward, Judy Nichols
- 26. Kim Padgett, Dana McWhorter, Taft McWhorter
- 27. The Podium at PORSCHE River Oaks

- 1. CONGRATULATIONS! \$6.2 million!
- 2. Jana Fant, Richard Fant, Laura S. Ward
- 3. Tilman J. Fertitta, Laura S. Ward, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson
- 4. Mike Lowenberg
- 5. Gala attendees celebrating reaching far beyond our goal!
- 6. Laura S. Ward, Gary Petersen
- 7. Bobby Dees, Hallie Vanderhider, Alicia Smith, Lance Smith
- 8. ALL-ELECTRIC MACAN 4
- 9. KK West, Scott West
- 10. Lauren Fertitta, Laura S. Ward, Tilman J. Fertitta
- 11. Gary Petersen, Richard Fant
- 12. Robert Dale, Marianna Brasel, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Laura S. Ward
- 13. Gary Becker
- 14. Blake Fertitta, Tilman J. Fertitta, Michael Fertitta, Patrick Fertitta
- 15. Edna Meyer-Nelson
- 16. Kristina Somerville, Paul Somerville
- 17. Fady Armanious, Laura S. Ward, Dr. Laura Murillo, Bill Baldwin
- 18. CC Ensell, Duke Ensell
- 19. Chau Nguyen, Jay Sears
- 20. Brandon Dewan
- 21. Deanna Barton, Amy Leibman, Paige Fertitta, Laura Mudd, Karen Thompson
- 22. Brigitte Kalai, Farida Abjani
- 23. Gregg Harrison, Paul Van Atta
- 24. David Huntington, Yanira Huntington
- 25. Former DA Kim Ogg, Rania Mankarious
- 26. Mike Blaney, Dr. Susan Blaney
- 27. Mayor John Whitmire, Laura S. Ward
- 28. Daphne Savva, Steve Savva
- 29. Laura S. Ward, Jeremy Renner
- 30. Arcadi Natanelov, Michele Meicler, Youval Meicler, Rachael Natanelov
- 31. Matt Clark, Julia Morales Clark, Rachel Bagwell, Jeff Bagwell
- 32. Jana Arnoldy, John Scott Arnoldy
- 33. Robert Bernard, T Reckling, Grace Ryan, Blayne Fertitta, Peter Mavredakis
- 34. Ghana Ali
- 35. Lee Zieben, Aaron Almquist, Jackie Almquist, Brandon Dewan, Jennifer Dewan Taylor Bregman, Scott Davis, Geanna Manners, Kyle Manners
- 36. Gigi Sage, Kristen Cannon, Anna Reger, Kristina Somerville, Marie Taylor, Maria Moncada Alaoui
- 37. Grant Guthrie, Kelly Thornton
- 38. Honorable Theresa Chang, Sherri Zucker
- 39. Ernest Hunter II, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Gina Gaston, Mario Elie
- 40. Reverend Mary Gracely
- 41. Gaye Lynn Zarrow, Chris Kase
- 42. Natalie O'Neill, Sandra Torres, Vivian Price, LeAnn Kaczynski
- 43. Jon Brame, Michelle Hoffnung, Gregory Hoffnung, Toni Mooney Smith, Morris Smith, Anita Bates, Lorraine Winslow
- 44. Anna Reger, John Reger, Bob Ogle, Debbie Ogle, Katherine Grzesik
- 45. Carol Sawyer, Maricella Reed
- 46. Sandra Aparicio-Salehi, Gail Gross, Elsa Reddy, Laura S. Ward
- 47. Maddie Ixcampari, Emelda Douglas, Carol Gebhart, Elizabeth Atkins, Laura S. Ward, Betty Ascencion, Corina Pongratz, Lizette Cisneros, Karen Sorto
- 48. Melissa Juneau, Amalia Stanton, Melissa Sugulas, Laurie Krohn, Donae Charmosta, Kathy DelaMora



Congratulations Laura!

HCC's incredible President & CEO, Laura S. Ward, was honored on September 18, 2024 by PORSCHE River Oaks & PORSCHE West Houston as one of nine "Inspiring Women of Houston!" This award recognizes outstanding women who have demonstrated the qualities of success, compassion, and philanthropy along with a significant impact on our community.



A Better Night's Sleep

Unfortunately, children not having their own bed to sleep in is an ongoing problem that **Houston Children's Charity** has taken to heart with the **A Better Night's Sleep** program. Established in 2007, HCC has given **over 25,000 twin beds** to children in need.

A Better Night's Sleep



We need your help to continue to bring sweet dreams to every child without a bed in the Greater Houston area! At our monthly distributions, we give out **mattresses, bed frames, sheets, pillows, and blankets** to families whose children are sleeping in poor conditions. Each distribution is sponsored by an individual, corporation, or organization, and they see first-hand how their generous support impacts each family!

To learn more or to apply for the program, please visit our website at www.houstonchildrenscharity.org. To become an A Better Night's Sleep sponsor, please call our office at 713-524-2878 ext. 200 or email elizabetha@HOUSTONCHILDRENSCHARITY.ORG !



Happy Birthday

Anna Reger
Laura Ward

Maria Moncada Alaoui

Virgos Birthday Bash

This past **September 13, 2024**, a trio of amazing women came together to celebrate as one for a great cause. **Laura S. Ward, Maria Moncada Alaoui, and Anna Reger** hosted a joint **Virgo Birthday Bash!** Those in attendance, in person and in spirit, honored this trio for their hard work and dedication to the community. Guests were asked to make an impact to the **A Better Night's Sleep** program. The birthday bash for beds, held at **The Podium at PORSCHE River Oaks**, successfully raised **\$41,279.90** which will provide a safe and cozy place to sleep for many Houston children.

Congratulations on blessing over 275 children with beds that will make a difference!



2025 HCC Closet Needs

Is finally cleaning out your closet part of your New Year's resolutions? If so, please bring any gently used or new clothing to the HCC Closet!



Do you have any of these items in your closet?

- Womens Clothing (shirts, skirts, dresses, pants)
- Jackets & Sweaters (Women, Men, Boys, & Girls)
- Toddler Clothing (Boys & Girls)
- Teen Clothing
- Shoes (Women, Men, Boys, & Girls)



Doors will be open starting in January! We are in need of more clothing to fill our racks for our semi-monthly closet visits.

Our doors at **5151 Mitchelldale St, Unit A4** are open by appointment only for shopping and donating.

Please contact the office at **713-524-2878 ext. 208** or email Closet@houstonchildrenscharity.net to make an appointment to donate!

HCC Family Emergency Fund at Texas Children's Cancer Center

Dear Mrs. Ward,

On behalf of the Department of Pediatrics, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to you and to Houston Children's Charity. Thank you for your most recent financial gift and for your enduring support over these many years. This support enables us to provide much needed resources to countless children and families. I am inspired by your dedication and belief in our mission- I look forward to continuing this important work together.

-Lara Shekerdeman, MD, MHA

Houston Children's Charity Family
emergency
Fund at Texas Children's Cancer Center



HCC X RadioONE

One of Ernest Hunter II main objectives, as Co-Chair of **Houston Children's Charity's Annual Toy Distribution**, was to expand the market and bring awareness to those outside of HCC's circle. He demonstrated this through a strategic partnership with **RadioONE Houston**.

On November 19, 2024, Ernest took to the airwaves to educate a new demographic about a program they might not have known about. In this pre-event interview, he spoke to people about HCC and the programs they provide emphasizing the Christmas Toy Distribution.

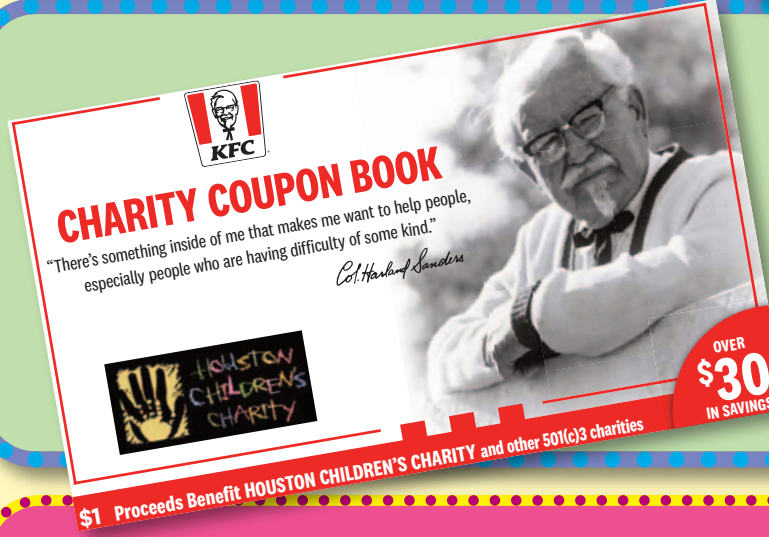
On Saturday, December 21, 2024, RadioOne brought everything back full circle on toy distribution day, by going live from the George R. Brown Convention Center. The festive atmosphere created by the DJ's on site helped create the mood for a magical day. **Kudos to YOU, Ernest!**



Sysco + Houston Children's Charity = Holiday Magic!

Christmas Co-Chair, **Ernest Hunter II**, had the pleasure of speaking to 150 passionate **Sysco** team members about supporting HCC's Annual Christmas Toy Distribution on December 21, 2024. Sysco stepped up with logistical support, volunteering, and toy collections, making a huge impact this holiday season. A special thanks to **Jenny Hernandez** and the incredible Sysco team for their commitment to bringing joy to children in need.

Together, we're making magic happen!



KBP Charity Coupon Book FALL

The **KBP/KFC Foods Fall 2024 Charity Coupon Book** benefitting **Houston Children's Charity's Chariots for Children** program was a tremendous success. This enables KBP/KFC Foods to sponsor a wheelchair accessible van for a family thanks to their incredible donation of **\$48,791.75!** This makes one more family able to safely and successfully transport their child. Thank you for giving them the **gift of mobility!**

Thank You Community Partners!

- Thank you to **Domino's Pizza Supply Chain Center South Texas** for donating **\$5,000** to our **A Better Night's Sleep** program that helps provide beds to children in the Greater Houston area.
- Thank you to **The Trident Company – Steel** for selecting HCC as the recipient of their yearly charity **\$2,000**.
- Thank you to our partners at **NES Fircroft** for donating the proceeds from their Annual Golf Tournament to HCC year after year. They raised **\$700** at their **9th Annual Golf Tournament** in 2024.
- Thank you to the **First Community Cares Foundation** at **First Community Credit Union** for donating **\$5,000** towards our Annual **Christmas programs**, helping us make the holidays merry and bright for many children.
- Thank you to the **Houston Embroider's Guild** for once again coming together and selecting HCC to receive your generous donation of **\$1,540**.
- Thank you to **Vaquero Energy** for donating **\$2,500** to HCC. We are incredibly grateful for your support.
- Thank you to **Abandoned Little Angels** for donating **\$8,000** to our **Chariots for Children** program, you are helping a very special family receive the keys to a wheel-chair assessable van.



Run for A Reason



On **January 19, 2025**, **Houston Children's Charity** participated in the Chevron Houston Marathon as an official charity for **Run for a Reason**. As our runners trained for their race, they raised money in support of our mission to help underserved children in Houston- totaling **\$2,307!**

Thank you to our **four runners** for all the training days and miles you logged to run the **Chevron Houston Marathon** and the **Aramco Houston Half Marathon** in our honor!

- Alyssa Kunke
- Erica E. Barnes
- Jen Hayes
- Veronica Goana



Furry Friends & Funky Dance Moves

The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston hosted a teddy bear drive at their **Spa Fitness Zumba Event** for **International Teddy Bear Day** on **September 5, 2024!** HCC Closet will house the **60 teddy bears** until they are taken to their forever homes to enjoy!



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

Suite 610

Houston, Texas 77027



2025 Upcoming Events

A BETTER NIGHT'S SLEEP

Bed Distributions – Every Month (Saturday)

HCC CLOSET

Semi-Monthly visits (Tuesday only)

CHARIOTS FOR CHILDREN

TBD

28TH ANNUAL GALA

October 18, 2025

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

September – December

ANNUAL TOY DISTRIBUTION

TBD

Volunteer Corner

"Volunteering is at the core of being a human.

No one has made it through life without the help of someone else."

— HEATHER FRENCH HENRY

WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF CARING VOLUNTEERS.

Please visit us at

www.houstonchildrenscharity.org/volunteer/ to register.

Stay Connected



houstonchildrenscharity.org



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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 9am to 5pm: (713) 524-2878 ext. 202

Email: SocialMedia@houstonchildrenscharity.org

