

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

Written by **Scott Evans** with *The Social Book*:

Laura S. Ward, President and CEO of Houston Children's Charity, was at a loss for words as **Texas Children's Hospital** surprised her by dedicating its **Child Life Room** in her honor at its new **Texas Children's Hospital Hematology Center Outpatient Clinic**.

The announcement was made many months ago to a packed crowd at the **25th anniversary of Houston Children's Charity**. A standing ovation followed, as Laura's legacy of philanthropy and lifelong dedication to the lives of 3.5 million underprivileged, abused, and disabled Houston children were recognized. The organization's motto is "Our Kids are Everyone's Kids," and anyone who has ever been witness to their good deeds, remain true believers.

This dynamic leader's tribute was long overdue as she helmed this charity since its inception and changed so many lives in the process. "I am so humbled and so very honored for this recognition. I cannot begin to express what it means to me and what it will mean to my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren throughout the years," said Laura Ward. "I owe heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors, and to **Mark Wallace**, President and CEO of Texas Children's Hospital."

Texas Children's Hospital was the perfect place to create this permanent and lifetime recognition for Laura. Since 2006, Houston Children's Charity has donated funds to Texas Children's Cancer Center to support families going through cancer treatment. Named the **Houston Children's Charity Family Emergency Fund at Texas Children's Cancer Center**, funds are disbursed through the hospital to families to pay for items such as lodging, mortgage, car payments, meals, and more.

"For 31 years, Laura Ward has done so much in our community, for so many underserved, underprivileged children. It's amazing the impact she's had," said Mark Wallace. With the numerous plaudits given to Laura and Houston Children's Charity over the years, it is absolutely appropriate that the **Laura S. Ward, Houston Children's Charity, Child Life Room at Texas Children's Hospital Hematology Center Outpatient Clinic** was unveiled recently. Future generations of children will be nurtured and cared for thanks to the compassion and beneficence of this remarkable woman and the charity she helped found more than a quarter-century ago.

Joining Laura for the unveiling were husband **Dave Ward** and HCC Board Members **Edna Meyer-Nelson, Maria Moncado Alaoui, Dr. Susan Blaney, Grant Guthrie** and **John Johnson**, along with **Mark Wallace**.



GROUP PHOTO ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Susan Blaney, Grant Guthrie, Laura Ward, Edna Meyer-Nelson, John Johnson, Maria Moncada Alaoui
GROUP PHOTO LEFT: Mark Wallace, Laura & Dave Ward

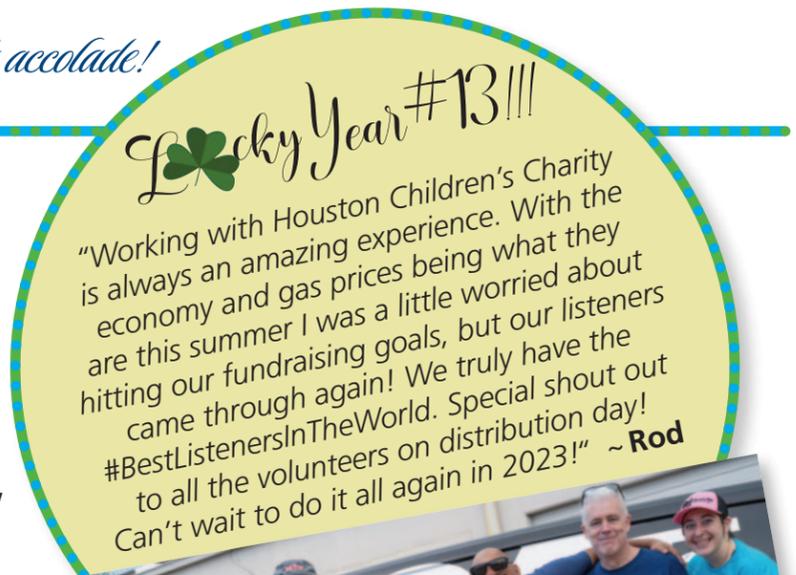
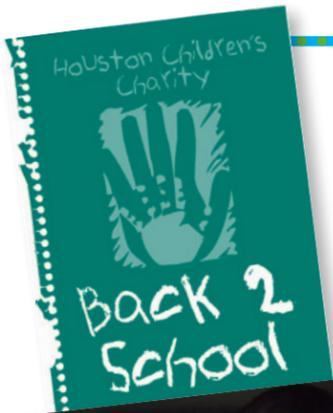
Congratulations Laura for this well-deserved and timely accolade!

Back2School... Back to the Books

A new school year could mean a new grade level, new classmates, new teachers, and even a new school. What is more important? New school supplies so you can start smart! **Houston Children's Charity** began *Back2School* in 2005 to provide students with a backpack full of school supplies. For **13 consecutive years, The Rod Ryan Show on 94.5 The Buzz** has lead the way in helping get our special children *Back2School* ready. Each year, they raise funds through radio campaigns and sales from their online store to purchase backpacks.

What started with a single school district now spaces over several districts in **five counties**. On August 6th, 2022, over **1,600 families** drove through the *Back2School* distribution to pick up backpacks for their students in need, totaling **3,500 students** served! The backpacks also had a few surprises from **Maddy's Annual Book Drive, Charles E. Dyer, IV, D.D.D., M.S., Raising Cane's, and Whataburger!**

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A GRAND SLAM EXPERIENCE!

Letter from the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

2021 was a banner year for Houston Children's Charity as we celebrated 25 years of caring for 3.5 million underprivileged, abused, and disabled children in the Greater

Houston area. As we look to the next 25 years, 2022 represents our commitment and renewal to our promise of improving the quality of life for Houston's most vulnerable children and meeting crucial needs that are not being met. We will look back at the impact we have made as a reminder and inspiration of the good that can be accomplished when many people come together for one common goal. Without your generosity, HCC would be unable to tackle daunting tasks or begin new programs that have positively affected and changed the lives of so many. 3.5 million children's lives have been changed for the better and for that, I'll forever be indebted and grateful to you.

We are looking forward to remarkable achievements as we move into September and the last quarter of the year. HCC will continue to provide children with their own bed, clothing through the HCC Closet, accessible transportation for children in wheelchairs, and a very merry Christmas through our Annual Toy Distribution and Adopt-A-Family programs. Our team is kicking efforts into high gear to make certain our largest fundraiser, our 25th Annual Gala, is one we'll never forget! I have never been more proud to lead this organization and I look forward to another year of serving our special children. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank each of you for your commitment to our mission.

With our deepest gratitude,

Laura S. Ward
President & CEO

Batter up! Private batting practice with **Houston Astros Alex Bregman** was auctioned off at our 24th Annual Gala and the **McNair Family** and the **Dujka Family** were the winners. This was a grand slam of an afternoon that will be cherished by these young sluggers for life! Bregman spent hours improving their hitting techniques, running multiple drills, and giving tips to hit like the pros. We are grateful to the McNair Family and the Dujka Family for purchasing this surprise auction item, give many thanks to **Martin Fox**, and send our deepest appreciation and gratitude to **Alex Bregman!**



HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, TILMAN J. FERTITTA, hosted "**Rockets Runway**," an event to showcase the new plane for the **Houston Rockets**. This event featured a VIP reception, tours of the plane, a live auction, along with photo opportunities with players, coaches, and alumni. During the presentation, Tilman surprised our **President and CEO, Laura Ward**, with an **honorary Houston Rockets jersey!** Laura was honored for her steadfast commitment to the Houston community. Her leadership is a

model for us all. **The Clutch City Foundation** donated proceeds from this event to Houston Children's Charity to purchase beds for children in need. Thank you to Tilman and the Clutch City Foundation!



Photos courtesy
of rockets.com



Houston Children's Charity 25th Annual Gala

Our Board of Directors along with our

Title Sponsors

BMW of West Houston & Momentum BMW Southwest,

and Gala Chair

Sheridan Williams

are pleased to present the award-winning duo

Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo!

Please join us as we celebrate another year of delivering essential programs that have impacted over 3.5 million children in our community. Your attendance for one night has the ability to have a significant influence that lasts a lifetime for a child and their family.



PAT BENATAR & NEIL GIRALDO
DE NOVO 2022



SHERIDAN WILLIAMS

Title Sponsors

BMW of WEST Houston
MOMENTUM BMW
SOUTHWEST

THE
POST OAK
HOTEL AT UPTOWN HOUSTON

Friday, October 14, 2022

Smiles for

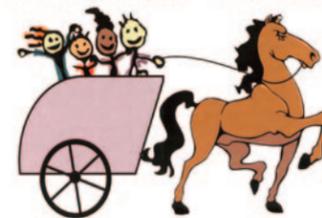
Houston Children's Charity hosted two *Chariots for Children* van distributions in the spring and summer, **April 6, 2022,** and **May 18, 2022.** Eighteen families received keys to a brand new wheelchair-accessible van, bringing the total number of Chariots on the roads in Houston to **273!** Presented by **HCC Chairman of the Board Tilman J. Fertitta** at **Willie G's Seafood**, the lives of eighteen children and their families were positively and instantly impacted by this program. **Laura Ward, HCC President and CEO,** welcomed families, friends, and sponsors, 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. This is only made possible by our partnership with **United Access** and individual van sponsors!



1. Chariots for Children Vans
2. Jesus Granado Family
3. Zach Christian
4. Bob Ogle, Hallie Vanderhider, Franco Valobra, Mariah Mendoza Family, Laura Ward
5. Bob Ogle, Bill & Connie Stagner, Xavier Ornelas Family, Laura Ward
6. Monica Ybarra, Mrs. Malik
7. Philip Royalty, Christopher Parker Family, Bob Ogle, Laura Ward, Brandon Dewan
8. The Ortega Family
9. Monica Ybarra, Abdul Malik Family, Russell Ybarra
10. Abdullah Luay Family
11. Bob Ogle, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Maricella Reed, Kristina Somerville, DeeDee & Wallis Marsh, Brandon & Jennifer Dewan, Gary Becker
12. Daniel Cruz Nunez Family
13. Emma Nguyen Tran Family, The Guill Family
14. Gavin Cornejo Family
15. Laura Ward, Rob Pierce, Kathleen Feller, Marion Anderson, Cynthia Guill, Gerson Martinez Reyes Family
16. Russell & Monica Ybarra, Grace Brown Family, Lindi Stripling, Jonathan Kim, Heather McKeon
17. Gary Becker, DeeDee Marsh, Maria Moncada Alaoui, Henry Bellard IV Family, Laura Ward
18. Jessica Marin Family
19. Emmanuel Maldonado Family, KBP Foods Team
20. Noah Meicler, Lyla King Family, Youval Meicler
21. Isaih Soto Family, Trini Mendenhall

... Miles!

Chariots for Children



HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Spring Chariots



Grace Brown
Age: 7
Sponsor:
Gringo's Tex-Mex



Gavin Cornejo
Age: 7
Sponsor:
Gringo's Tex-Mex



Daniel Cruz Nunez
Age: 11
Sponsor:
Gringo's Tex-Mex



Abdullah Luay
Age: 11
Sponsor:
Gringo's Tex-Mex



Abdul Malik
Age: 13
Sponsor:
Jimmy Changas



Jessica Marin
Age: 9
Sponsor:
The Guill Family



Gerson Martinez Reyes
Age: 9
Sponsor:
The Guill Family



Emma Nguyen Tran
Age: 8
Sponsor:
The Guill Family



Isaih Soto
Age: 14
Sponsor:
Ms. Trini Mendenhall

Summer Chariots



Henry Ballard IV
Age: 17
Sponsor:
Gary Petersen



Zach Christian
Age: 15
Sponsor:
Gary Petersen



Jesus Granado
Age: 16
Sponsor:
Gary Petersen



Lyla King
Age: 8
Sponsor:
Texas Mattress Makers



Oreoluwa "Ory" Kolawole
Age: 11
Sponsor:
Texas Mattress Makers



Emmanuel Maldonado
Age: 17
Sponsor:
KBP Foods Inc.



Louis Ray Martinez
Age: 15
Sponsors:
John Johnson, Kristina & Paul Somerville, Dewan Family, DeeDee & Wallis Marsh, Maricella Reed



Mariah Mendoza
Age: 15
Sponsors:
The Vanderhiders, Valobra Master Jewelers, ACORI Diamonds & Design, Ryan & Stephanie Fleck, KK West



Xavier Ornelas
Age: 11
Sponsors:
Young Houstonians for Houston Children's Charity, Robert Tijerina, Renee & Scott Rice, Carl Norton, Anonymous



Christopher "Matt-Matt" Parker
Age: 18
Sponsors:
Mimi & Larry Levine, Chris Kase, Attorney Ricardo A. Barrera, Crystal Del Toro, Philip Royalty, Rachelle Miers, Dan Sugulas

Thank you to our donors for helping provide a gift of a lifetime for our special families!

The Guill Family
KBP Foods
Ms. Trini Mendenhall
Gary Petersen
Texas Mattress Makers
Monica and Russell Ybarra / Gringo's Tex-Mex / Jimmy Changas
John Johnson
The Vanderhiders
Young Houstonians for Houston Children's Charity
Mimi & Larry Levine
ACORI Diamonds & Design
Attorney Ricardo A. Barrera
Dewan Family
Stephanie & Ryan Fleck
Chris Kase
DeeDee & Wallis Marsh
Rachelle & Daniel Miers
Carl Norton
Maricella Reed
Renee & Scott Rice
Philip Royalty
Kristina & Paul Somerville
Melissa & Dan Sugulas
Rebecca & Robert Tijerina
Crystal Del Toro
Valobra Master Jewelers
KK & Scott West



"Grace was blessed with an opportunity to live beyond the limitations of her physical disabilities. No more spending 30 minutes breaking down the wheelchair and loading it in the back of my car. No more leaving her behind because of the limited space we had for all of her equipment. No more canceling doctors appointments because of the lack of availability for medical transportation. I remember the days when I swore I would never be a minivan mom but today I can't explain the excitement that I have to be able to transport Gracie wherever she wants to go with ease. With Covid clearing up I can't wait to get back to traveling, road trips, weekend outings, and Mommy daughter dates. I am so thankful for our sponsors Gringo's Mexican Kitchen, and the amazing work that Houston Children's Charity does to improve the quality of life for Greater Houston's underprivileged, abused, and disabled children."

-Taylor Brown, Grace's mom





Say Yes to the Prom Dress!

One of the pinnacle moments in high school is the ever-so-anticipated prom! Although the actual dance lasts only a few hours, there is much preparation into getting ready for the big night – expenses not every family can afford. That's why **Houston Children's Charity** teamed up with **Boom Media and Image Consulting**, along with **Macy's Galleria** and **Macy's Memorial City** to provide the ultimate shopping experience for **100 high school girls** in need!

Houston Children's Charity welcomed students from Yates High School, Booker T. Washington HSEP, Milby High School, Northside High School, and Wheatley High School to shop brand-new dresses, jewelry, and accessories all at no cost to them. **Laura Ward, President and CEO** of Houston Children's Charity, said, "Prom is synonymous with high school. We want these girls to feel a renewed sense of confidence and know that Houston cares for them."

Thank you to Michelle Watson with CatchLight Group for capturing this fabulous event!

HCC Closet's Summer Shopping Spree

Everyone needs a **Summer Shopping Spree!** That's why we opened our Closet doors for a week to invite families in to update their wardrobes. From **July 11-16**, over **800 children** and their families were shopping free clothing, shoes, and accessories at the **HCC Closet**. The racks overflowed with gently used and new donations from the community, making it an ideal place for families to browse and put together outfits. Moms, dads, and children left the Closet feeling stylish and grateful for their Summer Shopping Spree!



EVERY CHILD DESERVES A BETTER NIGHT'S SLEEP

Imagine a future where every child crawls into their own bed every night to awaken to new beginnings every day. At **Houston Children's Charity, A Better Night's Sleep** dreams of just that. Since the program's inception in 2007, complete bed sets have been provided to

over **26,000 children** in and around the Greater Houston area through monthly bed distributions.

It is our privilege and priority to work to provide every child in Houston with a bed. Though the number of beds awarded increases each year, so does the number of people joining the waiting list. Without the support of our community, we would not be able to continue our mission of ensuring every child has their own bed and is no longer sharing a bed with siblings, sleeping on a couch, or worse, the floor. Thank you to our friends at **NES Fircroft** for sponsoring May's bed distribution and volunteering to load beds into vehicles. We also want to thank our mattress partner, **Texas Mattress Makers**, for hosting our monthly bed distributions.

\$150 IS ALL IT TAKES TO GIVE A CHILD THEIR OWN BED!

JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO PROVIDE SWEET DREAMS TO CHILDREN IN NEED!





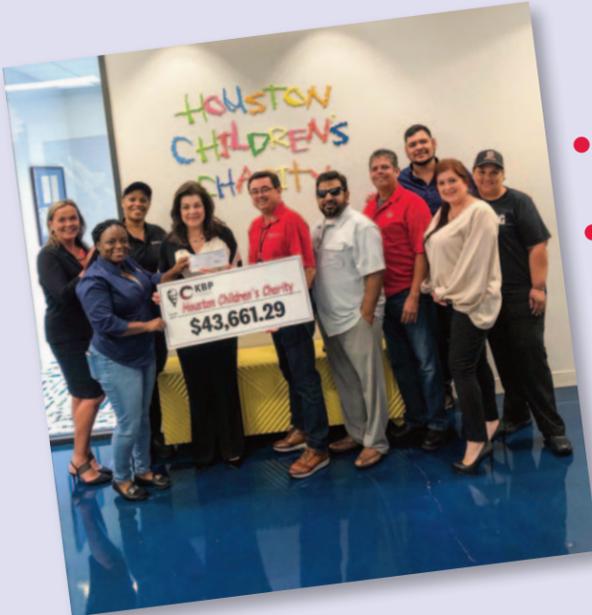
Thank you to 501st Legion's Star Garrison and Causeplay Alliance Project for coming out in superhero costumes! Special thank you to Daniel Ortiz, Stevie Merrill, and Richard Wild for capturing this event.

All children should enter their classroom door on the first day of school equipped with needed supplies that help them feel prepared and confident for what the year will bring. Thank you to every partner, sponsor, and volunteer who helps make this possible. Class is now in session!



- THANK YOU TO ROD'S ANGEL INVESTORS:**
- Joe Myers Toyota
 - PrimeWay Federal Credit Union
 - Ron Hoover RV
 - Texas Hammer
 - Jim Adler
 - Whataburger

Come Together!



- **Houston Sports and Social Club** hosted "Playin' For Kids," a volleyball and corn hole tournament, and donated the proceeds to improve the lives of our special children!
- Raffle for Charity! **Six Bullets** raffled away a bundle at a local show and all the proceeds were given to our organization. We are so thankful for Six Bullets!
- For the 2nd consecutive year, **KBP Foods** hosted their bi-annual Charity Coupon Book Campaign at local restaurants with the proceeds going to our programs. We are grateful for their support to our mission and this donation of **\$43,661.29!**
- Thank you to the **Space Cowboys** for donating **100 tickets** to the game on June 1, 2022!
- **Kimberly Miller**, author of *Webster*, donated **100 books** to be passed out at Back2School. Thank you, Kimberly!

KidsSMART targets organizations with proven track records assisting at-risk students. We provide support to programs which help to get students' academic progress in line with their peers and put them on a path for success. We will award TEACH with **\$35,000**. This will go towards providing the following services to **Blackshear Elementary** (a magnet Montessori school located in the Third Ward): **intensive training** and **coaching in nonverbal classroom management strategies** for educators and administrators for the 2022-2023 academic year.



Thank you to **Arca Continental Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages** and **Morris Smith** for gifting laptops to Houston Children's Charity!

- **Drew Academy** received **50 laptops**.
- **Arrow's Freedom Place** received **25 laptops**.



ABOVE:
Debra Tengler,
Melissa Juneau



LEFT:
Elizabeth Atkins,
Rebecca Hernandez,
Christopher Walker

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.

"OUR KIDS ARE EVERYBODY'S KIDS"

1600 West Loop South
Suite 610
Houston, Texas 77027

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2022 Upcoming Events

A BETTER NIGHT'S SLEEP

Bed Distributions – Every Month (Saturday)

HCC CLOSET

Semi-Monthly visits (Tuesday only)

25TH ANNUAL GALA

October 14, 2022



ADOPT-A-FAMILY

October – December

ANNUAL TOY DISTRIBUTION

December 5th – 10th, 2022



Volunteer Corner

WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF CARING VOLUNTEERS.

Please visit us at www.houstonchildrenscharity.org to register.

Stay Connected



houstonchildrenscharity.org



facebook.com/houstonchildrenscharity



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



Prepare for take-off...

Houston Children's Charity is incredibly proud and honored to receive a \$20,000 gift from Spirit Charitable Foundation.

Designated for our **A Better Night's Sleep** program, this donation will provide beds to 200 children without their own. We're incredibly grateful for Spirit Airlines' commitment to improving lives in the communities where they live and work. Houston, prepare for take-off...

Lanie Morgenstern, Laura Ward

Grant Guthrie, Ted Christie, Lanie Morgenstern, Laura Ward, Maria Moncada Alaoui