

Trees of Hope

News from the Hope Front

Celebrating 20 years of support for Star of Hope

Fall 2010



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It is hard to believe that Trees of Hope has been raising funds exclusively for Star of Hope for twenty years. When Carlross and Doris Morris vision of a social event to raise money and awareness of Star of Hope and Houston's homeless became a reality in 1990, little did they know that this group would continually take the party to new heights each year. What began as a week-long Festival of Trees, involving the whole family and hundreds of volunteers and man hours to orchestrate, evolved into a one night black tie gala in 1996 with a specially invited entertainer. And now our glittering gala features party dance bands, a live auction; a silent auction of trees and wreaths created by talented Houston artisans, other holiday items, and unique gifts; Feed a Child at Star of Hope; and The Hope Tree which allows guests to purchase needed things for Star of Hope. Proceeds from last year's gala allowed us to provide a \$450,000 gift to Star of Hope. Trees of Hope is proud to announce that its 20 years of signature tree studded events have allowed us to contribute over \$6.3 million in support of Star of Hope. **Who knows what we can do in the next 20 years!**



Doris and, Carlross Morris long time Star of Hope Chairman



Lynn Wyatt, Honoree



Trees of Hope to Honor Lynn Wyatt

Trees of Hope is excited to announce that this, our 20th anniversary year, we are honoring Lynn Wyatt for her continued hands on involvement with Trees of Hope since its inception in 1990. As Carlross Morris was asking wives of his influential friends and Star of Hope board members to volunteer and organize the first event, he asked Lynn Wyatt to be a Tree Judge of the beautifully decorated trees on display that would be sold the night of the party. As the story goes, Lynn said that she could not lend her name for a cause that she did not personally believe in. So Kathy Tabor toured Mrs. Wyatt through each Star of Hope facility, where Lynn saw firsthand the love, caring and hope they provide. She also realized that staff were trying to figure out how to get hundreds of turkeys for Thanksgiving Dinner donated. The next day a truck pulled up with the needed turkeys - from Lynn and Oscar Wyatt because they saw the need. In addition to countless turkey's over the years, the Wyatt's have also donated several vans that visit the homeless living on the streets to offer them blankets. In fact, Mrs. Wyatt has donned her jeans on more than one occasion to go out on the vans to give blankets and water. This is how Lynn operates - seeing a need and then taking care of it. Since graduating from tree judge that first year, Lynn has been actively involved with Trees of Hope not only as a generous benefactor but as an inspirational advisor offering her knowledge and encouragement in every aspect. She has chaired the gala twice, served on just about every committee, and has only missed one of the 20 galas - that is dedication. Mrs. Wyatt is equally involved with Star of Hope, its luncheon and annually lights the Christmas tree with the children at Star of Hope's Transitional Living Center. Lynn Wyatt has never been willing for us to honor her because she is "just doing what needs to be done". However, this year when gala chairs DeeDee Marsh and Kelli Weinzierl asked her, she thought long and hard before finally saying "yes", and only because this is a major anniversary! Thank you Lynn Wyatt for your hands on attitude and giving heart - Trees of Hope is honored to have you among its dear friends.



Gala co-chairs DeeDee Marsh and Kelli Weinzierl

Learn more about our Swinging on a Star Gala on page 4

GUILD HAPPENINGS, Terry Prather and Christy Rowland

MEMBERSHIP The Trees of Hope Guild began its year with six new lifetime Guild members. These gracious ladies with a long term heart for our mission, Star of Hope, are Candace Dickerson, Jennifer Ducote, Bonnie Fallin, Sunny Haik, Rachel Schaeffer, and Elizabeth Stevenson. The Guild is our volunteer base which is used to provide several hands-on projects at Star of Hope, and to supply the many volunteers needed to set up our fundraising gala event. And of course we also have fun social get-togethers!



THE FUN "Bellini's and Bites"



2009 gala co chairs Kelley Lubanko and Mary Rothwell

Our Guild's spring "Bellini's and Bites" party held at past president Leigh Smith's artful home was such fun. Guild chairs Christy Rowland and Terry Prather hosted a lovely party with lots of great food and the Bellini machine flowing freely! 2009 Gala co-chairs Kelley Lubanko and Mary Rothwell were the highlight of the evening when they presented Star of Hope president and CEO Hank Rush with our gift of \$450,000 raised with our Star Light Star Bright Gala. Christy and Terry presented "Above and Beyond" awards to Shannon Corbett and Margaret Pierce for their efforts with Guild events and the gala. This was a fun party where guests were able to learn more about



Lifetime Board members Jo Ann Petersen and Nancy Walker

Trees of Hope, its Guild, gala and how we help Star of Hope. 2010 Gala co-chairs DeeDee Marsh and Kelli Weinzierl had sign-up sheets for people to join a gala committee or to donate a great tree, wreath or swag for our 2010 Swinging on a Star Gala.

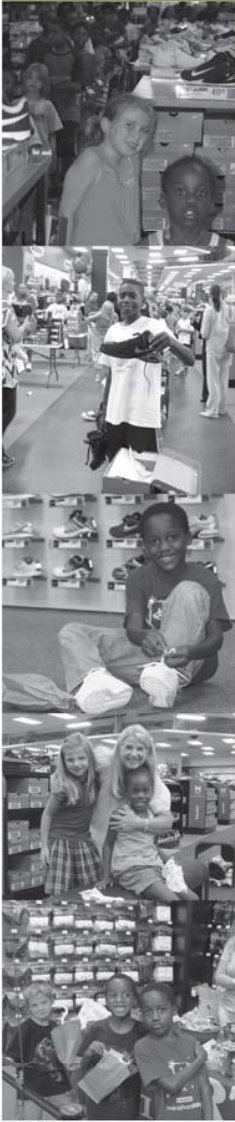
The Work We Do... Hope Grows on Trees!



Hope Floats

This year's theme for our 2nd annual Mother's Day party for the children at Star of Hope's Transitional Living Center was "Hope Floats". Chaired by Guild members Shannon Corbett and Terry Prather, guild volunteers helped the children after school to decorate picture frames, pose for photographs for the frames, and put them into pretty pastel gift bags filled with "pampering" goodies as gifts for their mother's for Mother's Day. There was even a beautiful long stemmed pink rose for each of the mothers. We don't know who was more excited about the gifts, the children or their Mother's! And no party is complete without refreshments - coke floats aka "Hope Floats" were a big hit. Many of the children had never had one and were fascinated with the fizzing of the coke as it was added to the ice cream. Needless to say, seconds were needed for just about everyone. The cute Jump Team from Second Baptist School had everyone hopping with their energetic performance. The sweet children are so appreciative of our activity, and it does our hearts good, knowing we are making a difference when one of them says, "I have never given my Mom a gift before". So many things that we take for granted are true blessings.





Their Shoes – A Back to School Story

The Trees of Hope Guild holds two events each year for the approximately 70 children living at Star of Hope’s Transitional Living Center. The fall event is themed “Back to School”, and centers around a current need at the mission. This year school shoes were the need, and the Guild along with help from an anonymous donor were able to fill that need. It started with Guild Co-Chair Terry Prather contacting Sports Authority district manager Tony Patino to request his help in allowing us to hold the event at the Post Oak store, and for a discount on shoes. He and all of his wonderful staff were happy to help! They set aside a special place in the store where the children could gather and receive snacks, balloons and have their faces painted. As soon as the children arrived on the bus from Star of Hope, the store’s staff set about measuring the children’s feet for proper fit and along with Guild members (and some of their children!) helped them select their new shoes. As all the commotion was going on, there was a man who happened to be in the store shopping for a fishing pole who noticed all the activity and inquired as to the reason. When told it was to buy back to school shoes for children from Star of Hope, he immediately said he would like to pay for them all!! Because of his generosity, the Guild is able to fill other needs for these children. God certainly does work in mysterious ways, because the children were actually fifteen minutes early arriving, and if they had been on time, the gentleman would surely have already finished his shopping and been gone before they arrived. There were quite a few tears of joy from the Guild members who were there for that wonderful moment witnessing God at work. The children had a great time selecting their shoes and joking around with each other and generally enjoying their last moments before the school year arrived. It was truly a happy time for everyone involved from the children to Guild members, store employees, and Star of Hope staff. As they head off to school in their new shoes, and the excitement of the year ahead, it was nice to see the smiles on their faces. Thanks to all who participated for your time and compassion as you help the Star of Hope children get off on the right foot as the new school year begins!!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Trees of Hope Guild is our volunteer group, and we need lots of volunteers to provide help for our many activities throughout the year. Having volunteers helps us keep expenses down which can increase our annual donation to Star of Hope. We will need volunteers to help stuff our gala invitations in September, decorate trees and wreaths for our auction in October, help with ad sales and other gala committees, and help to set up and take down the auction on Saturday, November 13 at the Hilton-Americas. We also need volunteers to help with our annual Mother’s Day and Back to School Parties which provide us with hands on interaction with the children at Star of Hope’s Transitional Living Center. Call the Trees of Hope office at 713/942-8733 to volunteer, or go to our website www.treesofhopehouston.org/guild to print a Guild membership form. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Fall Guild Social will be Tuesday, September 21 at Rome Salon and Day Spa West Ave....look for your invitation.

There will be sneak previews of Rome's signature spa rituals while we sip champagne. We will have info on the fantastic volunteer opportunities for the "Swinging on a Star" Gala as well as info on other upcoming events!! Come join the fun!

If you would like further information on the Guild and what we do, please check out the Trees of Hope website, treesofhopehouston.org or call the office 713-942-8733.

We hope you can join us!!!

Swinging on a Star

Gala Co chairs DeeDee Marsh and Kelli Weinzierl have been planning a spectacular gala for Trees of Hope's 20th anniversary of supporting Star of Hope! Beginning in 1990 with its Festival of Trees, TOH was able to donate about \$40,000 in cash and about \$40,000 in computers. Last year's gift was \$450,000. My how we have grown! The festival evolved into big name entertainment and now features music for dancing yet still featuring our beautifully decorated trees and other holiday items for auction. In our 20 year history of exclusively supporting Star of Hope, Trees of Hope has contributed over \$6.3 million.

The gala theme "**Swinging on a Star**" features a 40's style elegant supper club, complete with big band music provided by the Richard Brown Orchestra and dancing on the black and white dance floor. Wanting to keep everyone on their toes, this year's gala has changed to **Saturday night, and one week earlier, November 13 at the Hilton Americas-Houston**. During our reception hour, guests will be entertained by the sounds of Riff Raff. And trying to get everyone "In the Mood", we will have a specialty Martini Bar! Of course our signature trees and wreaths will be featured in the auction, and we will also have other fantastic live and silent auction items to bid upon. Last year's first time "Cork Pull" was so popular that we are repeating it again this year. Please plan on joining us!

All proceeds of our gala will be used to support children served by Star of Hope. Last year Star of Hope provided 1,375 children under the age of 18 with nutritious meals, clean and warm beds, clothing, 54,836 diapers for the infants, prepared 528 children for back to school with clothing and supplies; medical, dental and mental healthcare; and toys for the children who had lost everything. Many recovery programs separate parents from their children, but Star of Hope wants the whole family to reach stability together. Star of Hope strives to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness in a family by providing the children good food, a healthy environment and tutoring to help them catch up to their grade level.

How you can help us!

Star of Hope with help from Trees of Hope will give homeless children the joys of childhood. We have enclosed an **underwriting donor table** form with this newsletter. Please complete it and return it to the Trees of Hope office so you won't be left out of our wonderful gala in support of the children served by Star of Hope.

The **trees and wreaths for auction** represent our namesake and account for a significant portion of our monies raised for Star of Hope. By donating a Tree or Wreath, you are helping the children, homeless for reasons out of their control. We have a number of themes for you to choose from, decoration ideas, and gift item ideas. Create a tree yourself, ask your favorite designer, enlist the help of a friend or assemble a group to decorate at our "decorating day" on October 20 held at In Bloom, ask your business owner friends for gifts and donate a tree. Some ideas we have in mind - school themed wreaths for Episcopal, Lamar, TCU, Memorial, St. John's, River Oaks Baptist, A&M, Rice; and holidays such as Thanksgiving, Easter, Angel, Toys, Beach or ranch. Contact the Trees of Hope office to sign up. And come to the gala's auction to buy a one of a kind tree!

Buy or sell ads for our gala program. Contact the Trees of Hope office for details.

Are you a wine lover? Trees of Hope always has a wine cellar or such featured in its auctions which is created from wine donated from the board, guild members, and friends. This year, Sara Wilson, Stephanie Langenstein and Mary Rothwell have arranged with Scott Spencer of the Houston Wine Merchant, 2646 S. Shepherd to give a 20% discount on any bottle of wine purchased for the Trees of Hope wine collection beginning July 1 and ending October 31. For anyone making a wine purchase or \$ donation for wine, they will receive a 15% discount for any personal purchases. Identify yourself as Trees of Hope to receive the discounts, and the Wine Merchant will hold your wine donation until our auction. You can also call the Houston Wine Merchant, identify yourself as Trees of Hope, tell them your purchase amount (which will have the 20% discount applied), and it can be charged to your credit card and the wine stored there until the auction. This is a great way to build our cellar and yours! Don't forget to stock up for holidays and entertaining out of town guests. We would like each bottle of donated wine to be valued no less than \$50, and working up to WOW wines \$100 and up. Last year our **Cork Pull grand bottle** was valued at almost \$500!

If you or your friends have questions, suggestions or would like to have more information about Trees of Hope, visit our website at www.treesofhopehouston.org. or call the office to talk with Shari or Gwen.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF TREES OF HOPE, MARY ROTHWELL



When I was looking for something extra meaningful to do with my time, I was inspired through attending a Trees of Hope Guild Coffee. While I had heard of Star of Hope, I did not really know all of the many facets of help they provide people down on their luck. Trees of Hope is a core of very compassionate and generous women who are dedicated to improving our community by supporting such a worthy public cause – homelessness. We are passionate about the mission and success of Star of Hope.

Before my first visit to Star of Hope, I was very nervous about touring a homeless shelter. Expecting to experience the despair and hopelessness, I was amazed to witness just the opposite. It was truly one of my most uplifting experiences. Star of Hope is filled with joy, love, kindness and Hope. They are reaching out to those who are in the most desperate need of a helping hand – not a hand out but a hand up. Star of Hope is a Christ-centered community making positive changes through structured programs which focus on spiritual growth, education, employment, and life management.

No matter how busy people may be, they are still looking for opportunities to enrich their lives. Volunteer work is a priceless opportunity and a great gift to the world. Through our many fun events, Trees of Hope is making great strides in our fundraising efforts for Star of Hope. We hope you will be a part of our success.



New Lifetime Board Member

Longtime member Jo Ann Petersen was unanimously elected as a Lifetime Member of the Trees of Hope Board of Trustees at its annual meeting in March. JoAnn was a founding member and treasurer in 1990, was honored as TOH outstanding volunteer 1990-1995 as she continued as treasurer and other hands on activities. She has faithfully served on the Trees of Hope Advisory Board for many years and continues to support all activities of the TOH Guild and Gala. Trees of Hope appreciates Jo Ann's continued service in support of the homeless.

DONORS to TREES OF HOPE (March 1, 2010 – August 31, 2010)

Abejas Boutique
Abrahams Oriental Rugs + Furnishings
Abuso Catering Co.
Administaff Incorporated
DeDe Ale
Jennifer and Fields Alexander
Amy's Ice Creams
Trisha Anton
Avalon Advisors
James Avery Craftsman
Philamena Baird
Bath Junkie - River Oaks
Jan Bauer
Kimberly Bayley
Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens
Julie and Frank Bayouth
Mary Ann Belin
Benj's Modern American Cuisine
Bentwater on the North Shore, Ltd.
Juana Bernard
Collier and Richard Blades
Jane Block
Louisa Bonner Hernandez
Dee Boswell
Patricia Britt
Carol and Rihl Buckley
Donna Burger
Jylann Calcote
Mary Cantu
Capella Ixtapa Resort and Spa
Lucy Carl
Castex Foundation
CenterPoint Energy
Chili's Grill & Bar
Sandra Chunn
Clutch City Foundation
Cindi Colvin
Cynthia S. Cook

Denton A. Cooley Foundation
Shannon Corbett
Judy Craig
Susan and Sanford Criner
Candace and Craig Dickerson
Dry Comal Creek Vineyards
Jennifer and David Ducote
Madeleine and John Elmer
The Extex Companies
Bonnie Fallin
Jeanie Flores
Sue Floyd
Four Seasons Hotel Houston
Ellie Francisco
Frio River Properties
Kristin and Robert Gauntt
Carol Gunn
Kaci Guy
Sunny Haik
Harper & Pearson Company, P.C.
Renee and John Hawkins
Barbara Henkel
Maureen Y. Higdon
Gretchen Hilyard
Janis Hooks
Horizon Resources
Joan Hornig
Houston Ballet
Houston Symphony
Houstanian Hotel Club & Spa
Bethany and Jim Hughes
James Coney Island
Anna and Gregg Jones
Marianne and Rob Jones
Marillyn and Rex King
Gwen Koch
Kroger Food Stores
Stephanie Langenstein

The Lash Co.
Anna Leonard
Stef and Jay Levy
Sara and John Lindsey Foundation
Dora Lloret
Leda Lloret
Kathleen Looney
Doris and Terry Looper
Kelley Lubanko
Marathon Oil Company
Mark's American Cuisine
Aimee Marsh
DeeDee and Wallis Marsh
Kim Martin
Mary P. Martin
Jennifer Mayer
Jennifer and Mark McCollum
McGovern Foundation
Misty D. McKinley
Robert and Janice McNair Foundation
Marsha L. Montemayor
Margaret and Ben Morris
Nancy Mundt
Celia Munisteri
Elizabeth Murphy
Melba Murphy
Patti Murphy
Elizabeth Nelson
Beverly and Staman Ogilvie
Jo Ann Petersen
Vicki Pickle
Margaret Pierce
Pinkies Up LLC
Shauna Powell
Terry and Jim Prather
Hillary Purcell
Radio Music Theatre
Radney Skin Care: Medi Spa

The Rainbow Lodge
Margaret Reppert
Suzy Rhodes
Patricia Ricks
Karan Robinson
Charlotte A. Rothwell
Mary and Mark Rothwell
Elisabeth and Hank Rush
Rachel Schaeffer
Trisha Schildknecht
Sharon Schwartz
Sensia Studio & Japanese Day Spa
Shade
Nancy Shank
Barbara Sheldon
Millette and Haag Sherman
Sicily Eason, LLC
Cynthia Slade
Sue Sloan
Leigh and Reggie Smith
Shannon and Boyd Smith
Mary Soderstrom
Kelley and Brent Southwell
Southwell's Hamburger Grill
Southwest Airlines
Sara Dodd and Keith Spickelmier
St. Regis Hotel
Stages Repertory Theatre
Virginia Steppe
Stetzel & Assoc.
Elizabeth Stevenson
Lisa Stoika
Laura Suffield
Sunset Blvd Animal Clinic
Carol Townsend
Tres Chic/Susan and Elizabeth Hancock
Laurie Tyler
Kimberly and Jeff Van Gundy

June Waggoner
Nancy Walker
Sheridan Walton
Randa and K.C. Weiner
Kelli and John Weinzierl
Arlo Weltge MD & Janet Macheledt MD
Karen White
Sue T. Whitfield
Ann Wilde
Tracy Kay Wilkerson
Ann and Robert Wilson
Joanne and Welcome Wilson
Sara Jane and Robert Wilson
Joyce and Jerald Witten

Gifts made in Honor of / from:

Charlotte Rothwell
Nancy and David Pustka

Lynn Wyatt
Sara and John Lindsey

Trees of Hope accepts gifts* in memory of family and friends. A tribute card is sent to the family telling them of your kindness to Trees of Hope.

Also, a gift* to Trees of Hope is an ideal way to remember a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. A special card will be sent to the honoree to let them know of your kindness benefitting Houston's homeless on their behalf.

*Gifts may be mailed, faxed or sent by email to the Trees of Hope office. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to honor or remember



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www.treesofhopehouston.org

Exclusively benefiting Star of Hope,
Serving Houston's homeless since 1907.

Trees of Hope was founded in 1990 as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization with the specific purpose to conduct fund raising activities for the exclusive benefit of Star of Hope, Houston's largest agency for the homeless.

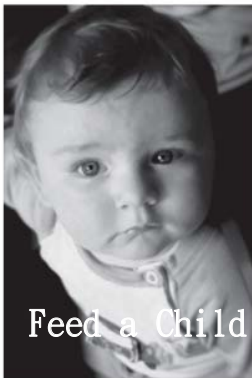
\$450,000 gift to Star of Hope

2009 Star Light Star Bright Gala co chairs Kelley Lubanko and Mary Rothwell were excited to present Star of Hope President and CEO, Hank Rush with proceeds of their event. The check presentation was a part of the Trees of Hope Guild spring party, "Bellini's and Bites".



Please help Houston's homeless!

Gifts may be made to Trees of Hope year round in support of Star of Hope.
Thank you for your help.



Feed a Child

Feed a Child! Women and children comprise the fastest growing segment among the homeless population. The average age of a homeless person is 9 years. A child without nutritious food is unable to learn, and thus cannot grow properly to help end the cycle of homelessness in his family. Won't you help us "Feed a Child" with a suggested gift amount of \$100. No gift is too large or too small.

Give to The Hope Tree to fund specific needs of Star of Hope and its children, homeless because of family consequences out of their control. Opportunities for gifts to the Hope Tree include an Annual Physical & Immunizations for one child \$300, Diapers for one baby for one month \$250, School Uniforms & Supplies for one child \$150, Therapy for one session for one child \$75, Food for a Family of three for one year \$7,500, Childcare staff salary for one year \$27,000, Teen Coordinator's Salary \$38,000.

We have enclosed an Honor/Memorial envelope for your special gift!