To know that every child is extraordinary.

What’s your promise?

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CAMPAIGN FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL “WHAT’S UP, DOC?”

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Nearly 800 guests attended the last Forum Luncheon in The Woodlands. Be sure to save the date for the next exciting gathering.

Don’t miss the 20th annual “What’s Up, Doc?” dinner. Guests will hear about the most exciting hospital developments directly from Texas Children’s experts and scientists.

Join us for an unforgettable day of fun where the worse the fashion, the greater the reward. This popular event benefits the amazing work of Texas Children’s Newborn Center.

Nearly 800 guests attended the last Forum Luncheon in The Woodlands. Be sure to save the date for the next exciting gathering.

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Aspire IS ONLINE!
The doorbell rings at the Dunn residence. Excited yells echo from across the house. Three blurs race past: a boy, a princess and one pint-sized Ninja Turtle, all fueled by the prospect of pizza. Rachel and Adam Dunn are raising the classic, all-American family — a family that includes a child who needs specialized care.

A HOME RUN FOR THE COMMUNITY
THE DUNN FAMILY

The Dunn family’s was a life on the road. Off-seasons were spent in his home state of Texas. The family lived in The Woodlands for four years, just recently moving to Houston.

When Rachel and Adam heard that Texas Children’s was coming to The Woodlands, they immediately felt inspired to give a very generous gift, and they are encouraging others to do the same.

The one thing that has always been a constant for the Dunns is Texas Children’s Hospital. Even when traveling, if their son’s health became cause for concern, they would return to Houston for the expert treatment he needed.

While they lived in The Woodlands, the Dunns witnessed many changes and watched more and more people move into the area. Rachel and Adam personally encountered the world-class care that Texas Children’s provides at the Texas Medical Center Campus. They also experienced how difficult it was to make the 35-mile, sometimes two-hour commute from The Woodlands.

That is simply too far for families to go, especially in times of crisis. But things will soon be different. One of the main priorities of Promise: The Campaign for Texas Children’s Hospital is the construction of Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands. The outpatient tower will open in 2016, and the inpatient tower in 2017. It will be the only dedicated pediatric hospital — including a specialty pediatric Emergency Center and critical care units — serving communities north of Houston.

For thousands of patients and families, the new hospital will mean being able to get the right care, at the right time, and in the right place — close to home.

I think what I would tell people to encourage them to give to Texas Children’s would be to think about the children. That, to me, is all that needs to be said. The things they do just for children are special.

Adam Dunn, Donor

“Our promise is to support the mission of Texas Children’s Hospital and also to challenge and encourage other families to do the same.”
Rachel and Adam Dunn

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TEXAS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL THE WOODLANDS, TURN TO PAGE 10.

aspire.texaschildrens.org

5
Texas Children’s Hospital Physician-in-Chief Dr. Mark Kline returned as special guest speaker on November 20, 2014, for The Forum Luncheon The Woodlands, held once again at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott. The Forum topic was one of international importance and intrigue — infectious diseases.

Dr. Kline presented an informative overview of the most critical historical instances of infectious diseases, from the Plague of Justinian in the 6th Century A.D. to the HIV virus and most recently the Ebola virus.

He recounted the history of the Ebola virus, from its mysterious origins in the Ebola River region in what is now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo to its identification by the World Health Organization as the worst public health emergency in modern times. Though it is more difficult to contract than the flu, it takes only one microorganism of the Ebola virus for the disease to be transmitted. And as with other infectious diseases, increased access to transportation — especially air travel — has made the virus’s spread worse.

The audience learned that even though contracting Ebola in the United States is less likely than being struck by lightning, Texas Children’s Hospital will be prepared no matter what the scenario. “We have the greatest researchers in the world studying some of the least understood diseases,” said Dr. Kline.

Dr. Kline highlighted Texas Children’s rapid response team of experts, ready to deal with any possible infectious disease emergency. He noted that the hospital’s protocols currently in place to treat infected patients — from state-of-the-art equipment to highly specialized training — have garnered praise from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). He also announced the construction of an eight-bed advanced isolation unit at Texas Children’s Hospital West Campus. The unit, designed in collaboration with the CDC, will be fully equipped to care for children with highly contagious infectious diseases, making Texas Children’s the first line of defense against these illnesses.

Dr. Kline closed by stating that initiatives such as the construction of this special unit and of the new Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands mark further steps that Texas Children’s is taking to ensure that world-class pediatric health care will be available in every part of this city, the region and the country.
Whether taking a drive among the stately homes overlooking Lake Woodlands or sampling the wares on Market Street, it’s clear that great pains were taken to make The Woodlands one of the best master-planned communities in the country.

The Woodlands was established in 1974 and by 1980 had 4,800 residents, with major developmental escalation occurring with the construction of the Hardy Toll Road and the regional mall. Today, the number of residents has grown to over 100,000.

Woodforest National Bank originated in 1980, and though it now has a national presence, its roots have always been in The Woodlands. “Many companies have chosen to make this area their home — companies like Woodforest — and we’re just thrilled to see this area grow and prosper,” said Vicki Richmond, Treasurer of the Woodforest Charitable Foundation.

In conjunction with sound business practice, Woodforest has consistently demonstrated an inherent sense of philanthropic responsibility and community involvement, formalizing its giving through the formation of the Woodforest Charitable Foundation in 2005. “One of the key components of our philanthropy and our strategic plan is to help children,” said Michael Richmond, Chief Financial Officer of Woodforest National Bank.

This spring, Woodforest made a very generous $1 million gift to Texas Children’s Hospital to support the construction of Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands. First to open will be the outpatient tower in 2016 — and when the inpatient tower opens in 2017, it will have the area’s first and only dedicated pediatric emergency center.

“What we’ve experienced in our organization is a culture — that derives from the top — of giving back to various organizations and causes,” said Robert Marling, Chairman of Woodforest National Bank. “And our job is to support those folks and help those causes move forward.”

Woodforest’s leadership was recently struck by one glaring problem: the lack of dedicated pediatric health care facilities. With the pediatric population of The Woodlands and surrounding areas expected to bloom to over 380,000 in the next three years, families are currently forced to travel — often in horrendous traffic — 30, 40, even 50 miles to seek out specialty health care for children.

In a community always intended to be self-sufficient, this problem needed solving — and Woodforest was honored to be part of the solution. “As a mother, I have firsthand experience with having to handle a traumatic incident with a child,” said Kim Marling, Executive Director of the Woodforest Charitable Foundation. “Our son was in an accident when he was younger, and we didn’t have a facility here in The Woodlands that could treat him. So I think the addition of Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands is so critical.”

“What inspired Woodforest to make this gift was going down to look at Texas Children’s Hospital West Campus and the Texas Medical Center Campus and visiting with the leadership,” Robert said. “We were impressed with the organization and impressed with the fact that Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands will make a difference to families in this community.”

Profiles in Philanthropy

“Our promise is to leave a legacy for our family and our community by giving a gift to Texas Children’s Hospital.”

Michael Richmond
Chief Financial Officer, Woodforest National Bank

Vicki Richmond
Treasurer, Woodforest Charitable Foundation

“Hear the full story at aspire.texaschildrens.org/woodforest
To learn more about Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands, turn to page 10.”

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Texas Children’s Hospital’s promise to provide the highest quality care to all those who come to us for help hasn’t changed, but our community is ever-changing. Houston is now the fourth-largest city in the nation, with a fast-growing pediatric population that naturally has a diverse range of health care needs.

It’s the middle of the night in Arizona, and three-year-old Angie has been rushed to the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) at a children’s hospital. Born with chronic lung disease and pulmonary hypertension, she has reached a crisis point, and her condition is deteriorating rapidly. Time is running out.

That’s when her parents heard these words: “Your daughter needs a double lung transplant.” There aren’t many places in the United States to go for that. Her doctors want her at Texas Children’s Hospital. They tell her parents that they have been in contact with physicians in the PICU there, but her condition needs to stabilize before they can transfer her.

For 30 harrowing hours, it is touch and go. And then there is a glimmer of hope. Angie’s condition has improved enough for her to be transported via Texas Children’s Kangaroo Crew air ambulance.

The journey has really just begun. Now, the waiting game begins, and it is a long one. Her parents juggle their schedules and rearrange their lives so that one of them can be with Angie and one of them back in Arizona with their other children.

It is four months before the organs become available. When Angie does receive the double lung transplant, everyone is overjoyed. It’s a success! Still, her recovery is long and slow.

It is another two-and-a-half months at Texas Children’s — some of it spent in the PICU and some in a step-down unit — before Angie can go home, but today she is happy, healthy and thriving.

Promise: The Campaign for Texas Children’s Hospital, is a comprehensive $475 million fundraising effort that will focus on five key initiatives, helping the hospital address current challenges and anticipate patients’ needs now and in the future.
More and more families are coming to Texas Children’s for life-saving care. We treat the sickest patients — children like Angie whose conditions are so serious and so complex that they simply cannot receive the care they need, even at other good children’s hospitals.

Add to that the fact that our facilities were built for a different time and are no longer large enough. Thirty years ago, they were state-of-the-art. Equipment was smaller. Texas Children’s didn’t have as many patients. Today, there is so much more technology and equipment, and it is larger and more complex. In addition, the number of patients who come to us for the most specialized care is growing every single day.

Texas Children’s Hospital has arrived at a critical moment in its history. **Bottom line:** We have outgrown the space we currently have at the Texas Medical Center Campus.

**These are our challenges ...**

- **CRITICAL CARE**
  The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) often operate beyond capacity. Rooms that once functioned very well can no longer comfortably accommodate patients along with the equipment they require, nor can they give families the space and privacy they need and deserve.

- **SURGICAL CARE**
  Every year, we treat the most critically ill patients who require extremely complex surgery. We need larger operating rooms, and more of them, all equipped with the most up-to-date technology and equipment.

- **EMERGENCY CARE**
  In the last two years, visits to the Emergency Center (EC) have increased by more than 25 percent. Texas Children’s receives 50 percent of all trauma-related 911 and EMS transports.

**This is our promise ...**

Funds raised through the Promise Campaign will provide support for the construction of a new, 19-floor Pediatric Tower.

- We will build new and larger PICUs and CVICUs, moving them from their current location in the West Tower, which will significantly increase the total number of critical care beds available. These rooms will be specially designed and configured so that parents can stay with their children overnight and so that all necessary equipment is easily accessible to caregivers.

- We will add more operating rooms (ORs) that are larger and more flexibly designed to accommodate patients who require the most complex procedures. These, too, will be moved from the West Tower.

- Relocating the PICUs, CVICUs and ORs will free up space in the West Tower, where the EC is located, to completely redesign the EC so that patients can be triaged and treated more quickly and efficiently.

At Texas Children’s, we are committed to taking care of every critically ill child who comes to us for help. The time to grow and expand is now.

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“... for this hospital shall live and abide within the resolution that any child in the State of Texas in need of medical care and attention — regardless of race, color, creed, or capacity to pay — shall find in Texas Children’s Hospital a refuge from the ravages of disease and illness and the hope for health and happiness.”

The Challenge

When he was less than a year old, Bennett was diagnosed with asthma. One day, he was struggling to breathe, and his parents took him to a local hospital near their home in The Woodlands. But his diagnosis of adenoviral pneumonia meant that he was in dire need of more specialized care. Barely breathing and with a temperature of 104 degrees, Bennett was rushed to Texas Children’s campus at the Texas Medical Center — more than 30 miles away.

But what if the ambulance hadn’t arrived in time?

There are too many stories like Bennett’s — stories of families who were faced with a literal race against time to get the care they needed. When a crisis strikes, every second counts, and lives are at risk.

The pediatric population in The Woodlands and surrounding areas will grow to nearly 380,000 in the next three years. No family should have to drive 30, 40 or 50 miles for dedicated pediatric care. That’s too far.

Sitting in gridlocked traffic is no place to be when a child’s life is hanging in the balance. The communities north of Houston deserve the same quality, dedicated pediatric care that families experience downtown.

Our Promise

To meet the growing needs of a sprawling community, the Promise Campaign will support the construction of Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands, bringing world-class care where it’s needed most — close to home.

Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands will include:

- An outpatient tower opening in 2016 with specialty medical services including cancer, cardiology, allergy/immunology/rheumatology, and diabetes/endocrinology.
- An inpatient tower opening in 2017 with the only dedicated pediatric emergency center and PICU in the region.

“This community deserves advanced, seamlessly coordinated care. We are committed to meeting the needs of the people we serve, and Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands has been designed from top to bottom with these children and families in mind.”

— Michelle Riley-Brown, President, Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands
A Q&A with the Leadership of Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands

MICHELLE RILEY-BROWN
• President, Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands
• President, Texas Children’s Hospital West Campus, 2012–2014
• Fellow, American College of Healthcare Executives
• B.A., Tulane University
• M.H.A., Health Administration, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis
• Native of New Orleans, Louisiana

CHARLES HANKINS, M.D.
• Chief Medical Officer, Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands
• Chief Medical Officer, Texas Children’s Hospital West Campus, 2011–2014
• M.D., University of Tennessee
• Fellowship in neonatology/perinatal medicine, Walter Reed Medical Center
• M.B.A., University of Tennessee
• Board Member, March of Dimes Board of Directors/Houston area
• Native of East Tennessee

What are you most excited about for Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands?
Michelle: I’m thrilled about really being part of that community. Building this hospital gives us the opportunity to bring Texas Children’s world-class pediatric care to more children who need our help and the level of expertise we can provide.
Dr. Hankins: I’m excited about the chance to get involved in building a team and selling our vision of what we want this hospital to be. We have the opportunity to get new health care providers as enthused about what we’re doing here as we already are. I’m also excited about introducing our care team to the community and the community to them.

If you could meet anyone, who would it be and why?
Michelle: There are so many, but I’m going to say Oprah — not because she’s such a celebrity, but because she’s presented so many inspirational people to the world. I think that’s a wonderful gift.
Dr. Hankins: If I could go back in time, I would love to meet the signers of the Constitution. I would love to listen to them and ask if they had any concept of the government we have today. Is it exactly what they envisioned, or is it something completely different?

What was your “aha” moment in terms of your career?
Michelle: My “aha” moment really came when I decided on my second career. I spent seven years with Aetna as a liability/bodily injury claims adjustor. But I come from a medical family — my father is a surgeon, my brother is a physician, I have two sisters who are nurses and one who is a hospital administrator. Health care is in my blood — it just took me a little while to realize how passionate I am about it!
Dr. Hankins: My “aha” moment didn’t really have anything to do with my becoming a doctor, but with deciding what kind of doctor I was going to be. I remember driving home after my first day on the pediatrics rotation and thinking, “That was fun.” And then choosing neonatology — it wasn’t even just the babies, it was watching everyone work together as a well-coordinated team.

What is your promise?
Michelle: My promise is to always keep patients and families at the front of every decision we make.
Dr. Hankins: My promise is that each and every day, we will roll up our sleeves and dig in to make health care in this community better than it was the day before.
What’s your promise?

Help us keep our promises to the children of this community and the people who love them by supporting our vision with a promise of your own.

Donate today.
Visit texaschildrens.org/promise or call 832-824-2945.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

Endowed Chairs

Texas Children’s has some of the most talented physicians, surgeons and researchers in the world — and patients and their families deserve nothing less. But not a day goes by when one of Texas Children’s most notable experts isn’t being recruited by another leading children’s hospital, some of which have been in existence for a century longer than Texas Children’s and have at least twice as many endowed chairs.

When it comes to recruiting the best and brightest — and keeping them long term — endowed chairs are the most powerful tool. With support from the Promise Campaign, our goal is to double the current number of endowed chairs, providing significant funds to begin innovative research projects or launch new programs.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

Divisions and Centers of Excellence

From its world-class neurology and cardiology departments to a comprehensive Fetal Center that is one of only a few in the world, Texas Children’s offers specialty services for children who require complex care. Philanthropic support for these programs helps bring comfort and healing to children from this community and from across the world.

Texas Children’s Hospital:

• Implanted a temporary artificial heart into a young boy awaiting transplant — a first for a pediatric hospital.

• Treats more children with cancer than any other organization in the country.

• Is home to the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute, the first of its kind in the world dedicated to finding cures and treatments for neurological illnesses from autism and epilepsy to Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

It is because of these accomplishments — and the many miracles performed here every day — that Texas Children’s is consistently ranked among the nation’s top five children’s hospitals by U.S. News & World Report.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

Charity Care

More than 50 percent of Texas Children’s patients get their health care coverage from Medicaid or CHIP, while some have no insurance at all. Texas Children’s provides more than $150 million in charity care and community benefits each year. This investment on the part of the hospital truly serves its core community: The majority of children who receive this assistance live in Harris County or one of the seven surrounding counties at the time of their treatment.

The Parker Family

Tracey had been laid off and Xavius had recently started a new job, so neither had health insurance when their daughter Skylin (pictured at right) needed surgery for a ruptured appendix. But the charity care program at Texas Children’s Hospital covered the cost of her treatment and helped the family through a difficult time.
 AGAINST ALL ODDS

A family’s struggle between life and death

Tanea Bailey’s pregnancy had been an uneventful one, so when she went in for a regular OB/GYN appointment in Austin, she didn’t expect anything out of the ordinary. But with no prior incidence or complications, her high blood pressure that day was a cause for concern for doctors. A routine check-up quickly escalated into something else altogether. As they took her blood pressure again, the nurses asked her if she was stressed and if she was feeling all right. Tanea's blood pressure was 200 over 130. Her son, Jordan, Jr. was coming.

Tanea and her husband, Jordan Gadison, drove to the hospital. “We just couldn’t believe he was coming. We didn’t feel like we were ready!” Tanea laughed.

Jordan, Jr. was delivered on April 10, 2013, in Austin. His dutiful (and a little sleep-deprived) father was there to receive his son.

“I was excited. I had my camera ready to go, and as soon as they pulled him up, I was taking pictures,” Jordan said. “They wrapped him up and handed him to me and, I mean, it just lit up my heart.”

Tanea remembered Jordan, Jr. being lifted up so she could see him for the first time. The baby cried only momentarily before stopping and attentively looking around the room. It seemed he was a perfect, healthy baby.

Within 36 hours, the new family’s life would change forever. But it wasn’t the doctors who first recognized that something wasn’t right. “They tell you about parent intuition, and we just knew that something was wrong,” Tanea said. “He was cold. He didn’t want to eat. His jaws were tight.”

The medical team in Austin was unable to raise Jordan, Jr.’s body temperature, and he was admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for testing. Doctors eventually diagnosed the child with CPS1, carbamoyl-phosphate synthetase 1. This extremely rare genetic disorder causes toxic levels of ammonia to accumulate in the bloodstream, often resulting in irreversible brain damage, coma and death.

“The doctor in the NICU basically said that they’d never seen this before,” Tanea said. “This was something people only read about in books.”

Jordan, Jr.’s prognosis was grim.
“When the doctor told us that my son could die, it was scary,” Jordan said. “All through Tanea’s pregnancy, I prayed over and over again that he wouldn’t have an illness and that he would be healthy. It was upsetting and emotional, and I didn’t really know how to handle it.”

Though his physicians in Austin were initially optimistic, Jordan, Jr.’s condition began to deteriorate rapidly. Soon after, it was determined nothing more could be done. With no other alternatives, Tanea and Jordan made a decision no parent should ever have to make.

“We had prepared the house for him,” Tanea said. “We decided that instead of letting him pass in a hospital bed, we wanted him to be home with people that he loved.”

As they made arrangements for end-of-life care, a geneticist at the hospital in Austin approached Tanea and Jordan with one last option: Texas Children’s Hospital and a liver transplant.

“He told us that specialists at Texas Children’s believed they could treat Jordan, Jr. until he was big enough for a liver transplant,” Tanea recalled. “We knew there could be complications, so it was basically a decision for a chance at life or definite death.”

Time was precious, and Jordan, Jr. had to be transported from Austin to Texas Children’s Hospital via Kangaroo Crew air ambulance.

Because of the severe nature of his case, he was moved up on the liver transplant list. It was then a matter of waiting.

“We knew we wanted the transplant at Texas Children’s — they’re the best,” Tanea explained.

“In preparation for the transplant, they always tell you to be ready and to be by the phone.” And so Tanea and Jordan waited. The call finally came on September 8, 2013. Jordan, Jr. had received an organ offer — and then the surgery was a success.

Today, Jordan, Jr. is a happy, healthy little boy, and according to Dr. David H. Leung, attending physician at Texas Children’s Liver Center, “Jordan, Jr. is thriving.”

Texas Children’s Hospital treats the most critically ill patients, providing an elite level of specialty pediatric health care. For many families, Texas Children’s Hospital is the only hope, the last chance when other attempts have failed. This past year, Texas Children’s Hospital launched the Promise Campaign, a monumental endeavor in the hospital’s history, to ensure that all children who come for help and healing always have the best quality care available — just like Jordan, Jr. did.

“Texas Children’s Hospital is where you go when you want something done,” Tanea said. “Texas Children’s Hospital is your first choice. The care we received was awesome. It always felt like we were visiting family.”

“My promise is to raise Jordan to be a man, to teach him what’s right and what’s wrong, and to let him know that life is a blessing he shouldn’t take lightly.”

— Jordan Gadison
It was a meeting in 2008 that opened Michael Linn’s eyes to the enormous and positive impact philanthropy can make. Texas Children’s received a $1 million commitment to establish the Matthew Linn Endowed Fund in Congenital Heart Surgery, and a wonderful partnership began.

After Mike moved his company, LINN Energy, to Houston, it was not long before a friend of Texas Children’s offered to introduce him to Dr. Charles D. Fraser, Jr., chief of Congenital Heart Surgery and now surgeon-in-chief at the hospital.

The friend knew of the heartbreaking loss Mike had experienced in 1989 when his son Matthew died at the age of seven after undergoing surgery in Boston to repair a congenital heart defect. But she also knew that Dr. Fraser could show Mike something amazing.

Dr. Fraser invited him to visit the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at Texas Children’s Hospital. There, Mike saw children who only the day before had undergone successful Fontan procedures — the same procedure his son had 19 years earlier — and who were on their way home the next day.

This is what inspired that first gift to Texas Children’s. Since then, Mike and his wife Carol have actively and tirelessly championed the hospital’s mission, making additional gifts themselves, serving as incredible advocates for the hospital, building relationships in the community, and encouraging others to give generously as well.

Mike has served on Texas Children’s Board of Trustees for several years, and he and Carol have recently accepted the invitation to serve as chairs of Promise: The Campaign for Texas Children’s Hospital. The Promise Campaign is Texas Children’s answer to the growing need for dedicated, specialized pediatric health care in Houston and surrounding communities.

At its campus in the Texas Medical Center, Texas Children’s has outgrown the space it has to serve patients and their families. In 2014, it was unable to accept 253 transfers from other hospitals because there was simply no room. For Carol and Mike — and for everyone at Texas Children’s — turning away patients just isn’t an option.

“When you add 8,000 families a month to the population base, we have to grow with it,” Mike said. “We take the sickest kids, and we shouldn’t ever turn anybody away because we don’t have any room. We can’t say ‘No’ — that’s not who we are. We’ve got to step it up and do something so we don’t turn these kids away.”

Stepping it up is something that comes naturally for Carol and Mike, and that’s why they are chairing the Promise Campaign. Two primary areas of focus are the construction of a new Pediatric Tower at the hospital’s Texas Medical Center Campus — which will house additional and larger critical care units and operating rooms, freeing up space to expand the Emergency Center — and the construction of Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands, soon to be the only dedicated pediatric hospital serving communities north of Houston.

“Our promise is to devote ourselves to raising the necessary funds that will make it possible for Texas Children’s Hospital to always have the capacity to accept critically ill children who need our help.”

Carol and Michael Linn
Promise Campaign Chairs

“HEAR MORE FROM MIKE AT aspire.texaschildrens.org/promiseleadership TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROMISE CAMPAIGN, TURN TO PG. 8.”
We are honored to serve as chairs for Promise: The Campaign for Texas Children’s Hospital at a very critical time in the hospital’s history, but we are not alone in making a commitment to serve children and families. Each member of an outstanding group of community leaders has also made a promise to help us raise the funds necessary to achieve the Campaign’s goals, and we are so grateful for their support and generosity.

Carol and Michael Linn
Promise Campaign Chairs

We pledge to work diligently with our co-chairs, Leadership Cabinet, and Campaign leadership to ensure that Texas Children’s Hospital is able to provide the highest level of care to all children and improve outcomes for children with the most complex needs.

Carol and Michael Linn
Founding chairs Sidney Faust, Judi McGee, Elsie Eckert and Scott Basinger welcomed an enthusiastic audience to the 7th annual Celebration of Champions on October 10, 2014. Nearly 450 guests gathered at the River Oaks Country Club for the event benefiting Texas Children’s Cancer Center and honoring some truly inspirational young patients who have been fierce in their fight against cancer and showed what it means to be “fierce” on the runway that day.

These 19 pediatric cancer survivors looked chic in fall fashions alongside their runway partners, the 2014 Community Champions, who were recognized for their outstanding service in the community.

Emceed by 93Q Morning Zoo host Kevin Kline, the sold-out event raised more than $250,000 to support cancer research and programs benefitting patients and their families — specifically the Cancer Center’s Long-Term Survivor Program. In addition, the 2014 Torch of Champions Award was presented to Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, which works with the Cancer Center to support the needs of families facing pediatric cancer.

A champion can be defined as “a person who fights or argues for a cause or on behalf of someone else.” Texas Children’s champions are too numerous to count — but many of them can be found year after year celebrating the successes we have made in the battle against cancer and continuing to fight for the victories we know are to come.
SEE MORE EVENT PHOTOS AT aspire.texaschildrens.org/champions2014

Event Chairs
Sidney Faust
Judi McGee
Scott Basinger
Elsie Eckert

2014 Community Champions
Lilly and Thurman Andress
Susan and Daniel Boggio
Maria and Neil Bush
Gina and Jon Carrol
Liz and Brian Ching
Soraya and Scott McClelland
Lisa and Michael O’Leary
Lauren Freeman and Dr. Forrest Roth
Dr. Jennifer Segal and Justin Segal
Dr. Stephen Simko
Lisa and Jerry Simon
Phoebe and Bobby Tudor
Phyllis and Cornel Williams
It’s a game known by many names, a few of them rather strange — Corn Toss, Bags, Indiana Horseshoes. But regardless of what you call it, it remains one of the best loved of all backyard contests. It was here in Houston that two families combined their love for friendly bean bag competition with their appreciation for the world-class care at Texas Children’s Hospital and launched the Toss for Texas Children’s event.

More than 350 guests gathered at the beautiful Houston Polo Club for the Toss for Texas Children’s event on October 16, 2014. Two-person teams rolled up their sleeves and took aim in the special bean bag tournament that benefits Texas Children’s Heart Center. Funds raised supported cardiology, cardiovascular surgery and surgical outcomes.

The event was born out of the extraordinary bond between two families, the Andersons and the Fertittas, whose sons suffered from the same congenital heart defect. But both boys were saved when they received world-class care at Texas Children’s, including operations performed by Surgeon-in-Chief Dr. Charles D. Fraser, Jr.

Dr. Fraser, along with Dr. Daniel J. Penny, chief of Pediatric Cardiology, both attended the event as special guest speakers. They praised Toss for Texas Children’s attendees both for their financial support and for their active community involvement.

BENEFITING: Texas Children’s Heart Center

LAUNCHING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Toss for Texas Children’s

HOST COMMITTEE

Leia and Michael Anderson
Kelly and Carl Beeler
Deborah and Barrett Brown
Marlo and David Bruce
Kelly and Jay Cliburn
Ashley and Sam Cruise
Elizabeth and Gardner Dudley
Julie and Anthony Frittsche
Katherine and Doug George
Jennie and Doug Getten
Ashley and Scott Goettch
Cari and John Griggs
Mary and Carter Groves
Ashley and Michael Hanna
Caroline and Torrey Hawkins
Lizzie and Charles Hermes
Shelley and Billy Igleisas
Franny and Bobby Jones
Isa and Joseph Jomayvaz
Kristie and Kyle Kafka
Ammie and Spencer Kerr
Alicia and Robert Kimmel
Catherine and Ashley Kinsey
Angela and Jamie Lee
Aynsley and Palmer Letzribich
Alison and Charlie Meyer
Molly and Andrew Montgomery
Lauren and Brad Morgan
Susan and Charlie Neuhaus
Kate and Kenny O’Donnell
Missy and Sam Pitts
Lacy and Philip Price
Sarah and Richard Punches
Winfred and Carlton Roer
Courtney and James Robertson
Melanie and Danny Savitz
Beenie and Hanley Sayers
Laurel and Penn Shaper
Anne and Stephen Smith
Meridith and John Stilwell
Sandy and Tim Sturm
Chay and Tony Taylor
Maggie and Rob Vermillion
Kate and Logan Walters

SEE MORE EVENT PHOTOS AT aspire.texaschildrens.org/toss2014
The generous support from our friends in the community is absolutely essential to the work we do at Texas Children’s Hospital. We couldn’t do it without them, and we are most sincerely grateful.

Dr. Charles D. Fraser, Jr., Surgeon-in-Chief

When it comes to caring for patients, there’s nothing more important than teamwork. It’s a cooperation that extends beyond the walls of the hospital and out into our community.

Dr. Daniel J. Penny, Chief, Pediatric Cardiology

AT THE HEART OF FRIENDSHIP

Reagan Farrow and Annette Walter were born three days apart, one in Texas and the other in Tennessee. But both girls were diagnosed with alarming and life-threatening heart conditions at birth. Their mothers, Suzanne and Jen, could not have suspected at the time how their families’ lives would become linked through Texas Children’s Hospital.

Both children were immediately transferred via Kangaroo Crew air ambulance to the Texas Children’s Hospital Texas Medical Center Campus where Dr. Charles D. Fraser, Jr. performed hours-long operations on both Reagan and Annette, only a few days apart. After surgery, the girls were put in neonatal intensive care rooms next door to each other, and each mother noticed how frightened and worried the other was.

Weeks later, as their daughters were preparing for discharge, Jen and Suzanne exchanged information and began keeping in contact with one another, regularly speaking on the phone and bonding over their shared experiences. After the Walters relocated to Houston, the two families became even closer and have been friends ever since.

Now happy and healthy 11-year-old girls, Reagan and Annette have celebrated all their birthdays together, attended dance camps and traveled to Disney World. As for Jen and Suzanne, what began as conversations about the challenges and experiences of caring for newborns with serious heart conditions have become celebrations of their daughters’ milestones, accomplishments and joyful lives.

Philanthropic support for Texas Children’s Heart Center helps make miracles like these possible.

CAROLYN AND DAVID ANDERSON

LESLEY AND MICHAEL FERTITTA

EVENT FOUNDERS

aspire.texaschildrens.org
“To be a Blue Bird is a gift you give yourself,” said Pat Edwards, former president of The Blue Bird Circle. “When you join the Blue Birds, you become a member of a very loving and caring group of women of all ages.”

In early January 1923, 15 young women formed a local charity organization and named it The Blue Bird Circle. Early on, the group undertook small projects: a day nursery for working mothers, knitting and crocheting baby blankets and tea towels, and creating beautiful hand-made Easter baskets. More active community involvement followed shortly thereafter as Blue Birds hosted rummage sales, staged musicals and events for veterans, and aided disadvantaged families. But the Blue Birds realized their true calling in 1949.

“We focused our efforts on neurology because of the great need in the community,” said Maggie Austin, board member and former president of The Blue Bird Circle. “The Blue Birds responded favorably and decided that this was our mission.”

Over the nearly 50 years that followed, The Blue Bird Circle worked closely with several Houston-based medical institutions, providing valuable funding for the research and treatment of pediatric neurological disorders. After decades of devoted service to the children of Houston, the Blue Birds joined efforts with a leader in pediatric medicine — Texas Children’s Hospital. In 2001, the neurological clinic at Texas Children’s was renamed The Blue Bird Circle Clinic for Pediatric Neurology. Today, more than 25,000 children are seen in the clinic each year.

In 2010, the Blue Birds united again, voting to support the founding of The Blue Bird Circle Clinical Research Center, the largest pediatric neurology clinic in the United States.

“We were approached with the idea by two physicians in the Neurology department, Dr. Robert Zeller and Dr. Gary Clark,” Maggie said. “We eagerly rallied behind it, knowing that the most important thing for these families is research — having the answers that these families need.”

But more recently, the Blue Birds unveiled one of their most astonishing gifts: the sponsorship of an endowed chair in pediatric neurology for Dr. Gary Clark. He is chief of Neurology and Developmental Neuroscience at Texas Children’s Hospital, and his work has been instrumental in Texas Children’s efforts in the areas of pediatric neurological research and treatment.

“Our promise is to continue to support Texas Children’s Hospital through the works of The Blue Bird Circle.”

Maggie Austin and Pat Edwards
Former presidents, The Blue Bird Circle

Hear the full story at aspire.texaschildrens.org/bluebirds

To learn more about the Promise Campaign and endowed chairs, turn to page 12.
“The gift was a little seed planted by Dr. Zeller,” said Pat. “He approached us and we just decided that this was a wonderful idea and we should present it to our Blue Birds. It finally came to fruition around the time that we were having our recruitment party.”

When the announcement of the $2 million endowment was made, the Blue Birds were overjoyed — and Dr. Clark was flabbergasted. “I wish we had a recording of Dr. Clark’s face, because he was surprised!” Pat said.

For Dr. Clark, the endowment means fewer constraints on vital research endeavors. “This gift is a chance for Dr. Clark to have the funding he needs and with additional flexibility,” Maggie said. “When you look at these children, many of whom are suffering from these severe disorders, you know that their treatment is often a race against time. And with gifts such as this, possible cures are now within our grasp.”

The Blue Bird Circle is still thriving, still vibrant and still working as hard as ever to support the community and its people, especially children with neurological disorders. Their successful resale shop at 615 West Alabama in Houston raises in excess of $2 million every year, which goes directly to Texas Children’s Hospital.

After 92 years, their course has remained constant. “Our mission is to provide all the support we can to our volunteers in The Blue Bird Circle, to our customers at the resale shop and also to Texas Children’s Hospital,” said Maggie.

Echoing that sentiment, Pat smiled radiantly when she added: “We want to help our community, to grow and preserve the humanity around us, and also to perhaps hang in there another 92 years.”

With the spirit of generosity and resilience that is so apparent in the members of The Blue Bird Circle, that shouldn’t be too difficult a feat.
Corporate partners of LINN Energy and supporters of Texas Children’s Cancer Center raised the stakes and bet big at the 6th annual Casino Night held at Wynn | Encore in Las Vegas on November 6, 2014. Nearly 200 guests gathered for poolside “gambling” and Vegas-style fun. By the end of the weekend, they cashed out to the tune of $491,000 in funds raised for Texas Children’s Cancer Center.

Far more than just a fun getaway, Casino Night provides annual funding for future advances in cancer patient care and research that will hopefully one day lead to a cure. Envisioned in 2009 by Kolja Rockov, Casino Night has consistently provided guests with a night of entertainment that truly is a party with a purpose.

SEE MORE EVENT PHOTOS AT aspire.texaschildrens.org/casino2014
Laurel Batchelder is like any active eight-year-old girl — she’s into tumbling, running, jumping and just being a normal kid. But five years ago, Laurel’s chance at a normal life seemed impossible.

One day, Laurel’s parent took her to the hospital after she had complained of stomach pain. Following an ultrasound, doctors diagnosed Laurel with embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma — a soft tissue tumor. After months of chemotherapy to reduce the tumor’s size, doctors were finally able to operate, and Laurel’s surgery was a success. It wasn’t long before she started back to school and became involved in her normal extracurricular activities.

“I don’t know what we would have done if we didn’t live here in Houston,” Melissa said. “I just feel so blessed that we are so close to the absolute best care.”
It’s very important that the organizations we support have a clear mission,” said Neil Duffin, president of ExxonMobil Development Company. “They must work actively in communities to help improve conditions for the areas in which they work. And not only that, they must use these investments wisely and deliver positive results.”

The same can be said of the organizations with which Texas Children’s partners. And so a perfect match was made. Several years ago, ExxonMobil and Texas Children’s joined forces to improve maternal and child health outcomes in Papua New Guinea, where mortality rates for mothers and babies are very high. Texas Children’s physicians are helping teach and train local caregivers and improve clinical, public health and research programs.

Closer to home, in addition to the more than 150,000 work hours given through extensive volunteer involvement programs, ExxonMobil assists local communities through charitable giving, which supports arts organizations, educational initiatives and health care improvements.

Texas Children’s Promise Campaign had a special appeal for ExxonMobil, which made a generous $3 million gift in 2014 to support five key programs at the hospital.

- Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
  Services for children with developmental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disabilities are surprisingly limited in the Houston community. Dr. Robert Voigt, a national leader in these areas, is spearheading a dramatic expansion and reconfiguration of Texas Children’s programs that serve a large and rapidly growing population of children and adolescents with developmental disabilities, autism, and behavioral and psychiatric conditions.

- Liver Disease Research and Clinical Services
  Texas Children’s recently recruited Dr. Ben Shneider as chief of the Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Service. His expertise is in pediatric liver disease, and his basic, translational and clinical research in intestinal gene expression and liver diseases has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1993. Texas Children’s goal is to establish the nation’s premier center for the care and treatment of infants and children with these often life-threatening medical conditions.

- Critical Care Research
  Texas Children’s Hospital cares for thousands of children each year with critical, life-threatening medical and surgical conditions. Research is an essential part of providing the highest quality care. Dr. Lara Shekerdemian, chief of Pediatric Critical Care, is one of the world’s leading experts in the care of these desperately ill children. Her research focuses on determining how children who have received intensive care subsequently function with respect to learning, speech and language, intellectual attainment, and other outcomes.

- Pediatric Heart Patient and Family Education
  Dr. Daniel Penny, one of the world’s premier pediatric cardiologists and chief of Cardiology at Texas Children’s, is developing narrated and illustrated audiovisual modules to help children affected by congenital heart disease and their families understand prescribed treatments and surgical procedures. These materials will be free of charge for patients and families.

- Nursing
  Texas Children’s nurses play a vital role in ensuring the delivery of safe, patient-centered care and the best possible patient outcomes. With enhanced training and skills, they also have the opportunity to play a fundamental role in transforming the United States’ health care system. In fact, all hospitals are required to increase their percentage of baccalaureate-prepared (BSN) nurses to 80 percent by 2020. Mary Jo Andre, the hospital’s chief nursing officer, is committed to ensuring that Texas Children’s nurses who have associate degrees can go on to obtain baccalaureate degrees as well.

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“Working with Texas Children’s Hospital, we’ve been able to help improve health care in Houston and overseas as well,” said Mr. Duffin. He encourages others who are considering making a gift to Texas Children’s Hospital to spend some time at the hospital and see firsthand what is happening every day to improve the health and well-being of children in our community and beyond.

“Texas Children’s has a new initiative named Promise, and it resonates with all of us. Through my engagement, not only with Texas Children’s Hospital but with the greater community, I want to see the Houston area grow, be prosperous and have marvelous health care facilities.”

Neil Duffin, President, ExxonMobil Development Company
Philanthropy never looked so fashionable than at the Nordstrom grand opening gala at The Woodlands Mall. More than 1,500 guests attended the festivities, shopped designer fall looks and dined on fare from Executive Chef Michael Northern in the sleek, modern, new 138,000-square-foot store.

The sold-out event, chaired by Carol and Phil Garner and Judy and Glenn Smith, raised more than $200,000 for the construction of Texas Children’s Hospital The Woodlands, which will have an outpatient tower opening in 2016 and an inpatient tower in 2017. The new facility will be the only dedicated children’s hospital in the area and will also have the area’s only dedicated pediatric emergency center.

It was an honor to partner with Nordstrom on this event and to have their support for expanding our expert pediatric care in this growing community.

— Mark A. Wallace

SEE MORE EVENT PHOTOS AT aspire.texaschildrens.org/nordstromgala
NOT ONLY WERE THE ARGYLES BRIGHTER AND THE HOUNDSTOOTH PATTERNS LOUDER, BUT THE KING OF ROCK AND ROLL (SEVERAL ELVISES IN FACT) AND THE ENTIRE CAST OF THE WIZARD OF OZ WERE ALSO AMONG THOSE WHO GATHERED FOR TEXAS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL’S 17TH ANNUAL BAD PANTS OPEN.

The Clubs of Kingwood hosted more than 380 of Houston’s most intensely dressed golfers who took to the course to support Texas Children’s Newborn Center. Though prizes were awarded for the hole-in-one and closest to the pin tournaments, the most coveted honor — the “Best Bad Pants” award — didn’t require an A-game … just the worst pants.

The Bad Pants Open has raised $4 million for the Newborn Center, which houses one of the largest and most experienced neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) in the country, providing care for more than 2,500 babies each year. The Level 4 NICU offers the highest level of neonatal care. The money raised by The Bad Pants Open helps facilitate groundbreaking research, sponsors crucial educational initiatives, and changes the lives of thousands of children and families. Event sponsorship opportunities exist at many levels, providing great publicity for a wonderful cause.

SEE MORE EVENT PHOTOS AT aspire.texaschildrens.org/badpants2014

NO BOGEYS FOR BAD PANTS

BENEFITING: Texas Children’s Newborn Center

$4 MILLION RAISED SINCE 1998
The Bad Pants Open is a celebration for the tiniest babies. It’s a happy occasion made happier by stories of love and courage from families who have experienced the expertise and compassionate care provided at Texas Children’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Amanda and Ben Kopp shared their story at the 2014 event. The joy on their faces as they looked at their now two-year-old daughter, Cami, was in stark contrast to the fear and anxiety they felt in the weeks immediately following her birth.

Cami was born at 25 weeks and five days. She weighed only a little over two pounds and was just 12 inches long. From the moment she was born, Cami relied on the world-class care found at Texas Children’s NICU. But today, she is a happy, healthy little girl. The Kopps share their story, not only out of a sense of purpose, but also out of appreciation for every individual, family and corporation that makes The Bad Pants Open happen.

“I hope others will find comfort in knowing they are not alone and that they will be inspired by how far our precious, perfect baby girl has come,” Amanda said. “Texas Children’s saved our daughter’s life. We will forever be grateful.”

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Rob Cooksey
Underwriter Chairman
Gary L. Whitlock

Founders
Mike Armstrong
Moose Rosenfeld
Michael Wiesenthal

Tournament Committee
Mike Casey
Donald F. Cohen, D.D.S.
Norma Dunn
Walter L. Fitzgerald
Les Fox
Robert L. Frank
Clint Freeland
Joseph Garcia-Prats, M.D.
Charles T. Hankins, M.D.

Mike Knapp
Scott Lester
Holly Mickler
Jeff Mickler
Andy Shackouls
Scott Shackouls
Mr. Bill Spillman
The beautiful home of Lindsay and Rand Holstead provided the perfect setting for a truly memorable event. Ambassadors for Texas Children’s Hospital held its 6th annual Holiday Party on December 4, 2014.

As always, fun and philanthropy were the themes of the party. The nearly 500 guests were encouraged to bring new white T-shirts, socks and other undergarments for donation to the hospital’s patient clothing cabinet. In addition, Ambassadors used the evening as a show of support for Promise: The Campaign for Texas Children’s Hospital.

As a grand finale, Ambassadors presented their annual check in the amount of $1,458,000 to Texas Children’s Hospital.
We help change lives every day.

Ambassadors for Texas Children’s Hospital is a community of socially engaged individuals who share a dedication to the hospital’s mission, serving as a voice for sick and injured children. Ambassadors support the work of the hospital through financial contributions, events and social advocacy in the philanthropic community.

To learn more or to become an Ambassador for Texas Children’s Hospital, please visit ambassadors.texaschildrens.org or call us at 832-824-6900.
To know courage when we see it.

What’s your promise?

texaschildrens.org/promise
When Alexander James Moll was 12 years old, a routine trip to the doctor for what felt like growing pains turned into a cancer diagnosis — osteosarcoma, a brutal form of bone cancer. With that diagnosis came the bitter likelihood that Alex would not live long into his teens.

**AN ENDURING GIFT**

**ALEXANDER JAMES MOLL**

Where others would have been cowed or swayed by the cruel unfairness of their fate, Alex kept his spirit intact and never gave up hope. It was that hope that brought him to Houston when treatment options in his home state of North Carolina evaporated. It was hope that formed an enduring bond between an intelligent, inquisitive teenage cancer patient and a brilliant physician-scientist.

And it was hope for the future that ultimately led Alex to make a remarkable gift to Texas Children’s Hospital through his estate, leaving behind an incredible and inspirational legacy.

“Alex wanted to inspire people. I promise I’ll carry his torch and inspire people. He didn’t want people to go through what he went through. And this is our promise.”

Dr. Nabil Ahmed, Texas Children’s Cancer Center

**PROFILES IN PHILANTHROPY**

Within a few moments, the pair began discussing the study that had been recommended for Alex. They immediately abandoned the simplified explanation of the HEROS study (named for the HER2 target molecule and osteosarcoma), inciting one another instead into a full-blown Socratic dialogue. They discussed how the study had been developed and the science behind the mechanics and reprogramming of T-cells, a special type of white blood cells.

And they discussed the truth that at this early stage, the study would do little to directly help Alex.

Alex enrolled in the study anyway. Though he was still waiting on his own miracle, he hoped that his participation would mean breakthroughs for cancer research in the future. In fact, he believed in the study so much that he asked Dr. Ahmed for a job. Dr. Ahmed knew better than to say no, and Alex became a full member of the research team.

After that summer internship in 2011, Alex went on to defy more odds. He graduated from high school. He was accepted at the University of Pennsylvania on scholarship. He taught cello to underprivileged children. But then, just after finishing his freshman year of college, time caught up with Alex Moll.

On August 13, 2013, Alex passed away after seven years of struggle. His extraordinary life had touched so many — but he was just getting started.

In his final days, Alex left a $50,000 bequest to Texas Children’s Hospital to support future cancer research through the establishment of the Alexander James Moll Summer Scholar Fund. The fund will provide financial assistance for summer internships that will encourage other young people and foster in them a love of science and research.

As physicians and researchers continue their work to find improved treatments for patients like Alex, his legacy of hope will live on.

“As physicians and researchers continue their work to find improved treatments for patients like Alex, his legacy of hope will live on.”

Dr. Nabil Ahmed, Texas Children’s Cancer Center

**HEAR MORE OF ALEX’S STORY AT**

aspire.texaschildrens.org/moll
More than 400 guests attended the 19th annual “What Up, Doc?” event at Texas Children’s Pavilion for Women and saw firsthand some of the most valuable resources at Texas Children’s Hospital — the world-class doctors and scientists.

The 2014 “What’s Up, Doc?” attendees sat at tables hosted by Texas Children’s physicians and leaders, giving them an opportunity to learn directly from renowned experts about the amazing treatments the hospital provides and the full continuum of specialty care — for everything from food allergies to organ transplants — available at the hospital.

The popular event was chaired by Karla and Jorge Goudet, who have their own special attachment to Texas Children’s. Their precious daughter, Mariana, spent most of her much-too-short life in critical care units at the hospital. During her time there, the Goudets got to know an entire team of specialists who were dedicated to providing the very best care for Mariana and who treated Karla and Jorge like family.

“What’s Up, Doc?” is held each year to emphasize the importance of raising funds specifically for recruiting and retaining the finest medical talent in the world. That’s what our patients need and deserve.

Not a day passes that the world-class doctors and scientists at Texas Children’s aren’t being courted by other pediatric hospitals. Texas Children’s Hospital strives to bring the best and brightest to Houston and to keep them here. We are having great success. The number of faculty members in the Department of Pediatrics has grown by nearly 60 percent since 2010, and the numbers in both Surgery and Obstetrics/Gynecology have more than doubled as well during that time.

Our recruitment efforts never end, and ongoing philanthropic support continues to be one of the hospital’s most important priorities.
Event chairs Karla and Jorge Goudet with a painting by Mexico-based artist, Luis Lara.