



NEWS & PROFILES

Summer ★ 2020



Vincent M. Dawson
President



John Gaddis

Thoughts from the President

Our community's charitable organizations are hurting. Cancellations of Fiesta and other fundraising events that support area non-profits are causing desperate budget upheavals – and impacting children of every age and numerous needs.

I am deeply proud of the Trustees of the Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation for stepping up in bold generosity to award grants to all 69 of the charitable organizations we had earmarked for gifts in the spring of 2020. Our unanimous decision to honor this commitment despite the postponement (and possible cancellation) of our Texas Cavaliers River Parade 2020 speaks to our mission to serve the children of this community. It speaks to the integrity and compassion of the Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation.

The River Parade is the heart and soul of the Texas Cavaliers, and its proceeds have partially funded the work of our Foundation. That event, along with the personal philanthropic support of Texas Cavaliers members, has helped the Foundation raise millions of dollars to support children's charities. Augmented by thousands of volunteer hours, we are making a positive impact on countless children every day. We will continue to be a force for good in times of pandemic and ordinary times.

I am especially indebted to our Commander Bart Simpson, River Parade Chairman Paul Rohlf, Jr., and Executive Director Shannon Nisbet for their enthusiastic response and willingness to honor our gifts during this pandemic.

Viva Fiesta and Viva the Texas Cavaliers!

Vincent M. Dawson
President

John Gaddis: One of the Good Guys in Blue Suits

As a young, newly-minted Texas Cavalier in the late 1960s, John Gaddis was touched by the respect the Cavaliers gave to veterans, providing them with honorary seating at the River Parade. John had served twice in the Army and has a soft spot for veterans. For many years, he coordinated the program that grew to serve hundreds of disabled veterans and civilians, inviting them to view the Parade free of charge.

He also has a soft spot for children – “especially orphans and kids with health problems,” he says. “And puppies ...” Although he couldn't find a way to invite puppies to the River Parade, he was instrumental in creating a program that gives free honorary seating at the River Parade to special needs children and their families. “I'm grateful the Cavaliers give them these memories,” he said.

Another way he has served others is through 50 years in Rotary International. He traveled, mentored young businessmen, and appreciates that Rotary advances humanitarian service and goodwill around the world.

A lifelong financial advisor and investment expert, John still rises early and spends the day in front of a specially-adapted computer so he can diligently invest and monitor the financial markets. Despite hearing and vision impairments, he maintains a positive attitude and looks to modern technology to aid him.

A lifelong San Antonian, he loves the Texas Cavaliers for providing a social setting in which to make new friends and reconnect with old friends from the San Antonio Academy, TMI and University of Texas. It also gives him a platform for helping the children in our community who tug at his heartstrings.



Ania is the face of Life's Little Miracles and she personally gives the care packages to nurses for distribution.

TCCF Grants: A Loving Boost for Sick Babies

When Deanna Vicks' daughter was born at 27 weeks, weighing just 1.5 lbs., Deanna was overwhelmed by the fears and unknowns for her unimaginably tiny, fragile baby who spent more than two months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Ania was too small to wear newborn clothing or diapers and she was covered in a frightening web of medical paraphernalia.

That was seven years ago. Today, Ania is healthy, bright and beautiful, and Deanna vowed to help other parents in similar straits. She founded Life's Little Miracles – supplying onesies, shirts, blankets, diapers and soft "loveys" for babies too medically fragile to be cuddled. She provides resources for parents to access free samples, discounted baby products and social services. She encourages families to pay it forward when they can. In the short time they've been in operation, Life's Little Miracles has delivered more than 1,000 bags of gifts to hospitals, nurse-family partnerships and school-aged parents in local school districts. During the pandemic, they're also helping families with diapers, wipes, formula and other hard-to-find essentials.

"Nothing fits premature babies, and moms with sick babies don't have the time or energy to shop, so we provide these gifts, with love, to let them know someone understands and cares," Deanna said.

The Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation awarded a grant to Life's Little Miracles in 2019 and again this year – the first major funder to lend support. "These grants show that the Texas Cavaliers believe in what we're doing, and their faith has inspired other grants. We are so grateful," Deanna said.

2020 TCCF Grants Awarded to 69 Children's Charities!

- 100 Club of San Antonio
- Achievers Center for Education
- Any Baby Can of San Antonio, Inc.
- Assistance League of San Antonio
- AugustHeart
- Autism Service Center of San Antonio (dba Autism Community Network)
- Believe It Foundation
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas, Inc.
- Book Buddies of SAISD Foundation
- Boy Scouts of America, Alamo Area Council, Inc.
- Boys & Girls Clubs of San Antonio
- Boysville, Inc.
- Brighton Center
- Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA)
- Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas
- Children's Association for Maximum Potential (CAMP)
- ChildSafe
- Christian Assistance Ministry
- City Kids Adventures
- David's Legacy Foundation
- Down Syndrome Association of South Texas
- Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc.
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas
- Girls Inc. of San Antonio
- Girlstart
- Good Samaritan Community Services
- Guardian House
- Gus Owen Stephens Foundation
- Healy-Murphy Center
- Hispanic Leadership Development Foundation
- Hope House
- House of Neighborly Service
- Jewish Family Service of San Antonio, Texas Inc. (JFS)
- KidsFest
- Kinetic Kids, Inc.
- LIFE'S LITTLE MIRACLES, CORP
- Make-A-Wish Central and South Texas
- McNay Art Museum
- Mission Road Developmental Center
- Musical Bridges Around the World, Inc.
- Project Infinity
- Project MEND
- Ransomed Life, Inc.
- Roy Maas Youth Alternatives (RMYA)
- SA Life Academy
- SA Youth
- San Antonio Education Partnership
- San Antonio Food Bank
- San Antonio Golf Association dba The First Tee of Greater San Antonio, Inc.
- San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc. (dba SAMMinistries)
- San Antonio Public Library Foundation
- SAY Sí
- SJRC-Texas
- Snack Pak 4 Kids San Antonio, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Lord's Way, Inc.
- South Texas Alliance for Orphans
- Southwest School of Art
- TEAMability
- Texas Burn Survivor Society
- Texas Diaper Bank
- The Children's Hospital of San Antonio Foundation
- The Children's Shelter
- The Ecumenical Center
- UT Health Ricardo Salinas Dental Clinic
- Will Smith Zoo School
- Witte Museum
- Woodlawn Theatre
- YMCA of Greater San Antonio
- Youth Orchestras of San Antonio
- Zapatos, Inc.