A Year of New Beginnings

Dear Friends,

The Houston Health Foundation (HHF) has the honor of supporting one of the most innovative municipal health departments in the country. The Houston Health Department (HHD) was the first health department in Texas and the second in a large U.S. city to earn national accreditation. With a broad multi-sector approach to public health, HHD addresses often overlooked factors that underlie public health outcomes such as health inequalities, social and emotional stressors on youth, and preventative approaches to social justice.

In our work as the nonprofit affiliate of HHD we seek to leverage public investment in the community’s health by identifying and aligning with partners that share in a commitment to improving the health of all Houstonians. These partners are motivated by their love of community and the children we serve. While the children we serve are the stars in the show, our partners are the superheroes in the story.

The photo opposite this page is a perfect example of one such partnership. The woman featured in the photo is Catherine Martinez, with the Berkeley Eye Center. Berkeley Eye Center has faithfully supported the See to Succeed program since 2011. Our partners are an integral part of our programs, providing their expertise and passion, guided by their commitment, not formal agreements. It’s much like a high-tech barn raising involving specialized skills and a cadre of wonderful volunteers. Everyone who shows up knows that helping a fellow neighbor results in a better community for all. In this case, removing barriers to academic success and helping our children to thrive is a long-term investment in a vibrant community.

The HHF Board is looking ahead to 2018 with an eye toward selectively identifying a handful of additional business and community partners who can collaborate to achieve this same model of success for Project Saving Smiles, My Brother’s Keeper and Community Nutrition. Guided by the public health innovators in HHD, HHF looks forward to partnering with our community to forge brilliant futures for our children.

Sincerest regards,

Robin Mansur
President & CEO

Mission

Houston Health Foundation works with donors, organizations and volunteers to forge public-private partnerships that assist the Houston Health Department to bring valuable health services to the children and families of under-served communities. Each year, the Houston Health Foundation impacts over 20,000 children and families.
Expanding Impact in 2017

Fiscal Year 2017 was a milestone year for the Houston Health Foundation.

- The foundation prepared for growth by hiring a full-time CEO. The Board also embarked on a successful quest to recruit additional board leadership in areas that would strengthen the diversity of Board perspectives and expertise.

- Drawing upon the powerful partnership model of See to Succeed, the Houston Health Foundation identified three additional programs for additional support and development. **Project Saving Smiles, My Brother’s Keeper and Community Nutrition** share a common theme of advancing the health of children and families by removing barriers to their health, development and success.

- The **See to Succeed Program** served a record number of children. In the 2016-2017 school year 11,019 children received free comprehensive eye exams bringing the cumulative impact of the program to 48,477 children served since the inception of STS in 2011 and over 67,000 children since the first pilot with Onesight. Generous support for See to Succeed was provided by the Dunn Foundation.

- The Foundation made a commitment to supporting the **Mayor Sylvester Turner’s Complete Communities Project** in two historically under-resourced communities, Acres Homes and Gulfton. To actualize that commitment, the Foundation and the HHD made a successful application to the Episcopal Health Foundation for a grant to support capacity building for young adults in those two communities.

- **HHF** began supporting emerging community programs and partnerships by providing fiscal management services to the City of Houston’s Anti-Human Trafficking program and the Houston Recovery Initiative.

- In partnership with MBK Houston and Bloomberg Associates, HHF **developed a TeamUp Campaign** to partner with local sports organizations and universities to introduce MBK youth to the broad array of off-the-field careers in sports. Team Up has partnered with the Chevron Houston Marathon and the Sugar Land Skeeters to pilot this program with Communities in Schools(CIS) for Scarborough high school students and Fifth Ward Enrichment for, Kashmere and Wheatley High School students.

- Our **volunteers are an integral part of program missions** with 50-100 volunteers supporting any given STS or PSS mission. In addition, volunteers provided much needed mentorship and leadership to MBK youth. This past year, HHF was pleased to welcome the Lions Club and Texas Woman’s University to the team.
Our Partners
The Houston Health Foundation would like to thank our contributors and partners for their continued support and generosity.

**Contributors:**

- Cigna
- JOHN S. DUNN FOUNDATION
- novo nordisk

**See to Succeed Service Partners & In-Kind Donors:**

- BERKELEY EYE CENTER
- ESSILOR VISOR FOUNDATION
- OneSight
- Walmart
- SAN JACINTO COLLEGE
- UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

**Volunteers:**

- Houston Junior Forum
- THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
- Lions
- Texas Woman's University

**School Districts:**

- Alief Independent School District
- Spring Branch
- Spring ISD
- Lamar CISD
- Alief
- Crosby
- Clear Brook
- Cypress Fairbanks
- Friendswood
- Galena Park
- George Ranch
- Houston ISD
- Katy
- La Porte
- Lamar
- La Marque
- Pasadena
- Sheldon
- Spring
- Wescott
- The Woodlands

Along With Numerous Charter Schools

**TeamUP Partners:**

- Bloomberg Associates
- Communities in Schools
- FIFTH WARD ENRICHMENT
- Sheetrock
See to Succeed (STS) is a safety net program for children who have not been able to receive vision care by other means available. These students attend schools with high participation in free lunch programs.

The STS program is a metropolitan area collaborative among multiple organizations committed to resolving this tremendous need. The program works hand-in-hand with area school districts. The delivery method consists of several week-long clinic operations in which school children who have failed the mandatory school vision screening are bused by the school district to a central location.

Each clinic day 300-400 students are given comprehensive eye exams. Over 90% of them receive prescription eyewear in high quality stylish new frames selected by the student. There is no cost to the student, parent or school.

**Impact**

In a study conducted within HISD.

**80% of students with failing grades improved**

Of those 80%:

- 67% of those students who failed math in the previous year improved to a passing grade
- 93% of those students who failed reading/language arts in the prior year improved to a passing grade
- 68% of chronically absent students improved attendance and 52% of those students attended at least 90% of the school year in the post-treatment year
- 69% of students with at least one prior disciplinary action showed significant reduction in disciplinary actions in the post-treatment year and 53% of those experienced no disciplinary problems in the post-treatment year

**Reach**

School year 2016-2017 was the most successful year to date for the See to Succeed program. In the school year, 11,019 children between the ages of 6 and 18 got free eye exams. Of those children, 10,294 needed and received eye glasses at no cost. A total of 407 schools from 12 school districts or charter schools participated in the program.

**Generous support for See to Succeed was provided by the John S. Dunn Foundation.**
“The See to Succeed program is a great example of how public and private partnerships can impact the lives of so many school aged children in our community by improving access to vision care. See to Succeed is making a difference one eye exam at a time.”

- Pat Segu, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Clinical Director of Kids Vision for Life Greater Houston Area
Clinical Professor
University of Houston College of Optometry
“While at a PSS Outreach event a nurse from a previous mission approached me. She brought her 7-year-old son to get his dental sealants years ago. She continued, ‘He came home telling me how sealants protect teeth and the need to brush at least 2 times a day. He is now 17 years old and brushes religiously. He still has his sealants and has never had cavities.’ That is an example of the impact Project Saving Smiles has had on a mother and her son.” - Teresita Ladrillo, DDS, Senior Public Health Dentist

**PROJECT SAVING SMILES**

Project Saving Smiles (PSS) serves over 9000 at-risk 2nd graders in the Houston area each year by providing a free oral screening, fluoride varnishes and cavity-preventing sealants on new molars. PSS also provides preventive dental and oral health education. Community partners are school districts and the Texas Oral Health Coalition. Since its inception, PSS has provided over 50,000 dental screenings, 77,706 dental sealants, and 24,770 fluoride varnishes free of charge targeting 2nd graders enrolled in the Free or Reduced Lunch Program and who have written parental consent. Oral health plays a significant part in one’s overall health and well-being. Houston Health Department and other partners provide these preventive services.

**GOAL 1:**
Reduce dental cavities/decay in low-income students

**GOAL 2:**
Decrease school absences by decreasing oral pathology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Children Served</th>
<th>Sealants Placed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>9,420</td>
<td>30,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>9,642</td>
<td>29,661</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8,928</td>
<td>26,389</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Opposite page: Houston area second grader receives oral screening during Project Saving Smiles mission.
My Brother’s Keeper is a national movement to improve outcomes and reduce opportunity gaps for boys and young men of color. The six milestone goals of the program are to help youth:

1. **Enter School Ready to Learn**
2. **Read on 3rd Grade Level by the 3rd Grade**
3. **Graduate High School Ready for College or Career**
4. **Complete Post-Secondary Education or Training**
5. **Enter the Workforce Successfully**
6. **Reduce Crime and Violence**

MBK works by uniting the efforts of many community-based organizations that are already working on issues that challenge boys and young men of color. The Houston Health Department is leading My Brother’s Keeper Houston.

The Houston Health Foundation (HHF) seeks to lift and extend flagship programs in MBK.

**The Team Up Houston Campaign** links high school students to career opportunities off the field of play and in the back offices in the sporting industry. HHF is instrumental in expanding MBK Houston’s reach to recruit sporting organizations that will sponsor internships and provide other exposure opportunities that youth can explore.

To pilot this program, TeamUp has partnered with the the Chevron Houston Marathon and Fifth Ward Enrichment for Wheatley and Kashmere High School students and with the Sugar Land Skeeters and Communities in Schools XYZone for Scarborough High School students.

“As adults, we should ensure our ceilings in life are the floor boards of our young people’s start in life. Our most important task as a city, state, and nation is to assist our young people achieve their dreams and see the impossible as possible.” - Noel Pinnock, Bureau Chief
“I cannot express the depth of gratitude that I feel toward you and the men who shared their wisdom with our youth. Teachers have noted a change in some of the behaviors in classrooms. I noticed that a few of the young men don’t misbehave as much and seem to watch me more closely. I’m even more aware of the words I use when disciplining students. I’m excited to see this program through. I’m revitalized and have a reason to come to work! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! PEACE.”

- Sandra Lovelady- Reading teacher/Fonville Middle School
Community Nutrition

The Houston Health Department’s Community Food Security Initiative helps individuals in communities with food access barriers understand the connection between healthy eating and chronic illness. The initiative’s Community Gardens program encourages communities to share designated open spaces to grow organic and nutritional produce to cook at home. Over 2,400 local families have access to these community gardens. Families also receive education on the nutritional value of fresh fruits and vegetables. The Program’s 72 garden beds have yielded over 27,000 pounds of produce for 12 communities.

Community Gardens & Farmers Markets:
- 6 Market Locations
- 51 Market Events
- 4,837 Market Participants
- 180,000 lbs of produce sold
- 12 gardens maintained
- 73 community garden events
- Average of 79 volunteers a month
- 8 organizations trained in market strategies
- 55 markets held

Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Network (DAWN)

The Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Network (DAWN) is a program within the Houston Health Department that provides diabetes self-management education and support for adults diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes. The DAWN program is a free membership based program where members are encouraged to make healthy lifestyle changes that improve their disease self-management and overall quality of life.

DAWN provides individual and group services that focus on self-management and center around healthy eating and active living. DAWN events include:
- Hands-on cooking classes, cooking demonstrations and grocery store tours
- Diabetes Prevention and Diabetes Self-Management Education classes available in English and Spanish
- Physical activity classes, walking clubs, fitness challenges and the DAWN center even has an on-site gym

The DAWN center also collaborates with local community partners to provide members with:
- Vision screenings
- Kidney prevention education
- Footcare education
- Medication Management

The DAWN Center provides hands-on cooking classes, cooking demonstrations and grocery store tours to help teach diabetes self-management.

DAWN Impact:

586 Individuals Served

The Houston Health Foundation has received funding from CIGNA Foundation and Novo Nordisk
Immunization

Our common goal is to ensure children are protected to prevent outbreaks and the spread of diseases which can be done in many ways.

The HD Immunization Bureau participates in the TMC Funding Program in Collaborative Health Policy Research grant for the project titled, “Targeting Vaccine Deserts - Improving Vaccination Rates within the Houston Independent School District”. A 12-month collaborative project to be undertaken by fellow experts at University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth: McGovern Medical School, School of Public Health, School of Nursing), Baylor College of Medicine (BCM: Division of Public Health Pediatrics), with the goal of increasing vaccination rates among school aged children in Houston.

The UT Health Science Center at Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Health Department, and HISD will: 1) investigate factors reducing vaccinations in low performing Houston schools, 2) develop an effective multi-level intervention program, 3) implement this program in two on-site vaccination campaigns for vulnerable Prekindergarten and Kindergarten children in eight schools, and 4) demonstrate that vaccine delinquency was reduced by 75% at a cost per child immunized no higher than for lower risk children in pediatrician offices.

Statistics Immunization:

- There were a total of 393 Pre-K and Kindergarten students across the eight schools that were analyzed and increased compliance by 37% (from 26% as reported by HISD to 63%) through ImmTrac (Texas Immunization Registry system) lookup.
- Of the 393 Students, 103 (or 26%) were labeled as up-to-date (UTD) in the HISD database. By ONLY using ImmTrac, HHD was able to bring the total of UTD students to 246 of 393 (or 63%).
- There were a total of 290 of 393 students (74%) identified as delinquent in the HISD database. Of those 290 delinquent students, HHD was able to bring 49% of them UTD by utilizing ImmTrac.
- 96 of 393 students with an ImmTrac file were UTD in the HISD database, but of those 96 students, 41 (or 43%) were not UTD in ImmTrac.
- Of the 393 students, 39 of them do not have an ImmTrac file. Of the 39, 10 were UTD in the HISD database.
- At the beginning of this delinquency project, of the 393 total students audited, there were 290 (74%) identified as delinquent by HISD. After looking up those children in ImmTrac, only 147 of the 393 (or 37%) total Pre-K and Kindergarten students are currently delinquent for their MMR doses.

Texercise Select Study

Texas A&M University Health Science Center conducted a study involving exercise and movement for approximately 90 senior citizens in three City of Houston HHD Multi-service Centers. Participating MSCs included Sunnyside, Hiram Clarke and Near East. Seniors participating in the Texercise program received instruction in fitness, movement and nutrition. Impact was assessed through pre and post surveys. HHF facilitated the receipt and distribution of incentives for the program, which will help to sustain the social network and knowledge these seniors have acquired through their participation.

Seniors participating in the Texercise program received instruction in fitness, movement and nutrition.
Anti-Human Trafficking

While human trafficking is a serious problem in other countries, it is not just an international issue. Men, women and children are bought and sold every day in the United States, and sadly, Houston has been identified as a hub for this criminal activity. Fortunately, Texas has been a leader in the fight against human trafficking. It was one of the first states in the nation to pass a human trafficking statute, and Houston area lawmakers have been champions for anti-trafficking legislation. It takes all different types of stakeholders working together to ensure a comprehensive approach to this issue, and the Houston Area Council on Human Trafficking will work tirelessly to make the message loud and clear: no person is for sale.

Statistics Anti-Human Trafficking:
- 59 of the 91 plan tactics to combat human trafficking in Houston have been completed
- 80% increase in hotline calls and 40% increase in confirmed trafficking cases
- In collaboration with: Houston Health Department, Procurement Department, Houston Municipal Court, Houston Police Department/Jail Division, Houston Airport System (HAS), Houston Fire Department (HFD), Houston’s Office of Business Opportunity, Houston communities and business owners

Human Trafficking Tactics
Almost 65% plan tactics to combat human trafficking in Houston completed

Hotline Calls
80% increase in hotline calls

Confirmed Trafficking Cases
40% increase in confirmed trafficking cases

Houston Recovery Initiative

The Houston Recovery Initiative is a community-driven coalition transforming the way we think about recovery; moving from episodes of treatment into a larger recovery-oriented continuum of care. HRI creates opportunities to collaborate with over 300 agencies across Houston, working together since 2010 to aid those in our community affected by substance misuse. This important work is carried out through volunteer work-groups:
- Adolescent ROSC
- Behavioral Heal Integration
- Criminal Justice Health
- Faith-Based Recovery Advocacy
- Housing
- Recovery Advocacy
- Recovery Community Centers & Peer Support
- Working with Communities

Statistics Houston Recovery Initiative:
- Total encounters: 7,460
- Number of Partners in Recovery participants with confirmed mental illness and criminal justice history admitted/readmitted into a criminal justice setting after program enrollment: 0

The Houston Endowment provided funding to facilitate the development of the HRI strategic plan for the region.
Not all businesses are involved in human trafficking.

BE AWARE OF SIGNS OF SEX TRAFFICKING.

888.373.7888

WatchForTraffick.org

Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign Taxi Signs

HOUSTON
RECOVERY INITIATIVE

Building recovery communities one voice at a time
### Statement of Financial Position

**Assets**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Cash – Unrestricted</td>
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**Liabilities**

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**Net Assets**

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>457,165</strong></td>
</tr>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** | **472,877**

### Program Support

- **See to Succeed** $50,000
- **Community Outreach** $12,079
- **Diabetes Awareness** $90,000
- **Project Saving Smiles** $750
# Statement of Activities

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

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<td>See to Succeed</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>462,009</strong></td>
<td><strong>545,000</strong></td>
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</table>

Net Assets Released from Restrictions, Note 4

| Net Assets Released from Restrictions, Note 4 | 328,047 | (328,047) |

**TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES**

| **TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES** | **411,038** | **133,962** | **545,000** |

## Expenses

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<th>Expenses</th>
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<td>Community Nutrition</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diabetes Awareness</td>
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<td>Houston Recovery Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See to Succeed</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Programs</strong></td>
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<td>Consultants</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Administration</strong></td>
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**TOTAL EXPENSES**

| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **457,354** | 0 | **457,354** |

| Change In Net Assets | (46,316) | 133,962 | 87,646 |

| Net Assets - July 1, 2016 | 255,013 | 114,506 | 369,519 |

| Net Assets - June 30, 2017 | 208,697 | 248,468 | 457,165 |
Meet Our Board

**Chairman | William F. Burge, III**
Mr. Burge is a former Managing Director and Vice Chairman of the Board of Mitsubishi Estate Company Associates, USA. He has experience in commercial and residential real estate development in Houston, Dallas, New York, New Orleans, Atlanta and Los Angeles. He served as Chairman of the Harris County/Houston Sports Authority from 1996 through 2006 and oversaw the development of landmark public projects for both Harris County and the City of Houston. The impressive lists of public projects includes the $300mm Houston Metro Railway System, $450mm Reliant Center NFL Stadium, $200mm Toyota Center NBA Arena and the $215mm Minute Maid Park Baseball Stadium. He currently has a consulting arrangement with Entergy, whose corporate offices Ayrshire built in downtown New Orleans.

Mr. Burge currently serves as Chairman of the Grand Parkway Association, as well as Chairman of the Harris County Housing Finance Corporation. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wallis State Bank and formerly served on the Board of Whitney National Bank. He is a Board Member of the West Houston Association, which he formerly chaired, and is also a former Trustee of the University of Houston Foundation. He is also on the Board of the Urban Land Institute Foundation as well as the Narramore Christian Foundation. Mr. Burge is currently on the Texas Bowl Board of Directors. His most recent appointment is as the Chairman of the Board of the Houston Health Foundation, Inc.

**Vice Chair | Jonita Reynolds, Ed.D.**
Dr. Jonita Reynolds affectionately called, Dr. J, is a native Houstonian, and a notable leader in the community. Since December 2004, she has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. (GCCSA), the largest Community Action Agency in the state of Texas. With an annual budget of $20 million, 350 full-time employees, 26 Head Start sites and a host of community partners, GCCSA has facilitated the economic independence for Harris County’s most vulnerable populations. She previously served as the Director of Strategic Management and Quality Improvement for the Houston Independent School District. Dr. Reynolds received her Master’s and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Houston.

**Treasurer | Joel Shannon, JD**
Mr. Shannon has been active in the start up of the Houston Health Foundation’s work with the See to Succeed Program. He serves on the board of the Houston Health Foundation as its Treasurer. He also serves as Vice Chair of the board of El Centro de Corazon, a Federally Qualified Health Center located in Houston’s East End. Other current not for profit board positions include Crossroads School, Portfolio Residential Services, Essilor Vision Foundation, and Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries. He has served Episcopal High School as Executive Board Chair, Founder, and Trustee. Mr. Shannon was a partner with Andrews Kurth LLP and led the law firm’s Commercial Real Estate Group. He is married to Margaret Shannon and has four children and four grandsons.

**Ex-Officio | Director, Houston Health Dpt. | Stephen L. Williams, M.Ed, MPA.**
Mr. Williams joined the City of Houston as the Director of the Houston Health Department (HHD) in June of 2004. He received his Masters in Public Administration from Baruch College, City University New York, a Masters of Education from Auburn University in Montgomery, Alabama and his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Social Work from Huntingdon College also in Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. Williams serves on several boards of community, professional and civil rights organizations. He is the most recent past president of the Texas Association of Local Health Officials. HHD is a full service public health department with approximately 1,000 employees.

**Director | Margaret Shannon, JD**
Ms. Shannon is a retired attorney and oilfield services company executive. Currently, she serves on the Board of Directors for two public companies. She is active in leadership positions of several not-for-profit origination in various fields, including health care, women’s leadership and higher education.

**Director | Ann Mason**
Ms. Mason is a veteran of the petrochemical industry, having moved to Houston to serve as the Manager of New Business Development with Occidental. She has also worked as a Product Manager with Coca-Cola Co. and as a sales and marketing consultant for Pioneer Chlor-Alkali. Ms. Mason served on the founding board of the Children’s Museum of Houston and volunteered with Duchesne Academy and Episcopal High School.
An elementary school child was examined by the See to Succeed clinic and had clinical signs of active inflammation in both eyes compounded with significant dryness and irritation of the corneas. Upon further questioning, the clinic team discovered the child was already being followed by a private ophthalmologist for the inflammation. The child reported the eye drops prescribed had to be instilled every 1-2 hours. However, the drops were not applied at school, only at home. The doctors on site and the referral team spoke with the school nurse about the importance of administration of the medication. The nurse was not aware of the treatment regimen prescribed by his doctor for ocular inflammation. In hopes of facilitating the continuum of care at school, the referral team called the mother about the treatment prescribed by the doctor. Quickly the team realized, the mother never notified the school about the eye drops because the medication had to be refrigerated and therefore the family decided to not send the drops to school. The referral team was able to coordinate communication between the mother and school nurse on behalf of the child. The mother agreed to complete the necessary paperwork in order for the nurse to administer the drops during school hours. The mother was reassured the medication would be kept in the refrigerator located in the nurse’s station. Without the help of the program, this miscommunication could have gone on longer and the child gone without proper treatment for his active inflammation and swollen corneas, leading to further eye health problems with significant discomfort and light sensitivity.

Further testing is required to isolate the cause of the swollen nerves and provide the treatment necessary. The patient was given an urgent referral. The referral team and the doctors on site coordinated with her guardians to find a neuro-ophthalmologist that would see the patient. This condition often goes unnoticed until it is more advanced, as it can go on without symptoms for the patient. Some symptoms may include headaches, dizziness, nausea, double vision, loss of consciousness and permanent loss in vision.

A 13-year-old student was examined by the See to Succeed clinic. During the health evaluation of her eyes, it was found that she had what appeared like elevated optic nerves in both eyes with indistinct margins. This could indicate something as simple as drusen, which are deposits that build up around the nerves and give a false impression of optic nerve swelling. However, it could also be a sign of something more serious and potentially life threatening. The appearance of elevated optic nerves may be due to increased intracranial pressure or a sign of a brain tumor or mass, pushing on the nerves. Further testing is required to isolate the cause of the swollen nerves and provide the treatment necessary. The patient was given an urgent referral. The referral team and the doctors on site coordinated with her guardians to find a neuro-ophthalmologist that would see the patient. This condition often goes unnoticed until it is more advanced, as it can go on without symptoms for the patient. Some symptoms may include headaches, dizziness, nausea, double vision, loss of consciousness and permanent loss in vision.

The children are very inquisitive [as to what the dental team is going to do] this built up a bit of anxiety when it was their turn. Most were satisfied when I reassured them of how quick and painless the [dental exams and sealant] process is and it made my words even stronger when a new friend would get up off the exam table with two thumbs up showing that it wasn’t too bad. Working at PSS is a great way to make an albeit quick and deep impact with children as well as building a strong camaraderie with fellow colleagues. It’s a great altruistic vacation from the daily work grind that everyone needs to experience at least once.

- Christine Barron- HHD Staff Volunteer
How can you get involved?

- Schedule a tour of any of our missions to experience our work with school children firsthand.
- Bring employees and community based partners to volunteer at an event.
- Fund a mission that aligns with your organization’s community service goals.
- Sponsor an annual giving campaign in your organization.
- Visit our website and share your ideas for a brilliant future.