



Dick and Judy Agee accept CCSC's 2021 Azalea Gala Honoree Award on behalf of the Agee Family Foundation.

CCSC Community Raises Over \$630,000 to Help Neighbors in Need

Six hundred guests gathered at the Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston for Azalea Gala 2021 to support the mission of Christian Community Service Center and honor the work of the Agee Family Foundation.

The Azalea Gala raised over \$630,000 for CCSC's seven social service programs and that means more resources to help Houstonians struggling to feed their families, pay their rent, or secure financial stability. We are grateful to all who contributed to the gala's success, including Rev. Wayne Wilkerson, of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, who gave the invocation, and Dr. Tom Pace, of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, who hosted the evening's Opportunity to Give.

Azalea Gala guests enjoyed the emcee talents of KHOU 11's Shern-Min Chow; live music; a wine pull, games and tastings; a silent auction; and presentations on the missions of CCSC and the Agee Family Foundation--formed in 2010 to enhance opportunities for disadvantaged women, children and families to lead lives of dignity and purpose.

Judy Agee, president of the Agee Family Foundation and chair of CCSC's recent Capital Campaign to fund its new building, said, "What a joyful evening celebrating the conclusion of a successful Capital Campaign and the opportunity for all present to affirm the goals of such a wonderful organization. Agee Family Foundation will continue to support CCSC in its ongoing programs that assist the disadvantaged of Houston."

"There was amazing energy and support for CCSC from all who attended!" said Event Chair Charlene Brandau O'Shea. "As the heart filled during the live donations you could feel the generous hearts filling it. I was honored to be part of this record-breaking gala."

"The Azalea Gala was a wonderful evening to celebrate CCSC's mission and honor a family that has been deeply committed to CCSC's success for over 20 years," said CCSC Executive Director Michelle Shonbeck. "The Agee Family Foundation has quietly supported CCSC through its years of growth, as we've strengthened our programs and built a new building to allow us to *serve more* and *serve better*."

"On behalf of the entire CCSC Team, and every client that we serve, we humbly thank all who contributed their time, passion, and resources toward the event," said CCSC

Development Director Lauren Neimeyer. "Special thanks to CCSC Board President Don Miller; the Azalea Gala Committee; table sponsors and underwriters; auction and Wine Pull donors; our event entertainment, the Double Triple Trio and the St. Thomas High School Jazz Ensemble; and local artist Lia Rodi."

The Azalea Gala 2021 Committee included: Natalie Agee, Molly Glotfelty, Roz Hill, Joy Posoli, Mary Fairbrother, Deborah Gremillion, Traci Boccock, Sarah Stasny, Annette Tarver, Kathy and Bruce Adams, Trish Branstetter, Kathy Harrison, Carrie Pepi, Wendy and Nathan Wiker, Cathy Beathard, Nina Lambright, Ale Varghese, Toni Cooper, Alicia Hartsfield, Susan Martin, Erin Agee Riley, and Kathy Shearer.

SAVE THE DATE for the next Azalea Gala--September 21, 2022 at the Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston. We hope to see you there!

Jingle Bell Express on Track to Deliver Christmas Cheer

CCSC helps families in need through Jingle Bell Express and you're invited to participate! The annual event has been designed in a SAFE drive-thru format and approximately 2,000 children will receive toys, books and food assistance for Christmas. There are two ways to support Jingle Bell Express:



DONATE

Donate new, unwrapped, nonviolent toys for kids ages 0-15. Please consider purchasing primary gifts rather than stocking stuffers.

- Deliver toys to CCSC (3434 Branard St. Houston, TX 77027) by 3 p.m. on December 1.
- Bring toys to Jingle Bell Express (Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd. Bellaire, TX 77401) on December 6 or 7, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Order toys early, before November 27, from CCSC's Jingle Bell Express 2021 Amazon Wish List to ensure on-time delivery to CCSC. Click here:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3FS7CWP0T2VC8?ref=wl_share

VOLUNTEER

Varied Jingle Bell Express volunteer activities occur December 6-11, 2021. Individual volunteers (age 12+) are required to sign up in advance through this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AA8AB2DA3F5C25-2021>

Volunteer Groups (8-15 participants) should contact Cathy Brown at seasonal@ccschouston.org or 713-961-3993 ext. 326.

Thank you for brightening a child's Christmas!

Make Your House Shine this Holiday Season

Graduates of CCSC's Martha's Way housekeeper training program are ready and willing to fill all your housekeeping needs this holiday season.

Are you hosting dinner, want to spruce up your home for visitors, get your silver sparkling, or have all your laundry and ironing done at once? Martha's Way housekeepers are available for ongoing service, special events, one-time cleanings or other special needs.

So far this year, more than 130 participants have graduated from the Martha's Way program. Offering virtual classes and more fast-track classes in response to COVID-19 has helped Martha's Way increase its graduation rate from under 70 percent before COVID to over 80 percent this year. In 2021, we also achieved the exciting milestone of celebrating our 2,000th graduate!



In addition to technical training, Martha's Way programming includes business skills development to equip students to operate their own housekeeping businesses, which increases their earning potential. One of the most effective ways CCSC can support Martha's Way entrepreneurs is by providing job leads. Help CCSC support hardworking small business owners by hiring a Martha's Way graduate for your housekeeping needs and sharing information about Martha's Way with your networks.

To hire a graduate, visit <https://ccschouston.org/hire-a-housekeeper/> to complete a request form or call Ana Tappan at 713-328-0160.

Saturday Workday at the CCSC Garden

The first Saturday in November brought beautiful weather and beautiful people to the CCSC Garden.

Our Garden team hosted a workday focused on prepping raised beds for new plants. The team typically volunteers Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, but on select Saturdays throughout the year workdays are offered to give individuals and small groups the opportunity to experience the Garden.



For this workday, the Gulfton Youth Coalition (GYC) joined us in the Garden. "We enjoyed coming out and getting our hands dirty!" said GYC Chaperone and Co-Leader Mirella E. Sales. The enthusiastic youth helped the Garden team with maintenance and preparations for the winter crop while learning the history of our Garden and how it positively impacts the community members we serve.

Our mission is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences.



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