

CONNECTIONS

A quarterly publication of the Christian Community Service Center

Third Quarter 2017

Gardening for the Community We Love

Starting the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) Garden 17 years ago had many worthy purposes: raise fresh produce for community members' nutritional well-being; help those clients also save on their grocery bills; provide a meaningful way for volunteers to share their time and talent; and put a portion of church property to creative use. All of those aims continue to be met today. Located on the Gethsemane Campus of St. Luke's United Methodist, CCSC volunteers are planning for, tending, and harvesting an amazing amount of fresh fruits and vegetables. In just one day in late May, they hand-picked over 200 pounds of organic tomatoes. Many more days of plentiful harvesting followed over the summer and will continue year-round.

"Volunteering at the CCSC Garden helps me fulfill Jesus' command to feed the hungry. A plus is the opportunity to see miracles of God every time I'm in the garden, all around me in the seeds, the plants, the skies, the birds and the community of fellow volunteers." – Barbara Harms, Volunteer

Some of the zip codes served by CCSC are located in what the USDA defines as a "food desert": regions of the country void of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods. This situation is created by a lack of grocery stores, farmers markets, and healthy food providers. Rather than fueling up on fresh fruits and vegetables, community members often access what is nearby: quick meals that typically contain a large amount of sugar and fat, contributing to diabetes, obesity and other

diet-related health issues. The CCSC Garden makes alternative, nutritious items available to these low income communities.

"Volunteering at the CCSC Garden has been a wonderful and fulfilling combination of learning for my personal benefit, exercise, opportunity to spend time outdoors, friendship with fellow volunteers, and serving the needy of the community in the name of Christ." – Ron Smith, Volunteer

What actually happens in the garden on a daily basis? The best way to find out is to schedule a visit. You could expect to see folks hauling soil, pulling weeds, or playing with the garden cat, Sprout. You might witness a seasoned volunteer educating a novice on fertilizing, irrigation or pruning techniques. It might be a day scheduled to harvest and weigh ripe peppers, squash, cabbage, cucumbers, melons, greens, onions or eggplant. Certainly, you will observe what it looks like when a group of caring community members work together to benefit others.



The CCSC Garden engages volunteers of diverse cultures, ages, and backgrounds. If you are available on weekday mornings and are looking for an opportunity to combine your love for gardening with service, consider joining our team. Simply visit the agency's website: www.ccschouston.org or call 713-961-3993 to find out how you can get involved.



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DONORS

Gifts received April through June 2017

GLORIFY \$50,000+

The Hamill Foundation

EXULT \$25,000+

CCSC Memorial Endowment
Jan and J. Venn Leeds
Foundation

HALLELUJAH \$10,000+

Bank of America
George Soutter
Kevin and Margaret O'Donnell
M.D. Anderson Foundation
Shepherd 5 Points Family
Foundation
St. Paul's United Methodist
Church

ILLUMINATE \$5,000+

CenterPoint Energy
Corporate Matching Gift
(James C. Trott)
James and Peggy Trott
Kim King
The Guild Shop of the Church
of St. John the Divine

TRIUMPH \$2,500+

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Raleigh and Connie
Williamson

PROCLAIM \$1,000+

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GE Foundation (Clayton
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Houston Association of
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Jack and Rebecca Browder
Jeff and Leslie Creel
McGaha Foundation
Robert and Susan Estill
Ross Doan
Sandra Carson
Shell Oil Company Foundation
(Don Hodde)
Stephen and Beth Hull
Tommy and Jacquie Thompson
Vance and Kristin Tillman
W.T. and Sally Slick, Jr.
West U. Rotary Club

REJOICE \$500+

Angela Hodson
Brad Grounds
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Charles and Catherine Reavis
Charles L. Roff
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David and Loretta Elledge
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Kirk and Beth Bruce
Lynn and Olive Hughes
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Mary Ida Naylor
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Michael and Mary Vitek
National Charity League Heart
of Texas Chapter
Richard and Susan Cruse
Robert Scholl
Roy and Tricia Hiller
Russell Pitman
Stan Bond
Ted and Gabrielle Pate
Thomas F. and Catherine Mary
Hastings Foundation
William and Pamela Smith

CELEBRATE \$100+

Al and Ruth Waldrop
Alejandro and Lynn Rosas
Allen Blakemore
Andrew and Karen Fuller
Annie Sumang
Bert and Mary Ann Campbell
Beth Benefield Cahill
Betsy Bolin
Betsy Schulze
Beverly Phillips
Burke and Betty Windham, Jr.
C.J. Yeoman
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Charlotte McClain
Chris and April Walters
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Clare Attwell Glassell
Czarena Siebert
David and Kari Browder
David and Tracy Livingston
Don and Anne Baronitis
Donald and Glenn Hurd
Dorothy B. McCaine
Douglas and Anne Culver
Dwight and Sandra Lyman
Edward and Susan Zinni
Evan and Penny Pivalizza
Flo and Nora Quiucho
Francis and Alice
McWilliams, III
Frank and Sherri Kotar
Fred and Stephanie Wilson
Frederic Wasden
Friends of CCSC (8)

Gary Smith and Carol Griffin
George and Barbara Batten, Jr.
George and Catherine Goolsby
Gerald and Laura Piper
Hal and Debbie Sharp
HP (Czarena Siebert)
James and Carrie Logan
James and Cecelia Bishop
James and Cody
Greenwood, III
James and Mary Boyles
James and Mary Jane Sinclair
James and Myrna Hargis
Janet Giannoni
Janice Meyer
Jim and Nancy Lomax, II
Joan O'Leary
Joe and Barbara Eason
John and Anita Bateman, IV
John and Dawne Jordan
John and Elaine Reynolds
John and Kristi Cooper
John and Susan Farrell
John C. Boehm
John Dominici
Jonathan Cox
Judith VanHorn
Judy Sacaris
Kathy Kokas
Kerry Nelson
Lee and Mary Denson
Lynn and Kibbie Hipp
Mark and Jo Beth Hawkins
Mark and Mary Sass
Mark Clevenger
Mary Ann Wallin
Mary S. Schrank
Maureen Alsup
Michael and Jeanne Maher
Michael and Lacy Vaughn
Michael Kuznicki
Patricia Arnold
Patrick and Gay Chaudoir
Peter and Karen Brohn
Peter and Mary Gryska
Philip and Carol Michalik
Ramsay Elder
Randall's Good Neighbor
Program
Ray and Loren Goens
Richard Brewer
Richard and Andrea Link
Robert and Emily Thomas
Robert and Kerrie Jara
Robert and Leslie Haugen
Robert DeRoy Jobe
Roger and Kirsten Herrscher
Ronald and Grace Stinebaugh
Russ and Suzanne Ekblad
Ruth A. Stiles
Sandra Kang and Kris Ramesh
Scott Simpson
Stephen and Debbie Carroll
Stephen and Maureen Paxson

Steven and Diane Anderson
Steven Ard
Stuart and Judy Long
Susan Silvus
Thomas Sartwelle
Thomas Wimberly
Tom and Kathy Tellepsen, II
Tommy and Susan Stone
Urban Harvest Inc.
Walter and Dale Townsen
Waste Management (Paul
Hesson)
William and Ann Heim
William and Carrie Prewett
William and Jane Lee
William and Susan Wescott
Williams Companies
Foundation (John Boehm)

JOY UP TO \$99

Alan Dale Park
AmazonSmile Foundation
Andrew Pumphrey
Arthur and Karen Rogers
Barbara Wisecup
Barbara D. Hagood
Bert Gonzalez
Betty Chapman
Blake and Adele Dominguez
Brent and Linda Lamb
Carl Williams
Carloyn White
Carolyn C. Keeble
Chevron Companies (Paul
Shain)
Chevron Companies (Ricky
Boehme)
Chuck Koelbel
Claire Williams
Clarence and Dee Stanley
David and Becky McClanahan
David Bellamy
David Watson
Debbie Miller
Don and Andrea Aubin
Donald and Vrai Jones
Donna and Susan Crawford
Dorothy Fontana
Dorothy P. Enright
Dorothy Pyburn Chesser
Elizabeth Brumley Prochnow
Ellen F. Manzullo
Emily Estill
Espy and Lerrisa Price
Friends of CCSC (8)
George Snyder
George Zivley
Geri McKallip
Greg McKeever
Guy and Sharon Cameron
Harry Mathis
Hugh and Fannie Parker
J. S. Adler
Jack and Barbara Pester
Jackie McCoy

James and Brittni Buccieri
James and Patricia Banfill
James Kemper
Jerry and Sherry Ritcheson
Jessie Weichert
Jim and Frances Avera, Jr.
Joel and Tonja Rodriguez
John and Gina Rebman
John and Kaye Hardy, III
Joseph and Mary Studlick
Junfung Tan
Karl and Ann Tornoyos
Kevin Hagerty
Lenora E. Ohlenbusch
Lisa Baitz
Local Independent Charities
of Texas
Loretta Block
Lynn Small
Madeline Schmitt
Mark and Anya Tish
Mary E. Schultz
Mary Hoffman
Mary R. Livesay
Mary S. Hipp
Michael and Michael Brown
Norma Owen
Patricia Dickson
Patricia L. Richardson
Patrick and Nancy Marymee
Peter Tse and Wing Wong
Phyllis Stallings
Raymond F. Sylvester
Rebecca Nesmith
Ricky S. Boehme
Robert and Betty Geary
Robert and Cindy Moore
Robert and Cynthia Haines
Robert and Janie Patterson
Robin and Kathy Harrison
Ron and Gretchen Morris
Sabrina Akbar
Sara Ritter
Serpell and Elizabeth Edwards
Sharelyn Current
Sharon C. Benka
Sharon Mattox
Siobhan LeRoy
Steve and Colleen McCampbell
Tanya Dominguez
Tempie Fulwiler
Teresa Covington
The Emily Fund
Theresa Jamail Sewell
Thomas and Susan Golden
Tom and Olga Lewis
Travis Crabtree
Tyler Malone



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Shonbeck

Dear CCSC Friend,

One of my favorite verses of scripture is within Luke 12:48: *To whom much is given, much is expected.* My interpretation of these words from Jesus is that the more we have – in education, resources, talents & skills, love, friends, etc... – the more generous we should be in deploying those for good.

I have a wonderful story about someone we helped who made a donation to our ministry. He works full-time and lives just above the poverty line. He has a chronic medical condition, and while his health insurance pays for much of his costs, he is still left with paying a significant amount of his monthly income towards needed medication. When he has an unexpected expense, he is

then short funds to pay for his food and regular bills. So he comes to CCSC, and we help him out.

He's on my mind because we recently received a donation from him that included a note of gratitude: because he was helped, he now wants to help another. His gift is significant because he gave out of his scarcity. I imagine he had to calculate his upcoming expenses before making the check out to CCSC. Or maybe he wrote the check as an act of faith, trusting that by giving back, all would work out well for him. Regardless, he lived out a verse of scripture for me today.

In Christ,



Michelle Shonbeck, Executive Director



**CCSC's Executive Director, Michelle Shonbeck, is now blogging!
Connect at www.ccschouston.org or blog.ccschouston.org**

MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

Gifts received April through June 2017

IN MEMORY OF:

Brucks Hall

Karen Holloman

David Parker

Cam and Carol Postle
David and Loretta Elledge
Karen Holloman
Nancy Cook
Sharon and Chris Sorensen

Dixie Kirk

Dale and Christine Smith

Doris Frances Warren

Mr. and Mrs. Tom B. Daly

Dr. Bedford M. Vestal

Mrs. Carolyn H. Vestal

Dr. Richard Campbell

Suzanne Girouard

George R. Gaffney

Geri McKallip

Ida and Louis Romani

Jean Lancaster

Jane Ryba

Joan Ryba and Don Gillis

Joey Geaccone

Jane Stinson Abshire

Kenneth Anthony

Kangieser, Sr.

Mrs. June Kangieser

Charles and Betsy Settle

Connie and Bill Habern

Dean and Marilyn Callender

Dennis Johnston

Eugene and Marilyn

Shepherd

Frederick M. Evans

Haginas and Shillings

Lou Kroenecke

Mary Eleanor Holloway

Mike and Carolyn Baker

Neil and Judith Bland

Robert and Merle Cobb

Sandra Spencer

Thomas D. Cronin, Jr.

William and Louisa Russell

William F. Russell

William and Fanelle

Laughlin

Lucila Medina

Mary and Hallie

Mr. and Mrs. Francis G.

Winters

Mr. and Mrs. Warren

W. Hall

Mrs. Eloise Noah

Kathy Shearer

Mrs. Molly Turner

Friend of CCSC

Rev. Henry Horton

Allene Stubbs

Roscoe H. Jones

Mrs. Ruth E. Jones

Sanford L. (Coach) Carr

Mrs. Florine F. Carr

Steve Wilson

Jane Stinson Abshire

Violet Stoltz

Joann Welton

Virginia Palmer

Rebecca Palmer

IN HONOR OF:

Ann Murdoch

Brigid Earthman

Diane Chrapkiewicz

John Dominici

Hariette Gray

Dennis and Ginger Hurta

Jeanne Angulo

Friend of CCSC

Linda Burch

Jeannine Smith

Loren M. Goens

Ray W. Goens, Jr.

Michelle Shonbeck

Mark and Cynthia Latour

Our children and grandson

David and Michelle Feavel

Ray Wylie Hubbard and

St. Mark's Church

Paul Shain

Tonja Rodriguez

Sandra Carson

William Getschow's 40th

Birthday

Barbara Shoemaker



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences. CCSC was created out of faith and founded in the belief that we are called to help all God's children heart to heart and hand in hand.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Spotlight: Bruce and Kathy Adams

After retiring, Bruce and Kathy Adams were looking for something they could do together while making a difference in their community. They began serving weekly at Emergency Services-Central in 2012. Bruce serves as an interviewer while Kathy works in the clothing room as well as giving time at the Sunshine Resale Shop. They love hearing the stories of clients and seeing their joy when they receive much needed assistance, even if it is just a pair of shoes. Volunteering also gives them an opportunity to build relationships with new people from a variety of backgrounds. They describe their time at CCSC as “personally rewarding”, and encourage others to also join the CCSC team.



VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Are you technology-savvy and have an interest in helping job seekers? Teaching job seekers computer skills can be a rewarding way to give back to the community. JobNet is currently looking for a volunteer to teach a QuickBooks class once a month. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity or would like to learn about other opportunities at one of our food pantries or the Sunshine Resale Shop, contact us at volunteer@ccschouston.org or 713-961-3993.

THANKS TO IN-KIND DONORS

A donation of goods or services is an excellent way to help our organization achieve its mission. Here is a list of CCSC's recent in-kind contributors. (If we missed your group, please let us know so we can recognize you in the next newsletter.)

Azalea Dinner Auction Donors
Baker Botts, L.L.P.
Bellaire United Methodist Church
Brookfield Office Properties
Condit Elementary School
Duane Smith
Extreme Air Conditioning Services, Inc.

Haltmar Family
Kolache Shoppe
Michael Menezes
Panera Bread #4114
St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
St. Philip Presbyterian Church: Kids
Against Hunger

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School
Town Center Landscape
A special "Thank You" also goes to all churches and organizations that provide CCSC with gifts from organized food, clothing, hygiene, and/or shoe drives on a regular basis.

Sending a little bit of sunshine



SAVE AN ADDITIONAL 10% OFF



**5413 Bellaire Blvd.
Bellaire, TX 77401**

Monday – Saturday 10am to 5pm
713-665-4000
www.ccschouston.com

EMERGENCY SERVICES-CENTRAL

Clients come to Emergency Services-Central seeking financial assistance for many reasons. Our staff and volunteers hear each person's story and feel blessed to help them. Among those recently assisted were a senior citizen who had lost her spouse, a disabled gentleman who had to repair a water leak in his home,

a single mother whose diabetic daughter needed expensive medication, and a woman who lost her job due to a recent surgery. Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is grateful to our many supporters who donate valuable resources to help these neighbors in need.

JOBNET



Surveys indicate that 93% of hiring managers search LinkedIn for recruits. LinkedIn has become one of the best ways for job seekers to network with people in their field and research companies that are hiring. A good profile makes skills stand out to employers who use LinkedIn for recruiting. Job seekers who haven't set up a profile can come to us for assistance.

JobNet now offers the class *Maximizing Your LinkedIn Profile* for people who are actively using it for job search. This new class will teach the basics of creating a profile and finding job opportunities. Computer lab volunteers provide one-on-one guidance to get clients started.

For class dates and times, find JobNet's calendar on the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) website, www.ccschouston.org, under Programs/Employment.

MARTHA'S WAY

Did you know Martha's Way graduates have many talents that go beyond housekeeping? The men and women participating in the training program have a wide range of skills desired by homeowners. Graduates have extensive experience as caregivers, cooks, gardeners, translators,

seamstresses, servers, and chauffeurs. These professional business owners are ready to provide top-notch service to you. To connect with a Martha's Way graduate, contact Ana Tappan, Vocational Training Manager, at 713-328-0160 or training@ccschouston.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Did you know that by buying in bulk, the Back to School program can stretch a dollar so far that 6,500 students will be equipped and prepared for their first day of school? When purchased separately, items for a 6th grade supply list total more than \$36. Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) can purchase the same, high-quality supplies for only \$14.51!

By sponsoring a child for \$45, you can provide the supplies a student needs to have a successful school year, plus a voucher for a new school uniform and/or shoes. To donate, visit our secure website www.ccschouston.org, or mail a personal check to P.O. Box 27924 Houston, TX 77227 made out to CCSC, with "Back To School" written on the memo line. Your support makes a difference for so many underprivileged children and their families.



SHOP AND SUPPORT CCSC



Remember when doing your family's back-to-school (or everyday) shopping to give to CCSC every time you order online at Amazon through their program called Amazon Smile.

Just Google "Amazon Smile", sign in with your Amazon credentials, and select Christian Community Service Center as your designated charity. Then, shop as usual with one very big difference: Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases directly to CCSC!



Randall's Good Neighbor Program

Don't forget to link CCSC's Good Neighbor Number #1439 to your Remarkable Card and help us raise funds the easy way!



Kroger Share Card Community Rewards Program

Shopping at Kroger can raise funds for CCSC. If your Kroger Share Card is already connected to CCSC – Great!

However, you must **reconnect** each year, after August 1st.

Follow the steps to connect or reconnect your Kroger Share Card with CCSC.

To reconnect, go to Kroger's secure website at: www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com

- If you have an account, sign in – you will need your email address and account password. If you do not have an account, create one following the online directions
- On the "Find Your Organization" page, type in Christian Community Service Center, or enter 80790
- Click the link to Christian Community Service Center, then click "Enroll"

Anytime enrolled supporters shop at Kroger using their Kroger Plus Card, they will be accumulating rewards for CCSC. REMEMBER, purchases will not count for CCSC until you register your card online.

Deep in the Heart of Texas

SAVE THE DATE
Grow, Gather, & Give!
 November 11, 2017

VIP Party 5:00-6:00 p.m.
 Main Event: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church
 Hauser Hall



For more information on the event or donating an auction item go to ccschouston.org/growgathergive

**Growing CCSC,
 Gathering Together,
 and Giving Back!**

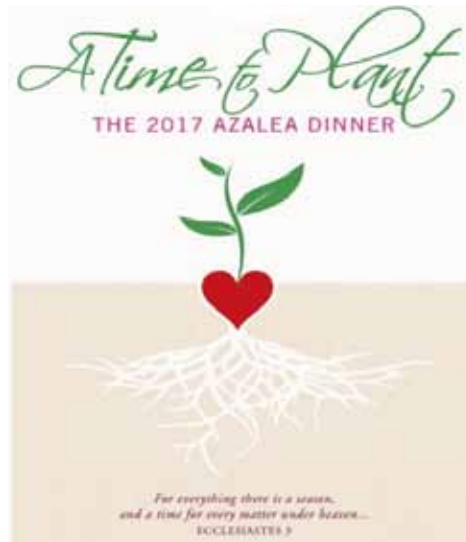
CCSC WISH LIST

CCSC's Wish List reflects unbudgeted items that would be very handy "extras" to help carry out the organization's mission. Thank you for your help!

EMERGENCY SERVICES – CENTRAL	
Utility Broom & Dustpan Set	\$40
Gallon Sized Ziploc Bags (continuous need)	\$5/ea.
Can Openers for Food Pantry Clients (continuous need)	\$1/ea.
EMERGENCY SERVICES – SOUTHWEST	
Light Weight Platform/Dolly Cart with 250-Pound Capacity	\$180
Elevated Cart	\$130
Rubbermaid 3-Step Steel Frame Stool w/ Hand Grip 200-Pound Capacity	\$40
Can Openers for Food Pantry Clients (continuous need)	\$1/ea.
CCSC GARDEN	
Garden Sprayer – 2 needed	\$35/ea.
YOUTH SERVICES	
Back To School - Large Boxes (18 x 18 x 24)	\$105 (50 pack)
SUNSHINE RESALE SHOP	
Portable Counterfeit Currency Detector	\$35
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	
Retractable Banner Floor Stand for CCSC Events	\$340
Copy Paper 8.5 x 11	\$50/case

🌸 2017 Azalea Dinner & Auction

The Christian Community Service Center would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2017 Azalea Dinner & Auction a wonderful success!



Christian Community Service Center

P. O. Box 27924

Houston, TX 77227-7924

Connections, CCSC's quarterly newsletter, is designed to keep you in touch with CCSC's mission, ministries, events, member churches and volunteers.

www.ccschouston.org

Return Service Requested



Follow Michelle Shonbeck's blog:
blog.ccschouston.org



Follow us on Twitter:
@CCSCHouston



Like us on Facebook:
CCSC – Christian Community Service Center & CCSC's Sunshine Resale Shop

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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CCSC Christian Community Service Center

Back To School 2017

Your Support Will Help 6,500 Children Go Back To School With Everything They Need

SPONSOR ONE OR MORE STUDENTS!

\$45.00 will provide one student with a new school uniform/shoes **and** a new grade-appropriate school supply package. To donate, visit our secure website www.ccschouston.org or mail a personal check to CCSC, with "Back To School" written on the memo line to: PO Box 27924, Houston, TX 77227

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME!

(Groups of 8+ please sign up in advance.)

Sort & Set Up

Help organize school supplies and "bonus items" for distribution.

Saturday, July 29 • 7:30 am – 11:00 am

Distribution

Help distribute school supplies, vouchers and "bonus items" to clients.

Friday, August 4 • 7:30 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday, August 5 • 7:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 4600 Bellaire Blvd. (Just inside Loop 610 at Avenue B)

For event questions contact: **Cathy Brown**, Youth Services Manager, at seasonal@ccschouston.org or 713-961-3993 x 215

