

**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](http://www.ccschouston.org)**

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Community  
Service Center

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

### Grow, Gather, & Give!



**November 9, 2019**  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church • Hauser Hall

VIP Party 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
Main Event 6:00-8:00 p.m.

*Join us as we sample food, entertainment and wines from AROUND THE WORLD.*

For more information on this fun evening, visit [ccschouston.org/growgathergive](http://ccschouston.org/growgathergive)

To donate an item to our incredible silent auction email Erin at [volunteer@ccschouston.org](mailto:volunteer@ccschouston.org)

# CONNECTIONS

A quarterly publication of the Christian Community Service Center

Third Quarter 2019

## Thank You for a Wonderful Azalea Gala

**M**ore than 500 friends of Christian Community Service Center gathered at the Hilton Post Oak to support the mission and future of CCSC and celebrate the groundbreaking volunteer work of Emily Griffin, one of CCSC's founding volunteers, at the Azalea Gala 2019 "A Time to Bloom."

Guests enjoyed live music, a wine pull, a silent auction, and games and raffles. The fundraiser grossed over \$230,000, monies that will fund CCSC programs and help put food on tables and keep the electricity on during the coming months for our neighbors in need.

Honoree Emily Griffin, who volunteered with CCSC from 1978-2015, said of the evening, "It was awesome, very humbling."

The Gala was a joyous celebration of all the individuals who come together to collectively power the mission of CCSC. A HUGE thank you to our 40 member churches, auction item donors, reservation and table sponsors, underwriters,

attendees, auction bidders, volunteers, and all who donated on our new "Text to Give" app, for helping CCSC to bloom.

Special thanks to Azalea Gala Committee co-chairs Larkin & Sally Matthews and The Reverends Seann & Elizabeth Duffin, and committee members Becky Browder, Sandra Buckner, Lori Carper Baker, Cindy Case, Alicia Hartsfield, Andrea Link, Ginnie McConn, Julie Morgan, Karen Nicolaou, and Sherri Smeink.



*Cover story continued on page 7*



### INSIDE CONNECTIONS

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# CAPITAL GIFTS

Gifts received April through May 2019

**Bristow Group, on behalf of Don Miller  
Lori Carper  
Sandra Carson  
Sally Evans and Brian Rodgers**

**Susan and Kevin Golden  
Marcia James  
Marilyn Lummis, in honor of  
Emily Griffin**

**Kim King  
Virginia and Phillip Moyer  
Vivian and Tom O'Leary, in honor of  
Gordon Arnold**

**St. Theresa Catholic Church  
Sterling-Turner Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. David Sweeten  
Lillith Trewick**

**Judith VanHorn  
Waste Management, on behalf of  
Paul Hesson**

# DONORS

Gifts received April through May 2019

## EXULT \$25,000+

Jan and J. Venn Leeds Foundation

## HALLELUJAH \$10,000+

John S. Dunn Foundation  
Ms. Barbara Folk Nowotny

## ILLUMINATE \$5,000+

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church  
Mr. and Mrs. James Trott

## TRIUMPH \$2,500+

Ms. Sandra Carson  
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Rodriguez  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sauer, Jr.  
Mrs. Marilyn Sweeten

## PROCLAIM \$1,000+

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Anderson  
Bristow Group Inc. (Don Miller)  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Browder  
Dr. Phebe Chen  
Mr. and Mrs. Travis Crabtree  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cruse  
Mr. Ross Doan  
Mr. Richard Early  
ExxonMobil Foundation  
(Robert Duffy Volunteer Hours)  
ExxonMobil Foundation  
(Carolyn Howard Volunteer Hours)  
Frost Bank  
GE Foundation (Clayton Finney)  
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Riverway Business Services  
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Shedd  
Shell Oil Company Foundation  
(Jessica Matuszak)  
Shell Oil Company Foundation  
(Steven Stryker)

Mr. and Mrs. Matt Thompson  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Weddle  
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Wiker  
Mr. and Mrs. James Wilhite

## REJOICE \$500+

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Alsup  
Mr. and Mrs. J. David Anderson  
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Carper Baker  
Ms. Barbara Bamberg-Knight  
Mr. and Mrs. David Bellamy  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Black  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Burton Branstetter  
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Friends of CCSC (4)  
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## CELEBRATE \$100+

Ms. Maureen Alsup  
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Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hess  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hobson  
Ms. Anna Hood  
The Hook Family Foundation  
HP (Czarena Siebert)  
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Ms. Betsy Schulze  
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(Tony Franchina)  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Siebert  
Ms. Susan Silvus  
Mr. James Spindler and Ms. Janice  
Gregory-Sloan  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sponberg, III  
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Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thompson  
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Mr. David Tipps  
Mr. and Mrs. David Mittelholzer  
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Williams Companies Foundation  
(John Boehm)  
Ms. Barbara Wilson  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilson

## JOY UP TO \$99

Ms. Jane Abshire  
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Bayou Manor Residents  
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Ms. Susan Bowers  
Mrs. Katherine Breaud  
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Rev. and Mrs. Seann Duffin  
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Mr. Joe Escamilla  
Mrs. Mary Fairbrother  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fulwiler  
Halliburton Foundation, Inc.  
(Charlotte Burress)  
Halliburton Foundation, Inc.  
(Matthew Loving)  
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Mr. Carlos Hernandez  
Mr. David Horton  
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Mr. and Mrs. George Laffin  
Drs. Andrea and Richard Link  
Ms. Laura Ly  
Mr. and Mrs. Larkin Matthews  
Ms. Mary Lou McGregor  
Ms. Cheryl Mergo  
Ms. Meredith Mills  
Ms. Celia Morgan  
Ms. Mary L. Morrison  
Mr. James Nelson  
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Mr. and Mrs. Evangelos  
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Mrs. Sara Peacock  
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Mr. and Mrs. Mark Tish  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Washington  
Mrs. Carolyn White  
Mr. Carl Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Mitch Williamson  
Mrs. Barbara Wisecup  
Ms. Pamela Young

# MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

Gifts received April through May 2019

## IN MEMORY OF:

**Audrey Knoeller**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Kuempel  
**Charles K. Sanders**  
Mr. and Mrs. Doug McKinnon  
**Francis G. Winters**  
Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Hall  
**Geneva Sulek**  
Mrs. Connie Stone  
**James Jensen**  
Ms. Suzanne Girouard  
**Jim Knight**  
Ms. Barbara Bamberg-Knight  
**Mariann Thornton**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Kuempel  
**Martha Loyd**  
Faerie Marston  
Ms. Holly Musemeche  
Mr. Jack W. Read  
**Mary Ann Tanner**  
Sallie Gordon and Kenneth Schwenke

**Sister Mary Adeline O'Donoghue**  
Ms. Karen Holloman

**Tom Tanner**  
Mrs. Ann Tanner

**Vic Moellering**  
Mrs. Barbara Moellering

**William Dodson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dodson

## IN HONOR OF:

**Anne Holloman's Birthday**  
Ms. Jane Eixmann  
**Annie Trammell's 12th Birthday**  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Holmes  
Mr. Edmund Gaither  
Mrs. Marin Kelling  
Stasa Cushman  
**Arthur Miller**  
Ms. Holly Forney

**Boyd and Dorothy Wagner's Anniversary**  
Dr. and Mrs. Robb Moses

**Cathy Brown**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lamont

**Mr. and Mrs. Charles Szalkowski**  
Mr. John Anderson, Jr.  
Emily Griffin

Mr. and Mrs. Derek Munger

Mrs. Emilee Griffin Hervey

Mr. and Mrs. James Wilhite

Ms. Kay Henbest

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Davis

**Rev. and Mrs. William Denham, III**  
Gordon Arnold

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thompson

**Sr. Jane Zartman's Jubilee**  
Congregation of the Sisters of Charity

of the Incarnate Word

**Larkin and Sally Matthews**  
Mr. John Anderson, Jr.

Mrs. Kelli Metzenthin

**Lucy Olivero-Kamrath's**

**12th Birthday**  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Holmes

Mr. Edmund Gaither

Mrs. Marin Kelling

Stasa Cushman

**Martha Harper**  
Ms. Charlotte McClain

Martus and Jennie Miley

Mr. Michael L. Patrick

**Natalie M. Faust**  
Ms. Roberta Moore

**Pam Howard's Birthday**  
Mrs. Barbara Wisecup

Ms. Betty S. Brown

Ms. Elinor Hart

Ms. Linda Burch

Ms. Nancy Stephenson

Ms. Patricia Deckert

Ms. Susan Silvus

**Pat Deckert's Birthday**  
Mrs. Barbara Wisecup

Ms. Betty S. Brown

Ms. Elinor Hart

Ms. Linda Burch

Ms. Nancy Stephenson

Ms. Pamela Howard

Ms. Susan Silvus

**Paul and Carolyn Meyer**  
Mrs. Barbara Wisecup

Rev. and Mrs. William Denham, III

**Raleigh and Connie Williamson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Mitchell

**The Reverend's Seann and**

**Elizabeth Duffin**  
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Weaver

**Susannah Brink's 12th Birthday**  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Holmes

Mr. Edmund Gaither

Mrs. Marin Kelling

Stasa Cushman



# 🌸 2019 Azalea Dinner & Auction

Christian Community Service Center would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2019 Azalea Dinner & Auction a wonderful success!



## 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 Cart for Food Pantry– 1 needed                | \$140    |
| Gallon-size Ziploc Bags (continuous need)             | \$5/box  |
| Can Openers for Food Pantry Clients (continuous need) | \$1/each |

### EMERGENCY SERVICES – SOUTHWEST

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Tent for Food Fair Events – 2 needed                  | \$80 each |
| Gallon-size Ziploc Bags (continuous need)             | \$5/box   |
| Can Openers for Food Pantry Clients (continuous need) | \$1/each  |

### CSC GARDEN

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 2 Gallon Metal Watering Can – 2 needed | \$35/each |
|--|-----------|

### YOUTH SERVICES

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Collapsible Utility Wagon for Events (4 needed)                                   | \$70/each   |
| Wardrobe Boxes for Events (8 bundles needed; gently used donations also accepted) | \$60/bundle |

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Retractable Banner Floor Stand for CCSC Events | \$340     |
| Copy Paper 8.5 x 11                            | \$50/case |

## Shop and Support CCSC



Remember when doing your family's back-to-school (or everyday) shopping you may

donate 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!



### Kroger Share Card Community Rewards

Shopping at Kroger can also 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 these steps to connect or reconnect your Kroger Share Card with CCSC.

To reconnect your card, go to Kroger's website at: [www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://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 and click "Enroll"

Anytime enrolled supporters shop at Kroger using their Kroger Plus Card, they will be accumulating rewards for 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!

## GIVE THE GIFT OF HELPING OTHERS

Looking for the perfect birthday gift for a loved one that will truly make a difference? Help our neighbors in need by contributing to CCSC in someone's name.

Each gift will be acknowledged with a personalized birthday card. Visit [www.ccschouston.org](http://www.ccschouston.org) and click the green "I Want to Donate" button.

## Matching Gifts

Many companies offer employees, retirees and employee spouses a matching-gift benefit that can double or even triple your donation to a qualifying charitable organization such as CCSC. Some companies will even make a matching contribution for your volunteer hours! Each company has its own method for you to submit a matching-gift request. Check with your Human Resources department to find out how you can maximize your donations to CCSC.



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Shonbeck

Dear CCSC Friend,

Recently I was in the reception area at Emergency Services-Central, which is the hub of that program. Two volunteers answer the busy phones ringing with human need while another volunteer signs in the clients who have arrived for help.

One of the phone volunteers shared that she receives great satisfaction in connecting the callers to help. She hears despair in their voices and simply listens, trying to ensure she does something to impart hope, even if it's just providing directions to our facility. She cares, and it comes through in her voice. The other volunteer answering the phone has a neighborly, chatty voice that is warm and welcoming.

That day, like most days, we were helping walk-ins with food and other essentials while also meeting with four families needing financial assistance. One of those families depended

upon income from both parents, and the mother was pregnant, had recently been put on bed rest, and lacked disability income because her employer did not offer it. Another was a recent widow also finding herself living on a reduced budget because her husband had died unexpectedly. The third family was between jobs: the father had been laid off but found another job; however, the gap between jobs compromised their ability to pay the electric bill. The fourth family was being interviewed, so I wasn't able to hear their story.

Every day stories and statistics walk through our doors needing food, help in finding a job, and hope. Thanks to our staff and volunteers for their dedication to serving all of God's children with love and authenticity.

In Christ,



Michelle Shonbeck, Executive Director

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

CCSC appreciates your support of *A Time To Build Capital Campaign*. We are edging closer to our goal of \$14 million. For more information about the campaign or information about ways you can help, please visit our website [www.ccschouston.org](http://www.ccschouston.org) or contact Traci Boccock at [tboccock@ccchouston.org](mailto:tboccock@ccchouston.org).

The Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is an award-winning, community-based non-profit organization serving the southwest Houston community. Incorporated in 1980, CCSC has grown to encompass a coalition of 40 churches united in service to the needy.

Bellaire United Methodist Church  
Bering Drive Church of Christ  
Bethany Christian Church  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
ChristChurch Presbyterian  
Covenant Church  
Faith Lutheran Church  
First Christian Church  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
First Seventh Day Baptist Church  
Grace United Church of Christ  
Holy Ghost Catholic Church  
Houston International Seventh Day Adventist Church

Kindred Church  
Pathways Church  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
Rice Temple Baptist Church  
River Oaks Baptist Church  
Sharpstown Baptist Church  
Southwest Presbyterian Church  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
St. Anne Catholic Community  
St. John the Divine Episcopal Church  
St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
St. Martin's Episcopal Church

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
St. Michael Catholic Church  
Saint Paul Presbyterian Church  
St. Philip Presbyterian Church  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
St. Theresa Catholic Church  
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
WatersEdge Community Church  
West End Church  
West University Baptist Church  
West University United Methodist Church  
Westminster United Methodist Church



## 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: Erin Brau

On Fridays Erin Brau spends her lunch hour at CCSC's JobNet helping to change the lives of job seekers.

"What I like best about volunteering for CCSC is that it is easy to see how the organization is making a difference in people's lives," Brau said. "From the food banks to Back To School to JobNet, people are helped every day."

Vice president of the largest female-owned company in Houston providing human capital and payroll services, Brau loves helping people find jobs.

"We have amazing coaches at JobNet who help people with each stage in their job-search process," Brau said. "Some of us are good with resumes, some are good with helping to encourage people, and I am good with helping people find their unique value and using that to build self-worth and find a job."

"It is amazing to help people find jobs," Brau added. "Most of the people who come to CCSC are scared and feel dejected about themselves. I help them see how great they are. I help them see that they have awesome skills and are valuable to society."

"CCSC's JobNet is run by an outstanding group of people," Brau added. "From Michelle, to Mickey, Erin and Maria, they all make volunteers feel completely at home. If you can only volunteer for one hour a week, they can help you figure it out."

## THANKS TO IN-KIND DONORS

A donation of goods or services is an excellent way to help Christian Community Service Center 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.)

Baker Botts, LLP  
Bellaire United Methodist Church  
Brookfield Office Properties  
ChristChurch Presbyterian Church  
Early, McClintic & McMillan LLP  
Haltmar Family  
Kolache Shoppe

National Charity League – Heart of Texas Chapter  
National Charity League – Post Oak Chapter  
Panera Bread #4114  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Gethsemane Campus  
St. Philip Presbyterian Church: Kids Against Hunger

*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.*

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

There are many ways to give your time to help CCSC other than volunteering onsite. CCSC is always in need of food, manual can openers, and clothing. You could organize a drive for any of those items. Or you could make no-sew blankets or hygiene kits, items that are always in demand at our food pantries. Directions for no-sew blankets and hygiene kits may be found on our website at [www.ccschouston.org/volunteer/](http://www.ccschouston.org/volunteer/)



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

Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm  
713-665-4000



**After 35 years  
in the community,  
Sunshine Resale Shop  
will be closing its  
doors in September.**

**Storewide clearance has  
begun – stop in to see all  
the great discounts!**

*No longer accepting donations  
for the shop, however, CCSC food  
pantries still need your clothing &  
shoes for clients in need!*

## EMERGENCY SERVICES—CENTRAL

It's summertime, and we are truly blessed. The Emergency Services food pantries are overflowing with corn, green beans, rice, beans, spaghetti and so much more. The CCSC Garden is producing a bumper crop of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, eggplant and a variety of herbs. Partnerships with local organizations, churches and individuals like you make

this possible. The staff and volunteers appreciate everyone who supports Emergency Services. So do our clients. While we are in a season of abundance and have most of the items needed for our food packages, we can always use hearty soups and single-serve/pop-top canned food for homeless clients.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES—SOUTHWEST

St. Luke's United Methodist Church recently organized a great outreach project benefiting CCSC. Congregants and staff gathered after church service to bag beans and rice—a nutritious staple in our Emergency Services food packages for clients. The result? We received enough beans and rice to cover

client needs for a month! In-kind donation projects like this help tremendously in decreasing CCSC's food expenses. Would your church, company or community group like to organize a similar effort? Contact 713-961-3993 x211 for additional information and resources.

## JOBNET

When job seekers come to JobNet for job search support, they also have access to Client Services Connector Guadalupe Reyes. Guadalupe provides a supportive environment for clients to talk about challenges impacting their job search. She helps clients set realistic goals and focus on positive steps toward reaching those goals. In addition, Guadalupe provides referrals to legal services, money management, vocational training, mental health counseling and more. The Client Services Connector



adds an additional layer to the already comprehensive support services JobNet provides to job seekers.

*CCSC Client Services Connector Guadalupe Reyes, left, works with Anabelle Mendoza.*

## MARTHA'S WAY

July is a busy month for Martha's Way. We are holding fast-track classes at both Mission Milby in Southeast Houston and Westbury United Methodist Church in Southwest Houston. Offering classes 16 hours per week during the summer allows students to complete our personal development, business

development, and technical skills classes in only 2.5 weeks and graduate ready to start or expand their housekeeping businesses. Graduates receive free business cards and a bucket of cleaning supplies to help set them on a path to success.

## YOUTH SERVICES



*Volunteers help a family at 2018 Back To School distribution.*

Preparing students for academic success is needed at every grade level. With limited resources available to high school students, CCSC is filling this gap by adding service to 9th-12th graders this year! Altogether, Back To School will equip 6,500

underserved pre-kindergarteners through high schoolers with academic supplies and uniform/clothing vouchers.

### Get Involved! Volunteer Opportunities

#### at Faith Lutheran Church (4600 Bellaire Blvd):

- July 27, 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Package school supplies.
- August 2 & 3, 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Distribute school supplies to registered families.
- Groups of 8+ please sign up in advance.

#### Sponsor a Student for \$45!

- Donate online through secure website [www.ccschouston.org](http://www.ccschouston.org)
- Mail a personal check payable to CCSC, P.O. Box 27924, Houston, TX 77227. (Please write "Back To School" in the memo line.)

For more information, contact Cathy Brown: [seasonal@ccschouston.org](mailto:seasonal@ccschouston.org) or 713-961-3993 x215.