

# Healing Hearts



e-Newsletter // January // 01.05.18

## Holiday Meals Help Heal Hearts

Holiday meal sponsorship began in 2006 with donations from Alcon, the Bo's Place Board of Directors, Kappa Alpha Theta and the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 343), as another unique way for organizations and individuals to support the families and volunteers at Bo's Place. By sponsoring a holiday meal, these groups reduce the burden on bereaved families to prepare or purchase a potluck item, and allow families to enjoy a delicious meal prior to the start of group. Even more special than the food is the graciousness of our sponsors, who bring volunteers to serve the meals to our families. Many groups continue to provide meals year after year, and the Vietnam Veterans have sponsored a dinner every year since 2006.



Thank you to all of our individual and corporate sponsors for the 2017 holiday season:

- Adams & Reese, LLP
- Aetna, with special thanks to Traci Zahn
- Anonymous sponsor
- Apache Corporation
- Baker McKenzie, LLP
- Bo's Place Board of Directors
- Chastang Ford
- Christ the King Presbyterian Church, with special thanks to Ronny Cuenod
- Cynthia Lam
- Decode Digital
- Houston Association for Marriage & Family Therapists, with special thanks to Elizabeth Cobb
- Houston Sickle Cell Organization for Unified Transitioners
- The Junior League of Houston, Inc.
- Katy Funeral Home
- MD Anderson Surgical Oncology APP Group
- METRO Blue Santa
- National Charity League, Heart of Texas
- Optum
- Orion EMS
- PBK Architects
- Russell and Smith, Ford, Mazda, Honda
- St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
- St. Martin's Episcopal Church
- The Carol Sam family
- The Cole Group
- The Staine family, in gratitude to Bo's Place and in memory of Jeff Williford
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 343
- Volterra Energy
- Westside/Northside Lexus



## Pregnancy Loss support for Spanish speakers

Starting in 2018, Bo's Place is pleased to announce that we will be offering a Pregnancy Loss group for mothers who have experience the death of an infant, stillbirth, or miscarriage and whose language of their heart is Spanish.

For more information, please click below.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## Volunteer Spotlight: The Junior League of Houston

The relationship between Bo's Place and The Junior League of Houston, Inc. (the League) began when Bo's Place was founded. Knowing the experience of the League with nonprofit management, early Bo's Place board members reached out to League member friends to tap



into their expertise. From those founding days, the League has been a reliable friend to Bo's Place through various programs.

Three years ago, Bo's Place became a permanent placement for the League. As a result of the program, the League provides weekly volunteer support from 12 dedicated members, as well as support through additional volunteer projects throughout the year. The League provides four holiday meals for Bo's Place families during the holiday. Volunteers from the League's VIEW placement provide incredible hand-crafted and sewn items for Bo's Place. In November 2017, VIEW volunteers handmade 150 blue butterfly pins in honor of Children's Grief Awareness Month. VIEW volunteers have also made festive seasonal aprons for our kitchen volunteers to wear as they serve meals to our families each year.

Bo's Place wishes to extend our gratitude to all of those League members who have dedicated their time and talent to furthering our mission to enhance the lives of those who have experienced the death of a loved one. In 2017, League members contributed 654 volunteer hours to Bo's Place. To see these dynamic women in action, view the recent KPRC "Women Making a Difference" story.

[VIEW VIDEO](#)

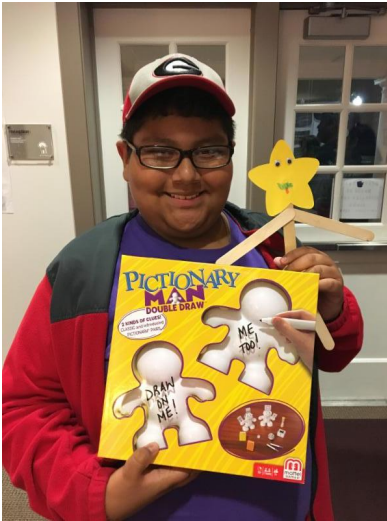


## Kids Night Out!

Kid's Night Out is a December tradition at Bo's Place. The holidays can be a difficult time for grieving families, and many guardians struggle to find time to balance the extra demands of the season. It can be hard for adults in our family groups to find time to shop, decorate or to have time to themselves or with other adults. Through a longtime partnership with the education fraternity Kappa Delta Pi at the University of Houston, we offer a night of fun for children and teens every December.

This year, on December 1, children gathered in the Bo's Place dining room for a pizza dinner and then played games like Twister, Connect 4, Kerplunk, Guess Who, and Guesstures. Other highlights included creating holiday crafts, face painting, and watching the movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Laughter filled the building as the children and teens had fun and made new friends. Thank you to Kappa Delta Pi for their continued partnership in helping Bo's Place to help heal hearts during the holidays.





## Remembering a Bo's Place friend, June Stobaugh

In early 2017, Bo's Place Executive Director Mary Beth Staine and other friends of Bo's Place nominated a longtime friend and supporter, June Milton Gray Stobaugh, for the esteemed Adelaide Lovett Baker Award of The Junior League of Houston, Inc. Named after the the League's first Houston President, the Adelaide Lovett Baker Award annually recognizes a sustaining member who exemplifies innovation, dedication, and leadership through ongoing volunteer work beyond her years of active League service.

In an excerpt from her nomination, Mary Beth reflects:

"While June and I are both past presidents of The Junior League of Houston, Inc.,

I did not have the pleasure of meeting and getting to know June until the Summer of 2010. June chaired the Search Committee that hired me as Executive Director for Bo's Place. I have never met such a lovely, gracious individual as June Stobaugh. From our very first phone conversation, I could tell that she too had been trained by the Junior League of Houston.

My friendship with June blossomed that first year I was at Bo's Place - she led the transition team that oriented me to my new role and continued to be a mentor to me even after she rolled off the Bo's Place board in 2012. June is a true servant leader, leading by example and setting the bar high. She is also a skilled and knowledgeable nonprofit professional who works hard to ensure that best practices are implemented in any organization in which she is involved. She has a gift for making people feel cared for and appreciated, that their efforts matter and make a difference. She inspires those around her to want to do and be their very best selves every day.

This is a woman who takes the time to write a personal note to me and to other staff members virtually every month after receiving our newsletter - commenting on a well-written article or complimenting my staff on an accomplishment or goal met. Hers will be the first email that I receive after an event, providing words of praise and encouragement as well as a story of personal delight over some aspect of our fundraiser. When a surprise gift of something scrumptious arrives unexpectedly at Halloween, Christmas, or Valentine's Day, we know it's from June. It has become an annual treat to receive an email from June advising us that there are extra bulbs at the Houston Bulb Mart and inquiring whether our clinicians could use them in any of our family activities. I hope this gives (you) just a small window into the kindness and generous spirit that June brings to the many organizations to which she dedicated her time and talents."

In March, June lost her battle with cancer. We at Bo's Place already miss her warm smile and kind compliments as she walks the halls to greet staff members, but we know her legacy will live on through all of the seeds she has sewn throughout the community.

Editor's note: read the full article about June as it appeared in *Houstonews*.

[READ ARTICLE](#)





It's not too late to purchase a table or reserve your seat for our annual Hearts of Hope Luncheon on February 15, 2018 at the Royal Sonesta.

Our Chairs, Lauren Hamner and Eloise Novotny hope you will join us for an inspiring afternoon where our speakers Brian Griesse and Dr. Brook Griesse will share with us their heart for our mission. We'll also honor Rahul Mehta with the Robin Bush Award.

Your support will help us provide grief support groups at no cost to more than 1,300 individuals and "answer the call" for more than 2,200 people seeking a compassionate ear and grief resources.

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



## Happenings

On December 2, **National Charity League**, Memorial Tick Tockers chapter, visited Bo's Place for a meeting and philanthropy project. These young volunteers and their mothers packaged an assortment of snacks to be handed out with the Boxes of Blessings to our families.





On December 4, staffers from **Born This Way Foundation** stopped by while Lady Gaga was in town to help us prepare our "grief journey" activity maps!



Members of Bo's Buddies gathered at Ride Heights to "cycle for a cause" on December 9. **Ride with Buddy** was a great way to get some exercise on a Saturday morning and raise money at the same time!



Thanks to Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Bo's Place families were welcome to pick up **"Boxes of Blessing"** on December 10. The boxes included dried goods, canned and perishable foods, the Gospel of John, and crafts.

The entire Bo's Place staff gathered at The Junior League of Houston Tea Room on December 13 for a **staff holiday lunch**, enjoying spectacular food and great company. Afterwards, we returned to Bo's Place for our annual white elephant exchange, which was as fun as ever!



## Bo's Place Grief Support Services

At Bo's Place, we believe that enabling grieving families to share their experiences with each other helps these families navigate the grief journey and move towards hope and healing. We offer free Grief Support Groups in English and Spanish to families and individuals.

*If you or someone you know would like information about Bo's Place Grief Support Groups for children, families, and adults, click [here](#) or call 713.942.8339.*

Bo's Place exists to enhance the lives of those who have experienced the death of a loved one.  
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