08.10.17: **DAY of SERVICE**

**The Beacon (downtown) [http://www.helpthebeacon.com/](http://www.helpthebeacon.com/)**
Providing services that help restore dignity, self-respect, and hope to Houston’s poor and homeless. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: kitchen/meal service and laundry.

**Casa de Esperanza [https://www.casahope.org/](https://www.casahope.org/)**
Casa de Esperanza de los Niños - the House of Hope for Children - is a safe place for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect or the effects of HIV. Casa de Esperanza provides residential care, and coordinates medical and psychological services according to the needs of each child. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: planning and carrying out activity with the kids.

**Center Houston [http://thecenterhouston.org/](http://thecenterhouston.org/)**
The Center promotes the pursuit of choice, growth, and personal independence for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: activities (games) with the clients.

Hermann Park Conservancy is a nonprofit citizens’ organization dedicated to the stewardship and improvement of Hermann Park – today and for generations to come. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: weeding, mulching, raking pine needles and cutting back shrubs/plants.

**Houston Arboretum and Nature Center [http://houstonarboretum.org/](http://houstonarboretum.org/)**
Located on the western edge of Memorial Park, the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center offers an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life and the opportunity to experience the natural world. This 155-acre non-profit urban nature sanctuary provides education about the natural environment to people of all ages. It plays a vital role in protecting native plants and animals in the heart of the city where development threatens their survival. The Houston Arboretum is a private non-profit educational facility that operates city land. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: project to enhance the ecological health of the 155 acres of nature sanctuary or trails (ex. clearing trails of vegetation, mulching trails with chipped wood mulch, removal of invasive species and other maintenance).

Mission – leading the fight against hunger. In fiscal year 2015-2016, the Houston Food Bank distributed 79,000,000 nutritious meals. The vision for the future is to expand service to the community to 100,000,000 nutritious meals by 2018. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: preparing and packaging nutritious hot meals or helping sanitize the kitchen.

*Live Well • Be Well*
Mission – to end childhood hunger by delivering free, healthy meals to the doorsteps of Houston’s hungriest preschool-agreed children. Kids’ Meals is a first-responder to children ages five-years-old and under facing debilitating hunger due to extreme poverty. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: preparing meals.

The Lighthouse of Houston is a private, nonprofit education and service center dedicated to assisting blind and visually impaired people to live independently. This organization offers a wide variety of educational programs, community services and outpatient rehabilitation for the blind and visually impaired. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: assisting with recreation classes for blind/visually impaired persons and/or serving meal.

Magnificat Houses Loaves and Fishes [http://magnificathousesinc.org/Loaves_And_Fishes.html](http://magnificathousesinc.org/Loaves_And_Fishes.html)
Magnificat offers faith, hope and charity to the neediest by providing housing, food, work, spiritual and emotional support while their residents – of all races and creeds – build their lives in community. Last year, Loaves and Fishes served approximately 95,000 meals – 200-400 meals per day, six days a week (Tuesday – Sunday). This organization is funded by donations and greatly aided by volunteers. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: preparing and serving meals and clean up.

Medical Bridges [http://www.medicalbridges.org/](http://www.medicalbridges.org/)
Mission – to bridge the healthcare gap worldwide by procuring and distributing medical equipment and supplies to underserved communities. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: sorting donated medical supplies in preparation for shipment to those in need in developing countries and may also include assisting biomedical technicians repair and clean medical equipment in preparation for shipment.

Plant It Forward [http://plant-it-forward.org/](http://plant-it-forward.org/)
Plant It Forward provides Houston with fresh, local produce by helping refugees grow their own urban farm businesses. Each farmer is trained to farm using organic methods and sell their produce through farmers markets, farm stands, restaurants, and farm shares. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: gardening/farming.

Project C.U.R.E. [https://projectcure.org/](https://projectcure.org/)
Project C.U.R.E. is the largest provider of donated medical supplies and equipment to developing countries around the world. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: sorting donations.

Retreat [https://med.uth.edu/retreat/](https://med.uth.edu/retreat/)
Travel to Camp Allen to help the Retreat planning committee set up and decorate.
**St. Dominic Village** [http://www.stdominicvillage.org/howyoucanhelp.html](http://www.stdominicvillage.org/howyoucanhelp.html)

St. Dominic Village, one of the leading providers of senior care in the Greater Houston area and a member of the Texas Medical Center, is a faith-based, non-profit, continuing care retirement community dedicated to caring for our elders with compassion. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: working with nursing center to carry out a group activity.

**Star of Hope** [http://www.sohmission.org/volunteer/becoming-a-volunteer/](http://www.sohmission.org/volunteer/becoming-a-volunteer/)

Star of Hope is a Christ-centered community dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless men, women and their children. Positive life changes are encouraged through structured programs which focus on spiritual growth, education, employment, life management and recovery from substance abuse. Service activity includes but not limited to the following: serving meals or sorting donations.