



LIFELine

Local Infant Formula
for Emergencies

To provide emergency formula and food for hungry babies and information about proper infant nutrition.

LIFE/HOUSTON

Legacy Luncheon

Nearly 200 friends and supporters of LIFE/Houston gathered recently at a special luncheon held on the campus of Church of the St. John the Divine to celebrate our 20th anniversary and honor our founding board members. It was truly a memorable afternoon as many of the founders were pleased and excited with the progress of the **Food for Hungry Babies** program. The luncheon, titled, "Celebrating our LifeLine...Living Our Legacy," featured a moving nostalgic look back over the past 20 years and beautiful centerpieces donated by **Kroger Foods**. Local television anchor, Gina Gaston of Channel 13 served as Mistress of Ceremonies and luncheon title sponsors were **Direct Energy** and the **Julia and Albert Smith Family Foundation**. Over \$25,000 was raised to support **Food for Hungry Babies**.



Luncheon Honorees: Back row (left to right) Rev. John R. Pitts; Tommy Wright; Bert Smith, and Rev. Larry Hall. Front row (left to right) Barbara Cauble; Evelyn Howell; Janet Buffone; Gayle Pearson; Marion Knight, and Frances Jeter. Not pictured: Sue Brown; Caroline Crowsley, and Dr. Lucy Kormeier.

As mentioned in previous editions of LIFELine, LIFE/Houston was started in 1988 as a ministry of Church of St. John the Divine as a response to the demonstrated need for emergency formula assistance. Marion Knight, a resident of Ft. Worth, first conceived the idea for such a program in Ft. Worth and assumed, rightly it turned out, that there were many residents in the Houston area who would also benefit from such a program. Ms. Knight worked closely with the Right Rev. Maurice Benitez, former Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Texas, The Rev. Larry Hall, Rector at St. John and a core group 10 individuals to create the only social service agency that provides infant formula to families experiencing emergencies. Today, **Food for Hungry Babies** operates 5 full service offices and serves close to 7,000 families each year.

LIFE/Houston
2008 Corporate Sponsor

Direct Energy

**LIFE/Houston
Board Members****Gloria Cotton**
*President***Brannon Robertson**
*Vice President***Sarah Phillips**
*Secretary***Marcus Johnson**
*Treasurer***Edith Dugas****Katherine Easterby****Michele Fraga****Kevin Hardman****Ann McDaniel****Rhonda Terracini****LIFE/Houston Staff****Jasmine Williams**
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*Client Service Specialist***Sally Mendez**
*Office Manager / Client Services
Specialist***2002 S. Wayside Dr.**
Suite 113
Houston, Texas 77023
713.528.6044
www.lifehouston.org**Business Hours:**
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**Client hours:**
Monday - Friday
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

LIFELine is a quarterly publication of LIFE/Houston,
a local non-profit organization
that provides food, formula and nutritional assistance to needy,
hungry babies.

Newsletter design and layout by Sara Cronin, APR.

From the Executive Director's Desk

It is hard to believe the holidays are already upon us. It seems as if it was only yesterday that we were launching our new satellite office in the Heights and on the heels of that the special ribbon-cutting ceremony. Alas, time sure seems to fly these days.

It is easy however, to remember the families we served...the husband who started a computer business that hadn't yet made a profit and even though his wife was working, they had problems making ends meet; the mother of 8-month old David who visited LIFE/Houston because her diaper bag was stolen; the foster mother who was caring for a 5-day old little girl; or Leann Byrd, with her early arrival newborn. Her and her husband began early preparations for the baby and still found themselves short. We met Lenell Larigne, a Gustav evacuee who arrived in Houston for the second time after a hurricane. Lenell just needed help with her 6-day old little boy. Ariana Vasquez and her 9-month old daughter needed help as did Paula Dickinson, Leticia Carranza, Josephina Munoz, Perla Gonzales, Celsa Alvarado, Brenda Ponce, Glen Johnson, and Julie Santos.

We served caregivers who were the grandparents, or aunts or cousins. Clients came from all over metropolitan Houston and as mentioned above, even from other states.

Most visited our office once or twice, accepting help and then managing on their own. Through letters and notes and phone calls, they expressed appreciation for **Food for Hungry Babies**, the only social service agency who provides formula and baby food to families who are experiencing emergencies.

The clients mentioned represent the thousands of families we serve each year and we are able to do so because of the generous support of foundations, churches, corporations and individuals. If you have not yet made your charitable contribution for 2008, we hope you will consider LIFE/Houston's **Food for Hungry Babies** Program for the critical need we meet in our community.

Jasmine Williams, Executive Director

**LIFE/Houston Distribution Centers****Phone: 713.528.6044**
*for all locations.***St. Austin Center**
South Wayside, Suite 113
Houston, TX 77023**Humble Area Assistance Ministries**
1302 First Street East
Humble, TX 77338**Memorial Assistance Ministries**
1625 Blalock Road
Houston, TX 77080**ECHOS Community Center**
9600 S. Gessner @Bissonnet, Bldg. E
Houston, TX 77071
713-270-0369**West End Multi-Service Center**
170 Heights Blvd.
Houston, TX 77007

Client Stories

Hello, my name is Christine and I have a beautiful little girl named Briana and she is my life. I am 4 months pregnant but even though there are a lot of ups and downs in the world, I choose to see the better side of things. Thanks to LIFE/Houston, I have formula for Briana and know if I need help in the future with my new baby next year, I can come back. This place is wonderful!



Hi, my name is Laura and I really appreciate everything you have done for me and my daughter. You are very special.

I would like to thank your staff for helping me at a time that has been very difficult for my family. My son is a Marine, stationed in Iraq and has 3 kids. The mother got on drugs and the kids were placed with my husband and me. The baby, Alexis's milk is very expensive and the WIC could not help but referred me to LIFE/Houston. I am very thankful that LIFE/Houston was there for my family. Sylvia Esparza

Volunteer Spotlight

Michele Fraga is a busy woman. In addition to her duties as customer service manager for Tejas Office Products, her family-owned business, she volunteers her time to 12 local non-profit agencies including Hispanic Women in Leadership, Greater Houston Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Greater Houston Partnership, Houston Minority Council, and Women's Business Enterprise Alliance, to name a few. She's the daughter of Lupe Fraga, founder/owner of Tejas Office Products and the niece of former City Councilman, Felix Fraga and has an extensive background in business and politics. But her number one and longest civic interest goes back 11 years to LIFE/Houston.

In 1997, she received a call from a friend from high school who told her about an interesting volunteer opportunity. The friend directed development efforts for LIFE/Houston and felt Michele would be a perfect to serve on the board of directors. Michele hadn't heard of LIFE/Houston. What intrigued her was the fact that the agency appeared to be one of Houston's "well-kept secrets." The friend's invitation paid off. Michele agreed to join the board of directors and 11 years later she continues to champion LIFE/Houston's cause.

Michele says LIFE/Houston is special because "there is no other agency anywhere like us! Not as of yet." But she says her mantra, "has always been 'who doesn't want to feed hungry babies?' That in and of itself is a great motivational tool."

During her tenure on the board, Michele has worked tirelessly for LIFE/Houston's **Food for Hungry Babies** Program. Her extensive civic and volunteer involvement makes her a constant presence in the philanthropic community which in turn allows her access to information streams that make up the life blood of a non-profit such as LIFE/Houston.

According to Michele, her parents instilled in all of their children their philosophy of philanthropy. "They expected nothing less...than to give back to community in which we were all raised," she says today. Her brother, Stephen also gives his time to non-profits by serving on various boards, as does her sister Alisa.

Michele's commitment to LIFE/Houston is motivated by the countless stories from clients. They are all "unique," she says. And they all are able to receive help.



Board member Michele Fraga (standing) pictured with (L to R): Harris County Judge Ed Emmett's wife, Gwen, Michele's parents, Lupe and Irene Fraga, and community volunteer, Sylvia Spivey.

Looking to Make a Donation?

Donating items from our wish list will help eliminate some of the expenses that could otherwise be used to feed a hungry baby.

Our Wish List:

- Copy paper → Locking Storage Cabinet
- Computer Laser Printer → Baby Formula
 - Baby Food → Baby Bottles
 - Baby Wipes → Infant Car Seats
 - Gently Worn → Baby Clothes

Volunteers are always welcomed. To learn more how to get involved please contact **Jasmine** or **Sally** at 713-528-6044 or visit our website at www.lifehouston.org.

Getting Involved... Do you have any spare time on your hands? Want to help make a difference and help feed hungry babies in Houston? If so, LIFE/Houston could use an extra pair of hands. Volunteers are needed for the following positions:

- ▶ Hosting a Basics for Baby Drive
- ▶ Community Outreach/Public Relations
- ▶ Executive/Business Expertise
- ▶ Clerical/General office help

We also welcome college students who are looking for work experience. Flexible hours and a fun working environment are what you can expect! For more information, please call **Jasmine** or **Sally** at 713-528-6044 or visit our website at www.lifehouston.org.

Your Contribution Makes a Difference

Totals	4524	2881	562	1186	1855	909	703	350	196	94	23	40
Total Visits	4524	2881	562	1186	1855	909	703	350	196	94	23	40
Formula*	5795	1001	2687	1034	646	427	931	2015	4813	1958	2015	40
Diapers*	9632	2244	4476	1437	544	931	1958	2015	4813	1958	2015	40
Wipes*	28352	5613	13953	4813	1958	2015	40					

Client Statistics



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