Julia C. Hester House
Annual Report 2008

see the changes we’re making ...
Mission
To enhance the quality of lives in Fifth Ward and the surrounding communities through programs and services promoting self-empowerment.
Dear Friends & Supporters:

The Board of Directors of the Julia C. Hester House is dedicated to carrying forth its mission, which began over sixty six years ago, of providing critical services to the Fifth Ward community. These services represent a premium value to the clients that forever change the quality of life for children of all ages and adults, including our swinging seniors.

Two-thousand eight (2008) was a milestone year for the agency. Though many challenges are being faced during this global economic downturn, precluded by the devastation of Hurricane Ike; remarkable progress is being made through fund development, program improvements, human resources, financial management, brand marketing, building improvements, community relationships, and the creation of new partnerships with local and state governmental agencies.

Just as Julia C. Hester opened her home to neighborhood youth to enhance their safety and encourage them to succeed in their education so many years ago, it is critical that the Hester House continues its good works. The need in the community has never been greater.

Julia C. Hester House has the opportunity to work collaboratively to create pathways that reduce social inequalities, assist families in crises, and the homeless with a variety of services in the spirit of dignity and respect. Julia C. Hester House has enriched the lives of seniors through social activities and nutritional programs. The agency continues to reach out to youth of all ages by providing them a place to learn, experience, and grow. Emergency services are provided to those in need.

The Board looks forward to working with all of you to bring about a better future for the greater Fifth Ward community through continued self empowerment, education and support services. Without the support of our community partners, Julia C. Hester’s work would fall short of meeting the growing demand.

As the agency continues to reach higher and further to serve those in need, the Julia C. Hester House family thanks you for your continued support. Now is the time to press forward and make all of our dreams a reality. Yes, we can and we will.
As I reflect back on 2008, it is hard for me to believe that I have been at the helm of the Julia C. Hester House for more than a year now. I am proud to say we have many accomplishments, yet much remains to be done. As we focused our attention on the historic presidential election and the economic downturn, the word change has been the mantra of many.

When I began my work here, I too recognized that change would be necessary to move us into the future as a strong viable resource that is necessary to meet the growing needs of the residents of the Fifth Ward and surrounding communities. As a community service organization, we touch thousands of lives each year. We offer services for people in crisis, people who are approaching homelessness, people with disabilities, young people at risk, and people who are aging.

During this time of great change, the Hester House seeks to meet the community’s most urgent and unmet needs. Although our services continue to aim to help people keep or find a valued social role, our approach and service delivery systems are different, so that we adjust to the changing needs of the community.

Environmental forces push us in the positive direction of reducing cost, improving quality of services, locating new opportunities for partnerships and growth. As we promote these goals and advocate for a community where all people can take an active and respected role, change has helped us to position ourselves for a far better future. We look forward to you joining us in the next year to make change happen one person at a time.
From our Pre-Kindergarten toddlers, after school children, teens, adults and seniors, 2008 was a great year of accomplishments and continued delivery of quality services. In 2008, we served a total of 6,732 unduplicated clients:

- 334 Early Childhood Services
- 390 Youth Services
- 5,908 Family and Social Services
- 100 Senior Enrichment

**Early Childhood Services**

The goal is to foster a positive, healthy learning environment for children and continue to empower individual families. Three hundred thirty four (334) children were served during 2008. The Pre-Kindergarten program provides basic skills to children 4 years old through a curriculum that encourages, facilitates and stimulates the pre-school child’s development within the context of a community where psychological, physical and mental needs are stable. Our After School component provides after school services for youth ages 5–12 years. Students participate in recreational and educational activities that compliment their daily school curriculum in the areas of academic enhancement, skill development, enrichment and community involvement.

**Youth Services**

Youth, 13–17 years old, are encouraged to participate in social and recreational activities. In 2008, Youth Services provided 390 youths vital after-school activities and workshops led by volunteers and community leaders who serve as role models. Through activities and workshops as varied as character building, college preparation, job readiness training, field trips and the occasional party, the young people learn team-building skills, life skills, conflict resolution and the value of education and success.
Family and Social Services

During 2008, 5,908 clients received educational and supportive services through our program that addresses client needs and promotes self-sufficiency. The program alleviates obstacles impacting personal, educational and economic attainment. The program’s coordination of supportive services and case management helps to eliminate obstacles that frequently prevent clients from becoming stable. The elimination of these obstacles allows families to achieve personal, educational and economic independence.

Senior Services

The “Swinging Seniors” of Hester House continue to grow. In 2008, 100 seniors received services through a program which supports independent living with dignity. In a community-based environment, the focus is on their nutritional, emotional and physical needs. The seniors engaged in a range of activities including nutritional workshops, health screenings, field trips, line dancing and devotion. The seniors are the pillars of our community and the shining beacons of Hester House.
Hurricane Ike

The impact of Hurricane Ike caused our operations to shut down for several weeks. Due to the dedication of a tremendous team of staff members, volunteers and generous supporters, we quickly recovered and resumed on-site services for the seniors two weeks after the storm. Staff members maintained contact with many of our clients throughout the power outage, delivered healthy meals and assured client safety. Through a generous donation from Heal the Hood and United Way of Greater Houston, we provided emergency rental and utility assistance to 42 families.

2008 Highlights

Senior Prom – Tikvah BBG and Shapiro AZA hosted the event where our seniors had an afternoon of dancing and food; some experiencing Prom for the first time.

Volunteer Days

ExxonMobil – For National Volunteer Week and United Way Days of Caring, ExxonMobil volunteers generously completed two massive projects that impacted our facilities and our clients. Our hallways are brightened with new paint, the spaces of the parking lot are clearly marked with striping and volunteers enjoyed the day reading to the children and creating Mother’s Day projects. During Hurricane Ike, part of our loss was the theft of every computer in the building. ExxonMobil recognized how critical our situation was and generously donated brand new computers for the entire building.

FMC Technologies – FMC volunteers hosted a “Fun Day” with activities for our children in Early Childhood Services. The event included a petting zoo, an outdoor carnival, gift cards and pizza.
Pricewaterhouse Coopers – Over 250 volunteers arrived at Hester House prepared to complete a monumental beautification project. All of our offices were refreshed with new coats of paint, our floors rejuvenated with new carpet, and our grounds revived with new landscaping, a new sign and flags. The Orange Show artist joined in to splash our playground with bright colors of lime green and orange and adorned the side of the building with a cool mural, which is inviting to the children.

Back to School Event – Featured educational vendor booths, fun activities for the kids, live performances and door prizes. One hundred nine (109) families received back to school supplies for their children from CenterPoint Energy vendor booths.

Annual Awards Luncheon – This year’s luncheon was an incredible event and a great success! Hester House honored Andrea White, First Lady of Houston, Commissioner El Franco Lee, and Harris County Constable Victor Trevino for their extensive outreach and support to Houston’s communities in need.

Chrismakuh – Tikvah BBG and Shapiro AZA hosted a combined Christmas/Hannakah holiday event for our seniors, preparing traditional latkes and celebrating with song, dance, dradles and decorating a Christmas tree.

Holiday Dreams – Forty-nine (49) families, including 188 children were adopted and received assistance for the holiday season from AT&T Narrowband Repair Center, The Association of Black MBA’s, Florence Moore, Kashmire Pharmacy, Madison High School, National African American Corvette Club, National Charity League Bayou City Chapter, St. Michael’s Women’s Guild and Wheatley Class of 1958.
the people

Board of Directors 2008-2009
Patricia Roberts – Chair
Bruce Austin – First Vice Chair
Paula Harris – Second Vice Chair
Nicole Robinson – Secretary
Dr. Albert Lemons – Assistant Secretary
Yolanda Nimmer-Williams – Treasurer

Directors
Yvette Chargois
Duni Hebron
Kerrick Henny
Genevieve Rousseve

Julia C. Hester House Staff 2008
Jennifer K. Holmes, MS Executive Director
Mattie Stanfield, Early Childhood Services Manager
Felicia Jackson, Youth Services/Senior Services Manager
Nelda Allen, Family and Social Services Manager
Kacie Yiu, Fund Development Coordinator
Ingrid Espinoza, Executive Assistant
Alma Llorance, Senior Specialist
Lottie Willis, After School Specialist
Trina Stephens, After School Specialist
Eddie Breggs, Early Childhood Specialist
Iles Faye, Early Childhood Specialist
Rhonda Freeman, Early Childhood Specialist
Linda Perkins, Early Childhood Specialist
Nakita Robinson, Early Childhood Specialist
Lurline Sampson, Early Childhood Specialist
Jocelyn Stewart, Early Childhood Specialist
Lillie Williams, Early Childhood Specialist
Loretta Curry, Receptionist
Charles Anderson, Maintenance
the financials


Current Assets
Cash – unrestricted $129,738
Contributions receivable 17,000
Total Current Assets 146,738

Cash – restricted 1,677,231
Investments 32,979
Property and equipment 656,245
Total Assets $2,513,193

Liabilities and Net Assets
Current Liabilities:
Accounts payable $26,265
Accrued and other liabilities 12,594
Total Current Liabilities 38,859
Refundable Advance 25,000
Total Liabilities 63,859

Net Assets:
Unrestricted 772,103
Temporarily restricted 1,677,231
Total net assets 2,449,334
Total Liabilities and Net Assets $2,513,193

Support and Revenue
United Way allocations $566,485
Grants and awards 136,835
Contributions 92,724
In-kind expense 29,599
Program Income 134,998
Interest income 50,350
Unrealized gain on investment 26,236
Fundraising 57,355
Rental income 41,634
Net assets from released restrictions 0
Total Support and Revenue $1,136,216

Expenses
Program services:
Family and social service $91,817
Basic skills education 63,654
Child care and development 357,941
Youth empowerment 159,581
Senior service 142,059
Total program services 815,052

Supporting services:
Fundraising 12,440
Management and general 130,491
Total supporting services 142,931
Total expenses $957,983

Changes in net assets 178,233
Net Assets at Beginning of Year 2,271,101
Net Assets at End of Year $2,449,334
special thanks

Individuals

Nora Ackerley
Beverly Adams
Michael Adams
Jeff Alexander
Luelia Alexander
Deborah Allmon
Carolyn Arnold
Kevin Arrington
Bruce Austin
Judy Jo Baiamonte
Michael Baisden
Jeff Alexander
Luella Alexander
Deborah Allmon
Carolyn Arnold
Kevin Arrington
Bruce Austin
Judy Jo Baiamonte
Michael Baisden
Fred Barrett
Ingrid Beal
Debra Beasley
Drew & Kathy Berkman
Daphne Bernicker
Nancy Bickerstaff
Wendi Blohm
Susan Bono
Bernice Bosier
Karen Boyle
Nancy Bratic
Brad & Ellen Brodsky Gaber
In Honor of Joy Kaplan
Sylvia Brooks
Joy Kaplan
Kerry & Belle Collins Brown
Seacry Brown
Yasmin Brown
Faye B. Bryant
Anthony Burgs
Zinetta Burney
Julia Burns
Frederick Cage
Don Caleb
Artist Canton
D'An Carter
Neil and Elizabeth Chapman
Vivette Chargois
Karen Christos
Michael Cinelli
Clifford Clark
Marie Clark
Tina Clayton
John Clemmons, Jr.
Krisitn Clemmons
Leon Coke
Krista Coner
Michelle Collier
Emra Collins
Awna Cooper
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Tami Hanks
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Judy Harris
Paul Harris
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Dun Hebron
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Forest Henry, III
Wiley Henry
Wiley & Sherreta Henry, II
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Merline Higgins
Collette Hilstock
Debra Hissey
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Gloria Hunt
Brenda Hurst
Paul Hutcherson
Danny Jacobs
Evelyn Jackson
Mary Jackson
Amy Jaffe
Rose Johnson
Adrian Jones
Sherrill Kamau
Edward & Marie Kaminski
Joy Kaplan
Carolyn & Jay Kaplan Fund
In Honor of Joy Kaplan
Martha Kaplan
Misra Kebede
Suzanne Kuch
James Lancaster
Terry Land
Kase and Eileen Lawal
Pamela Lazard
Albert Lemons
Tommie & Clasics Lemons
Brenda Lewis
Kevin Lewis
Nelda Conner Lewis
Quinn Lewis
Sylvestor Lewis
Patricia Lindsey
Jane Lundell
Margaret Maranuk
Moses Mason
Chasta Martin
Joyce Mathis
In Memory of Ira Mathis
Darin Maxwell
Eric & Isabelle Mayer Charitable Fund
Torris McCall
Michael McGee
Karen McGlovin
Rose Mary McGowan
Sandia Meadows
Karen Meikle
Thomas & Barbara Meloncon
Peter Mieszkowski
Jan & Arnold Miller Fund
Susan Miller
Brendy Minor
Maryam Parvizian Mireskandari
Monica Monroe
Grace Moolchan
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Phillip Moore
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Mary Rousseve
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Rosa Rush
Joanna Ryan
Mark Ryan
Velinda Salyers
Odessa Sayles
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Carol Schmoll
Corporations, Organizations and Foundations

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Alpha Omega Bank  
AMJ Energy Consulting  
Anheuser–Busch, Inc.  
AT&T  
AT&T Houston Narrowband Repair Center  
AT&T Matching Grants  
Atherton Elementary School, PTO  
Becker Family Foundation  
Belzora Henry Memorial Fund  
Black MBAs – Houston Chapter  
BP Corporation North America America, Inc.  
Career and Recovery Sources, Inc.  
Cathlidn Energy, Inc.  
CenterPoint Energy  
Chevron Executive Campaign  
Chevron Humankind  
Chevron Humankind Matching Gifts Grant  
Child Care Council of Greater Houston, Inc.  
Children’s Museum of Houston  
City of Houston, Mayor’s ASAP Program  
Continental Airlines  
Constables Athletic Recreational & Educational Events, Inc.  
The Ensemble Guild

Susan Takiff Schneider  
In Honor of Joy Kaplan  
Zoeanne Sharp  
Jeanette Short  
John Singleton  
Roderick Simpson  
Edward Smith, Jr.  
Sheila Smith  
Charles Smoother, II  
Gary Smotherman  
Ronald Soligo  
Sherra Sowell  
Alicia Spencer  
Jesse Springer  
Gary & Tracy Stein  
Monica Stevenson  
Maurice Stewart  
Maureen Storie  
John Mark & Fran Story  
Fred Stovall  
Vernus Swisher  
Joseph Synan  
Gloria Tapscott  
Gregory Thompson  
Amy Thorpe  
Khang Tjang  
Dr. Polly Turner  
Sandra Upfill-Brown  
Darryl Vales  
Gordana Vickers  
Kelvin Waller  
Linda Ware  
Circhelle Washington  
Derrick Washington  
Sarah Watson  
Helen Welker  
Kerry Whelan  
Michael Whitcher  
Henry Wiley  
Derek Williams  
Helen Williams  
Queen Williams  
Ceylette Willis  
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Yewande Ajan  
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David Alvarado  
Tim Anderson  
Tyler Anderson  
Diane Antonozah  
Carbs Areavab  
Hope Arnold  
Bridget Ashford  
Kharri Asmaa  
Olbukola Awojoba  
Katie Bailey  
Neldena Bailey  
Carolyn Baker  
ExxonMobil  
ExxonMobil Employee Giving  
ExxonMobil Global Services  
ExxonMobil Volunteer Grant  
FMC Technologies  
Fluor Employees  
Greater Horizons  
Harris County Precinct One  
Heal the Hood  
Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children  
Houston Community College System  
Houston Texans  
The International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers  
Jack and Jill – Katy and PV Chapter  
Kashmere Pharmacy  
Kinkaid School  
Krogier  
Lapin Properties, LLC  
Madison High School  
Marathon Oil Company  
Mary Rousseve Insurance Agency  
McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy LLP  
Memorial Middle School  
The Methodist Hospital Employees Metropolitan Duplicate Bridge Club  
Mission Care Center  
Montgomery County United Way  
National African American Corvette Club  
National Charity League – Bayou City Chapter  
National Conference of Firemen and Oilers  
District of Local 32 BJ/SEIU  
Orange Show Center for Visionary Art  
Pricewaterhouse Coopers  
Prudential Financial Renaissance Chicago Hotel  
Safeway  
Schlumberger  
Shapiro AZA  
Shell Oil Company  
Shell Oil Company & Motive Enterprise LLC  
Employees  
Sisters Network Inc.  
Solomon Cloister Lodge #18  
St. Michael’s Catholic Church  
St. Michael’s Women’s Guild  
St. Michael School  
Swinging Seniors  
TelecomPioneers, San Jacinto Council #300  
TelecomPioneers, South Texas Chapter #64  
Texas C-BAR  
Tikvah BBG  
UNICA  
United Space Alliance Employees  
United Way of Baytown  
United Way of Brazoria County  
United Way of Greater Houston  
United Way of Southern Pennsylvania  
University Duplicate Bridge Club  
Washington Mutual Employee Giving  
Weatley Class of 1958  
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