



Welcome
EMCEES – FRANK BILLINGSLEY AND ERNIE MANOUSE

Invocation
MARY GRACELY

Chairs
ROBIN AND DANNY KLAES

Executive Director
GLENDA HAYNES

Presentation of Legendary Honorees
MONICA HARTLAND
SAMANTHA AND DAVID KENNEDY
WARNER ROBERTS

Dinner

Testimonial
GLORIA GUINYARD

Appeal and Live Auction
JOHNNY BRAVO

Evening Concludes

Chairs

ROBIN AND DANNY KLAES

Honorary Chairs

LEILA PERRIN, BETH WOLFF AND CYNTHIA WOLFF

Legendary Honorees

**MONICA HARTLAND
SAMANTHA AND DAVID KENNEDY
WARNER ROBERTS**

Host Committee

Sharon Abercia
Farida Abjani
Nichole and Benny Agosto
Lara and Jay Bany
Laurel and Jeb Bashaw
Lara Bell
Leisa Holland-Nelson Bowman
Chree Boydston
Cheryl Byington
Lu Caltagirone
Cherri Carbonara
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Debbie and Britt Hance
Alice Harcrow
Deborah and Richard Harper
Joanna Hartland
Winell Herron
Heather and Richard Holmes
Betty Hrcir
Scott Evans and Jeff Henry
Joanne King Herring
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Brigitte Kalai
Chris Kase
Deborah Laws

Denise and Robert Leisten
Donna Lewis
Larry Martin
Hannah and Cal McNair
Jody Merritt
Dana and Don Miller
Kim Moody
Julie Pitts Mount
Susan Osterberg
Roz Pactor
Ashley and Douglas Plaeger
Sandra Porter
Nicole and Peter Psillides
Janelle and Greg Reid
Vicki Rizzo
Angie and Cliff Roberts
Heidi Rockecharlie
Regina Rogers

Nikki and Scott Samuelsen
Carol Sawyer
Alicia Smith
The Honorable Susan S. Soussan
Joyce and Tom Standish
Elizabeth and Alan Stein
Laura Stein
Nancy Strohmer
Heidi Turney
Betty Tutor
Saula Valente
Donna Vallone
Hallie Vanderhider
Laura Ward
Jerré and Dennis Williams
Marguerite Williams
Kari and John Work
Sherri Zucker

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Friends,

Welcome to **The Greatest Mission on Earth: Leaders & Legends Celebrating the Mission of Yahweh!**

Danny and I are so grateful to have you with us tonight. Seeing this room filled with friends who have come together to support the **Mission of Yahweh** means more to us than we can say.

When we agreed to chair this gala, we knew it would be a labor of love. What we could not have imagined was the extraordinary generosity, enthusiasm and kindness we would experience along the way. To our sponsors, donors, committee members, volunteers and every guest here tonight, **thank you from the bottom of our hearts.** You are what makes this evening possible.

We are especially proud to celebrate our remarkable honorees, **Monica Hartland, Samantha and David Kennedy, and Warner Roberts.** Their generosity, compassion and commitment to our community inspire us, and it is truly a privilege to honor them tonight.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful Honorary Chairs, Leila Perrin, Beth Wolff and Cynthia Wolff, for their friendship, encouragement and unwavering support.

Most importantly, tonight is about the women and children of the Mission of Yahweh. For more than six decades, the Mission has provided far more than shelter—it has offered hope, dignity, faith and the opportunity for a new beginning.

So tonight, have **fun and be generous!** Raise your paddle, bid on something fabulous, and please spend freely! Every dollar raised helps the Mission continue its extraordinary work, and we cannot think of a better reason to give.

Thank you for being here, for believing in this Mission and for sharing this very special evening with us. Your friendship and generosity mean the world to us.

Together, let's make **The Greatest Mission on Earth** a night to remember—and a night that truly changes lives.

With our love and deepest gratitude,

Robin & Danny Klaes
Gala Chairs



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Mission,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Gala, The Greatest Mission on Earth, as we celebrate 65 years of The Mission of Yahweh.

Many of you, like me, are proud members of the Mission family. Your unwavering support has helped transform countless lives, and this year, together, we have made remarkable progress.

Because of your commitment, we have:

- Expanded our Program and Case Management resources
- Expanded our Children's Program
- Completed a campus-wide electrical and technology upgrade
- Started a multi-year residential building upgrade
- Developed a comprehensive strategic plan that will guide the Mission into its next chapter, with a focus on strengthening services that promote long-term financial independence and break the cycle of homelessness.

These accomplishments represent more than improvements to our programs and facilities. They represent our continued commitment to creating a pathway from crisis to stability, from dependence to independence, and ultimately to a brighter future for every woman and child who calls the Mission home.

Thank you to our **Gala Chairs, Robin and Danny Klaes, and our Legendary Honorees, Monica Hartland, Samantha and David Kennedy, and Warner Roberts**, whose leadership, generosity, and commitment have helped make a lasting difference. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our **Honorary Chairs, Leila Perrin, Beth Wolff, and Cynthia Wolff**, for their incredible support.

Thank you to the underwriters and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make tonight possible. Thank you for celebrating the Mission of Yahweh with all of us. Your presence tonight means so much, and we are grateful to have you as part of the Mission family.

Together, we celebrate 65 years of hope, transformation, and lives changed—and look forward with faith and optimism to all that lies ahead.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Glenda Haynes
Executive Director



Thank you to our Underwriters

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Legendary Honoree

MONICA HARTLAND

Monica Hartland has spent much of her life caring for others. As the third oldest of 14 children, she learned at an early age what it meant to nurture, encourage and help those around her. Her parents did so much for so many people, and Monica saw firsthand how God continually blessed their generosity. They intentionally taught all of their children the value of philanthropy. Each month, they gave every child \$25 to donate to a charity of his or her choosing. The family would then gather to talk about the charities and what made each child feel compelled to give. Those early lessons shaped Monica's personal life and her commitment to philanthropy.

Monica carried that lesson with her when Julie Pitts introduced her to The Mission of Yahweh more than 25 years ago. At the time, after paying the bills she was responsible for, she often had no more than \$100 left each month. Even so, Monica felt God leading her to make a five-year commitment to give \$83 each month to The Mission. After making that commitment, there were many times when she thought to herself, "Wow, I really can't afford to do this. This is for rich people." Although there were months when she could not see how she would make the gift, she always found a way to follow through - and time and again, she saw God provide. That experience strengthened both her faith and her commitment to helping women and children facing difficult circumstances.

Her relationship with The Mission grew far beyond financial support. Eighteen years ago, Monica created Christmas on a Mission, and she has continued the beloved tradition ever since. Each year, it transforms the campus into a magical Christmas celebration for the women and children. Through the event, children receive gifts from their wish lists, while the women receive practical items, encouragement and thoughtful personal gifts such as bathrobes, perfume and beautiful body lotions to open on Christmas morning - gifts that help them feel seen, valued and celebrated as they work toward employment, independence and permanent housing.

Monica's passion for helping others extends throughout the Houston community. She has co-chaired Houston Ballet's inaugural Jubilee of Dance dinner, chaired the WorkFaith Spring Chicks Luncheon and co-chaired the Children's Assessment Center's Spirit of Spring Luncheon. Her philanthropic leadership has earned her recognition as a Fresh Face of Philanthropy. Warner Roberts also honored Monica with a Women of Substance award and named her among H Texas magazine's 25 Most Beautiful.

In 2019, Monica brought her passion for philanthropy to Baylor College of Medicine's Institutional Advancement team, helping raise support for research and medical advancements. That same heart for service later led her to found JoyCare, a deeply personal labor of love whose mission is to help people find joy and purpose, no matter where they are in life. Monica believes everyone needs a sense of purpose and that life is far better when it is filled with joy.

With her generous spirit, determination, infectious optimism and extraordinary heart for others, Monica has made a lasting impact on Houston. But perhaps nowhere is that impact felt more deeply than at The Mission of Yahweh, where her compassion has brought joy, hope and dignity to generations of women and children.



Legendary Honoree

SAMANTHA AND DAVID KENNEDY

Samantha and David Kennedy are longtime Houston leaders whose generosity, service, and commitment to their community have made a lasting difference. Together, they have supported numerous charitable organizations throughout Houston and have consistently stepped forward to help make their community stronger.

Samantha has been a dedicated leader of The Mission of Yahweh, serving six years on its Board and four years on its Advisory Board. She has chaired the organization's gala twice, first in 2013 and again in 2023, and has played an important role in its annual Christmas on a Mission celebration. Her leadership, compassion, and commitment have helped advance the Mission's work on behalf of women and children.

Professionally, Samantha is a Managing Director and Private Client Advisor with Bank of America Private Bank in Houston, where she advises families and nonprofit institutions on wealth management, banking, and philanthropic strategies. She has been with Bank of America since 2001 and holds degrees in Finance and an M.B.A. from Texas Tech University, as well as the Certified Investment Management Analyst® (CIMA®) designation.

David is an independent consultant and a fellow Texas Tech graduate, holding degrees in Management Information Systems and an M.B.A.

They consider raising their two daughters the greatest joy. Amelia is a sophomore at TCU, and Annabelle is a sophomore at St Agnes Academy. The girls have inspired much of their parents philanthropy, including volunteering for schools, sports and music. From an early age the girls have also volunteered for MOY and have wonderful memories of Christmas on a Mission. Together, Samantha and David have made philanthropy an important part of their lives, giving their time, talents, and resources to causes that strengthen Houston and improve the lives of others.

Their partnership in service reflects the very qualities for which they are being honored: leadership, generosity, and an enduring commitment to the Houston community.



Legendary Honoree

WARNER ROBERTS

Warner Roberts has spent a lifetime bringing creativity, energy and heart to everything she touches. Her remarkable career has included success as a fashion model, award-winning television host and journalist, actress, writer, publisher and community leader—but the roles she treasures most are wife, mother and grandmother. She is the proud mother of two sons, Cliff Roberts and his wife, Angie, and Bob Roberts and his wife, Kristen, and the very proud grandmother of five grandsons: Bobby, John Luke, Ryan, Cliff and Lee and two little great grandchildren Mallory and Pearl.

A familiar face to generations of Houstonians, Warner hosted The Warner Roberts Show and numerous television specials during a broadcasting career spanning four decades. She interviewed some of the world's most recognized personalities, including Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, Rosalynn Carter, Billy Graham, Charlton Heston and Frank Sinatra. Her career also included stage and film roles, writing and publishing, and the creation of The Houston Calendar of Social Events/The Social Book, Houston Treasures and Houston Sweethearts and she created a permanent museum, The Celebration of Hearts, in the lobby of the Texas Heart Institute.

Throughout her life, Warner has been equally passionate about giving back to the city she loves. She has served countless nonprofit organizations and received honors by over 20 nonprofit organizations recognizing her philanthropy and community leadership.

Her relationship with The Mission of Yahweh is especially meaningful. In 1981, after learning that Sister Helen Gay was sheltering homeless women and children, Warner became involved with The Mission and helped introduce its work to a broader Houston audience. She raised the funds for Sister Gay's Mission of Yahweh first Dormitory. Her support and friendship have continued through the years, reflecting the compassion and generosity that have defined so much of her life.

Tonight, we are honored to celebrate Warner Roberts—not only for her extraordinary career and accomplishments, but for the warmth, grace and generous spirit she has shared with Houston for decades. Please join us in recognizing Warner Roberts.





Our Vision

RESTORE HOPE. TRANSFORM LIVES. END HOMELESSNESS

Our Mission

FOUNDED IN 1961, THE MISSION OF YAHWEH IS A FAITH-BASED SHELTER THAT EMPOWERS, ENRICHES AND RESTORES THE LIVES OF HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND PROVIDES OUTREACH SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES IN NEED.

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Glenda Haynes

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