



HOUSTON HOSPICE  
*Life Matters*

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### **Mayor Sylvester Turner, TMC CEO Tell Audience at Salute to Volunteers Celebration That Volunteerism Means Opening Your Heart with No Regrets**

The Texas Medical Center celebrated outstanding volunteers during a special Salute to Volunteers luncheon on May 15, 2018. City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner along with TMC President and CEO William McKeon lauded the efforts of volunteers who served and represented numerous TMC member institutions among an audience of more than 200.

Recognized for her tireless dedication to hospice patients and families, Houston Hospice Volunteer of the Year Margaret Stone was among 20 individuals honored at the luncheon.

McKeon recalled a story from his youth when he was searching for the meaning of volunteering and trying to distinguish it from the role of work that adults performed. His father wisely told him the difference and something he'd never forget: "...when you volunteer you open up your heart."



That theme accentuated Mayor Turner's remarks, reflecting how strong Houston is as a city because it comes together in selfless ways, especially against the tragedy of Hurricane Harvey. Mayor Turner said: "Many of the people in this room were volunteering before Harvey" and will continue to do so after they help others recover from the storm that destroyed more than 130,000 homes and affected 200,000 apartment units. "It's in your DNA," he added. The mayor earlier told the audience: "I wanted to be here so I could say thank you on behalf of the City of Houston. The reality is that without volunteers it is hard to move the city forward. Without volunteers and in the absence of money, you can't get things done."

The Houston story is more than Harvey said Turner, it is about a character that is exemplified by helping others. “At our very core when we recognize that people find themselves in need, at our very core as human beings there’s an urge to reach and extend a helping hand. A desire to reach out and grab that hand. It is who we are.” The mayor closed by saying that doing good deeds and following your heart is rewarding because it leaves you with “no regrets.”

The good feeling of volunteering emanated from each volunteer as evidenced by Stone and all the recognized volunteers who are strong examples of volunteerism that have made Houston thrive in the past, present and future. For the afternoon gathering the event was a special opportunity for all present to say thank you.

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