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The Houston Hospice Newsletter is published by Houston Hospice, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides compassionate, end-of-life care to patients and families across 10 counties in Texas.

Houston Hospice is a member of the Texas Medical Center

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# HOUSTON HOSPICE NEWSLETTER

News of Houston Hospice, Member of the Texas Medical Center, Celebrating 40 Years of Compassionate Care



Pictured: Cynthia Nordt, Former VP of Development and Rana McClelland, President & CEO, Houston Hospice. Photo: Daniel Ortiz.

## COVID Can't Stop Us

By Rana McClelland

2020 has brought with it a global pandemic that has affected us all. As we reflect on this past year, let's take time to grieve for those we have lost and thank those who have helped us on this journey.

Although we are in uncertain times, we are filled with gratitude for our staff, volunteers, and donors. Your unwavering dedication and compassion to Houston Hospice patients and families fills us with hope for a brighter future. More than ever, we are certain that we will enter the new year with an optimistic outlook and a path that leads us to peace and happiness.

Together, let's move forward into 2021 with a renewed commitment to safety, resilience, and gratitude.

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## Butterfly Luncheon

Save the Date

Monday, April 19, 2021

The Junior League

Benefiting the  
Houston Hospice  
Pediatric Program

For tables and tickets,  
contact (713) 677-7119  
[amoore@houstonhospice.org](mailto:amoore@houstonhospice.org)

## Houston Hospice Board of Directors

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President & CEO - Rana McClelland



## Volunteering - Social Distancing Style

*Ways to give back, remotely and safely*

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Houston Hospice and our dedicated team continues to help, in safe ways. Are you interested in giving back?

Opportunities include: Social Media, Spanish Bereavement Phone Calls, Front Desk Receptionist, Admission Packet Preparation, Phone Calls to Patients and Families, and Decorating throughout the year.

[www.houstonhospice.org/volunteers](http://www.houstonhospice.org/volunteers)



## New Vice President of Development

*Houston Hospice Welcomes Aida Matic*

Aida brings over 20 years of experience to the role of VP of Development. She joins us from Tidewell Hospice in Sarasota, Florida where she served as VP of Philanthropy,

"We are pleased to have Aida join Houston Hospice. Her expertise in nonprofit hospice donor relations will help guide us into the future of philanthropy," said Rana McClelland.



## Cynthia Nordt Retires After 13 Years of Service at Houston Hospice

**Houston Hospice:** Since your start in 2007, what are some major improvements you have seen?

**Cynthia Nordt:** Technology has played a big role in supporting our patients and families. Also, we added a third floor to our Inpatient Unit and increased patient rooms from 22 to 33!

**HH:** I'm sure you have so many, but what is your fondest memory while at Houston Hospice?

**CN:** A very special memory was the support of senior leadership when my mother died.

**HH:** There are so many people who have helped us grow. Whom would you like to thank?

**CN:** I would like to thank our faithful donors and the Board of Directors for their wisdom and generosity throughout my tenure here, and throughout our 40 years as a nonprofit organization.

**HH:** Are there any final thoughts you would like to share in your last newsletter?

**CN:** Houston Hospice is a tremendous resource in our community that is doing the right thing by providing hospice care to patients and families irrespective of insurance coverage.

**HH:** After an interesting and full career, what are your plans to fill your days during retirement?

**CN:** Once it is safe, I plan to travel and explore new places, both near and far. Wish me luck!

## Garden Renovation Creates Path to Peace

*Updated Design Expands Patient Access to Historic Houston Hospice Garden*

We are pleased to announce the wheelchair- and hospital-bed-accessible garden pathway is complete. Gently sloping brick pavers lead hospice patients and families from our Inpatient Unit, in the Texas Medical Center, to our historic and beautifully maintained garden. This months-long renovation was a team effort and we sincerely thank The Garden Club of Houston for their commitment to this historic space. Pictured: Isabel Lummis, Sue White (Houston Hospice Board Member), Julie Griffin, Jenny Kempner, and Vivie O' Sullivan.



## Spirit Award Dinner Rises to the Virtual Occasion

*Near and far, guests celebrate gardening*

In its 22nd year, the Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award continues to soar. Event Chairs Elizabeth and Peter Wareing presented the crystal accolade to Julie Griffin, President of The Garden Club of Houston, for their commitment to horticulture education. Emceed by Lisa Malosky, acclaimed Author Elin Hilderbrand shared her hospice care experience from Nantucket. In all, 80 masked guests were in attendance at the River Oaks Country Club and more than 200 online participants streamed the event to support Houston Hospice's care program.



New Board Member Latisa B. Muhammad, PMP, Founder & CEO of JWU Holistic Healing, Life After Experience, and Lifetime Partners Publication, attended her first Spirit Award Dinner.