



Letter from Our Founder

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, I am reminded of the enduring ideals that have united us for generations: hope, resilience, and a belief in a brighter future. This year has also given us moments that transcended borders, as the world's attention turned to us as the global stage of the World Cup, and further highlighted as visitors embrace American culture and our unalienable right to abundant air-conditioning 😊. Watching people from all walks of life come together through the universal language of sport is a powerful reminder that, despite our differences, shared experiences can connect, inspire, and unite people around the world.

Moments like these remind me of the importance of community, connection, and investing in the next generation. More than five years have passed since the loss of Colette, Edison, and Olivia, whose legacy continues to inspire our work. What began as a tribute has grown into the CEO Foundation. In just 5 years, we have established nearly 30 partnerships with other nonprofits doing amazing work for today's youth and local communities. Through those partnerships, the CEO Foundation has helped make a positive impact on over 5,000 children and families annually. This has been a culmination of small moments and meaningful conversations, some of which have evolved from an auction experience and taken shape into long-term commitments and programs.

As we celebrate this milestone year for our country, we are inspired by the possibilities that lie ahead and grateful to our generous supporters and partners who remain committed to building a future where every child has the chance to unlock their leadership potential, embrace their inner CEO, and make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond.

On behalf of Colette, Edison, and Olivia, thank you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jackie'.

KEY METRICS & PROGRESS



Founded in 2021
5 Years
in memory of
Colette, Edison, & Olivia



nearly
30 Nonprofit
partnerships



reaching over
5,000
children & families



Key Events & Updates

2025 Highlights



2026 Gala Recap



What a night! Over 250 friends, family, and supporters recently joined us at [Daikin Park](#) for our 4th Annual Gala & Charity Auction, chaired by [Denise & Bam Johnathan](#), raising nearly **\$450K**! View the [recap here!](#)

Thank you to all who were a part of this event! Your kindness and generosity will help go a long way in enriching the hearts and minds of our youth - who will grow to become tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

We're excited to continue building on that momentum for 2027! **Save the date - February 20, 2027 at [The Post Houston Downtown](#).**

Dropping off our Auction Donation to East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry

Thanks to the incredible [Kelley Jakubik](#), the children and families of [East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry](#) received 100 tickets to the [Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center](#), giving them a rare opportunity for hands-on fun, learning, and exploration. For many who are focused on meeting basic needs, this special experience offers a joyful day of discovery and lasting memories.

We are excited about our new partnership with EFBHNM. **CEO Foundation recently made a donation that will provide 540 Kid Sacks per month. That is nearly 6,500 Kid Sacks a year!**

East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry is a non-profit aimed at addressing the basic needs of families facing food insecurity and temporary financial hardship in East Fort Bend County.



Chef David Cordua Cooks for Good! For the families of Bo's place



Thanks to [the Leaman Family](#), the children of Bo's Place were able to step into the kitchen with renowned Houston **Chef David Cordua** for a hands-on cooking experience! They whipped up delicious comfort food prepared just for them and enjoyed a lesson in making butter and a very special braised short rib.

[Bo's Place](#) is a nonprofit, free-of-charge bereavement center, offering compassionate grief support to children and families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Through ongoing support groups, education, and resources, Bo's Place creates a healing community where individuals can share their stories and feel understood - offering the only free on-going grief support program for children and families in the greater Houston area.

Texans Training Camp

Thanks to the Texans Organization and the incredible generosity of the [Radley Family](#), a group of young residents from Parks Youth Ranch were given an unforgettable VIP experience at this year's Texans Training Camp! They had a blast as they watched the action up close in their new Texans gear and were even able to snag autographs from the players!

This experience was part of an incredible package that was auctioned off at our most recent gala, and donated back to one of our nonprofit partners, Parks Youth Ranch.

[Parks Youth Ranch](#) is dedicated to providing emergency shelter, counseling, and life-changing services to abused and neglected youth. This experience gave these deserving kids some cherished memories and a glimpse of the love and support from our community.

Thank you all for making it possible!



CELF Student Symposium

The CEO Foundation is proud to sponsor and actively supports the [Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation \(CELF\)](#), an organization that empowers young minds through civic science and community engagement. By investing in these opportunities, we're helping nurture the next generation of compassionate leaders. We are always excited to attend their symposiums where we can see the same children year after year as they expand on their projects and experiments.



Buffalo Bayou Clean up & Earth Day Tree Planting



In October of 2025, the CEO Foundation teamed up with [Buffalo Bayou Partnership](#), [Veriten](#), [UHASME](#) and [Maverick Water Group](#), who gave their employees the opportunity to spend a day outside the office with us, cleaning up and restoring the Houston Buffalo Bayou.

Then to celebrate Earth Day 2026 [University of Houston](#), One World Academy along with a number of students, neighbors, and first-time volunteers came together at Pinewood Village Park to plant 100 trees in a single morning. This is what the CEO Tree Project looks like in year five. Thank you all!



Steel Magnolia Moms Dedicated Day of Play



The children and families of [Steel Magnolia Moms](#) received an exclusive and dedicated playtime experience at the [Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center](#), where they were able to play freely in a safe and protected environment for an afternoon of fun on a rainy day!

[Steel Magnolia Moms](#) is a Houston-based nonprofit organization that supports mothers raising children with special needs by fostering connection, sharing resources, and encouraging meaningful self-care.

Ladies High Tea & Men's Whiskey Event



Pinkies up for a purpose! An incredible group of mothers and women gathered for a brand new Ladies High Tea event – to sip, connect and continue the powerful mission behind the CEO Foundation. We were especially thrilled to welcome new supporters who came to learn more about the impact we're making among today's youth – in memory of Colette, Edison and Olivia.

Thank you to our wonderful event chair, [Kelley Jakubik](#), as well as [Lukkaew](#) and her team for hosting us at [Makiin](#). And a special shout out to our fabulous raffle donors who made the day even sweeter: [J.Wedemeier Jewelers](#), [S. Bell Designs](#), [Giossage](#), [Gylded Jewels](#) and [Three Cuts Gin](#).

We couldn't leave the men out either! Thank you to [Sean Cain](#) and [Jimmy McConn](#) for gathering a few good men (and ladies!) and hosting a fun whiskey tasting benefiting the CEO Foundation. We're also grateful for [Peter Nolan](#) and his team for opening their doors and hosting us with such care and generosity at [Permissions Whiskey Bar](#). And to our wonderful sponsors - [Maverick Water Group](#), [Mitcher's Small Batch](#), [Russell's Reserve](#), and [Three Cuts Gin](#) - thank you all for your support.



PODCAST:

Still a Mom - Meet the Woman Who Turned Grief into a Gift for Houston

Last month, Jackie sat down with the founders of [Integrity Bank](#), Hazem and Mack for a heartfelt conversation about overcoming loss and tragedy, insights on a career in corporate finance, the Foundation's nonprofit partners, how banks can foster community relations, and why she believes showing up for others is one of the most powerful things any of us can offer.

LISTEN on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

Exciting Announcements!

CEO Community Center in BizTown at Junior Achievement

Thanks to our generous donors and supporters, local elementary students will get a hands-on learning experience running the CEO Community Center in the new BizTown space at Junior Achievement.

JA BizTown® combines in-class learning with a day-long visit to a simulated town. This popular learning experience allows elementary school students to operate banks, manage restaurants, write checks, and vote for mayor. Students are able to connect the dots between what they learn in school and the real world. Research shows that JA Alumni are more likely to have a college degree, feel confident managing money, have career success, and have started a business as an adult.

We are so proud to be a part of this incredible new space of learning.



Charlene Sabonghy Transitions to Foundation Board

Charlene has been with the CEO Foundation since the beginning, serving as a builder, a partner in bringing the organization to life, and shaping a foundation rooted in honoring the memories of Colette, Edison, and Olivia. She has carried that purpose forward with care, intention, and heart, approaching every relationship with our partners, sponsors, and nonprofit community with compassion, integrity, and a genuine commitment to making a difference in their memory.

As Charlene steps away from her day-to-day role, she will continue to serve the Foundation Board of Directors, where she will remain closely and actively involved with the CEO Foundation. While we will deeply miss her daily presence, we are proud to support her as she continues to grow and lead in new ways.



Meet our New Social Media Manager - Alana Vorda



Alana Vorda is the founder of Vorda Social, a Houston-based social media company focused on storytelling and brand strategy.

"I love being part of the impact of such a beautiful organization. Getting to witness the kids' experiences while also helping connect the CEO Foundation with other community members passionate about youth empowerment has been incredibly meaningful."

Get Involved!

Back to School Drive for Nery's Promise

Help us send the children of [Nery's Promise](#) back to school this fall with all the basic necessities!

Nery's Promise is one of our non-profit partners that supports Fort Bend County children and families with basic needs - empowering them to become responsible leaders through education, bible study, mentorship, and life skills training.

Please use the link below to make your selections no later than July 30th.



[Amazon Wish List](#)



Become our next Junior Ambassador

Our Junior Ambassador Program is designed to uplift and empower young leaders who are passionate about making a difference in their communities. Whether they aspire to launch their own nonprofit or lead a meaningful service initiative, we provide the support they need to turn their vision into reality.

Know someone who might be interested in becoming our next Junior Ambassador?

Reach out to info@ceofoundation.org for more information.

Learn more about CEO Libraries & Community Spaces

We are currently accepting grant applications to request funding to enhance and/or renovate existing libraries or learning spaces. These vital assets serve as the heart of communities, providing access to knowledge, resources, and opportunities for all individuals regardless of background. However, many of these spaces have become dated and underutilized.

By modernizing these spaces, we aim to transform them into an environment that fosters collaboration, creative thinking, and the evolving needs of today's youth, who will become tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

[Apply Now](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

July
27th



Back to School Drive for Nery's Promise

September
20th



SHOP for GOOD at Magpies

October
7th



Ladies High Tea at Makiin

February
20th
2027



5th Annual Gala & Charity Auction at POST HTX



Check it out now!

