



HOUSTON HEALTH  
— FOUNDATION —

# *Impact Report* *2023 - 2024*

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EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HEALTHY START



HOUSTON HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

## INTRODUCING OUR CANOPY OF SERVICES



**Brilliant Futures** is a multifaceted initiative dedicated to nurturing the well-being of children and youth who face significant challenges accessing basic services necessary for healthy development. Recognizing that the formative years are crucial for lifelong success, our portfolio of programs is designed to provide essential support and resources at the community level.

## THE HOUSTON HEALTH FOUNDATION

### MISSION

#### Partners in Community Wellness

Creating private-public partnerships for sustainable health and wellness initiatives and programs in our community

### VISION

#### A Healthier Tomorrow

Building a healthy future for our children and communities

### MEET THE HOUSTON HEALTH FOUNDATION TEAM



**ROBIN MANSUR**  
*President & CEO*



**MAURICE PERKINS**  
*Director of Marketing & Communications*



**EMILY PAULEY**  
*Director of Development*



**FAHMIDA KHAN**  
*Accounting Manager*



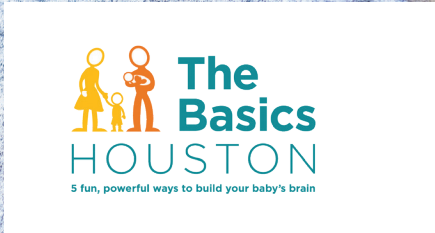
**ROBYN KEBEDE**  
*Director, The Basics Houston*



We remain committed to equitable access to public health services for the children and families of Houston's most underserved communities.

IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY





THE BASICS HOUSTON IS A NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED INITIATIVE THAT SUPPORTS BRAIN DEVELOPMENT FOR A GREAT START IN LIFE

As a nationally-recognized affiliate of the Basics Learning Network, The Basics Houston is a collective movement supporting early learning and development. We offer training and resources that integrate five simple principles to foster healthy brain development.

Launched by the Houston Health Department, The Basics Houston aims to improve the quality of life for Houston's children. With a public health perspective, we focus on family and community while incorporating the latest research to address disparities and implement innovative solutions. Through partnerships, The Basics Houston offers tools and resources to support parents in nurturing their baby's brain development with love.

**OUR FIVE PRINCIPLES**

- 1**  
Maximize Love, Manage Stress
- 2**  
Talk, Sing, and Point
- 3**  
Count, Group, and Compare
- 4**  
Explore Through Movement and Play
- 5**  
Read and Discuss Stories

The Basics Houston program has helped over **10,000** parents integrate simple brain-building practices into their daily routines

**10,000**



**50**

Formed partnerships with over **50** local organizations, including schools, libraries, and healthcare providers



Has distributed an average of **2,500** Keep It Kits to families, fostering a love of reading and literacy

**2,500**



SEE TO SUCCEED IS A SAFETY NET PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES FREE OPTOMETRY EXAMS AND GLASSES TO HOUSTON AREA STUDENTS, IMPROVING THEIR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND LIFE

See to Succeed works with over 16 Houston-area school districts in improving the academic performance and social well-being of the region's most vulnerable children with a vital tool for lifelong health: eyeglasses.

Approximately 80% of a child's early learning relies on visual processing. Despite this, only 5% to 14% of children receive a comprehensive eye exam before starting school. This is especially true for children from lower-income families and minority communities, who are less likely to have vision problems diagnosed. In fact, 1 in 5 school-aged youth has some sort of vision problem, highlighting the importance of early eye care for a child's education and development.

Over **112,000** students were provided with free eye exams since 2011



**112,000+**

**\$0**

**\$0** cost for eye exams or eyeglasses to the student, parent, or school



**150-200**

**150-200** students are given comprehensive eye exams each clinic day





PROJECT SAVING SMILES PROVIDES FREE DENTAL CARE AND EDUCATION TO CHILDREN WITH POOR ORAL HEALTH, WHO ARE NEARLY THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO MISS SCHOOL DUE TO DENTAL PAIN. IN FACT, TOOTHACHES ACCOUNT FOR 21% OF SCHOOL ABSENCES

Project Saving Smiles is a vital initiative dedicated to improving the oral health of underserved children in Houston. Through free dental screenings, sealants, fluoride varnish, and oral health education, we are combating tooth decay and breaking down barriers to learning. Our program focuses on at-risk second graders in schools with a high percentage of students enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, ensuring that those most in need receive our services.

By addressing dental issues early, we help prevent serious problems such as pain, infection, and difficulties with concentration. The program also fosters better oral health habits, improves access to care, and tackles disparities among children, connecting them to a long-term dental home for continuous care. Our ultimate goal is to empower every child to smile confidently and thrive in school.

Our outreach efforts have engaged more than **200** schools annually

**200+**



**64,963** **64,963** fluoride varnishes applied

**97,982** students were provided dental care

**97,982**

**177,256** dental sealants applied, protecting children's teeth from cavity damage

**177,256**



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER  
MBK

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER  
HOUSTON IS DEDICATED TO  
IMPROVING OUTCOMES AND  
REDUCING OPPORTUNITY  
GAPS FOR BOYS AND YOUNG  
MEN OF COLOR

MBK Houston is a community-driven initiative dedicated to improving outcomes and reducing opportunity gaps for boys and young men of color, from birth to 24 years old. Through a collaborative approach, we bring together diverse organizations and individuals to leverage their strengths and resources, working together to implement effective solutions.

Our strategy focuses on fostering partnerships between schools, community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders. By working together, we can address the complex challenges faced by boys and young men of color, such as educational disparities, limited access to opportunities, and systemic barriers.

**8,000+** Over **8,000** boys and young men of color positively impacted



**2,956**

We have provided **2,956** youth of color with the resources and support needed to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

**103** scholarships granted, empowering youth of color to pursue their educational dreams

**103**



**\$830,000**



**\$830,000** in scholarships awarded





BRILLIANT FUTURE'S FIRST COMMUNITY GARDEN IS AN URBAN REFUGE AND PLACE OF SHARED LEARNING IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE

With a particular focus on vulnerable families and children, the Houston Health Foundation's first family garden was created to provide an opportunity for all community members to build food security systems through collaboration in an urban garden setting. The garden welcomes those who wish to contribute to the collective knowledge and skills of sustainable food networks. By involving children and youth in food production, we help future generations understand the value of fresh produce, develop a love for outdoor activities in a social context, and acquire skills that nourish them for a lifetime.

**Our initiative** promotes healthy eating by encouraging community gardening and supporting farmers' markets. By providing access to fresh, affordable produce, we are helping to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families in our communities.

5

The initiative aims to reach Houston's communities providing vital food assistance and promoting food security, starting with **five** vegetable beds

Our **12** plant species flourish in organic mycelium-based soil

12



150

Over **150** volunteer days are available throughout the year. Our urban garden welcomes both individual volunteers and group volunteers interested in sustainable agriculture



## MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS

**WILLIAM (BILLY)  
F. BURGE III**  
*Chairman*

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*Vice Chair*

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*Treasurer*

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DDS, M.ED.**

**JOEY ROMANO**

**JOEL SHANNON**

**MARGARET SHANNON**

**SPENCER TILLMAN**

**STEPHEN WILLIAMS**  
*Ex-Officio*

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**AARIKA PLUNKETT**

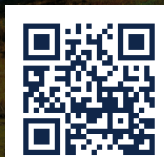
**KRISTA PATLOVICH**

**PETER C. REMINGTON**

**ED SITEMAN**

**CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS**

Donate Today ▶



◀ Donate Today

The Houston Health Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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