

ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS
GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY®
2016 AWARDS APPLICATION

APPLICATION FORM

(THIS FORM SHOULD BE THE FIRST PAGE OF THE PDF SUBMISSION*)

Award Category: Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser

Nominee's Name: Elizabeth Blanton Wareing

Associated with (firm or organization): Houston Methodist Hospital (Volunteer)

Contact Person: Susan H. Coulter Position: Executive Director

Mailing Address: 1707 Sunset Blvd.

City: Houston State: TX Zip Code: 77005

Phone: 832-667-5815 Fax: 832-667-5836

Email: scoulter@houstonmethodist.org Website: www.houstonmethodist.org

Nominator's Name: Marc L. Boom, MD, MBA Position: President & CEO

**Nomination Facilitator Name: Susan H. Coulter Position: Sr. VP & Executive Director

Associated with (firm / organization): Houston Methodist Hospital Foundation

Mailing Address: 1707 Sunset Blvd.

City: Houston State: TX Zip Code: 77005

Phone: 832-667-5815 Fax: 832-667-5836

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* Enumerate each criterion and address each one in narrative form using no more than three (3) pages, single-spaced (12 point font with 1 inch margins).

** This is usually the development professional facilitating the nomination. This person will be the "host" from the nominating organization for the award winner and will be the main point of contact for the winner.

AFP-Houston National Philanthropy Day Awards 2016
Houston Methodist Nomination of **Elizabeth Blanton Wareing** for Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year

INTRODUCTION

Elizabeth Blanton Wareing's family legacy of philanthropic service and leadership in Houston stretches back at least three generations – and her three children and 12 grandchildren are carrying that legacy forward into the fourth and fifth generations. For more than four decades, Elizabeth's tireless fundraising efforts have benefited more than 30 organizations, including Houston Methodist, The Forge for Families, Discovery Green, Neuhaus Education Center, Yellowstone Academy, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Serenity Retreat, Junior League and the Museum of Fine Arts. **She has personally raised millions of dollars the old-fashioned way: making appointments to see people, and asking them to support causes she believes in.**

Known for her strong Christian faith, quiet strength, tremendous work ethic and positive persistence, Elizabeth is one of eight directors of The Scurlock Foundation and serves on multiple Houston Methodist boards and committees in addition to the boards/advisory councils of Neuhaus Education Center and Yellowstone Academy.



She is the granddaughter of Eddy C. Scurlock and Bill Blanton – both of whom were instrumental in starting Houston Methodist Hospital – and the daughter of Laura Lee Blanton and longtime Houston Methodist board member Jack S. Blanton. During a tribute to her father, she said, "Our father's and grandfather's interest (in giving back) became our interest, and we have followed their traditions" – including passionately supporting nonprofits focused on spiritual development, education and medical research.

Her daughter Laura Wheless said she frequently heard from her grandparents and her parents that the family's goal was not to make Houston great for themselves – but *to do whatever they could do to make it better for everyone*. Because of that vision, Elizabeth has often worked with organizations such as Yellowstone Academy that provide a great education – and hope for a better future – to low-income families who might not otherwise be able to attend a private school. "I don't recall a time in my life when my mom was not in the community helping others," Laura said. "She never thinks about quantifying her work. When you're doing what you're supposed to be doing, it doesn't matter if you touch one life or 20 or 2,000 – *every life is precious and every life is valuable*. The trickle-down impact is immeasurable and profound."

VOLUNTEER OVERVIEW

Elizabeth and husband Peter S. Wareing have helped advance Houston as a world-class medical center through their work with and support of Houston Methodist, Texas Children's Hospital (he serves on the board) and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Elizabeth's personal passion is education and charities that support the physical and spiritual needs of those living in poverty, and she exhibits great enthusiasm for causes that touch her heart.

While some volunteers focus heavily on an event's program, invitation or other details, Elizabeth's primary focus when she chairs an event is **helping raise money**. Her success rate is high because she first makes a personal commitment of support; she researches who might be interested in the cause or project; she calls or emails and asks for their time; then she passionately shares the story of the organization – and boldly asks for their volunteer time or collaboration, their financial commitment or their event attendance – or all of the above. "I see it as *giving people the opportunity to participate in something good*. If they say no, I just move on to the next person. A lot of people are afraid of being said 'no' to, but my father told me early on not to take it personally because people can't say 'yes' to everything. On the other hand, if you don't ask, you're not going to get any yeses." Based on her successful track record, she has persuaded many people to say "yes"!

Houston Methodist: 2015 Rendezvous gala: As event co-chair with Cam Canon, Elizabeth **championed the effort to raise more than \$2.6M dollars** (\$1.9M net) from 156 sponsors (42 new/first-time gifts) to benefit lifesaving research and patient-care programs, surpassing original goal by almost \$1M. She personally signed 1,000-plus letters of support and invited many new friends of the hospital to attend the gala, resulting in a huge increase in new donors and prospective donors (**1,400 attended; 600+ were first-time guests**). "My focus was to get people there who had not

been exposed to Houston Methodist so we could showcase the hospital's great work," Elizabeth said. She also served on the gala host committee (2013) and the Aspen event host committee (2012).

Her introduction to community service started young at Houston Methodist – at 12 or 13 – when Elizabeth's mom urged her to volunteer at the Blue Bird Clinic. She joined the board in 2008, following in the leadership footsteps of her dad and her grandfathers, and is carrying on her family commitment to make it the best hospital in Texas and beyond. Her daughter Laura said, "Passion for Houston Methodist is contagious in our family," Laura said. "Mom's brothers are involved, and several of us in the next generation are active with The Society."

Serenity Retreat: Currently co-chair for *The Restored Souls Campaign*, a \$3.2M transformative and historic initiative to fund expansion for the next five years and to purchase a new home for the ministry in Bellville. The campaign was quietly launched in 2013; under leadership of Elizabeth, it has already raised \$1.5M. Her ongoing work involves meeting with the executive director and the fundraising consultant to review and prioritize lists of potential donors and personally setting up appointments and making calls to ask people to contribute.

Discovery Green: Co-chaired Families on the Green with her children Julie and Griff Aldrich, Reed and Billy Wareing, and Laura and William Wheless (2013). 950 attended; raised \$228K (\$187K net). Elizabeth took the lead in planning the event and calling donors; funds positively impacted operations.

The Forge for Families: Co-chair, capital campaign (2010-11), *Forging a Future for Inner City Families (FORGE)*; raised \$6M to build a community center that includes two gyms. Elizabeth, who co-chaired the campaign with her father Jack Blanton, poured her heart and soul into this challenging fundraising project – tirelessly making appointments with and knocking on the doors of individuals, companies and foundations across Greater Houston because she knew what a tremendous impact this center could have in the deeply impoverished Third Ward community.

She named the building in honor of Maggie Smith, a special woman who worked for her grandmother. When Elizabeth became involved, the nonprofit was leasing space in a neighborhood church but needed to start a basketball program on its own. "Many people had not heard of The Forge, and we would bring them out to tour the area to help them understand the situation," she said. In a gesture of family love and loyalty, Elizabeth's children surprised her by making a significant and sacrificial gift to the campaign.



MD Anderson Cancer Center: Sprint for Life – With daughter Laura Wheless, served as underwriting chair to raise funds to support ovarian cancer research in honor of Elizabeth's mother Laura Lee Blanton. She has also served as honorary co-chair in 2002. In 2013, Elizabeth and her brothers established the \$400K Laura Lee Blanton Ovarian Cancer Endowed Fund, which supports the prevention, detection and treatment of ovarian cancer. **Over 16-plus years, Elizabeth and her family have raised more than \$4M for ovarian cancer research at MDACC.**

Neuhaus Education Center: In addition to serving as secretary and president of the board and **chairing the annual luncheon**, Elizabeth spearheaded a teacher-education program – Project Apple – for the Neuhaus Center (1992) that made a huge impact on kindergarten education across the entire Houston Independent School District. For nine months, Elizabeth and a friend spent nearly full-time hours coordinating the effort to **equip every HISD kindergarten teacher** with the proven multisensory, phonetic Neuhaus learning approach to reading.

Yellowstone Academy: Elizabeth has been involved with this school serving low-income families in the Third Ward since its beginning. She's on the board and loves this school. The Scurlock Foundation made significant commitment to fund the Jack S. Blanton Community Center and Gymnasium (2008). Elizabeth **serves on the Advancement Committee and continues to regularly make calls and set appointments to raise funds** for the school.

Other organizations Elizabeth has helped raise money for/engage volunteers include: **The University of Texas Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art** (2009), chaired An Evening at Sunset gala, raised \$1.625M, 400 attended; 2002, helped coordinate inaugural gala and participated in \$400K family gift; **Museum of Fine Arts**, co-chaired 1993 gala ball, raised \$800K; **Junior League of Houston**, co-chaired campaign with Emily Crosswell to build Junior League building at 1811 Briar Oaks Lane; chaired 1991 Junior League Ball with Pat Sorrells, raised approximately \$500K; served on

underwriting sustaining committee for the 2010 ball; **Amazing Place**, chaired 2012 luncheon with Beth Wiggins, raised \$262K (\$208K net); 180 host committee members recruited; **Bo's Place**, honored with Peter at luncheon chaired by the Plumhoffs; **Houston Area Pastor Council**, co-chaired 2008 Faithful Citizenship Gala; **Vision America**, chaired a major fundraising dinner, was underwriter for 2015 Heroes of Faith dinner and was honored at 2011 Heroes of Faith dinner for lifetime commitment to philanthropy and service; **Young Life**, host committee for 2016 Young Life Annual Gala, attended by 300-plus and raised \$580K; also on emeritus board and was longtime steering committee member; introduced honorees Eddy and Kelli Blanton at **Houston Hospice's 15th annual Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award**; **CityFest with Luis Palau**, co-chair 2007 Women's Luncheon, 1,500 attended.

ABILITY TO LEAD AND MOTIVATE

A graduate of St. John's School and the University of Texas, Elizabeth is actively involved with Church of the Apostles. She is a connector in Houston – making friends, prompting collaborations and inspiring philanthropic supporters across many groups and communities who don't know one another – *but they know Elizabeth*. When she is passionate about a cause, she and Peter will often make a personal contribution and also ask The Scurlock Foundation to match that gift. But Elizabeth does so much more than write a check. Through her *hands-on, dedicated volunteer leadership efforts and her willingness to write handwritten notes and to personally call and meet with individuals, foundations and companies*, Greater Houston charities have raised millions of dollars, and her work has touched countless lives and transformed entire communities.

She has chaired countless luncheons and numerous galas, provided leadership-level campaign gifts that inspired others, coordinated volunteer groups, coordinated massive events and lent her name numerous times as a host committee member. ***But what makes her truly remarkable as a volunteer fundraiser is her willingness to put herself out in the community, outside her comfort zone, calling on people she has never met and asking them for significant contributions*** to improve children's education, to seek cures for diseases and enhance medical care, and to nourish the mind, body and spirit of impoverished individuals. ***She leads and inspires others to raise funds because she never asks them to do anything she is not willing to do herself*** – and she's a joy to work with.

She's a go-getter, an encourager, a team player who leads by example and a person who's hard to say 'no' to, say colleagues. Her passion about causes is contagious because she is so enthusiastic, and when she gives her time to an organization, she believes in it, wholeheartedly. She leads with "confidence, kindness and a plan," says one colleague. She partners with individuals who are as passionate about a cause as she is, and she inspires others to get involved because they know she has fully vetted – and personally invested in – anything she asks them to support.

She has earned the admiration and respect of the community – and her philanthropic zeal has also been noticed closer to home. Laura's daughter Elizabeth, almost 13, has "caught the fire," her mom said. "At school, they did a project for Living Water, and she really got into it. She has learned a lot from her grandmother. The greatest lesson was that 'to whom much is given, much is expected.' She gets that." Elizabeth has made it her mission to mentor and encourage young philanthropic leaders – in her family and across the community.

BOARD AND PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Current Boards and Community Involvement: Houston Methodist System board (since 2008), currently secretary; chair, Governance Committee; serves on Spiritual Care and Benefits/Compensation Committees; HMM Foundation board (since 2011); HM Research Institute board (since 2014), vice president; HM Neurological Institute National Council (since 2007); Neuhaus Education Center – Founder/Lifetime Trustee, Alumni Council, honoree in 2009; The Scurlock Foundation board; Yellowstone Academy board; A.D. Players advisory board.

Past Board/Community Involvement and Honors: Greater Houston Community Foundation, Board; Central Pregnancy Care Center, Board; Communities in Schools, Board; UT Ex-Students Association, board; Episcopal Diocese of Texas, executive board; National Christian Foundation of Houston, board; St. John the Divine Church, numerous roles; St. John's School, board; Houston Museum of Natural Science, board; UT College of Education Advisory Council, Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award; American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow; ALF Houston Gulf Coast Chapter Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award; Inspire Women Outstanding Community Leader Award.

Elizabeth Blanton Wareing has transformed Houston through her personal efforts to raise funds – and her inspirational call for others to join her. We highly recommend her for this honor.

May 23, 2016

Dear AFP National Philanthropy Day Awards Selection Committee:

For more than 40 years, **Elizabeth Blanton Wareing** has worked tirelessly to raise millions of dollars for more than 30 charitable organizations. She continues a tremendous legacy begun by her grandfathers and her father of building Houston Methodist and enhancing our city through her wisdom, hard work and passionate efforts on behalf of causes that touch her heart.

Elizabeth is an influential member of the Houston Methodist System board, and her leadership continues to be recognized with prestigious appointments. For example, she was recently named chair of the Governance Committee and was appointed vice president of the HM Research Institute board. Through the years, she has provided guidance and wisdom to numerous community boards – often tackling the hands-on role of fundraising as a primary volunteer responsibility. To Elizabeth, asking people to invest in worthy causes offers them the opportunity to do something good so she is willing to boldly ask for their support.

In working closely with Elizabeth through her board service and her leadership of our 2015 gala, I know her to be a kind, positive leader – with a gracious approach, a steel will and the tenacity to achieve the highest goals she sets for herself and her teams.

I'm particularly impressed with Elizabeth's focus on lifting up the next generation of philanthropic leaders – within her family and across the community. For decades now, she has seen first hand the transformations that can occur when philanthropic leaders dedicate their lives to impactful local charities. By mentoring upcoming leaders, including her own children, Elizabeth is passing on the knowledge, insights and experience that will ensure Houston will continue to be our nation's most philanthropic city.

Elizabeth has a quiet, understated presence and sense of determination that command respect – and a humility that would never demand it. Through her fundraising efforts and leadership, she has made a transformational difference in the Third Ward through The Forge for Families and Yellowstone Academy. She has supported Houston Methodist's search for lifesaving treatments, she has enhanced reading education across the entire Houston Independent School District, and she has helped raise millions for cancer research. *Her good works are countless.*

I can't imagine a more deserving candidate for the 2016 AFP Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year than Elizabeth Blanton Wareing. She has our wholehearted support and our deepest appreciation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marc L. Boom, M.D.
President
Chief Executive Officer

THE FORGE

The FORGE for families
A Christ-centered urban ministry

Dana L. Thomas
Executive Director
Beth Williams Lee
Director of Development
Tammie Florence
Business Manager

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Ken Wynne
Elizabeth Wareing
Ralph D. West

Dear Selection Committee:

In 2004, after being introduced to several local ministries through her church, Elizabeth Wareing felt a tug on her heart for urban ministry. This tug became a passion when she began to help with strategic planning and fundraising for Inner City Youth, a ministry located in one of Houston's most impoverished communities – The Third Ward.

Elizabeth's drive and determination to give hope to this community went further than just being a strong advocate on behalf of the children and families. She saw a tremendous need for a community center where children and families would have a safe place to build healthy relationships, to improve their academics and to participate in sports while building a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In 2006, under Elizabeth's encouragement and direction, Inner City Youth and The Refuge Community Development Center merged to form The FORGE for Families. Elizabeth continued her commitment to this Third Ward ministry that now provides services to youth and adults. By the end of 2009, Elizabeth and her father Jack Blanton co-chaired a capital campaign that raised \$6 million to build a facility to house this ministry. The FORGE moved into its current 30,000-square-foot home at 3435 Dixie Drive in October 2010. It comprises three buildings situated on two acres, strategically located in Houston's Third Ward.

The facility is debt free and is often referred as the light in the community. Elizabeth poured her heart and soul into this challenging fundraising project, and she personally visited people across the Greater Houston region to ask them to invest. When the funds were raised, she earned naming rights to the building but humbly declined, asking instead that it be named after Maggie Smith -- a special woman who worked for her grandmother and who meant a great deal to her.

Today, because of Elizabeth's integrity, wisdom and strong determination to make a change in this community, more than 17,000 children and adults have been served since the facility opened. One parent said, "I don't know what my family would do without The FORGE. It is a beacon of light in this community. They helped me when I was at the end of my rope. Now my kids are doing great in school and we feel empowered with the tools we have been given by The FORGE."

On behalf of the children and families whose lives have been empowered, we strongly recommend Elizabeth Blanton Wareing for the 2016 Association of Fundraising Professionals Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year award. Thank you for your consideration of her outstanding service and leadership.

Warm Regards,

Dana L. Thomas
Dana Thomas/Executive Director



3435 Dixie Drive • Houston, Texas 77021 • 713-660-1871

www.forgeforfamilies.org



APOSTLES

PO BOX 701125 + HOUSTON, TEXAS, 77270 + 713.682.0200

WWW.COTAHOUSTON.ORG

May 25, 2016

Dear AFP Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to describe the impact Elizabeth Wareing has had in the planting of The Church of the Apostles – Houston. In late 2013 Elizabeth was a part of a small group of individuals who approached The Rt. Rev. Clark Lowentfield, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast, with the idea of starting an Anglican church in Houston.

I met Elizabeth when my wife and I came to Houston to consult the group about church planting. We quickly recognized her desire for the church to be started, her willingness to commit significant personal resources and her personal encouragement of others to give generously to begin a new congregation.

Church planting requires sacrifice, commitment and a willingness to tell absolute strangers about the new church. It cannot be done with mere patrons. It requires hard-working leaders who will set the tone and direction for those who will be involved. Elizabeth has been such a leader. For example, from the beginning we decided that childcare at Church of the Apostles would be provided by our members and not by paid childcare workers. This was a strategic, not financial, decision.

Without hesitation, Elizabeth has served in the nursery, caring for infants of members and guests. She has gotten on the floor to play with older children while the majority of adults were in our weekly worship service. Elizabeth's attitude and spirit through it all has inspired several grandmothers and grandfathers in the congregation to roll up their sleeves and do the same.

She has opened her home for Bible studies, organizational meetings and celebrations in the life of our young church. She has hosted guests in town for worship leader master classes. She has seized opportunities at community gatherings and social events to invite others to come to Apostles. And her generosity has inspired others to give sacrificially to the planting of this church.

Over the past two and a half years, I have learned that Elizabeth Wareing invests not only her wealth, but also the treasure of who she is in the things that capture her imagination. And as she does, she manifests a delightfully winsome spirit that woos others to join her in the passions of her heart.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Rev. Terrell Glenn
Sr. Pastor/Rector

AUTHENTIC ENCOUNTER + PASSIONATE PURSUIT + RADICAL IMPACT



May 23, 2015

Dear Houston Methodist Foundation,

There is no more worthy candidate than Elizabeth Blanton Wareing for the Association of Fundraising Professionals 2016 Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year. Elizabeth is a shining star in the fundraising world, continuing the great benevolent tradition of the Blanton and Scurlock families. Her confidence comes from the deep conviction that funding makes a critical impact for the greater good. In other words, she sincerely cares that worthy causes are funded.

Board of Directors

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Gayla Thompson, L.P.C.

Sherron Watkins

I have worked with her closely for the last three years, as she and her husband Peter took our small 501(c)(3) under their wing and helped us develop a true major gifts campaign. First, they gifted Serenity Retreat with an evaluation by Excellence in Giving which taught us what major donors are seeking for maximum impact from their charitable dollars. Next, she gave a transformational personal and Foundation gift and multi-year pledge to Serenity Retreat. From that strong base, we built **The Restored Souls Campaign**.

As Chairman of the campaign, Elizabeth actively sought out those who would be interested in supporting Serenity Retreat, then with boldness and perseverance spent many hours of personal time making connections between us.

As a result, **The Restored Souls Campaign** has successfully raised \$1.545 million in gifts and pledges during the Private Phase, and \$111,500 in the current Public Phase. In addition, she is directly responsible for \$50,000 in pending proposals and \$400,000 in future asks. This is tremendously impactful in an organization whose total budget has never topped \$410,000.

Executive Director

Rev. Kathy Eason

Elizabeth takes her role as Chairman of the Campaign very seriously, and encourages others to participate. She is truly a woman of her word. Not only has she been responsible for placing a firm financial foundation under our organization, she has tirelessly impacted the Houston community and beyond.

Blessings,

Rev. Kathy Eason
Founder, Executive Director

May 24, 2016

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing to convey my wholehearted support of Elizabeth Wareing as the 2016 AFP Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year. I cannot imagine a more perfect award to describe and honor the work of Elizabeth over the years.

My association with Elizabeth began with the founding of the Houston Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, followed by the development of the Neuhaus Education Center in 1980. Elizabeth worked tirelessly as a board member to contact foundations and potential donors to fund these nonprofits.

In 1986, Elizabeth helped Neuhaus organize its first fundraising luncheon, and she supported it in every way. The luncheons continue today, with Elizabeth playing a role in their annual success. From chairing the luncheon, finding the speaker, developing the program and soliciting donors, she has been an integral part of the team.

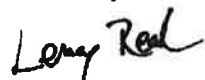
Elizabeth was instrumental in helping organize the Neuhaus Center's Project Apple with HISD, a program where volunteers substituted in classes so that the reading teachers could attend professional development classes at the Neuhaus Center. These teachers gained valuable instruction on how to help struggling readers in their classrooms. In a significant way, Elizabeth also helped expand the program, which lasted more than five years. She solicited the help of other organizations to send volunteers and helped coordinate the placement of volunteers from the HISD administrative building. As with other initiatives, she also helped find donors for the project.

When the Neuhaus Center needed to move out of its rental space and build a building, Elizabeth co-chaired the Capital Campaign and was instrumental in its success. The funding was raised by the time the center moved into its building in 1994. Elizabeth has served as chair of the Neuhaus board, and she is now a lifetime trustee.

As the Executive Director of Neuhaus for 20 years, I can attest to Elizabeth's invaluable contributions. Her unwavering support continues to make an impact on the Neuhaus Center, whose mission is to provide reading success for all students.

I hope she will receive every consideration for the honor of Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year. She is highly deserving.

Sincerely,



Lenox Reed
Founding Director
Neuhaus Education Center



May 25, 2016

Dear Philanthropy Awards Selection Committee:

I do not believe there is another person in Houston more deserving of the 2016 AFP Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year Award than **Elizabeth Blanton Wareing**.

As the Founding Executive Director of Yellowstone Academy, I met Elizabeth in 2001 when Yellowstone was undertaking a year of preparation and planning for the school. Our vision was to establish a private, faith-based PK3-8th grade school in Houston's Third Ward that would exclusively serve economically disadvantaged students, and Elizabeth enthusiastically supported our efforts from the very start. One of the first things she did was to introduce the Neuhaus Education Center to Yellowstone, and she has secured funding for Yellowstone teachers to receive Neuhaus training for many years now. Neuhaus trains and supports teachers in effective, research-based methods of reading instruction, and thanks to Elizabeth, hundreds of Yellowstone students have benefitted from their methods.

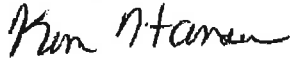
Although her service and advocacy on our school's behalf started long before, Elizabeth joined our board in 2010 and is involved in numerous ways. She supports us at fundraisers, brings visitors to Yellowstone, opens doors with new friends and potential donors, and has brought her children, siblings, and nieces and nephews to be involved with us. She helps us make connections with foundations and personally visits donors on our behalf. Spearheaded by Elizabeth, the Scurlock Foundation, for which she serves as a director, made a significant commitment in 2008 to fund the Jack S. Blanton Community Center and Gymnasium at Yellowstone. Elizabeth was the one who introduced her father, Jack S. Blanton, to Yellowstone, and he was actively involved until his death. That his family chose to honor his 80th birthday with this donation to our gym was one of the most meaningful events for Yellowstone.

As a board member, Elizabeth brings much wisdom and experience in critical decision-making and in dealing with the Houston economy, the donor community, and the realities of running a non-profit. She serves on the Development Committee and regularly makes calls, writes letters, and sets appointments to raise funds for the school. She is a wealth of support for Yellowstone in every respect – with her time, talent, and treasure.

Elizabeth is also a person of great faith, and we appreciate that she consistently prays for our students and our programs and works to involve churches as sources of volunteers as well as funding. Elizabeth has a heart for the Third Ward, and over the years, through Yellowstone and other non-profits, has invested much time and effort in enhancing and bringing hope and support to this low-income community. She is a wonderful philanthropic partner, an exceptional leader, a hard worker and a person who never asks anything of others that she is not willing to do herself. Words cannot provide high enough praise for Elizabeth's service to Yellowstone Academy and to so many worthy causes across Greater Houston.

Elizabeth Blanton Wareing has my greatest admiration, respect, and appreciation, and it is a privilege to support her for the AFP Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year for 2016. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kim Hansen

Founding Executive Director/Director of Program Advancement