Letter from the Chairman

In December of 2009, I became Chairman of an organization that has inspired me for years – KHB. Over the past two years, I’ve learned a lot. One of the things I’m most excited about is the way the organization is so intently focused on people. If you think about it, it is people that make KHB so successful – our commissioners, staff, volunteers, donors, funders, city partners, and huge body of constituents. On a larger scale, people who care about their neighborhoods help give Houston a high quality of life, and KHB intersects with these people at every level. To me, this is “community” in every sense of the word.

On a more personal level, as I commute to the office each morning, I feel like the luckiest guy in the world. There’s tremendous energy in this city, from those planning the Mayor’s Proud Partners awards to the trail blazing KHB staff, and everyone in between. I especially appreciate the way the cumulative effort that goes into Keep Houston Beautiful Day helps fuel everything else we do. Its great teamwork and I feel the buzz of activity every day at KHB. Lastly, I want to extend a special thank you to each member of the KHB Executive Committee and Houston Clean City Commission, who helped make my transition as smooth as possible. Everyone on these two teams offered me good advice and support as I stepped into this new role. Many thanks especially to KHB Executive Director Robin Blut for her steady guidance and encouragement. Next year is already shaping up to be an amazing year, as Keep Houston Beautiful Day will whisk us away into spring time (April 2) and our greening, education, and outreach programs strive for even greater impact. It’s an exciting time to be a part of KHB, and I’m thrilled to be affiliated with this vibrant organization.

Events and Happenings

Every year KHB hosts a luncheon to honor individuals, communities, corporations, and organizations that are doing their part to keep Houston beautiful. The Mayor’s Proud Partners Luncheon allows the Mayor an opportunity to recognize the people who are working to keep Houston a wonderful place to live. During this luncheon, the Landmark/Beautification Award, Distinguished Service Award, Howard J. Rambin III/Founder Award, Proud Partner Award, Certification of Recognition Award, and Honorable Mention Awards are given to individuals who submitted their applications. KHB has received a number of awards as well. In 2010, KHB received recognition from the City of Houston for our contribution to the Restoring Houston’s Historic Cemeteries Day of Service, recognition of our standards of excellence by Keep America Beautiful (KAB), recognition of our support of KAB’s Great American Cleanup, and recognition from the US Dept. of Agriculture for having 7 of the 700 People’s Gardens in Houston.
Highlights

Mayor Parker presented the 2010 Mayor’s Outstanding Proud Partner Award to H-E-B. Accepting the award for H-E-B’s recycling initiatives was Scott McClelland, President of H-E-B’s Houston Division.

The luncheon drew 450 attendees.

The luncheon would not be possible without it’s more than 50 volunteers, who do everything from judging the award entries to arranging centerpiece – beginning at 7 am.

Proceeds from the luncheon including ticket sales and sponsorship contributions support KHB and its acclaimed Clean Neighborhoods program. Special thanks to the sponsors of the 2010 Mayor’s Proud Partners Luncheon: ConocoPhillips, Benefactor; H-E-B, John P. McGovern Foundation, and Waste Management, Sponsors; Apache Corporation, Marathon Oil Corporation, and Republic Service, Inc, Patron; ExxonMobil, KBR, The Sprint Companies, Shell, and Vinson & Elkins, Partner.

Other Events

In October, the Mayor’s Office of Special Events, Keep Houston Beautiful, and other local organizations came together to conduct a half-price Rain Barrel Sale at Minute Maid Park and Northwest Station, Park and Ride. During the sale, citizens were able to purchase rain barrels and compost bins that were beneficial for their yards, but help divert organic waste from landfills. To spread the news, the Houston Chronicle placed 75,000 inserts in its publication, and 480,000 inserts were distributed to all City of Houston water customers.

Keep Houston Beautiful hosts a number of educational events yearly. In 2010, Keep Houston Beautiful collaborated with Mercer Arboretum to host two composting workshops. These workshops educated citizens on the best practices of composting: what to compost, where to place your composting bin, what to expect when composting, and how to maintain the composting bin.

Volunteers

Volunteers fill essential roles at KHB throughout each year. Thousands of people throughout the city log countless hours during weekend cleanups and hundreds more help run events, serve on committees, and support the urban greening work of Keep Houston Beautiful. KHB could not succeed without their invaluable assistance and their investment in our mission. There are many ways to volunteer. To learn more, please visit the KHB website www.houstonbeautiful.org or call 713-839-8855. Keep Houston Beautiful’s programs have helped every neighborhood and area of this city. Preserving and improving our environment is more important than ever and Keep Houston Beautiful is there to provide the guidance and leadership our community needs.

Due to your support of this organization, during the last year, working with 190 community partners, Keep Houston Beautiful has brought their volunteer energy, expertise, and resources together to make Houston greener by facilitating 595 litter prevention and beautification events involving over 18,000 volunteers with a combined total of 73,000 hours. Through these events our volunteers collected nearly
600 tons of litter, planted over 1,600 trees and almost 3,000 plants, removed in excess of 3,000 illegally dumped tires and mowed 930 lots. The value of this labor of love is $1,515,461. Every dollar spent by Keep Houston Beautiful returns an $11.89 benefit, a high rate by anyone’s standard.

Engaging Young People

KHB continues to reach out to engage young people in its work and mission. In 2010 America Recycles Day which takes place on November 15 provided a platform to generate awareness about recycling. Students were introduced to recycling and ways that they could encourage their parents to recycle. Students also participated in skits that taught them exactly how they could do their part to encourage others to pick up litter. Magnets, buttons, pencils, and stickers were given out as a reward for hard work and participation. Houston Independent School District hosts a Super Science Saturday for all of the teachers in the district. During that time, Keep Houston Beautiful presents two workshops on Waste in Place Garbage Pizza and Storm Water Education. The teachers are taught how to incorporate Garbage Pizza into their TEKS curriculum by teaching the students about the impact of waste on society and about fractions. Teachers are also encouraged to attend Keep Houston Beautiful’s education committee meetings so that they can help develop ideas to distribute the information throughout the district.

Keep Houston Beautiful and the City of Houston’s Public Works & Engineering Department are working together to create a storm water education program that will be distributed throughout the city and taught by “Master Teachers.” Colleges and Universities have been very receptive to Keep Houston Beautiful and using the organization as a way to help spread recycling throughout their campuses. In 2010, over 30 organizations from each of Houston’s 6 universities and community colleges contacted Keep Houston Beautiful about educational and volunteer opportunities.

Growing the Future of KHB

KHB is grateful for the continued support of many individuals and organizations that believe in its mission and invest in its programs. KHB members are a vital part of this loyal network. At the end of June, KHB had received

Major grants during FY 2010 year including $50,000 from the Houston Endowment for the Neighborhood Cleanup program, as well as $100,000 from the City of Houston. And KHB was awarded $35,000 in new funding from Keep America Beautiful for the Great America Cleanup through national sponsors like Wrigley’s, Dow Chemical Corporation, Waste Management and Scotts Miracle-Gro.
Gardening Solutions from the Ground Up

KHB helped urban gardener’s plant 981 trees in Houston in 2010. We are able to plant so many trees because of our partnership with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot), the Houston Astros, the Houston Rockets, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works and Engineering. During KHB Day, 32 trees were planted in the Acres Homes neighborhood by Teach for America teachers and residents as part of a vegetation management and water filtration project. The community came together to beautify the ditch by planting 200 flowers and 32 trees. These efforts help to not only beautify the ditch, but they also help clean the ditch and improve the water quality. When residents and visitors see the difference in the appearance, they are also less likely to litter in the area. Community members take responsibility for the area and maintain it by picking up litter and by mowing the grass and watering the trees and flowers that were planted through an official Adopt-an-Ditch agreement.

Keep Houston Beautiful also participates in tree plantings with the Houston Astros. As a result of their Home Runs for Trees program, The Houston Astros planted over 120 trees in 2010. NASA participated in a tree planting where 50 of those 120 trees were planted by NASA astronauts and Houston Astros players. KHB, the Houston Rockets, Republic Services, and TxDot came together and planted 32 trees in Downtown Houston at the Intersection of I45 and I59. Houston Rockets player, Chuck Hayes, attended the event and planted trees with the group.

Dan Sullenbarger
Chairman

About KHB
Keep Houston Beautiful (KHB) is the d.b.a. of the Houston Clean City Commission a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1977. KHB sponsors events, and educational activities to make measurable progress towards ensuring Houston is one of the cleanest and most beautiful urban cities in America.

Through its award-winning Clean Neighborhoods program, KHB works with citizens, government agencies, nonprofits and other partners to plan, create and maintain litter prevention and landscape initiatives to protect Houston’s natural resources.

Proceeds from the Mayor’s Proud Partners Luncheon, along with funding from foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals, help fund KHB programs. To make a contribution or to volunteer, please call 713-839-8855 or visit www.houstonbeautiful.org.
Contributors

The Houston Clean City Commission and its d.b.a. Keep Houston Beautiful (KHB) are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their gifts, received below between July 9, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Contributors like these help KHB continue its mission of improving the quality of life and creating a sense of community through litter reduction, recycling education and beautification initiatives. Special thanks also to the many volunteers who support the work of KHB.

Sources of Contributions

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Gifts of $50,000 +
The Houston Endowment
City of Houston

$25,000 +
ConocoPhillips

$15,000+
Astros*
HLS Enterprises*
Keep America Beautiful
Republic Waste Services
Waste Management

$10,000 – 14,999
Astros*
Glad bags*
Greenstar*
John P. McGovern Foundation
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Scotts Miracle Gro*
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$5,000– 9,999
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