



President's Message

The beast came and its name was “Harvey”! I intended my first President’s Message to be an optimistic one that addressed Anayat House’s sound financial footing, high occupancy rate, our upcoming fundraisers, and new (still relatively) Executive Director Tressa Clarke’s exciting plans for Anayat House’s future. While my message remains optimistic, the horrific destruction left by Hurricane Harvey cannot go unaddressed.

The monster arrived in southeast Texas on August 27. The storm exited Texas four days later, leaving life-changing damage in its wake, the vast majority of which was caused by historic flooding. As Hurricane Harvey advanced into our area, the decision was made to evacuate all guests of Anayat House and close the facility. The house remained closed for 16 days and finally re-opened on Tuesday, September 5th. From a property damage perspective, Anayat House suffered very little damage (a little bit of water from some leaking in three specific areas), but the house was not damaged at all from the extensive flooding in the area. The long closure was caused by the loss of potable water from the City of Beaumont’s water treatment facilities. Obviously, clean and certified municipal water is a must for any housing facility, especially one that hosts patients undergoing cancer and other medical treatments. Despite the closure, Tressa Clarke worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure not only the protection and security of the facility, but also to obtain a clean water source so that the house could open as soon as possible. On behalf of the Board, I want to express a huge THANK YOU!!!! to Tressa for going above and beyond the call of duty. Anayat House is in **very** capable hands, and this Board President in particular is very grateful to her.

Although many, many people in our area are suffering greatly, Anayat House must still raise money to keep its operations flowing at the level of quality for which Anayat House is known. Without being insensitive to the situation of our community, fundraising must be addressed. The house was very fortunate to team with St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church last year on its very successful Fours candy sales, and we were looking forward to growing that event this year. However, St. Stephen’s is serving as a designated community distribution center to serve those in need whose lives were disrupted by Hurricane Harvey. Anayat House applauds the service being rendered by the volunteers at St. Stephen’s, but the circumstances required the Fours candy drive for 2017 to be canceled. The cancellation of this fundraiser will leave a fundraising gap of approximately \$10,000 that will need to be addressed for this budget year. As the Board wrestles for solutions to this problem, any outside donations to Anayat House would be most welcome.

We do look forward to a successful fundraiser in **the Kendra Scott Trunk Show which is coming up at Alter’s Gem Jewelry on Tuesday, November 14th from 10 am to 6 pm.** Also, Gala chair Stephanie Shoemaker and her talented team are busy planning another exciting **Gala scheduled for Friday, February 16, 2018 at the Beaumont Event Centre.** The Gala has become well known in our community as a fun, laid back party that attracts a wide and diverse group of people. It is our intent that the Gala demonstrate our community’s ability to persevere and fight back, and I have no doubt the fundraiser will be a rousing success.

In closing, Anayat House is open, running smoothly, and fulfilling its mission of providing a safe, clean, and welcoming place of respite for those in need. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of our friends and neighbors who are recovering from Harvey

