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Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana Announces Three Additions to Board of Directors

John S. Hantak, Bonnie Houston, and Dr. Daniel Penny Bring Wealth of New Experience and Enthusiasm to Board

Houston, TX—Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana has added three new members to its Board of Directors: **John S. Hantak** (Northern Trust), **Bonnie Houston** (NOV Inc.), and **Dr. Daniel Penny** (Texas Children's Hospital). Each of the three begin their term this month and offer diversity of expertise in key strategic areas for the organization, based on decades of experience and service in the Houston region.

"We could not be more excited to have John, Bonnie, and Dr. Penny join the organization," said **Yara Elsayed Guest**, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana. "They are true leaders, both personally and professionally, with long histories of selfless service to their communities."

John S. Hantak, Houston President, Northern Trust



With more than a quarter century of business development and leadership in the wealth management sector, Hantak is well-respected by his peers as one of the foremost strategic thinkers in the field, with a specialty in advising an ultra-high-net-worth clientele. His team provides investment management, fiduciary, private banking, and wealth consulting solutions for successful families.

An avid outdoorsman, Hantak also sits on the board for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, serving on five committees. He has previously served on the boards of Junior Achievement and Friends for Life Animal Shelter.

Bonnie Houston, Chief Administrative Officer, NOV Inc.

Appointed to the Chief Administrative Officer role in March 2017, Houston is responsible for NOV's global HR, organizational development, and travel functions, covering more than 28,000 employees in 65 countries. During her nearly 17-year career at NOV, Houston has

held numerous leadership positions and authored the company's strategies for succession, compensation, learning and development, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and ESG.



Houston's community stewardship resume is equally impressive, as she currently sits on the boards for multiple local nonprofit organizations. She is chair of the human resource committee for the Energy Workforce & Technology Council, and the National Diversity Council named her one of the "Most Powerful and Influential Women of Texas."

Dr. Daniel Penny, Chief of Pediatric Cardiology, Texas Children's Hospital



Dr. Penny is internationally renowned for his work in pediatric cardiology. Prior to joining Texas Children's Hospital in 2010, Dr. Penny practiced at several leading hospitals around the world, including The Great Ormond Street Hospital (London) and The Royal Children's Hospital (Melbourne, Australia). He was a founding director of the Australia and New Zealand Children's Heart Research Centre, and he led the creation of a state-of-the art cardiovascular facility in Hue, Vietnam.

On the academic side, he is an editor for Moss and Adams' *Heart Disease in Infants, Children, and Adolescents* and Rudolph's *Textbook of Pediatrics*—widely considered the definitive texts in pediatric cardiology and pediatrics, respectively. Dr. Penny is the co-director of the Texas Children's Heart Center, which is ranked No. 1 nationally by *U.S. News and World Report* in pediatric cardiology and heart surgery.

"It is impossible to not be impressed at each of their collective accomplishments," said **Julie Luecht**, board chairman of Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana. "All of them have demonstrated a sincere desire to make real impacts for their neighbors, which makes them a perfect fit for the mission of Make-A-Wish."

Hantak, Houston, and Dr. Penny come to Make-A-Wish at an exceptionally transformational time, as the organization plans to double the number of annual wishes granted to local kids facing critical illnesses by 2025.

"I am extremely proud that Make-A-Wish is able to attract individuals of their caliber to our board," Elsayed Guest said. "The board roster reflects the organization's growing strength and influence in the community as we advance our mission of serving the nearly 1,000 local kids currently on wish journeys."

To learn more and get involved with Make-A-Wish, visit wish.org/texgulf.

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About Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana

Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana is one of 59 chapters throughout the United States and its territories. Since our inception in 1984, we have granted nearly 10,000 wishes to local children, and, during fiscal year 2021, we granted more than 400 wishes. By 2025, we will double the number of wishes granted annually.

We are on a quest to bring every eligible child's wish to life because a wish is an integral part of a child's treatment journey. Research shows children who have wishes granted build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight a critical illness. This improves their quality of life and produces better health outcomes. A wish transforms the lives of children, their families, volunteers, supporters, medical professionals, and entire communities.

Make-A-Wish is the world's leading children's wish-granting organization, serving children in every community in the United States and in 50 countries worldwide. Since 1980, nearly 500,000 wishes have been granted to children in the U.S. and its territories.

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