Last year marked the 20th anniversary of Amazing Place, still the only day center in the Houston community exclusively for adults with mild to moderate dementia. In addition to a number of special events and the release of a new book in honor of this milestone, the year was also filled with other noteworthy successes.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In April, we hosted a Spring Fiesta on our patio for our generous donors and dedicated volunteers, honoring those who have donated their time, talent and treasures and without whom we could not succeed.

In September, our very special 20th Anniversary Dinner Celebration was held, surpassing our fundraising goal and raising $737,316, thanks to the support of Chairman Dan Dinges, Emcee Melanie Lawson and Honorees Mary Lou and Charles Hall.

To honor the 20th year of serving those touched by dementia, we released the new book, Remembering What Matters...Stories from an Amazing Place Reveal the Unexpected Lessons of Dementia (available at amazingplacehouston.org, local bookstores and Amazon.) A book release party was held in October to celebrate the 12 participants and their families featured in the book.

1. (l to r) Chair Dan Dinges, Lacy Baird, Honoree Charles Hall, Tracey Brown, 2016 Board President Karen Comiskey with her husband, Gus at the 20th Celebration.

2. Participant and former AP Executive Director Margaret Bandy, featured in the book, with her son, Griff, at the Book release event.

3. Volunteers Karen and Howard Schneider with Pat Anderson at the Spring Fiesta event honoring donors and volunteers.

4. Remembering What Matters...Stories from an Amazing Place Reveal the Unexpected Lessons of Dementia

5. Participants working hard and having fun doing a community service project.
Revenue from the 20th Anniversary event contributed a record 27% to the revenue stream, representing a 125% increase over the prior year. Income from the day program, originating from private pay, scholarships, long term care insurance and assistance from the Veterans Administration, continued to be our largest source of revenue, representing 43% of total revenue.

We awarded more than $140,000 in need-based scholarships in 2016. Contributions from foundations, churches, individuals and corporations made up 29% of unrestricted gifts.
DEMENTIA DAY PROGRAM

In our dementia day program, we served an average of 56 participants per week, for a total of over 179 participants throughout the year. They ranged in age from 50 to 100, and came from over 53 zip codes.

Our staff of 25 has an impressive average tenure of 5 years; the tenure of our Executive Director, Participant Program Director and Care Team Director averages 10 years.

Nearly 600 volunteers donated their time and talents which equates to four full time staff.

Our program team of ten professionals—translating to a participant to staff ratio of 6 to 1—led an average of 30 cognitive, physical, social, creative and spiritual programs each day.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Last year, we touched over 750 caregivers from Amazing Place and throughout the community, offering support, referrals and psychosocial counseling.

In our latest survey, 100% of caregivers reported they are better able to care for their loved ones at home because of Amazing Place.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

In 2016, we made more than 50 Brain Health Matters and other educational presentations, reaching over 1,800 individuals at corporations, professional organizations, community groups, senior centers and churches around the city.

We continued to provide professional education and clinical rotations to help train future health care professionals in dementia care serving 113 medical, nursing, psychology, optometry, and physical therapy students in 2016.

1. A community outing at the Art League of Houston.

2. New participant and artist Helen M. works on a drawing in the garden.

3. Volunteer and Board member Ron Girotto playing dominoes.

4. Baking class with Participant Program Coordinator Kaneisha

5. AP Community and Church Liaison Susan Giles, speaking about Aging and Spirituality at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church