

# Bayou City No.

District 15A

## Bayou City Welcomes New Leadership



After a successful 12 months, the Bayou City Lodge No. 228 unanimously elected Worshipful Master Christopher B. Houston, Senior Warden Kwame Cyrus and Junior Warden

Warden Craig B. McLaurin to lead the Craft for the 2017-2018 Masonic year.

Accepting his gavel from Special District Deputy Steven Rondeno, WM Houston said, "Bayou City would continue to be the premiere lodge in District 15A and a leader for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and its jurisdiction. We are committed to being an example of true brotherly love and charity through our community service programming and involvement."

Bayou City Lodge No. 228 meets every second and fourth Wednesday, 7:00pm, at Magnolia Lodge No. 2.

### Officers

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	Christopher Houston <sup>33</sup>
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Kwame Cyrus <sup>32</sup>
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Craig McLaurin <sup>32</sup>
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Darrick Brown <sup>32</sup>
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Derrick Heath

Brotherly Love, Relief,  
Truth.

# Bayou City No. 228

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## BAYOU CITY HOSTS FAMILY DAY

The family members of Bayou City Lodge No. 228 gathered in the festive confines of Dave & Busters last weekend for its first “Family Day” outing of the year. These events are organized so brothers can bring their loved ones and friends out for a day of fellowship and fun with other member’s families.

Worshipful Master Christopher Houston stressed the significance of family, saying, “Our brothers work hard for the Lodge-- attending meetings, charity functions, etc. None of it would be possible without the love and support of our wives, children and significant others. We are family!” Attendees laughed and told stories while children played games and won valuable prizes.



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FAITH. HOPE. CHARITY.

## BAYOU CITY'S 'COOL' PARTNERSHIP DELIVERS RELIEF



The summer months are in full swing for the citizens of Houston and Bayou City Lodge No. 228 continued its annual partnership

with historic Williams Temple Church of God and Christ, where Bishop Kurt Thompson (pictured above) presides. On June 30th under the continued leadership of Worshipful Master Christopher Houston, Bayou City collected and donated 27 box fans to the church where they will be distributed throughout the community.

“Texas heat can be brutal”, says Houston, “and as Masons, it is incumbent we do our part to provide relief to our community and to those families who may not have the resources to provide comfort to their loved ones.”

Bishop Thompson said, “The lodge’s annual lodge activity affords the church the opportunity to address the needs of the community and we look forward to further collaboration with Bayou City.”



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# CHARITY

# Bayou City No. 228

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## SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS BAYOU CITY BACK TO KASHMERE



The 2017-2018 school year had an unprecedented start with Hurricane Harvey's impact on the Houston Independent School District. Nevertheless, Bayou City Lodge

No. 228 delivered on its promise to bring backpack and school supplies for the students of Kashmere Gardens Elementary. Led by Worshipful Master Christopher Houston, the lodge collected and donated over 40 backpacks full of supplies to a school community whose economic situation can pose a challenge when preparing for the new school.

Principal Reginald Bush thanked the lodge for keeping its word, despite the flooding, and welcomed Bayou City back through the school year. "This disaster definitely has put our families in harm's way. We can't thank you enough!" WM Houston simply responded, "This is who Masons are."

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# CHARITY



# Bayou City No. 228

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## BAYOU CITY PROVIDES AID TO COMMUNITY AND MASONS IN NEED



Hurricane Harvey was a monumental disaster for Southeast Texas. However, this historic event did not stop Bayou City 228 from rolling up their sleeves and answering the call for a brother in distress and community in need. Under the leadership of WM Christopher Houston, members of Bayou City and brothers from

Districts 15A and 16 helped Past SDDGM Rondono begin the cleanup and debris removal after his family lost their home.

In addition, Bayou City also spent a weekend partnering with national college fraternities and sororities in joint efforts to collect and distribute water, food, clothing and other basic essentials to a region in dire need help. These efforts resulted in two U-haul trucks full of items earmarked for the Houston and Beaumont-Port Arthur area. WM Houston said, "Historic events and needs require historic responses. I'm proud Bayou City proved Prince Hall Masonry can respond whenever needed."

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# CHARITY

# Bayou City No. 228

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas - District 15A

## NOVEMBER BEGINS THE SEASON OF GIVING FOR BAYOU CITY



Residents in Southeast Texas are still cleaning up from recent storms. As Thanksgiving and the Christmas season approaches, food pantries across the area will be stressed to their limits providing food to those in need.

Under the leadership of WM Christopher Houston, Bayou City Lodge No. 228 participated in their annual food drive to benefit the East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry in their mission to address the basic needs of those in temporary crisis and ensure the community's needs are being met during Thanksgiving.

The Lodge spent the month collecting canned goods and non-perishable items. Brothers took time from their usual vocations and presented several baskets of food to the Ministry's food pantry. "It is easy for people to forget everyone is not as fortunate as others", says Houston. "As Masons, it is our duty to never forget and to provide the help and assistance to those in the most dire circumstances."

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# Bayou City No. 228

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas - District 15A

## BAYOU CITY MAKES CHRISTMAS WISHES COME TRUE

December 17th—December marks the end of the traditional 2017 calendar year. The members of Bayou City Lodge No. 228 closed out 2017 continuing their commitment to Houston community and its youth. They spent the month of November and December collecting and distributing toys for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas’s annual toy drive for the youth of Ft. Worth and District 15A’s toy drive, serving families in the Harris, Ft. Bend and Waller County areas. However, the giving didn’t stop there!



Under the continued leadership of WM Christopher Houston, Bayou City continued its partnership with Kashmere Gardens Elementary and presented eight bicycles to students as an early Christmas gift and reward for a successful first part of the school year. As

an added bonus, they also surprised the boys and girls with toys and gifts! Kashmere Principal Reginald Bush thanked the Lodge and said, “Each year the bikes continues to bring smiles to the students and parents of Kashmere. Your efforts are a real blessing.”



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# Bayou City No. 228

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## BAYOU CITY CONTINUES THEIR SUPPORT OF CHILDREN IN NEED



Every nine minutes, a child in Texas experiences abuse or neglect. Nearly 4,000 children in the Houston area have experienced such life-threatening abuse or neglect that they had to be removed from their homes and placed in foster care.

In support of Child Advocates of Houston's vision to provide a court appointed advocate (volunteer) for every abused and neglected child in Harris

County who needs one, WM Christopher Houston and the brothers of Bayou City Lodge No. 228-- via a charitable contribution from the Texas Prince Hall Charitable Foundation, presented the organization with a \$500 check to assist with the recruitment, training and support of volunteers who provide a voice for children in foster care.

This provides lifesaving advocacy that helps abused and neglected children exit foster care to a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible. Volunteers make sure the children are receiving the medical and psychological help they need, meet with teachers and principals to help the children thrive in school. They also dry tears and give hugs in addition to throwing the occasional birthday party. More importantly, they serve as a 'constant' person for the children to count on during this tumultuous time.

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## BAYOU CITY CONTINUES ANNUAL EASTER TRADITION



March begins the spring season and there was no better way to usher in the warm weather than providing fun activities for families and children in the community. Bayou City Lodge No. 228 and Attentive Ear No. 350 continued their partnership and hosted their “City Wide Egg

Hunt”. Open to the public, this annual event provided an opportunity for children to scour Buffalo Run Park in search of Easter eggs, toys, treats and those elusive money eggs!

Members of Bayou City Lodge spent the month purchasing Easter baskets to ensure no child would walk away empty-handed and under the direction of Worshipful Master Christopher Houston, the lodge purchased and donated enough hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. to feed 80 people. “Spring is the season of renewal”, says Houston. “As people renew their faith, it is important Prince Hall Freemasonry be present to renew its commitment to servicing the community.”

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