

Episcopal Health Foundation receives multimillion-dollar gift from MacKenzie Scott

By Chandler France – Reporter, Houston Business Journal

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Billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott gave a one-time, unrestricted gift of \$20 million to Houston-based nonprofit Episcopal Health Foundation.

EHF was founded in 2013 as part of Denver-based Catholic Health Initiatives' acquisition of the St. Luke's Episcopal Health System. It focuses on researching preventative solutions for the underlying, root causes of poor health as well as making health care more affordable and accessible.

Since its founding, the nonprofit has invested more than \$450 million in grants, research projects, engagement efforts and more. Scott's donation will be used to make more investments in those ongoing efforts, the nonprofit said Sept. 27.

"This generous donation is validation that our work to go beyond the doctor's office to address the underlying, non-medical factors that impact health is critical in Texas," Elena Marks, EHF's founding president and CEO, said in the announcement. "We've worked to find successful solutions to help ensure everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. This gift is a vote of confidence in the need for this work."

As of March, Scott had given away at least \$12 billion to 1,257 groups since announcing in 2019 that she would donate her entire fortune, the New York Times reported.

Those donations included several multimillion-dollar gifts to Houston organizations. She donated \$436 million to Habitat for Humanity in March, of which Houston Habitat for Humanity received \$11 million. In February, Scott

donated another \$13 million to Communities in Schools of Houston as part of a \$133.5 million gift to Communities in Schools Network and National Office.

Scott has also made significant contributions to educational institutions in the Houston area. She donated \$30 million to San Jacinto College in June 2021 and \$50 million to Prairie View A&M University in December 2020, the largest gifts both colleges had ever received.

Scott currently is worth \$33.8 billion, according to Forbes' Real Time Billionaires List. After she and Amazon (Nasdaq: AMZN) founder Jeff Bezos divorced in 2019, she received 25% of the couple's Amazon stock, giving her a 4% stake in the company worth \$38 billion.