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# The Secret In The Giving

## The wise man had slept the night at the edge of the

village. He awakened at his usual time, just before sunrise, as a warm wind moved over the land, gathering faint aromas that sweetened the air: a small garden here, a tiny blossom there, the pungent whisper-memory of a dying water hole.

He sat up, looked to the east where the sky was beginning to lighten, and began his morning devotions, starting with prayer as he had done almost every day of his life. It was during these prayers that the sound of hurried footsteps greeted his ears, and then a voice behind him: "Master, master, where is it?"

The old man turned slowly, and there standing behind him was a young peasant, dressed in rags. The young man was excited, his chest heaving up and down, his eyes intense and piercing.

"The old man studied the young man for a long moment. "What is it that you ask of me?"

The young man bowed slightly to his elder, seeming to calm himself a bit, and spoke: "I had a dream last night, and in my dream I came to the edge of the village and met a holy man. And now here you are. In my dream that holy man gave me a precious jewel."

"Ah," replied the old man as he reached into a tattered cloth bag and

retrieved a ruby the size of a fist. "You must mean this. I found it...I don't remember where, but I have no use for it. You may have it."

With that the old man handed the ruby to the young peasant, a man whose hand had never held more than two copper coins at one time. The young man took the ruby. He could not believe his good fortune. He held it up to the sun, his face awash in red shadow. He walked home slowly, holding the jewel in his hand, his arm outstretched in front of him. He could not take his eyes off of it.

Returning to his small cottage he placed the ruby on the table, pulled up the one chair that he owned, and sat all day admiring his treasure. He would turn the stone this way and that, slowly, reverently stroking this great gift over and over as the hours passed.

That night the young man had difficulty sleeping. Early in the morning he awoke, took the ruby, and return to the edge of the village in search of the old man. When his prayers were once again interrupted the holy man asked if there was a problem. Handing the ruby back to the holy man the young peasant said, "I do not want this. I want what you know that made it so easy for you to give it away."

Those who make it a habit of giving do, in fact, know the secret. We at Rise were all saddened following the New Year

## Rise Staff Member Honored

In April of 2005, **Nan Robinson**, infant room lead teacher and Rise School educational coordinator, was honored by the **Houston Children's Museum** and the **Martel Foundation** as the **Marian and Speros Martel Early Childhood Teacher of the Year**. The seven members of the Martel Award Selection Committee each visited the Rise school and spent time in the pink room observing Nan do her magic. The museum and foundation search for award candidates who help children gain a passion for learning, and decided they need look no further after watching Nan work with her children and staff, creating a rich environment for development and discovery. Nan, who rose to the top from a pool of 4,000 applicants and four finalists, was presented a framed plaque and \$1,000 honorarium during a banquet at the Children's Museum during the celebration of the Week of the Young Child on April 16, 2005. Those of us who work at Rise have the honor of working with Nan everyday, and know how much she gives to her children, but it is always nice when early childhood specialists from the community recognize and honor the quality work of the Rise staff. We congratulate **Nan Robinson, Early Childhood Teacher of the Year**.



Miss Nan and Brooke

at the passing of Mr. Ben Love. Seven years ago, in January of 1999, Ben Love was present among friends and family of John Duncan who gathered to celebrate Mr. Duncan's birthday and presented him with a check that became the first donations to The Brenda and John H. Duncan Rise School of Houston. With the help of Mr. Love and others like him, the Rise School opened its doors to the children of Houston one year later, in January of 2000. The support for Rise has never wavered. Now, 6 years later, the Rise School has become a national model for pre-school education. Rise will continue to thrive as long as we continue to gain the support of generous souls like the late Ben Love. We appreciate our donors. Without you we could not deliver the Rise experience to children and families who, like the young man in the story above, are searching for answers to tough questions, and finding those answers at Rise. ☀️

## Rise and Shine 5K Walk and Run 2005

What a morning! The Rise "fun run" was quite an event this year, with more than 2,000 runners and 60 commercial real estate sponsors joining us on an amazingly chilly morning, April 30 in downtown Houston. Our fabulous supporters stuck it out in spite of the wind and had a great time in the kids' 1K run down Crawford Street and the adults' 5K run all



**RISE AND SHINE 2006**  
RISE SCHOOL 5K WALK & RUN

**Saturday, April 29th**  
**Downtown Houston**

**8:00 a.m. Children's 1K**  
**8:30 a.m. 5K Walk and Run**

**Brochures and volunteer information will be available in March**

around our beautiful city. The run was put on for us again this year by our wonderful friends at **Luke's Locker**, led by owner **Matt Lucas**. Everyone tried to get warm before the run in a great warm-up led for us by **Shelly Scheffler** from **Houstonian Lite** and we were so thrilled to have the run started up by our own mayor, **Bill White**, as part of his "Get Moving Houston" initiative. The mayor actually ran in our 5K, proving that he really is one of this country's fittest mayors! Our thanks go out to him, his press secretary, **Pat Trahan** and his Wellness Council, especially **Herb Lipsman**. After the run, we had an amazing festival for the whole family,

with activities for everyone from a superslide to a reptile show! Congratulations to the team from **Jackson Walker** for winning best tent. Their petting zoo was so appreciated by all, as was their enthusiasm for event and our school. All of us at Rise want to also thank our hard-working run committee, especially our run chair, **John Holland** of **Trammell Crow Company**. The whole event would never have been possible without them and all of our sponsors in corporate real estate, especially our gold and silver sponsors, **Crescent Real Estate**, **Hines**, **Transwestern Commercial Services**, **Trammell Crow Company**, **CBRE Richard Ellis/L.J. Melody**, **TIAA/CREF**, **Metro National** and **CoStar Group**. ☀️

## Rise, Shine and Swing Golf Tournament 2005

This was the golf tournament that almost wasn't! After so much hard work by our fabulous golf committee, awesome chair, **Richard Hellmann**, as well as **John Duncan**, **John Gaylord**, **Carl Geisler**, **Will Huthnance**, **Marvin Marcell** and **Eric Weir**, we were all ready to go for September 27 at the new and exciting **Redstone Tournament Course**, home of the 2006 Shell Houston Open. Then, Hurricane Rita came and ruined all our plans! After a lot of phone calls, we decided to reschedule for October 10, thanks to the flexibility of our

friends at Redstone. Unfortunately, it rained on us anyway and we had to call off play about four holes into the tournament. Still, all of our 104 friends who joined us, hoping for a great day of golf, were such good sports and we had a great lunch and silent auction. Thanks to the generosity of **Lexus Champions for Charity**, our wonderful supporters of **Houston Fuel Oil Terminal Company** were able to bid on a trip for two to Pebble Beach. Thanks to their president, **Bill Wilson**, and all of our wonderful golfers, especially our Eagle sponsors, **Brenda and John Duncan**, **The Lillian and C.W. Duncan Foundation**, **Ted Gaylord**, **Chris and Don Sanders**, **Julie and Don Weir**, **Wendy and Kevin Whalen** and **Sterling McCall Automotive Group**. In spite of the rain, everyone had fun getting together, and thanks to the generosity of **Redstone Golf Club**, all participants got passes to come back and play again on a better day. We at Rise are so grateful to all the sponsors, golfers and our incredible committee, especially **Marvin Marcell of Sterling McCall**, who, with the help of **Ned Piedmont from Advantage Golf**, really made the whole thing work! ☀️



Lee Godfrey, John Duncan, Rusty Hardin and Harry Reasoner

especially our Eagle sponsors, **Brenda and John Duncan**, **The Lillian and C.W. Duncan Foundation**, **Ted Gaylord**, **Chris and Don Sanders**, **Julie and Don Weir**, **Wendy and Kevin Whalen** and **Sterling McCall Automotive Group**. In spite of the rain, everyone had fun getting together, and thanks to the generosity of **Redstone Golf Club**, all participants got passes to come back and play again on a better day. We at Rise are so grateful to all the sponsors, golfers and our incredible committee, especially **Marvin Marcell of Sterling McCall**, who, with the help of **Ned Piedmont from Advantage Golf**, really made the whole thing work! ☀️

## Gifts from the Heart 2005

What a beautiful night! It was nice and cold for our sixth annual Gifts from the Heart event at Bering's this year, which probably put everyone in the mood for some holiday shopping. Thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. Augie Bering**, who welcomed us to their family's wonderful store, two hundred and eighty five of our generous supporters joined us to celebrate honorary chairs **Julie & Don Weir** and **Chris & Don Sanders** and shop, eat and visit with one another. Everyone seemed to have a great time and we are so grateful to our all our sponsors, particularly our major underwriters, **Brenda and John Duncan**, **The Lillian and C.W. Duncan Foundation**, **Sandra and John Gray**, **The Ellwood**



Honorary Chairs Julie & Don Weir and Chris & Don Sanders

**Foundation**, **Chris and Don Sanders**, **Texas Children's Hospital**, **Julie and Don Weir** and **Wendy and Kevin Whalen**. Event chairs **Catrina and Nicholas McLean** worked so hard for us, doing everything they could to make this the best year at Bering's ever! One of the special things that Catrina did was making sure we had our very own **Christopher Radko** ornament to sell at Bering's this year, designed especially for us by the artist himself. In addition, we have to give special thanks to our silent auction committee. Thanks to all the hard work of **Shannon Weir**, **Tracey Wyatt** and **Kim Sanchez**, we were able to make almost \$50,000 for the school on the auction alone! Additional thanks go to everyone at **Bering's**, **Mills Duncan of Duncan Coffee**, **Alice Dennis**, **Dr. Edward Yosowitz**, the **Bonneté family** for the incredible martini bar and to all the **Rise families** who worked so hard to make the evening special. ☀️

## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

The Rise School of Houston admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. The Rise School of Houston is located at a Texas Children's Hospital facility on 8080 North Stadium Drive, Houston, Texas, 713-532-7473.

*Every contribution makes a difference. The Rise School of Houston counts on generous friends for assistance. Thank you again for helping reduce the challenges of disabilities for our young children while maximizing their abilities. Thank you for caring.*

## The Rise School of Houston Staff

Jan Stailey  
*Director*

Ashley Kress  
*Development Coordinator*

Zana Thompson  
*Office Manager*

Nan Robinson  
*Educational Coordinator/Teacher*

Melissa Waters  
*Teacher*

Jolanda Holt  
*Teacher*

Tracie Frederick  
*Teacher*

Beverly Taube  
*Teacher*

Sonya Foster  
*Teacher*

Christine Schwarzbach  
*Physical Therapist*

Melanie Mims  
*Speech-Language Pathologist*

Jill Lack  
*Occupational Therapist*

Veronica Butler  
*Music Therapist*

Jenny Gil  
*Teacher Assistant*

Donna Cox  
*Teacher Assistant*

Patricia Harris  
*Teacher Assistant*

Lois McDonald  
*Teacher Assistant*

Blaise Konkel  
*Teacher Assistant*

Peggy Nevedomsky  
*Teacher Assistant*

Veronica Anchonda  
*Teacher Assistant*

Nina Grant  
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Mercedes Quiroz  
*Teacher Assistant*

Heather Ruth  
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Sandra Wormsbaker  
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Stephanie Freelon  
*Teacher Assistant*

Menomamee Smith  
*Teacher Assistant*

Mary Gulley  
*Teacher Assistant*

Kristin Huckaby  
*Classroom Assistant*

Christopher Scott  
*Classroom Assistant*

Melvin St. Julian  
*Classroom Assistant*

Tammy Palmer  
*Classroom Assistant*

Meredith Hanrahan  
*Classroom Assistant*

## Rise Staff Member to Appear of the Big Screen

**Chris Scott**, classroom assistant at Rise, answered a casting call from an independent film producer in New York City, and was awarded a major role in the film "My Brother" to premier in New York, Houston and throughout the country this coming spring. "My Brother" is an inner city story of two impoverished boys, Isaiah and James. James is developmentally disabled. Their mother, L'Tisha finds herself in a tragic situation. Dying of tuberculosis, she desperately tries to get her two boys, eight and eleven at the time, adopted together. Finding that only Isaiah can be adopted, L'Tisha makes the only choice she feels she can make; creating an unbreakable bond of love between the boys, and hoping that bond will get them through life. Chris was selected to play the part of James as a young man entering adulthood. The movie stars Vanessa Williams in the lead role as the boys' mother, as well as Nashawn Kears (most recently of Desperate Housewives) as Isaiah and Tatum O'Neal as Isaiah's love interest. Screenings have been well received. Chris did so well as James that the screen writer wrote more material for his role. We are excited for this opportunity for Chris to expand his horizons. When asked about a future in the movies, Chris assured the industry headhunters that he already had a job at the Rise School and they couldn't offer him a better deal than that. ☀️



Chris working with Ellie



The Brenda and John H. Duncan

**Rise School**

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