



## Our Founder

---

Lyda Hill is a Dallas entrepreneur, philanthropist, and one of the few women to make the 2013 Philanthropy list of most generous donors and Forbes' 2014 list of top 15 entrepreneurs who give back to the community. Through both the for-profit and not-for-profit entities that comprise Lyda Hill Philanthropies, Miss Hill is committed to funding game-changing advances in science and nature, to empowering nonprofit organizations, and to improving the communities of greatest importance to her, Texas and Colorado.

Miss Hill's varied career reflects business savvy, entrepreneurial vigor, and a commitment to balancing profit with purpose. She began her career in 1967 when she founded Hill World Travel; it quickly became the largest travel agency in Dallas and was one of the largest in the country when it was sold in 1982. She subsequently served as president of Seven Falls near Colorado Springs, a series of seven cascading waterfalls that has been called, "The Grandest Mile of Scenery in Colorado." She later developed and constructed the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center, also in Colorado Springs. Miss Hill continued her business pursuits in 1990, by partnering to revitalize the Fort Worth Stockyards into an award-winning, historic tourist and shopping area highlighting the city's heritage.

Believing that 'science is the answer,' Miss Hill also followed her lifelong passion for game-changing life sciences investments – a deeply personal mission heightened by her own battle with breast cancer. Among her many initiatives, she founded the Oklahoma Breast Care Center, and funded and launched Remeditex Ventures, a venture capital fund that invests in early biomedical research by universities and health care institutions designed to take promising scientific advances to the marketplace quickly.

In recent years, Miss Hill has focused her life sciences philanthropic efforts on a number of other game-changing advances. Chief among them are a \$50 million grant to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Moon Shots Program which aims to combat and eliminate cancer; a \$25 million grant to the University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) Medical Center to establish the Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics; a \$20 million grant to her alma mater, The Hockaday School, to fund a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) program; a \$3 million grant to the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS), to establish a Veteran Health and Trauma Clinic and related academic program; a \$2 million grant to the Center for BrainHealth, intended to help military service members and veterans recover from traumatic brain injuries; and grants to fund a variety of environmental and marine conservation efforts being conducted by The Nature Conservancy and Pew Charitable Trusts.

Also a patron of projects designed to revitalize communities near and dear to her, Miss Hill has been instrumental in the funding and development of, among other things, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science; the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge in Dallas; a \$6 million grant to VolunteerNow for their VOLY platform; and commitments to UCCS and the Garden of the Gods Visitor Center in Colorado Springs.

As part of her desire to leave a lasting mark on society, Miss Hill became a member of The Giving Pledge in 2010. The Pledge, created by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett, is a commitment by some of the world's wealthiest individuals and families to dedicate a majority of their wealth to philanthropy. Miss Hill has pledged to donate the entirety of her wealth to charity, the bulk of which she plans to do during her lifetime.

In addition to her monetary gifts, countless nonprofit organizations have also benefited from Miss Hill's leadership, including the Visiting Nurses Association, the Dallas Chapter of the World Presidents' Organization, the Crystal Charity Ball, the Junior League of Dallas, the Dallas and Texas Chapters of the American Heart Association, and Easter Seals of North Texas. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the prestigious President's Volunteer Action Award and an appointment to President Ronald Reagan's Advisory Council on Private Sector Initiatives for a project she launched in the 1980s called The Volunteer Connection. This enormously successful project, created to promote volunteerism in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, has since been duplicated nationwide.

Miss Hill attended The Hockaday School, a school for girls in Dallas, from 1952 to 1960. She entered Stanford University in 1960 but soon left to attend Hollins University, a small liberal arts college for women in Virginia, where she earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1964.



For a complete list of Miss Hill's affiliations and honors, please visit [www.lydahillphilanthropies.org](http://www.lydahillphilanthropies.org).

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS:

Charter 100  
Chief Executive Organization  
Citizens Council of Dallas  
Committee of 200  
Dallas Assembly  
Explorers Club  
International Women's Forum  
Philosophical Society of Texas  
Young Presidents Organization

CURRENT NONPROFIT BOARDS:

Garden of the Gods Foundation  
University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Lifetime Member of the Board of Visitors

PAST NONPROFIT BOARDS:

American Heart Association, Chairman of Dallas & Texas Chapters  
Arts Magnet High School Advisory Board  
Crystal Charity Ball, Chairman, 1975, Endowment Committee, 2007-2011  
Dallas Easter Seals JC Penney LPGA Skins Game, Creator, 1990  
Easter Seals Society for Children, Chairman 1989-1990  
Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, 1985-1990, Leadership Dallas Chairman  
Hockaday School – Honorary Board Member  
Independent Sector, 1986-1992  
Junior League of Dallas, President, 1982-1983  
Junior League of Dallas Endowment Fund, Chairman  
Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management Advisory Board  
President's Advisory Board for Private Sector Initiatives, 1986-1989  
SMU School of Business, Advisory Board  
Visiting Nurse Association, Chairman, Honorary Board Member  
Volunteer Connection, Creator, 1985  
Women's Texas Golf Association, President  
World President's Foundation  
World President's Organization of Dallas, Chairman



## HONORS:

Planned Parenthood of North Texas, Gertrude Shelburne Humanitarian Award, 2018  
Linz Award, 2017  
UCCS College of Business, Lifetime Entrepreneurship Award, 2017  
El Pomar Foundation, Russell T. Tutt Community Leadership Award, 2016  
YPO, Global Impact Award, 2016  
Cooper Institute, Legacy Award, 2015  
The Association of Junior Leagues International, Mary Harriman Award, 2015  
SMU, The Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics & Public Responsibility, J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award, 2015  
The University of Texas at Dallas, Center for BrainHealth, Legacy Award, 2014  
The Nature Conservancy, Ocean Bright Spot, 2014  
The Association of Fundraising Professionals Dallas Chapter, Philanthropist of the Year, 2013  
Philanthropist of the Year, Colorado Springs, 2013  
Southwestern Medical Foundation, Sprague Award, 2012  
The Junior League of Dallas, Lifetime Achievement Award, 2011  
Hollins University, Outstanding Alumnae, 2009  
Volunteer Center of Dallas, Lifetime Achievement Award, 2008  
Association of Fundraising Professionals, Fundraiser of the Year, Dallas, 2007  
Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation, Community Enhancement Award, 2007  
Colorado Springs Business Journal, Women of Influence, 2005  
Leadership Dallas, Outstanding Alumni Award, 2004  
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Distinguished Service Award, 2002  
Northwood University, Outstanding Business Leader, 1999  
Committee of 200, Luminary Award for Philanthropic Innovator, 1998  
Gazette Telegraph, Top Ten Women in Business in Colorado Springs, 1996  
Komen Foundation, Philanthropy Award, 1996  
Colorado Springs, Outstanding Tourism Award, 1995  
Partnership for Community Design, Colorado Springs, 1995  
Fort Worth Press Club, Headliners of the Year Award, 1993  
Women's Center, Maura Award, 1993  
Newsmaker of the Year Award, Fort Worth, 1992  
Best Real Estate Development in Fort Worth, 1992  
Komen Foundation, Betty Ford Award, 1989  
Governor's Award, Outstanding Volunteer in Texas, 1988  
Hockaday Distinguished Alumnae Award, 1986  
Dallas Historical Society, Award of Excellence, 1986  
Richardson Junior League, Outstanding Volunteer, 1986  
Best of America Award, 1985  
President's Volunteer Action Award, 1985

## EDUCATION:

Hollins University, 1964, BA Math  
Stanford University, 1960-61