

Our Founder

Lyda Hill, 72, 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. She is chairman of both LH Holdings, Inc., a private investment firm, and the Lyda Hill Foundation. Through her for-profit and not-for-profit investments, Miss Hill is committed to funding game-changing advances in science and nature, to empowering nonprofit organizations, and to improving the local communities of greatest importance to her, North Texas and Colorado Springs.

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, which 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. She 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 gamechanging 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 Reditex 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 pledge to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Moon Shots Program which aims to combat and eliminate cancer, a \$20 million grant to her alma mater, The Hockaday School, to fund a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) program, a \$10 million pledge to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's for various initiatives including an Endowment for Systems Biology, a \$2 million pledge to the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS), to establish a Veteran Health and Trauma Clinic and

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related academic program, a \$2 million pledge to the Center for BrainHealth, intended to help military service members and veterans recover from traumatic brain injuries, as well as grants to fund a variety of environmental/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, and the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge in Dallas, and 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 Buffet, is a commitment by some of the world's wealthiest individuals/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 benefitted 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 on 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, an all-girl school 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.

Civic Activities:

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



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Civic Activities: (cont.)

Citizens Council of Dallas

Explorers Club

Current Nonprofit Boards:

M. D. Anderson, Board of Visitors

Garden of the Gods Foundation

Junior League of Dallas Endowment Fund, Chairman

Past Nonprofit Boards:

American Heart Association, Chairman of Dallas & Texas Chapters

Arts Magnet High School Advisory Board

Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, 1985-1990, Leadership Dallas Chairman

Crystal Charity Ball, Chairman, 1975, Endowment Committee, 2007-2011

Easter Seal Society for Children, Chairman 1989-1990

Dallas Easter Seals JC Penney LPGA Skins Game, Creator, 1990

Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management Advisory Board

Independent Sector, 1986-1992

Junior League of Dallas, President, 1982-1983

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:

Association of Junior Leagues – Mary Harriman Award, 2015

SMU's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics & Public Responsibility - J. Erik Jonsson
Ethics Award, 2015

City of Colorado Springs, CO – Awarded Key to the City, 2015

Center for BrainHealth Legacy Award, 2014

The Nature Conservancy – Bright Spot, 2014

Association of Fundraising Professionals Dallas – Philanthropist of the Year, 2013

Philanthropist of the Year, Colorado Springs, 2013

Southwestern Medical Foundation – Sprague Award, 2012

Jr. League of Dallas – Lifetime Achievement Award, 2011



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Honors: (cont.)

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 Corp. – Community Enhancement, 2007
Women of Influence – Colorado Springs Business Journal, 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’s “Top Ten Women in Business in Colorado Springs,” 1996
Komen Foundation, Philanthropy Award, 1996
Outstanding Tourism Award – Colorado Springs, 1995
Partnership for Community Design, Colorado Springs, Colorado, -1995
Headliners of the Year Award from Fort Worth Press Club, 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 Alumna Award, 1986
Historical Society Award of Excellence, 1986
Richardson Junior League Outstanding Volunteers, 1986
Best of America Award, 1985
President’s Volunteer Action Award, 1985

