



DELTA EDUCATION AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Education, Scholarships and Services
P.O. Box 42227
Houston, Texas 77242-2227

DECF NEWS/UPDATES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

TBA via Email

FOUNDATION MEETING MARDI GRAS COMMITTEE MEETING

TBA

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

*Membership in DECF is open.
Contact Daphne Moss, Chair
or visit decfonline.com for
additional information.*

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

*Jordan Grove's Food -Pantry
Contact Maureen Gordon
Jack Yates High School
Contact Lelita Titus
Other Community Projects
are welcomed*

HEALTH TOPICS

*January's
Health Observances
Health Information*

CELEBRATE

*New Year's Day
January 1, 2025
Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 20, 2025*

FYI

SAVE THE DATE
March 1, 2025



Carnivale Mystique

Greetings,

Let us welcome a New Year and take the time to reflect on the year gone by—the blessings and challenges we faced, the lessons we learned, the people we met, and the experiences we had. It is also a time to meditate, ground ourselves, and set our intentions for the coming year. It's important to recognize the strength we've all shown by making it through 2024. We may have faced challenges and stressors unlike any we've encountered before, and many of us have realized, for the first time and in such a meaningful way, the deep value of our social support systems.

Many of us are still grieving losses, reeling from economic hardships, searching for meaning, and hoping that the New Year will bring a sense of relief and a new lease on life.

Now is the time to release any negative energy and feelings that weigh us down and embrace the privilege of serving, learning, and growing in our mission to promote social justice and foster growth in our communities. Let's look to the New Year with optimism and positivity. Together, we can set intentions for the coming year that will help us keep our thoughts and actions on track as we focus on resilience and support—both for ourselves and for others.

This is the perfect time to share hopeful "Happy New Year" wishes with everyone in our lives, including family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. After all, these are the people we've made incredible memories with in 2024 and will continue to create beautiful moments with in 2025. Let's take the time to show them just how much we care by sharing messages of gratitude inside a heartfelt card or by expressing our thanks face-to-face at a fun New Year's Eve party and throughout the year. You might even use these thankful messages as captions for your New Year's Instagram posts. No matter what words you choose to commemorate the New Year, they'll make your loved ones feel happy, blessed, and full of good fortune.

Wishing you a Happy New Year! May 2025 be filled with new adventures and good fortunes. Let's celebrate the arrival of a new chapter in our lives, and may 2025 bring you lots of love, laughter, and joy.



Pamela Cashaw, President Dave Moss, President Emeritus



HOT TOPICS

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

As stated by President Crawford, "What a Christmas Day for Texas Southern University. The Ocean of Soul was simply fantastic. It was a half time performance for the ages. The marching band set a standard by which all others will be measured". Let's all join him and congratulate Dr. Simmons, his amazing staff and the phenomenal student performers who shined at the" *spectacular BEONCE BOWL*". **TSU PROUD!**

CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of January. It celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., an influential American civil rights leader. He is most well-known for his campaigns to end racial segregation on public transport and for promoting racial equality in the United States. It is seen as a day to promote equal rights for all Americans, regardless of their background. Some educational establishments mark the day by teaching their pupils or students about the work of Martin Luther King Jr. and the struggle against racial segregation and racism. Since Martin Luther King Day falls on a Monday, it is one of the public holidays in the United States that always creates a long weekend.

INAUGURATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Do you remember what happened on Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021? This is where a joint session of Congress was set to convene in the U.S. Capitol to certify Joe Biden's electoral vote win. Meanwhile, thousands of Donald Trump supporters gathered near the White House to hear him speak at noon ET. Tensions were high on Capitol Hill. Protesters swarmed lawmakers outside, and Trump supporters broke through barriers at the U.S. Capitol. Now, four years later, it's Inauguration Day. It will occur on January 20th at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, DC. This is the day when President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect JD Vance are sworn in and take office. Trump and his allies are preparing for their first 100 days in office. Prayerfully, they are not getting ready to roll out their disastrous Project 2025 agenda.

What is the presidential oath of office?

The Vice President-elect is sworn in first and repeats the same oath of office, in use since 1884, as senators, representatives, and other federal employees: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

Around noon, President-elect Donald Trump recites the following oath in accordance with Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

What events take place on Inauguration Day? The inauguration is planned by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC). Inaugural events include the swearing-in ceremony, the inaugural address, and the pass in review.

How do you get tickets to the presidential inauguration? Just in case you are interested.

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies makes a limited number of inauguration tickets available to the public through members of Congress. Tickets are free and allow you to watch in person on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol as the president and vice president are sworn in on January 20, 2025. Tickets will be available from your members of Congress in the weeks leading up to the inauguration. Some members may begin accepting requests for tickets before then.



JANUARY 2025 HEALTH OBSERVANCES

National Health Observances (NHOs) are special days, weeks, or months dedicated to raising awareness about important health topics. Each month, we join NHOs that align with national priorities to improve health across the country. In January, let's come together to raise awareness about Cervical Health, Glaucoma, Human Trafficking, Birth Defects, National Blood Donor Month, and Integrative Health and Medicine. Along with promoting vaccinations, let's share these topics with family, friends, co-workers, and others.

Cervical Health Awareness Month

More than 11,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year. The good news: vaccination and regular screening can prevent the disease. During Cervical Health Awareness Month, help us educate people about the steps they can take to protect themselves and their loved ones. Encourage regular cervical cancer screenings and HPV vaccinations for children.

Glaucoma Awareness Month

More than 2.8 million Americans aged 40 and older have glaucoma. Nearly half of them do not know they have the disease, as it causes no early symptoms—earning glaucoma the nickname "Sneak Thief of Sight." Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness. Our goal is to alert everyone to have regular eye and optic nerve checks to detect glaucoma early. Treatments are available for all forms of glaucoma to prevent vision loss.

National Blood Donor Month

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. Winter months make it especially difficult to collect the necessary amount of blood and platelets required by hospitals. This January, the American Red Cross celebrates National Blood Donor Month and recognizes the lifesaving contributions of blood and platelet donors. National Blood Donor Month, celebrated each January for nearly 50 years, coincides with one of the most challenging times to maintain a sufficient blood supply. Winter illnesses, holiday schedules, and inclement weather often hinder blood drives. The Red Cross has issued an emergency call for blood and platelet donations to prevent shortages and ensure hospitals have what they need for patient care.

Integrative Health Month

The Academy for Integrative Health & Medicine declares January as Integrative Health Month, recognizing the growing importance of shifting from a disease-care model to a holistic one—focusing on mind, body, spirit, community, and planet. Healthcare disciplines must unite to ensure all forms of medicine are accessible to patients. Integrative Health, once referred to as complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), includes acupuncture, herbal medicines, naturopathy, dietary supplements, yoga, chiropractic care, and massage therapy. These approaches focus on treating the whole person and promoting sustainable, evidence-informed, patient-centered care.

Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Connecting the Dots, Strengthening Communities, Preventing Trafficking

The 2025 theme highlights the importance of preventing human trafficking by addressing its intersection with other forms of violence and social issues. By connecting the dots between human trafficking, online abuse, interpersonal violence, and economic inequality, we can disrupt multiple forms of exploitation. Building strong communities, promoting economic mobility, and fostering healthy relationships can reduce vulnerabilities to trafficking. This theme encourages collaboration across sectors and emphasizes the need to involve trafficking survivors in prevention efforts. Together, we can prevent exploitation and protect our communities.



JANUARY 2025 HEALTH OBSERVANCES- CONTINUED

Birth Defects Awareness Month

Join the National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) this January to raise awareness about birth defects. National Birth Defects Awareness Month (BDAM) focuses on improving the health and quality of life of people living with birth defects and expanding support networks for affected families.

World Leprosy Day – January 26

Observed on the last Sunday in January, this day aims to raise awareness about leprosy, reduce stigma, and advocate for the rights and treatment of those affected. Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, which primarily affects the skin and nerves. If untreated, it can lead to permanent disabilities. Leprosy is transmitted through droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contact with untreated individuals. The disease is curable with multidrug therapy (MDT).

SHINGLES- ANOTHER HEALTH CONCERN

What You Need to Know: Shingles is not just seen in the older population. Young adults can develop this condition, too. Shingles is a painful rash on the skin caused by the varicella-zoster virus. A shingles rash typically appears as a single stripe of blisters wrapped around either the left or right side of your face or body. The virus that causes shingles is the same virus that causes the chickenpox. After you get chickenpox, the virus remains inactive in your body even after your infection is treated and gone. For reasons not fully understood, it can become activated later in life. **Who Is at Risk for Shingles?** Shingles itself is not contagious and is typically not life-threatening. If you had chickenpox in the past, you are at risk of getting shingles. The risk increases as you get older — the condition is most commonly seen in individuals older than 50. Having a weakened immune system can also increase your risk of getting shingles. Some of the conditions that can cause you to have a weaker immune system include HIV and AIDS, certain cancers and immunosuppressive drugs. **Signs, Symptoms and Treatment:** The most common sign of shingles is a painful rash that appears in a stripe of blisters on one side of the face or body. **Talk to your health care provider immediately if you think you may have shingles to get a better understanding of the risks, symptoms, management and prevention.**

Celebrate Our Healthcare Professionals

National Pharmacist Day – January 12

National Pharmacist Day is a day to honor pharmacists for their critical role in healthcare, from dispensing medications to providing health advice. This observance highlights their importance in ensuring the safe and effective use of medications.

National IV Nurse Day – January 25

National IV Nurses Day recognizes the essential contributions of IV nurses in administering intravenous treatments and ensuring patient safety. IV nurses play a vital role in delivering medications and fluids, contributing significantly to patient recovery and care.

NOTE: These observances and health concerns are reminders for us to make informed decisions about our well-being and place more value on our health – ultimately leading to a higher quality of life. With better understanding and awareness, we can also provide better empathy and care for our families and neighbors. Prioritizing wellness helps individuals and communities succeed in their goals and enjoy life, so we believe everyone deserves a health plan that supports their needs and fits their budget.

Health Information shared by RxWiki News, Digital Pharmacist and Healthy Strides Rx Pharmacy.



MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

As we approach the end of another year, let us reflect on the blessings and challenges that have marked our journey together in 2024. Let us be reminded of God's boundless love and the hope that comes with the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This past year, we have had the privilege of serving, learning, and growing in our mission to promote social justice and answer the call to serve our communities. We have R.I.S.E.N., and this call to action has been made possible because of the faith, dedication, and generosity of noteworthy members like each of you. On behalf of the Board, thank you for your commitment to building and enhancing a community rooted in Christ's love and compassion.

As we transition into 2025, increasing membership will be our first step to ensuring a steadfast Foundation. Let's set a collective goal to **Retain, Reclaim, and Recruit** members:

- **Retain** – We are most proud of maintaining our committed members. We invite you to share ideas on how we can make your membership more valuable to boost satisfaction, acquisition, and retention.
- **Reclaim** – Many may be surprised to know that missing and inactive members often still like to stay informed about Foundation activities. While some may not regularly attend meetings, they are still part of us and should remain on our mailing list for newsletters and social media updates. Could consistent communication draw inactive members back to DECF? Let's all do our part to keep these members aware of DECF's activities.
- **Recruit** – Each one, reach one. Let's all actively recruit new members. You aren't just part of the DECF community; each of us is the best advocate for bringing in new members. Let's work together to grow our sense of connection and camaraderie, turning DECF into a welcoming and ever-growing family.

Membership Recruitment Ideas:

- Current members should reach out to family, friends, and co-workers who might be interested in joining.
- Share your recruitment ideas with leadership.
- Include DECF membership in your professional bios on LinkedIn and other platforms.
- Always be prepared to share a "membership pitch" about DECF when opportunities arise.
- Bring a friend to meetings and events.
- Organize a recruitment contest with special perks and recognition for members who recruit successfully.
- Obtain and wear DECF paraphernalia such as T-shirts, buttons, or pins to spread awareness.
- Invite lapsed members back and encourage them to rejoin the DECF family.

Kudos to the Following for their Recruitment Efforts:

- Jan Matthews
- D'Hania Miller
- Helen Muhammad
- Arielle White

Finally, please remember that our major 2025 Scholarship Fundraiser is upon us, and we need all members to be actively engaged to ensure its success.

Thank you for your continued support, and let us all be encouraged as we step into the New Year with renewed purpose and determination!



DELTA EDUCATION AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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P.O. Box 42227
Houston, Texas 77242-2227

Why Join Delta Education and Charitable Foundation

BECOME a member of a Foundation that supports the Community At-large and possess the following qualities:

- **D**EDICATED to serve the members of the community and other partnership/collaborations.
- **E**NERGIZED to promote Hot Topics relevant to good health and educational endeavors.
- **C**OMMITTED to Social Justice Issues.
- **F**UNDRAISING for scholarships and community programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the qualifications to join Delta Education and Charitable Foundation?

- Be a citizen in good standing and willing to serve and give their time and resources to help the Foundation accomplish its mission.

Do I have to be an African American?

- No. It is a goal of for the Foundation to become a diverse organization with members of all genders, races and ethnicities.

Do I have to be a member of Delta Sigma Theta?

- No. We are all a part of various other organizations.

Can I also be a member of the Divine 9 or any other organization?

- Yes. We strive on the intellect and contributions of people that share similar interest.

How often does the Foundation meet?

- Bi-monthly or as necessary by call meetings.

How much are the annual dues?

- Annual dues are \$25 for June 1, 2024 through December 31, 2004



Together Everyone Achieves More
Membership and Donor Information

- Yes, I would like to become a member of the Delta Education and Charitable Foundation (DECF). Annual dues \$50.
- Yes, I would like to show my support through the enclosed donation of:
_____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$25 _____ Other Amount
- Yes, I wish to receive periodic updates of DECF's programs and events.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Email: _____

DECF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. For more information contact the following:

Pamela Cashaw, President - 713-515-6252 or Daphne Moss, Vice-President - 713-824-7614

_____ I HAVE ENCLOSED A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO "DECF" FOR \$ _____

Please send check to: **DECF, P.O. Box 42227 - Houston, TX 77242-2227** "or

Zelle to: decf1974@gmail.com

Thank you for your continuous support!
DECF BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Moss
President Emeritus

Pamela Cashaw
President

Daphne Moss
Vice President

Jacquelyn Blossom
Secretary

Grace Macklin
Treasurer

Barbara Branch
Financial Secretary

Marna Arvie
Member

Fraulyn Baisey
Member

Mary Childs Henry
Member

Maureen Gordon
Member

Cynthia Jones
Member

Victoria Lackey
Member

Terri Lynch
Member

Donna Scott
Member

MISSION

DECF is committed to service, scholarships and educational purposes, yet not limited to such purposes; we shall continue our endeavors in the areas of social awareness, physical and mental health and cultural development in the communities we serve.

VISION

To operate in partnership with other like-minded organizations.

VALUES

Respect – Stewardship - Ethics - Learning and Innovation



**TICKETS | TABLES |
SPONSORSHIPS**

Diamond Sponsor= \$3,000

Will have the opportunity to be an Esteemed Grand Marshall. Leading the 1st line to the sounds of trumpets, trombones, and saxophones that fill the air as you party to the rhythm of New Orleans sounds

Gold Sponsor= \$2,000

Will lead the 2nd line, carrying umbrellas swirling to the beat of the trumpets that fill the air with regal fun and celebratory sounds of the trumpets; Known as the Strutting Revelers.

Silver Sponsor= \$1,200

Will join the parade during the 2nd line waving their Mardi Gras handkerchiefs while they promenade around the dance floor. It's like stepping back in time to the birth place of Jazz.

Bronze Sponsor=\$500

Will have the opportunity to parade during the 2nd line prior to the other guests joining the fun

Krewe= \$250

Will be called by provided name, throwing beads and coins to the guests as they promenade the dance floor

Individual ticket= \$100



**DELTA EDUCATION &
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

Presents our

*Annual Mardi Gras Gala
Scholarship Fundraiser*

Safari Texas Ranch

Infinity Ballroom

11627 FM 1464 Richmond, TX 77407

7PM-Midnight

Saturday, March 1, 2025

BLACK TIE AFFAIR

*Submit all payments via Zelle to
decf1974@gmail.com*

*Please note in the memo line your
Name, ticket count, table or sponsor info*

<https://www.DECFonline.com>



**TOGETHER EVERYONE
ACHIEVES MORE
FOR
DELTA EDUCATION AND
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

*Happy
New Year*