Mr. and Mrs. Robert McNair
Donors - McNair Scholarship, University of South Carolina

Janice and Robert C. McNair have been champions of philanthropy for many years, giving generously to deserving causes, while making education and medical research the cornerstone of their philanthropic giving. They are founders of the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, the Houston Texans Foundation, the McNair Medical Institute and the Robert and Janice McNair Education Foundation in Forest City, North Carolina.

Robert McNair, the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of the Houston Texans, is best known in the business community as the founder of Cogen Technologies which was the largest privately-owned cogeneration company in the world when it was sold in 1999. He serves as chairman of The McNair Group and owns Palmetto Partners, Ltd., and RCM Financial Services, L.P., private investment entities. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina where he served as student body president. McNair was named Entrepreneur of the Decade by the Houston Technology Center, a Man of Distinction by the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and was awarded the James A. Baker III Prize for Excellence in Leadership by the Baker Institute at Rice University. He was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame, the Texas Business Hall of Fame, the Houston Hall of Fame, and was presented with an honorary doctorate of humanities from Baylor College of Medicine and the University of South Carolina.

Committed to bringing a National Football League team to Houston, McNair was awarded the 32nd NFL franchise in 1999 and the Houston Texans debuted in 2002. McNair’s efforts brought Super Bowl XXXVIII to Houston in 2004 and will host Super Bowl LI in 2017. The Houston Texans won consecutive AFC South titles in 2011 and 2012. McNair is actively involved in NFL affairs serving as chairman of the Finance Committee and is a member of the Audit and Los Angeles Expansion committees. McNair revived Houston’s collegiate bowl game in 2006 and presently serves as Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the AdvoCare V100 Texas Bowl. McNair was honored by the Bowl as a Gridiron Legend in 2011 for his impact on football at all levels in Houston.

Janice McNair, a graduate of Columbia College, shares her husband’s vision and passion for helping the underserved. She was honored by numerous non-profit organizations including the Salvation Army in 2014, Child Advocates in 2009 and the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council in 2005. Together, the McNairs have established major McNair Scholars Programs at the University of South Carolina, Columbia College, Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine, M.D. Anderson, Menninger Clinic, Texas Children’s Hospital and Texas Heart Institute. In 2007, the McNairs gave a transformational gift to Baylor College of Medicine to recruit top physicians/scientists in the fields of juvenile diabetes, breast and pancreatic cancer and the neurosciences.
The McNairs’ generosity has impacted many lives for which they have been honored. In 2014, they received the Crystal Eagle Award from the Houston Community College Foundation, the inaugural Margaret Alkek Williams Humanitarian Award from UNICEF, the President’s Award from Houston Baptist University and were honored by the Houston Zoo. The McNairs are presently chairing the Hope Lodge Houston Capital Campaign for the American Cancer Society.

The McNairs gave major gifts to the Janice and Robert McNair Hall at Rice University, the Janice Suber McNair Asian Elephant Habitat at the Houston Zoo, the McNair Hall and McNair Plaza at Houston Baptist University, AD Players and McNair Baseball Field in Forest City, North Carolina. They are in the process of establishing Centers for Entrepreneurship at several colleges and universities. They have four grown children and fifteen grandchildren.

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