

Lesbian couple donates \$1 million to Dallas Women's Foundation

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Trish Houck and **Lyssa Jenkins** are making a \$1 million gift to the **Dallas Women's Foundation** that they hope will encourage other lesbian couples to exert their power as philanthropists and support women's causes.

Their gift will come under the foundation's comprehensive campaign, which continues until June. It has already raised \$35 million, surpassing its \$30 million goal.

"Gay or straight, young or old, black, white or brown, we are all women," said Houck, a Dallas Women's Foundation advisory council member. "Working together, we have the ability to make tremendous transformational change in our community." Houck is a former real estate professional and antique shop owner who teaches English as a second language to adults.

Houck and Jenkins are Dallas' first lesbian couple to be recognized for philanthropic leadership by the international Women Moving Millions campaign founded by Dallas-born sisters **Helen LaKelly Hunt** and **Swanee Hunt**. Women Moving Millions inspires women of means to give \$1 million or more to women's and girls' causes. Since 2007, it has funneled \$180 million to women's funds worldwide. Dallas Women's Foundation leads the virtual campaign, with 26 women giving \$1 million or more.

"Trish and Lyssa demonstrate the important role women serve in healthy communities, and Dallas Women's Foundation is so grateful for their commitment to the betterment of society for women and by women," said **Becky Sykes**, the foundation's CEO.

Houck and Jenkins support organizations serving women and girls through the **Patricia Houck & Lyssa Jenkins Family Fund** at the foundation. They are involved in local institutions including the **Vickery Meadow Learning Center** and **North Dallas Shared Ministries**.

"As an economist, I have witnessed both the power women can have in lifting up communities as well as the consequences to society when they are disenfranchised," said Jenkins, the foundation's chief research officer and former chief economist at the **Dallas Regional Chamber**.

"As a volunteer, employee and donor, I have seen Dallas Women's Foundation actively and effectively become an epicenter for the empowerment of women and girls."

Houck got involved with the foundation in the mid-1990s. She has served on its grants, development and marketing committees and co-founded its 2004 Lesbian Donor Circle. She has also been involved with **Avance**, **Dallas CASA** and **Resource Center of Dallas**.

For more information about Dallas Women's Foundation, visit www.dallaswomensfoundation.org or call philanthropy director **Lesly Bosch Annen** at 214-965-9977, ext. 118. To learn more about Women Moving Millions, go to www.womenmovingmillions.net.