



Lereca Monik, Ms. Texas 2016

## Houstonian Lereca Monik Crowned Ms. Texas 2016

Lereca Monik of Houston has recently been awarded the title of Ms. Texas America 2016. The title will allow Lereca to connect with the community and use her "Crown for a Purpose" to make a difference in the lives of women and children. She intends to encourage them to embrace their uniqueness, and maintain a positive self-image, despite life's transitions.

"I feel honored and blessed that I have been given the opportunity to represent the State of Texas as Ms. Texas 2016 in the Ms. America 2017 pageant," says Lereca. "My mission is to help others realize their potential. I want you to know that you were born for greatness, share your story and then go be great! So far, this journey has been amazing and I am forever appreciative for the connections, opportunities and relationships that this experience will bring."

Lereca's upbringing was not a life of glitz and glam. By age 10, she had already experienced physical abuse, foster care, molestation, and a suicide attempt. By the age of 20, she had experienced homelessness, rape, verbal abuse and addictions. She learned at an

early age the power of grit and hard work, and was determined not to allow her past to rule her future. Lereca successfully earned both a bachelor's and master's degrees. She is actively involved in many community initiatives, and has received many accolades because of it. One of her most notable achievements to date includes being crowned as Ms. Texas America.

Lereca will be sharing her message at her private fundraising reception entitled, "SHE REIGNS: The Unveil," scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 11 from 7-9 p.m. in the Aventine Ballroom at Hotel ICON, 220 Main Street in Houston. She will unveil her path to the crown, reveal her platform, and help raise funds so that she may use her "crown for a purpose."

The Ms. America Pageant will be held on Sept. 3 at the Curtis Theater in Brea, California. Red Carpet starts at 6:30 p.m. and the pageant starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at [MsAmericaPageant.com](http://MsAmericaPageant.com). View the event Live Stream at [AlertTheGlobe.com](http://AlertTheGlobe.com). Support Monik's efforts at [lerecamonik.com](http://lerecamonik.com).

For more information, sponsorship opportunities or to book appearances for Lereca Monik, email Jessica Mikell at [pr@lerecamonik.com](mailto:pr@lerecamonik.com).



Volunteers of Houston Ground Angels enjoying a cruise around Kemah and Galveston Bay.

## Houston Ground Angels Serve and Socialize

Houston Ground Angels (HGA), a 16-year-old organization, is not your average nonprofit. "We take our mission very seriously," said Bill Barnes, HGA president. The group provides compli-

mentary ground transportation between area airports and the Medical Center to patients traveling to Houston for medical treatment.

Approximately 1 million people come to Houston annually seeking life-saving medical treatment, and they usually spend approximately \$11,000 for food, hotels and transportation over the course of their treatments here. HGA eliminates one of these expenses by providing transportation. After all, even with the best insurance, dealing with cancer is not cheap or easy, especially if traveling to an unfamiliar city is part of the treatment.

However, HGA members do more than just work; they are also a fun group of volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life and all areas of Houston.

"Many of our volunteers are retired or cancer survivors who want to give back," Barnes said.

HGA also has lots of socials and gatherings at no cost to the volunteers.

Volunteers attended the Volunteer Valentine's reception hosted by Deborah Colton Galleries earlier this year. Attendees enjoyed an evening of wine, snacks, fellowship and art appreciation.

Another group of volunteers recently enjoyed a Galveston Bay cruise. The three-hour cruise included a BBQ lunch.

"The cruise was a great success. The weather was perfect and it was wonderful to be on the water," said Tony Castiglie, HGA treasurer.

The organization also hosts coffees and other gatherings throughout the year. They are planning a summer barbecue, holiday parties, and other outings.

"This year our volunteers will provide transportation for about 3,000 patients coming to Houston," Barnes said. "If it was not for the transportation that we offered, many could not afford to come to Houston for lifesaving treatments. But we are also a wonderful group of people who enjoy getting together, making new friends, renewing friendships and simply being active and having fun."

For more information, or to volunteer, visit [houstongroundangels.org](http://houstongroundangels.org).