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Jenna Bush Hager talks philanthropy at nonprofit luncheon



[Deborah Cannon](#)

Jenna Bush speaks at the third annual Blue Sky event for A Legacy of Giving at the Four Seasons on Friday.

By [Andrea Ball](#)

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Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager says she learned about charity as a young girl as she and her famous family traveled the globe. Hager, 31, the daughter of former President George W. Bush, regularly saw poverty and hunger while visiting third-world nations during her father's time in office. So as she grew older, she knew she wanted to do her part to help other people.

"When you give, you get so much back," she said in a Friday afternoon interview at the Four Seasons [Hotel Austin](#).

Hager was the keynote speaker for a fundraising luncheon hosted by A Legacy of Giving, an Austin nonprofit that works with schools to teach children about philanthropy. The charity's work reaches about 7,000 children in 36 schools and helps them coordinate service projects.

Since Legacy's 2007 launch, students have collected 245,000 pounds for the Capital Area Food Bank and 13,500 coats for needy kids. They've also raised \$26,000 for the Gazelle Foundation, which builds clean [water systems](#) in the African nation of Burundi.

Hager, a Today Show correspondent whose personal charity work includes volunteering with UNICEF, spoke highly of Legacy's mission before a packed ballroom of guests.

During her career as a teacher in Washington and Baltimore, Hager said, she has seen the enthusiasm, energy and creativity children bring to problem-solving. Too often, adults underestimate kids instead of encouraging them, she said.

"I've seen firsthand the power they have," Hager said.

A day of giving

Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager spoke Friday about the power philanthropy has to change lives. Next week, Central Texans will be encouraged to donate to local charities during a 24-hour push called Amplify Austin. The goal is to raise \$1 million for more than 300 community nonprofits between 7 p.m. Monday and 7 p.m. Tuesday. For more information, go to the event [website](https://amplifyaustin.s3.amazonaws.com/index.html), <https://amplifyaustin.s3.amazonaws.com/index.html>.