



Regina Rogers
Founder & Chair, Gift of Life

Regina Rogers received a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree, graduating magna cum laude, from the University of Houston Law Center in 1970, and a B.A. degree in psychology, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from Sophie Newcomb College of Tulane University in 1968.

Serving as the first female law clerk to Joe J. Fisher, Chief Judge of the Eastern District of Texas, Rogers became an active participant in community affairs, later establishing several nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to the underserved communities of Southeast Texas.

Appointed the first female regent of Lamar University, Rogers also served as a member of the Texas College and University System Coordinating Board, where she chaired the Educational Opportunity Planning Committee for Minority Education in Texas, helping implement programs to increase admissions and retention of minority students and the hiring of minority faculty in colleges and universities throughout Texas.

Founder and Chair of the Ben Rogers/Lamar University/Beaumont Public Schools: "I Have a Dream" Program in 1988, Rogers oversees the organization that has made available mentoring and guidance, along with scholarships for more than 450 academically talented students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend college.

While chairing the Southwest Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League in 1994, Rogers helped establish the Coalition for Mutual Respect, a group of religious and lay leaders whose annual programming promotes positive intergroup relations by encouraging understanding and respect among Houston's diverse population. Most recently announced is the Coalition's 25th Anniversary Scholarship Program which has awarded \$175,000 in scholarships to 35 deserving students interested in the pursuit of social justice at Texas Southern University, University of Houston, Prairie View A&M University, Rice University and the University of St. Thomas.

In 1995, Rogers founded and currently serves as chair of the Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" Program, which provides cancer prevention education throughout seven Southeast Texas counties and free breast and prostate cancer screenings for the medically underserved population. Through its efforts, nearly 350 individuals have been diagnosed with cancer and navigated into treatment. Included in its outreach are "Don't Smoke / Don't Vape Your Life Away" initiatives and a focus on ovarian, esophageal and other forms of cancer.

In 1997, Rogers established and currently serves as chair of IEA – Inspire, Encourage, Achieve, a program designed to help young people in the juvenile justice system achieve dignity and respect through knowledge, compassion, understanding, and love. IEA emphasizes rehabilitation for youth in detention and/or on probation, annually impacting hundreds of juveniles in the Minnie Rogers Juvenile Justice Center and through its Ben's Kids outreach activities and summer initiative, Camp Bright Star.

Following the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Rogers co-founded the Southeast Texas Emergency Relief Fund (SETERF), which has provided several million dollars in assistance to thousands of people after the storms and helped individuals who suffered losses from Hurricanes Ike and Harvey and Tropical Storm Imelda. She also served on the Bush Clinton Coastal Recovery Fund and the Governor's Disaster Recovery and Renewal Commission.

A member of the BarbaraBush@90: A Cause for Celebration Committee that raised \$17.3 million benefiting the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, Rogers currently serves as a lifetime member of the Board of Visitors of The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; and as a member of the boards of the Harris County Hospital District Foundation; Texas Heart Institute Foundation; Texas Southern University Foundation, Anti-Defamation League Southwest Region; Children's Defense Fund Texas; Pauline Sterne Wolff Memorial Foundation; Holocaust Museum Houston; and the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity. In addition, Rogers is President of the Joe Louis International Sports Foundation, established in 1972 by her late father, Ben Rogers.

Named a George H. W. Bush Point of Light in 2019, a Newcomb College Outstanding Alumna in 2015 and a University of Houston Distinguished Alumna in 1994, Rogers was a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities from Lamar University in 2014. She also has been recognized by other organizations for her efforts to champion the rights of all individuals and provide opportunities for them to succeed.