

# NEWS

## Association for Healthcare Philanthropy

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### **Association for Healthcare Philanthropy Recognizes Gilchrist with Highest Distinction – the AHP Fellow**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**, (October 25, 2012) – The Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP) today recognized John Gilchrist of CHRISTUS Health Louisiana for achieving the AHP Fellow designation (FAHP). Gilchrist is in the 38<sup>th</sup> class of Fellows to be honored.

Elevation to the status of Fellow in AHP is the highest level of achievement in the field of health care philanthropy. Conferring of the Fellow designation is not so much an award, as it is recognition of individual professional distinction, well earned through dedication and continual self-advancement.

John Gilchrist, who is a certified fundraising executive, is the chief philanthropy officer for CHRISTUS Health Louisiana, responsible for the four foundations within the state. CHRISTUS Health operates or manages more than 50 health care facilities in nine Louisiana cities.

Prior to joining CHRISTUS Health Louisiana, Gilchrist was the president and CEO of the Dallas chapter of the Alzheimer's Association where he was co-chair of a statewide taskforce to develop the Texas Alzheimer's Disease Plan. Before moving to Dallas, he was vice president of Empire Health Services and president of the Deaconess & Valley Healthcare Foundation in Spokane, Wash. and chief development officer for Lourdes Health Network in Pasco, Wash. While he was at Lourdes Health Network, the donor display created to honor donors for the Lourdes Sleep Medicine Center won the APEX Award of Excellence.

Before entering the field of health care philanthropy, Gilchrist worked at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview, Texas with focuses on business development, strategic planning, marketing, and public relations. He also was the executive director of the Longview Regional Physician Hospital Organization and was responsible for outpatient services and clinics at Longview Regional Medical Center.

His involvement in professional organizations includes service as past president of the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning (Eastern Washington Chapter) and past president of the Southwest Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development. His speaking presentations to groups span from the Inland Northwest Development Council in the state of Washington to the Louisiana Assembly of School-Based Health Centers.

Gilchrist received his bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and his master's degree from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. His community service activities include Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow, chair of the board of trustees at his church, past president of the Longview United Way, and past campaign chair of the Longview United Way.

The Association for Healthcare Philanthropy is dedicated to the advancement of health care institutions and organizations through the enhancement of its members' performance and professionalism. To this end, AHP sets professional standards for health care development officers, offers comprehensive educational programs to help them achieve those standards, and examines them to determine who meets those standards. Professionals who successfully complete the Fellow examination earn the designation "Fellow of the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy," or FAHP.

Successful applicants must have earned the Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) designation, have at least eight years of experience in raising and managing philanthropic funds for a health care organization, and pledge in writing to adhere to the AHP Statement of Professional Standards and Conduct and to uphold the AHP-endorsed Donor Bill of Rights. To achieve the status of Fellow, applicants must pass a written and oral exam.

AHP, established in 1967, is a not-for-profit organization whose 5,000 members manage philanthropic programs in 2,000 of the nation's 3,400 not-for-profit health care providers.



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