

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Reliant Opens 'Scholarship for Champions' Nominations
for All-Star Houston Student-Athletes**

– Partnership With Houston Texans Has Granted \$280,000 to High School Students –

HOUSTON, Aug. 6, 2013 – There are students who bat a thousand on and off the field. They clear hurdles and dive right in. [Reliant](#) wants to meet these standout Houston area high school student-athletes who may be eligible for \$5,000 scholarships through the [Scholarship for Champions](#) program. In its eighth year, the merit-based program is a partnership between Reliant and the [Houston Texans](#) to encourage youth academics, athletics, leadership and community service.

Teachers, coaches and administrators can nominate students at <http://scholarship.myreliantenergy.com> through Aug. 31, 2013. Judges from Reliant and the Houston Texans will select the winners based on achievements in academics, athletics, leadership, ethics and community involvement. Selected students will receive surprise visits from the Texans at their schools to learn they've won and recognition during a special on-field ceremony at a Texans home game.

Nomination criteria include:

- A full-time high school student scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2014
- Plans to pursue a college degree
- Participation in a varsity sport between Aug. 1, 2011 and the present
- Overall minimum grade point average of 3.0

Last year's scholarships were delivered in person by Houston Texans former player and ambassador J.J. Moses. Winning students included a soccer player who lived apart from family in Mexico and excelled in Advanced Placement courses, another soccer player who endured multiple eye surgeries yet earned a spot at a NCAA Division 1 University, and a football team captain who suddenly lost his father and still remained an active leader and community volunteer. All applicants exemplified strong values and character in the face of adversity.

"Each year Reliant is amazed by the academic and athletic accomplishments of these student athletes and the positive impact they are making," said Karen Jones, Reliant chief marketing officer. "The Scholarship for Champions program along with our employee volunteer tutoring, youth sports camps and other initiatives inspire kids to continue their education and that build their skills for the future."

Since the program's start in 2006, Reliant and the Houston Texans have awarded 56 scholarships totaling \$280,000.

"We are pleased to continue our partnership with Reliant to recognize outstanding local students that have excelled on the field, in the classroom and in our community," said Houston Texans President Jamey Rootes. "The 'Scholarships for Champions' program helps support Houston's workforce development goals and we are proud to be teamed up with Reliant to make an impact for our city."

For more information about the program, visit <http://scholarship.myreliantenergy.com/>

About Reliant

Reliant provides electricity, energy services and smart energy solutions to homes, businesses, manufacturing facilities, government entities and institutions in Texas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. As part of NRG (NYSE: NRG), Reliant is backed by a Fortune 500 company that is at the forefront of changing how people think about and use energy. NRG is a pioneer in developing cleaner and smarter energy choices for its customers. NRG's diverse power generating facilities can support over 40 million homes nationwide, and its retail businesses collectively serve more than 2.2 million customers in 10 states and the District of Columbia. For more information about Reliant products and services, please visit www.reliant.com. Connect with Reliant on Facebook at www.facebook.com/reliantenergy and on Twitter @reliantenergy.

About the Houston Texans

The city of Houston was awarded the National Football League's 32nd franchise on October 6, 1999 thanks to an effort spearheaded by local businessman Robert C. McNair; and on September 8, 2002, the Houston Texans made their regular-season debut, returning the NFL to Houston after a five-year absence. That night, the Texans became the first expansion team in NFL history to win its debut game, defeating the Dallas Cowboys 19-10. The Texans play at Reliant Stadium, the first retractable-roof stadium in the NFL, and they have sold out every game at the stadium in franchise history. The Houston Texans are the two-time defending AFC South division champions; and in 2011, the Texans were named the ninth-most valuable sports franchise in the world by Forbes magazine with an estimated value of \$1.17 billion.

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