



Gordon Hartman

Native San Antonian Gordon Hartman is a philanthropist and former homebuilder who at the age of 15 started his own landscaping business while attending a local seminary. By age 19, he had saved enough to begin his homebuilding business, and by age 23, he had started a land development company. Founded in 1983, Gordon Hartman Homes built housing for low- to moderate-income families. Over the next 22 years, Gordon grew his company into the largest locally owned homebuilding and land-development enterprise in San Antonio. In recognition of his successes in business, he has earned membership in both the San Antonio Business Hall of Fame and the Texas Business Hall of Fame. Gordon was also inducted into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame in 2018 for bringing professional soccer to San Antonio.

In 2005, Gordon sold his companies and established The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation so he and his wife, Maggie, could pursue their dream of helping children and adults with special needs. Their devotion to this cause is inspired by their now 26-year-old daughter, Morgan, who was born with cognitive and physical challenges.

In 2007, Gordon recognized the tremendous need for fully-accessible outdoor recreational facilities, so he made another dream come true – the April 2010 grand opening of non-profit Morgan's Wonderland, the world's first ultra-accessible™, fully inclusive theme park designed with individuals with special needs in mind and built to be enjoyed by everyone. Two years later, global automotive giant Toyota, the leader in mobility solutions for drivers with disabilities, opted to become the presenting sponsor of Morgan's Wonderland.

Morgan's Wonderland, ranked by TripAdvisor as being among the top theme parks in the U. S., has welcomed approximately 1.8 million guests from all 50 states and 74 other countries through park visitation and special events. Gordon's realization that families with special-needs members have great demands on both their financial and emotional resources led to his commitment to admit anyone with a special need free of charge.

On June 17, 2017, Gordon unveiled Morgan's Inspiration Island, the world's first ultra-accessible™, fully inclusive splash park. In addition to tropically-themed aquatic attractions that everyone can enjoy, the park includes the Wheelchair Valet where guests can transfer out of their personal wheelchairs into revolutionary pneumatic waterproof wheelchairs developed in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh.

The World Waterpark Association honored Morgan's Inspiration Island with its 2017 Leading Edge Award, and in 2018, *TIME* magazine named the splash park to its first annual list of World's Greatest Places. *Amusement Today*, an internationally-circulated publication covering the theme park and amusements industry, proclaimed Morgan's Wonderland as "Park of the Year" during presentation of the 2017 Golden Ticket Awards to "the best of the best." In addition, Paralyzed Veterans of America

presented the 2018 Barrier-Free America award to Morgan's Wonderland and Morgan's Inspiration Island.

In April 2019, Gordon announced the construction of **Morgan's Wonderland Camp**, a 102-acre recreational oasis on the northern outskirts of San Antonio that year-round will offer an ultra-accessible™, fully inclusive camp experience to those with and without special needs. Facilities with a projected completion in the latter half of 2020 will be able to accommodate at one time up to 525 campers of all ages and abilities along with staff for day, weekend or week-long camp sessions.

Meanwhile, Gordon is building **Morgan's Wonderland Sports**, a 3-acre ultra-accessible™, fully inclusive sports complex not far from the theme park offering fitness and competition for athletes with different abilities. It will provide 3 acres of sports activities including basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, football, soccer, pickleball and tennis. Grand opening is set for May 2020.

Planning and design continue on a bold new approach to caregiving for those with special needs – the Multi-Assistance Center, or **The MAC**. This **unique, one-stop-shop Care Model** will provide many medical and non-medical services in one location. Medical, therapeutic and social determinates of health will be offered in this first of two, 165,000-square-foot buildings at Morgan's Wonderland. The MAC, scheduled to begin welcoming clients in the fall of 2022, will be comprised of partner organizations working together under one roof to address the multi-faceted needs of people with cognitive and physical challenges. This model of providing services in a coordinated manner will establish a new standard, not only in San Antonio but across the nation as well as internationally.

Since 2005, Gordon and Maggie Hartman and The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation have committed approximately \$60 million for the betterment of people with special needs. Because of his generosity and vision, Gordon has earned extensive local, regional and national recognition including an honorary doctor of social work from San Antonio's Our Lady of the Lake University. In 2019, Gordon was named recipient of The Governor's Trophy, highest honor for lifetime achievement in support of Texans with disabilities.

In the beginning, Gordon's guiding motto was: "Together, we CAN make a difference!" As a result of many successes and lots more to come, that motto now is: "Together, we ARE making a difference!"