

## BCBSLA's *Angels of Change* \$50,000 Grant Presentation Ceremony



For 20 years the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation (BCBSLF) has worked through its annual Angel Awards program to highlight volunteers in communities across the State who are doing amazing things in support of Louisiana's children. Since 1995, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation has recognized more than 160 of these outstanding individuals with our annual Angel Award – and provided more than \$1.8 million to their associated organizations.

To celebrate the 20 years of Angel Award winners, Blue Cross authorized the so-called *Angels of Change Grant* program to support innovative ideas benefitting Louisiana children. The 162 Angel Awardees, including A's & Aces co-founder, Dr. Anna Monhartova, were invited to apply. Twenty (20) grants were awarded, and A's & Aces initiative was selected as one of the awardees.

On November 18, A's & Aces hosted a special event at the Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking at Tulane University, where Dr. Monhartova is the Social Innovation, Social Entrepreneurship Program Director. At this time, the BCBSLA Foundation awarded an *Angels of Change Grant* to A's & Aces in the amount of \$50,000 to support our Empower & Serve Initiative.

The check was presented by the Foundation's President, Michael Tipton. In addition to our Board members, many of our valued partners were in attendance, including Rini Marcus, representing the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission, Ashley Hooper from Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Miguel Garcia representing the United States Tennis Association Foundation, Andrew Shahan, CEO of Arise School Network, and Brett Schwartz, a representative of the Louisiana Tennis Association and Southern Tennis Association.

We are very honored to receive this *Angels of Change Grant* from Blue Cross and be part of a cohort of organizations that are designing innovative ways to change the lives of under-resourced children in Louisiana. The A's & Aces Empower & Serve Initiative uses innovative methods to build empathy and pro-social behaviors along with strategies to increase girls' participation in sports-based programming.

We look forward to growing and improving our programming and are thankful to have the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation as our partner to impact more children.