



Dear NIA friends:

2016 was a blessed year for Neighbors in Action! Thanks to you, over 150 Port Houston children, teenagers and families found the hope and healing that they needed in order to overcome difficult circumstances. Their lives have been forever changed because of God's blessing and your generosity.

To help meet the needs of the families of Port Houston, we must be responsible stewards of the financial resources with which you have entrusted us. This annual report is designed to show you how your gifts are helping transform the lives of many children and families across Port Houston. People say that the proof is in the numbers, which is certainly true. But for NIA, it is about more than just statistics. Behind each number provided in this report, there is a name, face, and a story, a life that was touched by YOU and the staff and volunteers of Neighbors in Action.

I am proud to say that we know the name, face and story of each child, teenager and adult that comes through our doors. We have been to "our" kids' birthdays, Quinceañeras, have celebrated baby showers together, and have shed joyful tears when attending their graduation ceremonies. What makes our organization special is that we don't serve clients, but we build family.

Thank you so much for being part of the family! I am looking forward to partnering with you in 2017!

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Meier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathrin Meier
Executive Director

PLANS FOR A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

One of the most ambitious endeavors we undertook last year was the kick-off of our 2016-2018 Capital Campaign entitled "Building Neighbors in Action". This Capital Campaign will fund the construction of a new 5,500 sq. ft. community center adjacent to the current facility. The lot was donated by a generous NIA supporter in 2015. The new building will allow us to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of the Port Houston community, from toddlers to seniors, as well as create warm and inviting spaces for fellowship and community gatherings.

Why do we need a bigger space?

NIA is renting its current facility, a single family house with 1,500sq.ft. of space. After opening our center in the community four years ago, we have greatly outgrown the facility. In the evenings, 30 - 40 children come to our programs in a space that was designed for 5 - 10 people. In the mornings, we must limit adult education programs to 15 people due to the lack of space. The teenagers who come to our center can only gather on Wednesdays and Thursdays because of children's programs on the other evenings.

Without building a new community center, Neighbors in Action cannot reach more people than it currently does. We have no space to invite more families and no larger events are possible, such as a Christmas party or a worship gathering. Also, NIA can only host one program at a time: For example we do not currently have the capacity to offer adult education programs in the evenings because of children's programs. Building a new community center will allow us to reach out to new families and triple our daily attendance. It will also provide room for hosting different groups and programs simultaneously.



OUR MISSION IS TO HELP THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF PORT HOUSTON

G R O W ...

Part of our mission is to support the families of Port Houston as they grow and strengthen their relationship with God. NIA offers weekly Bible studies and worship times for children, teenagers, and adults. Port Houston teenagers attend First Methodist Houston every Sunday for worship and participation in youth activities. Summer 2016 was packed with extraordinary experiences, as children attended Student Life Camp, Vacation Bible School at First Methodist, and our own Neighbors in Action Vacation Bible School. Our teenagers deepened their faith through their participation in several weekend retreats and Student Life Camp in Alabama.

Inseparably connected with spiritual growth is service to others. Our teenagers and adults participate in service projects and mission trips around the year. In 2016 we served others through:

- August mission trip to Alvin, TX with Middle School Students
- Monthly visits with homeless women at Star of Hope with the Youth Group
- Monthly outings to minister to the residents at Brookhollow Heights Nursing Home with Port Houston women
- Mission Trip to Eagle Pass for teenagers
- Taco sales for refugee families



20



WOMEN IN
WOMEN'S BIBLE
STUDY

100



CHILDREN
PARTICIPATING IN
FAITH-BASED
SUMMER
PROGRAMS

50



PEOPLE SERVED
MONTHLY BY PORT
HOUSTON MOMS AT
BROOKHOLLOW
HEIGHTS NURSING
HOME



30



MOMS
PARTICIPATING IN
OVERNIGHT
RETREAT IN SAN
ANTONIO

40



AVERAGE NUMBER
OF CHILDREN IN
WEEKLY TUESDAY
BIBLE STUDY

15



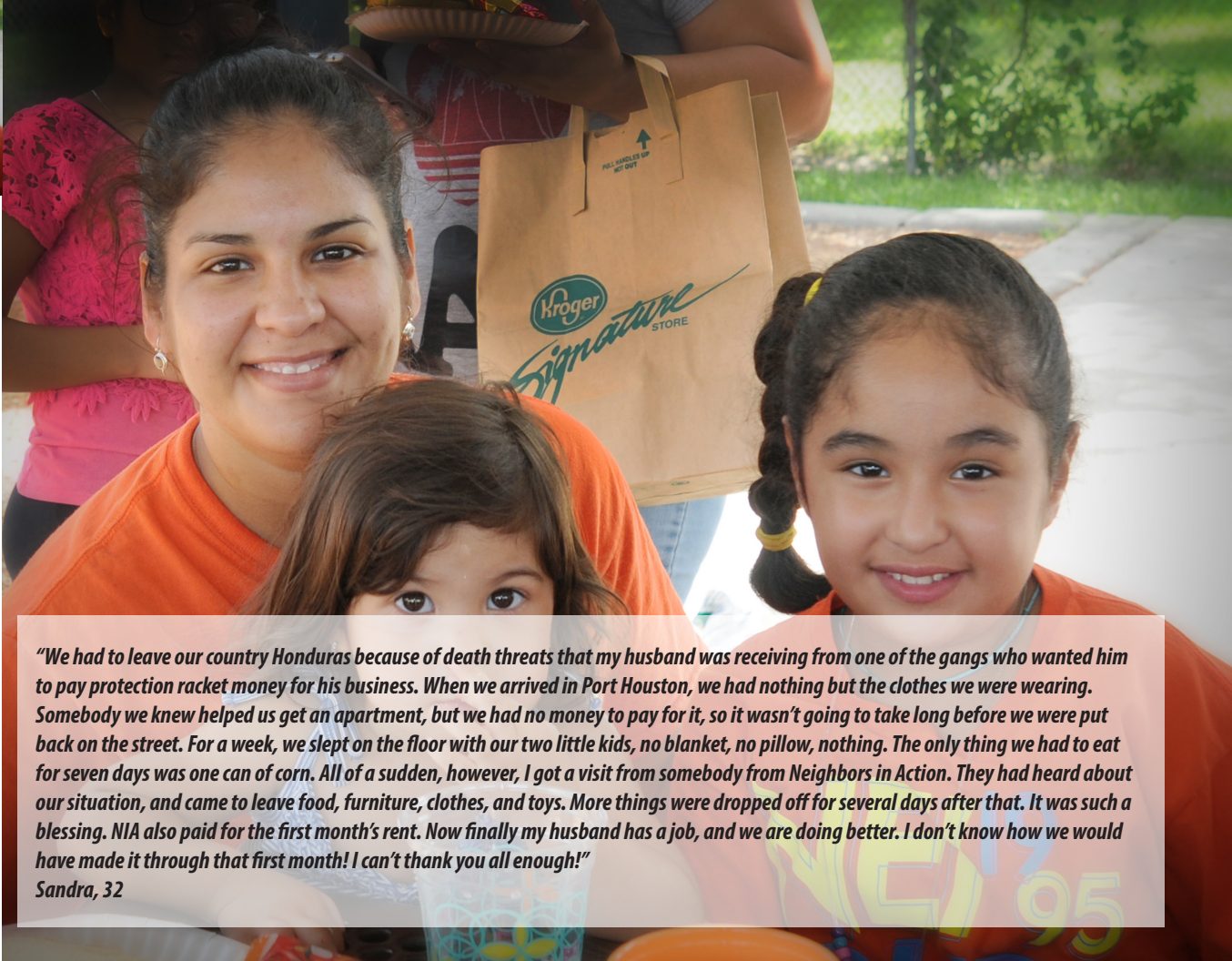
TEENS
PARTICIPATING IN
SERVICE PROJECTS

"I heard about Jesus for the first time at Neighbors in Action. I learned that Jesus loves me and forgives me and he does not hold resentment in His heart."

Tiffany, 9

...PHYSICALLY

in meeting basic needs such as food and shelter



"We had to leave our country Honduras because of death threats that my husband was receiving from one of the gangs who wanted him to pay protection racket money for his business. When we arrived in Port Houston, we had nothing but the clothes we were wearing. Somebody we knew helped us get an apartment, but we had no money to pay for it, so it wasn't going to take long before we were put back on the street. For a week, we slept on the floor with our two little kids, no blanket, no pillow, nothing. The only thing we had to eat for seven days was one can of corn. All of a sudden, however, I got a visit from somebody from Neighbors in Action. They had heard about our situation, and came to leave food, furniture, clothes, and toys. More things were dropped off for several days after that. It was such a blessing. NIA also paid for the first month's rent. Now finally my husband has a job, and we are doing better. I don't know how we would have made it through that first month! I can't thank you all enough!"

Sandra, 32

Neighbors in Action supports families with unusual circumstances pay bills and with home repairs. We also connect Port Houston residents to other organizations with differing services. Occasionally, NIA staff helps people with paperwork for Social Security, Green Card applications, Immigration documents, and more.

We also hosted various community-wide events in 2016. Our annual Thanksgiving Feast served meals to more than 400 Port Houston residents and provided them with food bags. At our Christmas party we handed out gifts and meals to all NIA children and youth and their families. For many children, this was the only gift they received for Christmas. In addition, we worked with different partners, such as Pappas Restaurant and State Representative Ana Hernandez, who “adopted” families in need for Christmas. NIA also hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for more than 100 children and their parents.

Obesity is a constant challenge in Port Houston, which is a paradox considering that the vast majority of people live below the poverty line. Contributing factors are the absence of supermarkets that offer fresh food, the price difference between cheaper fast food and more expensive vegetable and fruit, as well as a lack of understanding of healthy nutrition. Therefore, supporting the community in their physical needs included a month-long class on healthy eating, offered by Rev. Sara Reyes, as well as Zumba classes three times a week throughout the year.

\$5,000



PAID IN RENT AND
ELECTRICITY BILLS

12



FAMILIES HELPED
WITH BILLS

20



FAMILIES ADOPTED
FOR CHRISTMAS

160



CHRISTMAS GIFTS
DISTRIBUTED

7,000



EASTER EGGS
HIDDEN

Some children who attend Neighbors in Action have undergone severe trauma in their lives, such as: physical and sexual abuse; witnessing domestic violence; a parent in jail; foster care; violence in their countries of origin; and more. Children suffering from traumatic stress symptoms generally have difficulty regulating their behaviors and emotions. They may be clingy and fearful of new situations, easily frightened, difficult to console, and/or aggressive and impulsive. Because our regular program settings do not always work for those children, our NIA staff introduced Friday night One-on-Ones and Small Groups for children ages 3- 10. This is a special hour in addition to the regular programs when our Children's Staff spends time with only two or three children at once. In 2016, more than 20 children attended in this setting on a regular basis. They were offered a consistent, reliable and stable relationship they might not have had at home. Some children's behavior changed significantly over the year, as they learned to trust our staff and open up about their struggles.

In a similar way, the Neighbors in Action youth group benefitted from weekly Small Groups that were offered by our Youth Staff in 2016. Our Small groups offered a safe space, where teens shared about their struggles at home, school, dating and sexuality, and got loving advice and support from staff and volunteers.

Another one of NIA's priorities for teenagers and also adults to grow in self-esteem is the participation in mission trips and service projects. In addition to strengthening their faith through giving back to the community and assisting others, participating in service projects also impacts the confidence of those who serve. They realize God's calling for each of us; that He needs all of us to be there for others in need, no matter our own background and resources, and that He has a specific purpose for each of other lives.



“I love Miranda and Dahlia*. They pick me up every week and spend time with me and my two brothers. They help me calm down when I get upset. Before, I used to throw things all the time and scream. Miranda has shown me how to react better when I feel overwhelmed. I hope she will still pick me up when I am in college.”

Jason, 9

***NIA Children’s Staff**

...INTELLECTUALLY

through education in literacy, language and technology

"I loved the parenting class! I learned so many new strategies and have seen great improvement in my daughter's behavior."

Claudia, 28



30



**AVERAGE NUMBER
OF CHILDREN AT
"THE MIX" EACH
WEEK**

Education is key to helping people overcome poverty and dependency, which is why we offer educational opportunities for children and parents. In 2016, we offered several educational opportunities, such as an after-school program for Port Elementary School. Twice a week, NIA volunteers and staff cared for the children who did not get one of the limited spaces in the school's after-school program. We helped with homework, offered tutorials and mentored children in need.

On Monday nights, our program "The Mix" offered weekly arts, cooking, sports and science classes, supporting their exploration of interests and their development of skills and creativity. In addition, NIA offered a weekly guitar class on Saturday mornings.

During the summer months, Neighbors in Action hosted three week-long camps: Arts and Crafts, Drumming and Dancing, and Sports. Our goal was to provide a summer program in a rich, vibrant, and stimulating atmosphere that provides children with unique learning and recreational activities that foster each child's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical well-being.

Neighbors in Action is also an Open Door Partner of the Children's Museum of Houston, which allows us to take students to the museum at no cost. In 2016, we took more than 100 children to the Children's Museum, and offered several other educational field trips.

Parents participated in lessons on financial literacy, self-esteem, and healthy nutrition. The Children's Museum also hosted an eight-week parenting class at our center. NIA offered ESL classes at the community center and provided transportation for parents wanting to attend ESL classes at First Methodist Houston.

**... RESULTING IN A COMMUNITY THAT IS
SELF-SUFFICIENT AND OUTREACH FOCUSED.**

Volunteers – we could not do what we do without you! Thank you for all your time and love you gave in 2016! A special THANK YOU to all the ones who came faithfully every week, building up trust and lasting relationship with the families of Port Houston. We are also grateful that many Port Houston teenagers and parents have felt the calling to give back to NIA and serve as volunteers in different programs.

VOLUNTEERS

Cavemen Cookers
First Methodist Houston
Focolare Movement
Friendswood UMC
FUGE Camp
Girl Scout Troops
Grace Fellowship UMC
Harvest UMC
Lakewood UMC
Kingwood UMC
Memorial Drive UMC
Redeemer Church
St. Peter's UMC
West University UMC

PARTNERS

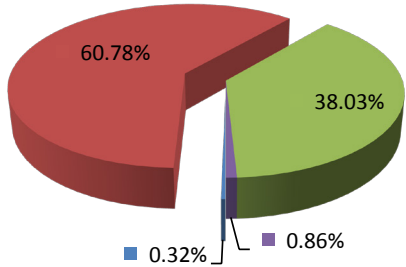
AA Diesel
Jim Adler and Associates
AVANCE Houston
Children's Museum of Houston
Communities in School
Councilwoman Karla Cisneros
Congressman Gene Green
State Representative Ana Hernandez
La Divina Providencia Catholic Church
Pedro Morales
Natural Stone
Palletized Trucking
Pleasantville Elementary School
Port of Houston Authority
Port Houston Elementary School
Sam's Body Repair Shop
Superate y Triunfa
Supermercado SuKsa
Viva Lopez Restaurant
William S. Holland Middle School



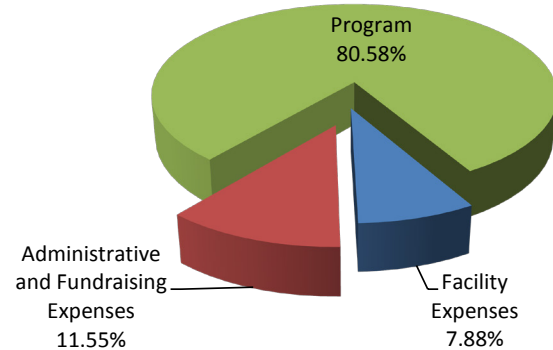
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Revenues: \$218,654.84

■ Program Revenue ■ Grants ■ Donations ■ Fundraisers



Total Expenses: \$197,613.81



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUNITY CENTER

Since we started our Capital Campaign in 2015, we have raised \$198,703.63 and have spent \$101,822.92. Expenses included the purchase of the property, inspections, demolition, pre-design and a part-time capital campaign manager. In addition, we have received pledges for \$50,000 for 2017 and 2018. The Capital Campaign goal is \$890,000.



\$50,000 and more

Children's Fund, Inc
Mr. & Mrs. Rex King

\$30,000 - \$49,999

First Methodist Houston
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Nondorf

\$20,000 - \$29,999

Helm Foundation

\$10,000 – \$19,999

Mr. and Mrs. Don Macune

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Pena

Hildebrand Foundation

Mrs. Sarah Hrebendar

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Montgomery

Ms. Donna Tomlin

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Abrego

Mr. Milton Hanks

Mr. and Mrs. Ben McClure

Mr. & Mrs. W L Medford

Shell Oil Company Foundation

Mr. Byrom Wehner

\$1,500 – \$2,499

Mr. Jack Aulick

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lowe, Sr.

Exxonmobil Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Lawson

Mr. Bishale Patel

Les & Mary Puckett Children's Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Radwanski

Mr. Eric Viehman & Mrs. Nancy Jenkins

West Univ. United Methodist

Church

\$1,000 - \$1,499

Mr. Donald Ast

Mr. David Day

Ms. Donna Gyles

Mr. & Mrs. James Hackedorn

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hrebendar

Mr. & Mrs. William Huggins

Ms. Paula Jackson

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lawson

National Philanthropic Trust

Mr. and Mrs. Micah Siesenop

Spindletop Charities

Mr. Lawrence Walton

\$500 - \$999

Jim Adler and Associates

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Bidnick

Ms. Margaret Davis

Divas Sunday School Class
Ms. Ruthie Estes
Fidelis Class
Mrs. Glenda Flores
Mr. & Rev. Thomas Hankins
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Harrison
Ms. M'Lisa Murr Heps
Mrs. Kristen Jones
Mr. Abdul Kargbo and Mrs. Kathrin Meier
Mrs. Sherron Murphree
Lakewood United Methodist Church
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Roberson
Ms. Irlandy Salazar
Mr. Chad Sledge
Ms. Sandra Stevens
Mr. O. S. Walkup

\$250 - 499

Dr. William Allen
Alpha & Omega SS Class
Bible Discovery Class
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Garza
Rev. Janet Imig
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Jones
Logos SS Class
Mrs. Alexis McCarty
Ms. Sandra Miller
Mr & Mrs William Scheel
Mr. & Mrs. Ward Schmidt
Mr. Jose Valdez

Ms. Esperanza Webber
Mr. & Mrs. C J Werlla

Up to \$250

Ms. Lisa Andreason
Ms. Patricia Bonner
Mr. George Brown
Mrs Glenda Burkhalter
Ms. Sandra Butler
Mr. & Mrs. James Coneby
Mr. Paul Conrad
Divas Class
Mrs. Barbara Drozd
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Fanty
Mrs. Rita Felner
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
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Ms. Sandra Magers
Ms. Dori McAnulty
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Ms. Diane O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin O'Brien
Ms. Bobbie Oldfield
Mrs. Kathryn Perry
Ms. Jo Ann Petersen
Ms. Hazel Peterson
Ms. Christina Ramos
Mr. Leon Rochen
Mrs. Ellen Rodriguez
Mr. John Rodriguez
Sam's Body Shop, Inc
Mr. Reed Schmidt
Ms. Marilyn Sharp
Mr. Richard Smith
Mrs. Karen Sprague
Mr. David Trezell
Ms. Kristy Trueheart
Mr & Mrs Dwayne Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Warrington
Mrs. Jan Whitehead
Mr. James Windham

DONORS

We couldn't operate without you. Thank you!



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Mission Statement

Neighbors in Action is committed to helping the neighborhood of Port Houston grow

Spiritually: in relationship with God;

Physically: in meeting basic needs;

Emotionally: by developing self-esteem; and

Intellectually: through education in literacy, language, and technology,
resulting in a community that is self-sufficient and outreach-focused.