



Dear NIA friends,

As I am preparing this Annual Report 2017, I am beyond thankful for all of you who share our desire to love on and live in kinship with our Port Houston families. This report is a testimony of YOUR faith and faithfulness to God's calling.

One of my favorite Bible verses is 1 Corinthians 12, where Paul talks about the reality of the One Body of Christ. As I have said before, at Neighbors in Action, we want to remember each and every single day that we are the One Body of Christ together, that every person that walks through our doors is our brother, our sister. Our measure of compassion does not lie so much in our service of those on the margins, but in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship with them. We want to live in the reality that we are all ONE family and that we all need each other. We aim at achieving a strong sense of mutuality; as Jesus prayed: "Let them all be One..." (John 17:21)

So with this Annual Report, I want to thank you for sharing this vision, for not "just supporting" services we provide, but for supporting the family we want to be, and the bridges we are trying to build to close the gap between the "Us" and "Them". More than 500 people from our Port Houston community were able to experience God's love at Neighbors in Action in 2017, thanks to your generous financial support, time and prayers! Together we followed God's calling to be agents of mutual love and unity!

With gratitude,



Kathrin Meier
Executive Director



Christmas Party for 200 Port Houston children and their families



We served more than 400 meals at our annual Thanksgiving Feast



Weekend Retreat for Port Houston moms



Praying together during Children's Programs



20 moms graduated from an 8-week Community Emergency Response Team Course offered by the City of Houston and hosted at NIA



Prayer Vigil for Immigrants and Refugees with friends from First Methodist and the Focolare Movement



Girls at our VBS Sports Camp in July!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Our primary goal is to support Port Houston families as they grow and strengthen their relationship with God, and to grow closer together as the One Body of Christ.

NIA offers weekly Bible studies, small group times and worship for children, teenagers, and adults. Summer 2017 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, as well as a Sports Camps based on a Christian curriculum. Our teenagers deepened their faith through their participation in several weekend retreats and Student Life Camp in Alabama.

Part of spiritual growth includes service to others. Our children, teenagers and adults participate in service projects and mission trips around the year. Here are some examples of what we did in 2017:



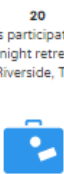


- Our teenagers participate in monthly service projects, such as serving homeless women at Star of Hope, collecting food items for other families in need, make gifts for residents of nursing homes
- Our Port Houston Moms Group ministers to the residents at Brookhollow Heights Nursing Home every month.
- We hosted garage sales and taco sales for victims of Hurricane Harvey.
- Our children prepare crafts and gifts for the residents of Brookhollow Heights.



50

Average no. of children in Monday/Tuesday night Bible study



20

Moms participating in overnight retreat to Riverside, TX



50

Children participating in faith-based programs



50

Residents of Brookhollow Heights Nursing Home served each month



25

Women in Women's Bible Study

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Our second focus is Education. We believe that education is key to helping people overcome poverty and dependency. In 2017, we supported Port Houston Elementary with its after-school program, offered a weekly guitar class on Saturday mornings, and hosted different summer camps, such as Arts and Crafts, Drumming and Dancing. NIA aimed 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 2017, we took over 100 children to the Children's Museum, and offered several other educational field trips, such a visit at the Museum of Natural Science for our teenagers. NIA also hosted two performances of the Houston Grand Opera at Port Houston Elementary. HGO offers a program called "Opera to Go" with bilingual child-friendly adaptations of famous plays.

Parents participated in lessons on financial literacy, self-esteem, and ESL.



"I love that my children receive this wonderful opportunity to participate in the summer camps. We don't have money to go anywhere during summer, so it is such a blessing that they can go to NIA and have fun and learn new things. Very thankful for you all!"
- Maria, 30



FINANCIAL AID & HARVEY RELIEF

While the focus of most of our programs at Neighbors in Action is community empowerment, we do recognize that there are certain moments in life when somebody is in need of immediate emergency support. On any given year, about 10 – 15 families receive one-time rent assistance, help with home repairs, medical bills or school supplies from NIA.

In 2017, however, we responded to the immediate needs of more than 200 families after Hurricane Harvey. Within days of the storm, Neighbors in Action received generous monetary support, volunteer groups, and in-kind donations worth \$18,000, including a used car, gift cards, diapers, formula, milk, eggs, and bread. While the neighborhood of Port Houston did not flood, many homes were damaged in the heavy rains due to the poor quality of roofs and walls. We took in one family who stayed in our facility for 25 days. They had lost almost everything they had, so we also helped with furniture when they moved out.

For the first week after Harvey, we found ourselves operating an ad hoc food bank, distributing food donations and gift cards, due to the fact that all grocery stores on the East side of town were closed for a week. Those of our Port Houston mothers who were not affected as much by the storm, were in charge of receiving, sorting and distributing the donations in a fair manner. We also supported families who lost out on income because they couldn't get to work or because their workplace was flooded - most people in Port Houston get paid hourly and have no paid leave time. A couple of families received support for their small businesses that got flooded.

A couple of weeks prior to Harvey, 20 women from Port Houston graduated from a City of Houston CERT course (Community Emergency Response Team) that was hosted at NIA. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The Port Houston graduates of this program went out into other parts of the city in the aftermath of the disaster, cleaning and cutting

sheetrock in at least 20 houses of elderly people. They also volunteered for 5 nights in a row at the Toyota Center shelter.

On Sunday, September 3, we began a joint effort with the staff and administration at Port Houston Elementary to distribute hot meals from our center prepared by HISD, handing out more than 600 meals total during that week. Because of the school closure, Neighbors in Action also hosted a 4-day Kids Camp for working parents who had to return to work or had to clean out their houses - or just needed a break.

One Port Houston family suffered a devastating loss: Four men from the family died in the floods trying to save others. We were able to connect the family with free counselors provided by Oaklawn Presbyterian Church. The church also helped with the funeral costs for one of the deceased, and we found a funeral home that donated most services as well. NIA was able to get direct donations to the family, and our Port Houston moms hosted an enchiladas sale to support the family.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Our fundraising efforts for the new building are going great! As of now, NIA has raised more than \$650,000 in gifts and pledges! Our overall goal is \$960,000, so we are much closer to breaking ground than 12 months ago!

As we have mentioned before, we are currently raising funds for 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?

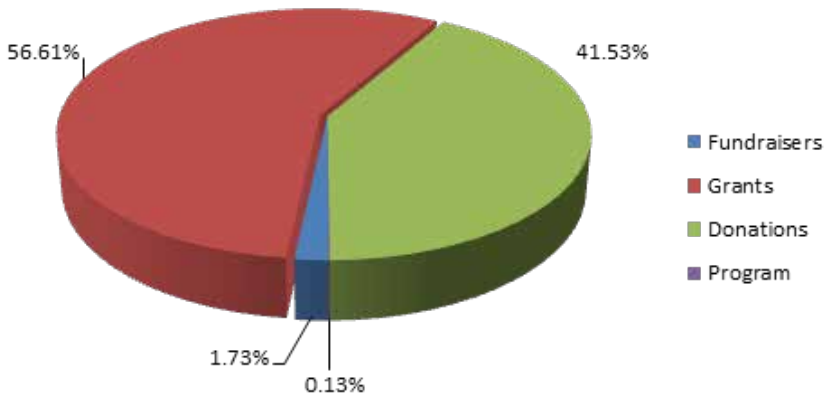
NIA is renting its current facility, a single family house with 1,200sq. ft. of space. After opening our center in the community five years ago, we have greatly outgrown the facility. In the evenings, 30 - 40 children come to our programs. in a space that was designed for 5 - 10 people. In the mornings, we must limit adult education programs. to 15 - 20 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. We do not currently offer educational courses for parents in the evenings because of the youth programs taking place at that time.

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.

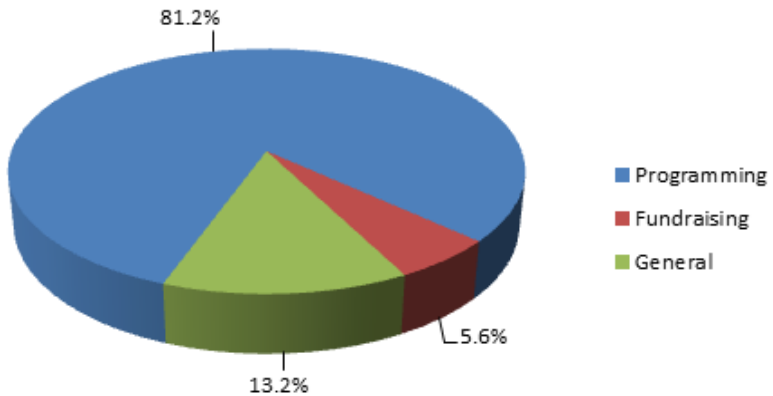


FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenues - \$242,166.04



Expenses - \$214,036.37



DONORS

We would like to thank each of our donors

\$35,000 – \$ 40,000

First Methodist Houston
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\$20,000 – \$ 34,999

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who supported our programs in 2017!

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 Ms. C.M. Wittman
 Mr. Chris Woolsey
 Ms. Tracy Wyman



Capital Campaign Donors

NIA would like the following donors for their contribution to our Capital Campaign in 2017:

\$100,000 and more

Elkins Foundation
First Methodist Houston

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Student Aid Foundation
Enterprises

\$10,000 - \$15,000

Caring Forever Foundation
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Mr. and Mrs. Harrison
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Mr. and Mrs. Scott Neal

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Pena

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Mr. and Mrs. Ben McClure
Ms. Nicole Wyman

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Bible Discovery SS Class

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Ms. Aleykutty George
Mr. Christopher George
Ms. Laura Griffenberg
Mr. Paul Grossbard
Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Jones
Mr. Abdul Kargbo and
Mrs. Kathrin Meier
Mr. Jan Larsen
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Moss
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Nathans
Mr. Michael Ogier
Mr. Eric Viehman &
Mrs. Nancy Jenkins

\$500 - \$999

Mr. Donald Ast
Mr. Frank Breazeale
Mr. Jason Guyre
Mr. Bishale Patel
Mr. Alvaro Perez
Ms. Sandra Stevens

Up to \$500

Mr. Rick Berg
Ms. Sharon Brown
Mr. Ben Brumlow
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Mr. and Mrs. Edward Murphree
Mr. John Olah
Mr. Rin Ou
Mrs. Meredith Sipes
Mr. John Sousa
Mr. Buddy Tyler
Ms. Katie White

Harvey Relief Donors

We would also like to thank everybody who made a donation towards our Harvey relief efforts:

\$10,000 and more

Joan Capps Foundation

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Mr. John Elledge
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Radwanski
Shell Oil Company

\$500 - \$999

Ms. Trevar Kigar

Up to \$500

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Ms. Stephanie Dunlap
Mrs. Tracy McDonald

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Ms. Diane O'Brien
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin O'Brien
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Pena
Ms. Lisa Sampson
Mr. and Mrs. Ward Schmidt
Mrs. Carol Tardiff

NIA received In-Kind-Donations worth \$15,000 for Harvey Relief efforts from the following:

Dr. and Mrs. Bill Allen
Ecclesia
Holy Name Catholic Church
Holy Ghost Catholic Church
Mr. and Mrs. Don Macune
Ministerio Internacional Santuario de Restauracion
Mrs. Meredith Sipes

Volunteers

Volunteers – we could not do what we do without you! Thank you for all your time and love you gave in 2017! 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.

We also thank the following volunteer groups for supporting us in 2017:

Cavemen Cookers
First Methodist Houston
Focolare Movement
Friendswood UMC
Girl Scout Troops
Grace Fellowship UMC
Harvest UMC
Lakewood UMC
Kingwood UMC
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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.