



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



God's Unfolding Impact

Dear NIA Friends and Family,

No one can receive credit for Neighbors in Action's impact other than God. Looking back at 2022, I am beyond grateful to be in the middle of the life-transforming work God is doing every day. The numbers and stories presented in this report are just a small glimpse of the unfolding miracles God performed last year. Our biggest joy was to finally move into our new community center and to have the opportunity to transform many more lives.

I also feel a deep sense of gratitude for each of you who have taken part in this mission to which God has called us together. Your donations not only mean "revenues" to us: You are part of our large NIA family, and we have prayed for each of you by name. God draws us together in the shared work we do at Neighbors in Action.

As you might have seen in our newsletter, we updated our mission statement in 2022: *Neighbors in Action partners with families in Port Houston and surrounding communities to transform lives through spiritual growth, education, and meeting basic needs.*

This new mission statement better reflects the very active part our community has taken in the work we do since we opened our first small community center in Port Houston in 2012. It has been essential to us that our work be community-driven. We recognize that both our staff and our Port Houston families have been connected with each other by God as the one Body of Christ. We realize that we need each other, and we have always made sure that there is no "service provider" versus "client" dynamic, but something deeper that is rooted in the Gospels. We are one family, and all members belong to each other with their gifts and needs. As Father Greg Boyle states: "Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded. It's a covenant between equals. Kinship is not serving the other but being one with the other. Jesus was not 'a man for others'; He was one with them. There is a world of difference in that."

Thank you for being a part of our Neighbors in Action family. By staying connected with Him and with each other, we will be fruitful together in our new community center.

God bless,



Kathrin Meier
Executive Director



LETTER *from the* BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for all that you've done for Neighbors In Action over the past year. There are lots of exciting things happening with NIA right now. Here are some of the highlights.

We are now in our new beautiful, spacious, seriously wonderful Port Houston Community Center. From early morning Zumba class to evening kids' activities to new Sunday Family Gatherings with worship and prayers, the Center enhances our mission to be the light of Christ to our brothers and sisters in Port Houston. A sincere "thank you" to everyone who over the years worked to make this dream a reality.

Please come visit! Our new home offers increased opportunities to serve. We now have a commercial grade kitchen, a spacious gathering area, a large covered play area, and easy access to the neighborhood park. We invite you to come experience the ways we currently serve the community and see if you feel called to join us. I promise you will be a blessing and you will be blessed.

We also want to welcome our new board members Mike King, Teresa Montgomery, Lynne Hackedorn, Artie Onayemi, and Maria Cardona. Thank you for stepping up to join our mission. And a shout out to our current members Ron Sledge, Jen Martinez, Jeanette Easley, Laura Wayne and Maribel Rodriguez, y'all are the best.

We are thrilled to begin the year on solid financial ground. That is in no way meant to imply we don't need more ('cause we do). As our opportunities to serve grow, so do our financial needs. Please visit our website at www.neighborsinaction.com to donate. Your gifts will be used wisely.

Finally, a special thanks to Kathrin. Her Christlike love for the people of Port Houston is healing hearts, improving lives, and bringing folks closer to Jesus. All in a day's work.

Peace be with you,



Ben McClure
Board Chair

**Our new community center
enhances our mission to
be the light of Christ to our
brothers & sisters in
Port Houston.**

We partner with families in Port Houston & surrounding communities to transform lives through **spiritual growth**, education, & meeting basic needs.



Our moms' group called "Women With A Purpose", grew to 75 women this year. The group meets weekly for 3 hours to enjoy fellowship and participate in a Bible-based course called "The Virtuous Hispanic Woman."

Neighbors in Action aims to support the families of Port Houston and surrounding communities in their relationship with God. In 2022, we went back to in-person programming, offering Bible studies for children on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. The programs also included meals, game time, arts and crafts, and a monthly service project, such as baking cookies for fire fighters and writing notes of appreciation for Port Houston Elementary School teachers. In addition, more than 30 children participated in our Vacation Bible School, and twelve 5th graders went to Student Life, a 4-day inter-denominational Christian summer camp.

One of our goals for 2022 was to include more dads in the spiritual lives of their children. We started off by inviting the dads on a father-kid outing to a bowling alley, and the dads loved the opportunity to spend more time together and bond with their children.

Our middle and high schoolers met for our weekly Bible study, fellowship time and dinner on Thursdays and Fridays. Our youth group also participated in many service projects in the neighborhood and surrounding communities, such as cleaning our community center, picking up trash in the neighborhood, and volunteering at Target Hunger and the Food Bank.

In addition, our moms' group called "Women With A Purpose", grew to 75 women who meet every week for 3 hours to enjoy fellowship and participate in a Bible-based course called "The Virtuous Hispanic Woman", which teaches basic life skills such as parenting and marriage tips, healthy nutrition, financial literacy, and more. The group also met every Wednesday morning to pray for our neighborhood, staff, and their own intentions. In addition, we hosted a monthly Christian couples' workshop with 12 couples.

We also continued to focus on developing spiritual leadership skills. In 2022, we trained a teenage volunteer to be a leader at our programs for children from Pre-K through 5th grade - we usually train more, but COVID restrictions still limited us last year. Seven women were part of the NIA community leadership team. They got together monthly to receive leadership and other spiritual training, and to discuss ideas, programs, and fund-raising events with our staff. Two of the women also served on the NIA Board of Directors.



I cannot put into words how grateful I am for Neighbors in Action. I was at such a low point in my life. My son has a chronic heart condition and has needed several surgeries. In addition, my husband cheated on me with another man, and when I confronted him about it, he started to physically abuse me. The injuries I suffered led to the amputation of my left leg. I thought I couldn't go on anymore, and I felt so bitter about my life. But the moms from our moms Bible study group as well as Pastor Sara** kept checking in on me, coming to visit, praying for me. When I started attending the group, I felt that God was doing a transformation in my heart step by step. I felt His love for the first time, I felt uplifted and carried. The group has truly changed my life. Now, I praise God and love worshiping Him. The bitterness is gone. Thank God for Neighbors in Action". - Maria

***Pastor Sara Reyes is our Women's and Family Coordinator*

We partner with families in Port Houston & surrounding communities to transform lives through spiritual growth, **education**, & meeting basic needs.

Neighbors in Action offered many educational opportunities for children and youth in 2022. Our staff offered weekly tutoring as well as a weekly healthy nutrition club at Port Houston Elementary. During the summer months, we offered 5 weeks of camps for children: Arts, Crafts, Cooking, Sports, and “Camp Hero”, a tutoring camp. We also offered a college readiness camp for our middle and high school students, taking them to different college campuses, and hosting speakers from different colleges. In addition, NIA provided scholarships to 3 students planning to attend college.

During the summer, we offered 5 weeks of camps for children: Arts, Crafts, Cooking, Sports, and “Camp Hero” tutoring camp.

NIA partnered with Young Audiences of Houston to offer additional summer classes for both children and youth, such as drumming, yoga, journaling, arts, and music. We also had a partnership with the Dynamo Foundation, taking children to several Dynamo and Dash games. We also offered weekly tutoring for middle and high school students, which also included support with college applications. Our youth group attended many museums and cultural events in 2022, such as presentations on human trafficking, and performances at the Miller Outdoor Theatre. They also enjoyed fun outings to coffee shops, GoKart, and museums.





“

I love how the NIA youth staff cares about my children. They take them places I can't take them and expose them to different things. I am so grateful for the tutoring program, and the college visits. I hope my kids will go to college one day. They will be the first in our family.” - Juanita

We partner with families in Port Houston & surrounding communities to transform lives through spiritual growth, education, & meeting basic needs.

Thanks to the Second Century Vision grant from United Way of Greater Houston, Neighbors in Action was able to support 59 Port Houston families – a total of 209 children, parents, and senior citizens – struggling to meet their basic needs.

We provided rent and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, and food with the United Way funding. The grant will be renewed for two more years. In addition, we distributed several hundred food packages throughout the year donated by different churches as well as the Port Authority of Houston.



Greater Houston

Our Thanksgiving Feast provided meals for 350 people, plus hundreds of gift cards, grocery bags and gifts.

At the beginning of the year, we offered free COVID testing at our center, as well as a pet food pantry in collaboration with Councilwoman Karla Cisneros. Our children and youth received school supplies in August. We also gave STAAR snack bags to all Port Houston Elementary students. Our Thanksgiving feast provided meals for 350 people, plus hundreds of gift cards, grocery bags and gifts. We also hosted a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt for over 200 children, providing meals and gifts, and held Christmas parties for 200 children and families with gifts and dinner.

“ I am so grateful for Neighbors in Action. 2022 was a very hard year for us. My husband passed away from COVID after several years of struggle with diabetes, a leg amputation and heart troubles, leaving me with my 12-year-old daughter. We have barely been able to make ends meet. Even before my husband's death, Neighbors in Action supported us with doctor expenses. After he passed away, we received help for the funeral expenses, and the NIA women's group did a collection for me as well. I don't know what I would have done without all of you.” - Maria





Nelson

Hello
my name is
Genesis

The Year In Numbers

75 **Women** participated in our weekly Women's Bible study and prayer groups



85

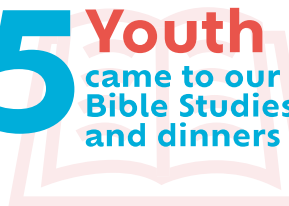
Children & Youth participated in different summer camps



75 **Children** participated in weekly programs



35 **Youth** came to our weekly Bible Studies and dinners



16 **Students**



visited different colleges

350 **Guests** attended our Thanksgiving Feast



160 **Children & Families** attended our annual Children's Christmas Party



250 **Volunteers**



throughout the year

\$43,713

Emergency Assistance
for 59 families in need

300 **STAAR Test Bags** for Port Houston Elementary



80 **Families** received school supplies

12 **Families** were saved from eviction



Financial Statement

Revenues

Foundations/Grants

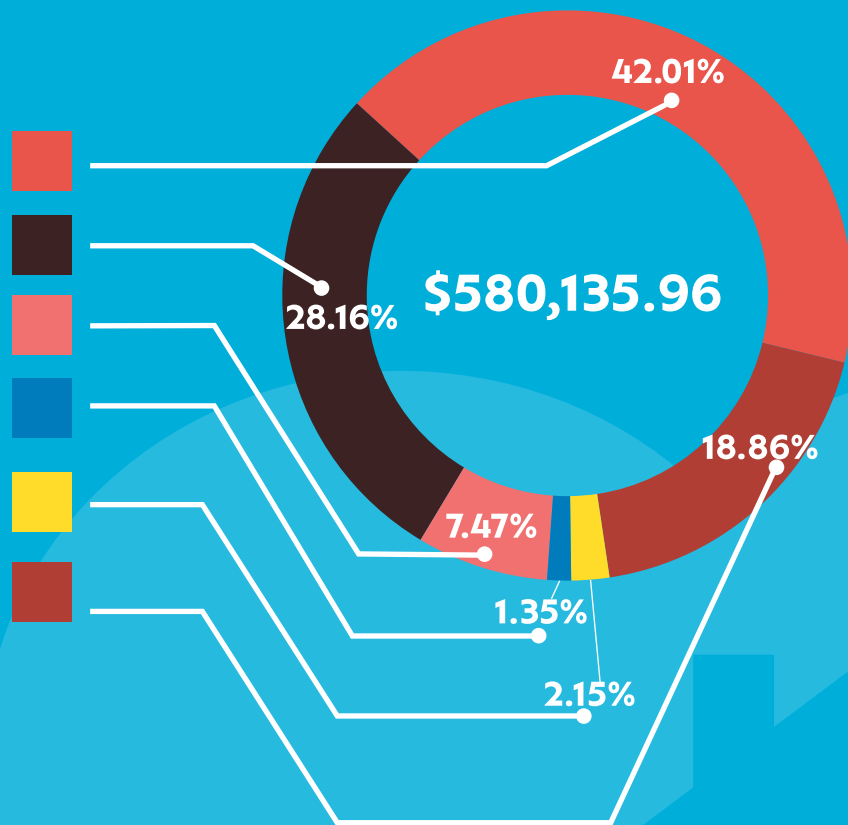
Churches

United Way

Businesses

Harris County Dept.
of Education

Individual donors



Expenses

\$414,397

Fundraising 7.31%

Program 81.75%

Administration 10.94%

Capital Campaign

As of December 31, 2022, Neighbors in Action spent \$1,404,430.39 on the new community center. There was a remainder of \$24,047.65 for capital expenses.

Donors and Supporters

Neighbors In Action | January - December 2022

Annual Fund Donors

\$50,000 and more

Baxter Trust
First Methodist Houston
Gugenheim Family Foundation
Moody Methodist Church, *The Permanent Endowment Fund*
Right Of Way Cares, Inc.

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Helm Foundation
United Way of Greater Houston

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Hamman Foundation
Harris County Department of Education
The Hildebrand Foundation
W L and Kathryn Medford
Joel and Teresa Montgomery

\$5,000 - \$9,999

David and Tina Blockhus
Caring Forever Foundation
Houston Endowment Inc.
Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
Memorial Drive United Methodist Women
St. Paul's Methodist Foundation
Laura Wayne

\$2,500 - \$4,999

William Aiguier
Kristy Azadi
Christ The Servant Lutheran Church
Kevin Gruyer
The Houston Foundation
Alexander and Katherine Johnson
Michael and Luisa Kenny

Ben and Jen McClure
Shell Oil Company Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Daniel and Teresa Abrego
Jack Aulick
Mark and Debbie Bartelsmeyer
Clayton Boldt
Richard Brown
The Coombs Family Fund
Ruthie Estes
Exxon Mobil Foundation
Carolyn Gray
Rachel and Roshan Gummattira
Houston Civic Events Inc.
Kristen and Dan Jones
Abdul Kargbo and Kathrin Meier
Stanley Kneipp
Lakewood Methodist Church
Logos SS Class
Don and Mary Julia Macune
Kevin and Jane O'Brien
Peter and Jo Linda Papadakis
Alan and Evelyn Radwanski
Ronald Sledge and Virginia Pittman-Waller
John and Sandra Stevens
Eric Viehman and Nancy Jenkins
Byrom Wehner
Steve and Karin Wende
Charles Werlla
Jan Whitehead

Up to \$999

Catherine Airola
Margaret Allen
Alpha and Omega SS Class
Karen Avery
Jose Berlanga

Sophia Boateng
Patricia Bonner
Judy Bowers
Catherine Brown
Sharon Brown
Juan Cervantes
Oscar and Linda Civallero
Michael Conteh
Claude Cooke Jr
Grace Davis
Lisa and Les Denham
Vera Dunlop
Michael and Donna Farr
Ray Fernandez
Fidelis SS Class
Fidelity Charitable Fund
Patrick and Erin Fisk
Maryann Fitzgerald
Brandy Flores
Ray Garcia
Denver Gartner
Mary Gerke
Cathie Gittleman
Jeannie Gomillion
Jesus Gonzalez
Robert and Jenny Gor
John Guel
Jim and Lynne Hackedorn
Russell and Christie Harrison
Michelle Hartmann
Linda Hazelip
Charles Hendee
William Henderson
Sylvia Herdejorgen
Ike Hovind
Edward and Sally Hrebenar
Dawn Hurst
Jan Imig
Robert Johnson

Albert Kidd
Treva Kigar
Stephen and Jennifer Kirk
Houston and Brenda Knox
Kerry Kolb
Mary Lambrecht
Bill and Lynne Larson
Betty Lawrence
Elisabeth Lexa
David Lin
LLC Cougar Connection
Mary Maiden
Bill Marshall
Jennifer Martinez
Leslie Massy
Beverly Masters
Benjamin McCullough
James McGrew
Brenda Means
Joe Meppelink
Bethany Miller
Nancy Moore
Linda Morgan
Morris Export Services
Ed and Sherry Murphree
National Philanthropic Trust
Network for Good
Emil and Paula Niz
Mari Okabayashi
Artie Onayemi
Working Partner LLC
Randolph Podsim
Ellen Rodriguez
Dee Rubin
Darleen Schauer
Ward and Iris Ann Schmidt
Reed Schmidt
Micah and JoAnn Siesennop
Erik Simpson

Richard and Crystal Smith
 John Sousa
 Stacy Stepler
 Henry Stremmlau
 Robin Sturgis
 Gwen Syzdek
 Lotus TechPros
 Paula Vance
 Lawrence Walton
 Hope Webber
 Roger Wernette
 Paul Whitehead
 Lanny E. Williams
 James and Lela Windham
 Demetria Wingo
 C.M. Wittman
 Scott Wizig Family Fund
 Women In the Visual and Literary Arts
 Working Partner LLC
 Joyce Zolt
 James Zucconi

Building Donors

\$30,000 and more

Anheuser-Busch Foundation

\$5,000 - \$10,000

Michael Davis
 Gwen Syzdek

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Stephen and Jennifer Kirk
 Paul and Mary McDonald
 Network for Good (Facebook Fundraisers)
 Andrew and Deborah Nixon

Port of Houston Authority of
 Harris County, Texas

Up to \$1,000

David Brooks
 Cynthia Compton
 Laurie Hall
 Charles Hendee
 Richard Hulbert
 Jason Jimenez
 Michael and Luisa Kenny
 Jan Larsen
 Tammie Mailloux
 Candace Renaud
 Judy Shirley
 Jan Whitehead

In-Kind Donors

AA Diesel
 Jeff Aldis
 Katie Calhoun
 Cavemen Cookers
 Shawn Colvin
 Meagan Curtis
 Tracy Donovan
 Dynamo Charities
 Emmaus Walk #116
 Emmaus Walk #118
 Donna and Michael Farr
 Ferris Family
 First Methodist Houston
 Bea and Melissa Garza
 Melissa Garza
 Chris George
 The Get Together
 Lucy Gomez
 Lynne Hackedorn
 Michelle Hartmann

Shirley Hartmann
 Harvest Methodist Church
 Angela House
 Houston Tool Bank
 Jean Irving
 Pam Isaza
 Nakeisha Johnson
 Melody Locke
 Ben Lohmer
 Charlie Maddux
 Karla Martinez
 Ben McClure
 Molly McNamara
 Memorial Drive UMC
 Memorial Drive UMW
 Pedro Morales
 NIA Women's Ministry
 Paula Niz
 Katie O'Neal
 Harry Okabayashi
 Phillip and Tamir Pena
 Jose Ponce
 Pope Tree Lot
 Port Authority
 Sandra and Joe Roberson
 William Scheel
 Ami Shorter
 St. Peter's UMC
 Sara Stone
 Thomas Suffield
 Supermercado SuKsa
 Mona Thomas
 Lakewood UMC
 Marcos Velasquez
 Joel Velasquez
 Juan Velasquez
 John Warner
 Laura Wayne

Joyce Wells
 Jan Whitehead
 Kelly Williams
 Ronny Ybarra
 Bonnie Yezak
 Young Audiences of Houston

Volunteers & Community Partners



We could not do what we do without our amazing and committed volunteers! In 2022, volunteers worked a total of 1,212 hours, worth \$36,299.40. Thank you to all who come faithfully every week to build up relationships with our children, teenagers, and parents! Many of our current volunteers come from Port Houston and surrounding communities, wanting to invest in their own neighborhood.

Volunteer Groups 2022

Exxon Mobil
First Methodist Houston
The Harvest Methodist Church
Lakewood Methodist Church
Memorial Drive United Methodist Middle School Youth
Memorial Drive United Methodist Single Adults
NIA Girl Scout Troop
NIA Women's Ministry

Community Partners 2022

AA Diesel
Abrego Properties
Amigo Trucking
Cavemen Cookers
Communities in School

Connor's Gas and Diesel
Don Chile Restaurant
Councilwoman Karla Cisneros
Constable Adrian Garcia (Precinct 2)
Constable Silvia Trevino (Precinct 6)
State Representative Ana Hernandez
Harris County
Houston Dynamo Charities
Houston Food Bank
Pedro Morales
Palletized Trucking
Port Houston Elementary School
Port of Houston Authority
Sam's Body Shop
Supermercado SuKsa // El Rey

Board Of Directors 2023

Ben McClure

mcclubr@sbcglobal.net

Maria Cardona

Jeannette Easley

Lynne Hackedorn

Mike King

Jennifer Martinez

Teresa Montgomery

Artie Onayemi

Maribel Rodriguez

Ron Sledge

Laura Wayne

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& Strategic Planning**

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