



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION
ANNUAL
REPORT

EMPOWERING CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

A young girl with dark hair and a bow, smiling and holding a Minnie Mouse mask. The background is a green field. A red banner is overlaid on the image.

Neighbors in Action is **committed** to helping the families of Port Houston grow spiritually, physically, emotionally and intellectually.



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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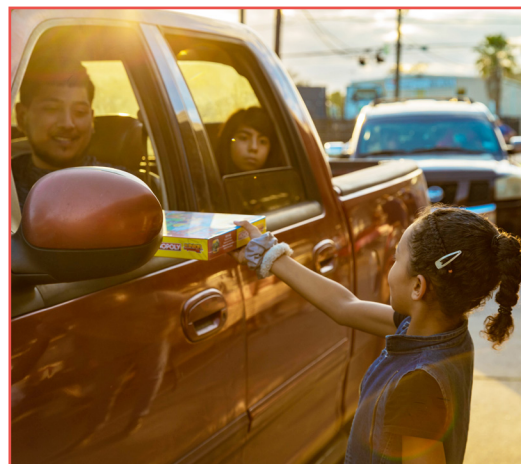
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Published June 2022

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC



Dear NIA friends and family,

As I look back on 2021, I am in awe of what God has been doing through Neighbors in Action in the midst of a pandemic of historic proportions. I am struck by the many ways our staff, together with our Port Houston families have pivoted in sustaining our programs and creating new ones. Throughout much of the year, I have also been amazed by how the families of Port Houston have found hope in the midst of all the challenges of the pandemic, which often included: loss of jobs, incomes, and even loved ones. COVID has taken a horrific toll on our Port Houston community, with the most vulnerable

disproportionately affected. On behalf of our team, allow me to say that we are very grateful for your generosity, without which we would not have been able to minister to so many families!

Despite suffering and hardship, we also found many moments of great joy. What a humbling moment it was to celebrate our ribbon cutting ceremony in October! When we started looking into building a new community center in 2015, we had no idea how long it would take us to see our dream come true, and how many hurdles we would face: Harvey, COVID-19, supply shortages, to name just a few. But we were also reminded of God's presence with us every step of the way. What we truly celebrated was not our new building, however, but how it will serve as a center and even a home, to offer the support and love that Port Houston needs.

I want to thank you for sharing in our exciting mission and investing yourself in this work to which God has called us together. More than just providing or receiving donations, we are drawn together by God, who is about to do a new thing through our collaboration. He has brought you and me together, and our fruitfulness in this new community center depends on staying connected with Him and with each other.

God bless,



KATHRIN MEIER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Each time I visit the construction site of the new NIA community center in Port Houston, I feel blessed to see God's hand at work. It's the physical structure that brings His blessings so clearly in focus for me. But the reality is God has been guiding and building this mission for decades. From the initial neighborhood outreach by First Methodist in the mid-nineties, to the leasing of our current building, to fundraising efforts and construction of our new center, His hand has been on us from the beginning. He has blessed our efforts and shown the folks of Port Houston the love and compassion Jesus Christ.

Now His house is almost complete. Lord willing and the creek don't rise (as my Grandpa used to say), we will be moving in by May of this year. Halleluiah!

So we invite you to come experience what God has created. The new facility will open new ways for us to minister to this community. The needs of the neighborhood are many and the volunteer opportunities are limitless. Should you feel called to serve, you will be a blessing to so many who desperately need the love and support of Christ Jesus.

Please feel free to contact either Kathrin Meier or me to arrange a visit. Bring your family, bring your friends, bring your Sunday school class or small group. Not sure about our pet policy but I'll check.

Please take the time to check out our web site at neighborsinaction.com. Its a great way to get acquainted with our ministry. Also, a super easy way to donate - just sayin'. Be assured any amount you donate will be used to fill the needs of our Port Houston brothers and sisters.

Thank you and God Bless,


BEN MCCLURE
BOARD CHAIR

Our Mission is To Help The Neighborhood of Port Houston Grow **Spiritually** – In Relationship With God

Neighbors in Action aims to support the families of Port Houston in their relationship with God. We started 2021 with weekly Zoom Bible studies and worship times for over 150 children, teenagers, and women. In addition, our staff went out of their way to facilitate safe-distance home visits, backyard spiritual direction, and prayer groups over the phone. They delivered weekly craft and supply packages to each child's house, so

WE SAW THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVE POWERFULLY

the children could follow the programs from home, while also conducting monthly house visits to offer Bible lessons for each family.

In June, we started our weekly in-person programs again, and provided transportation to First Methodist Houston for any interested teenager on Sunday mornings. More than 30 children participated in our Vacation

Bible School. Our youth group participated in a two-week service week in the neighborhood, cleaning our community center, removing graffiti from buildings in the neighborhood, and more.

Over the course of 2021, our moms' group, "Women With A Purpose," grew to 48 women, who met every week for 3 hours to study the Bible 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 Monday for 3 hours of prayer for our neighborhood, staff, and their own intentions. The majority of the moms went on a day retreat in June and a weekend retreat in October, and we saw the Holy Spirit move powerfully. In addition, we hosted a monthly couples' workshop to which 15 couples attended in average.





“A couple of years ago, my brother was very sick. I went to my church to see if we could get any financial support, but they sent me away. I was desperate, and somebody told me about Neighbors in Action. I went there, and even though they did not know me, they welcomed me in and gave me financial support. I was so moved by this surprising generosity. Unfortunately, two years ago, my brother passed away, and I felt the whole world was falling apart. I felt so sad every day. One day, I saw my neighbor leave the house, and I asked her where she was going. She mentioned the Moms Bible Study Group at Neighbors in Action, and that is when I remembered the support I had received years earlier. So out of curiosity, I went with her, and it has been one of the biggest blessings of my life. The group has helped me so much emotionally and spiritually, and everybody is so nice. My girls also attend the programs there. The people there are so trustworthy. I know if one day I needed something, they will be there for me.

I especially felt the love in times of great despair. Three years ago, I had to go to Mexico while my green card application was being processed and had to leave my husband and daughters in Houston, TX for more than one year. I thought my heart would not survive the pain. It was the hardest time of my life. But the small consolation I had was that my girls continued to attend NIA, and got a lot of support there. And NIA staff called me in Mexico and prayed with me and for me often.

Last year, my dad passed away of COVID. I want to thank everyone at NIA who helped us with the funeral cost and for being with us during this painful and dark time.

I love you, Neighbors in Action!” –Laura

Our Mission is To Help The Neighborhood of Port Houston Grow **Physically** – In Meeting Basic Needs Such As Food And Shelter



"I am so grateful for Neighbors in Action. 2021 was a very hard year for me. My husband passed way of a brain tumor, leaving me with two children. We have barely been able to make ends' meet. But Neighbors in Action supported me with some of the funeral expenses, and the NIA women's group did a collection for me to help me pay rent the month he died. I don't know what I would have done without you."

– Maria

While Neighbors in Action traditionally focuses on empowerment programs, in 2021 we shifted our focus to meeting basic needs in this time of crisis. Many Port Houston families struggled immensely to make ends meet. Port Houston has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, not only in number of cases, but also with regards to job loss, food insecurity and eviction threats. Thanks to God's providence, Neighbors in Action was chosen as a partner organization of the Houston Harris County Winter Storm Relief Fund, providing substantial assistance (rent, pipe repairs) to 85 affected families. We also continued our COVID Emergency assistance, paying for funeral expenses, medical assistance, and rent for more than 60 families. In addition, we had several food distribution events for 50 families each, as well several large food distributions for more than 300 families each. We also hosted a COVID vaccine event together with the City of Houston. All our children and youth received the necessary school supplies in August. Our Drive-Thru Thanksgiving Feast served 419 families. Neighbors in Action organized Drive Thru Christmas parties for the 135 children and youth involved in our programs.



Our Mission is To Help The Neighborhood of Port Houston Grow **Emotionally** – By Developing Self-Esteem And Providing Support

Emotional support is part of everything we do at Neighbors in Action. Some Port Houston children have undergone severe trauma in their lives, such as the violence in their countries of origin, a deported parent, and more. The pandemic has brought additional trauma, such as evictions, extreme food insecurity, or being constrained to small apartments during stay-at-home orders and school closures. Our staff and volunteers worked together to provide a loving and safe environment for everyone and followed up with one-on-one phone calls and visits. In a similar way, the Neighbors in Action youth group benefited from weekly small groups that offered a safe space, where teens shared about their struggles at home, school, dating and sexuality. Our moms received much of their emotional support from their peers in the moms' group, as well as many one-on-one meetings with staff.

We also continued to focus on developing leadership skills. In 2021, we trained 2 teenage volunteers to be leaders at our programs for children from Pre-K through 5th grade (we usually train more, but COVID restrictions limited us last year). Seven women are currently part of the NIA leadership team. They get together weekly to receive leadership training, and to discuss ideas, programs and fundraising events with our staff. Two of the women also serve on the NIA Board of Directors.

“I have been through much suffering in my life, from early childhood abuse to recent domestic violence. One of my kids has autism, and another one struggles with depression. I used to feel so alone and overwhelmed. But at Neighbors in Action I have found people who care about me, pray with me, and check in with me to see if I am okay. I get a lot of spiritual and emotional support, and am so grateful.” – N. S.

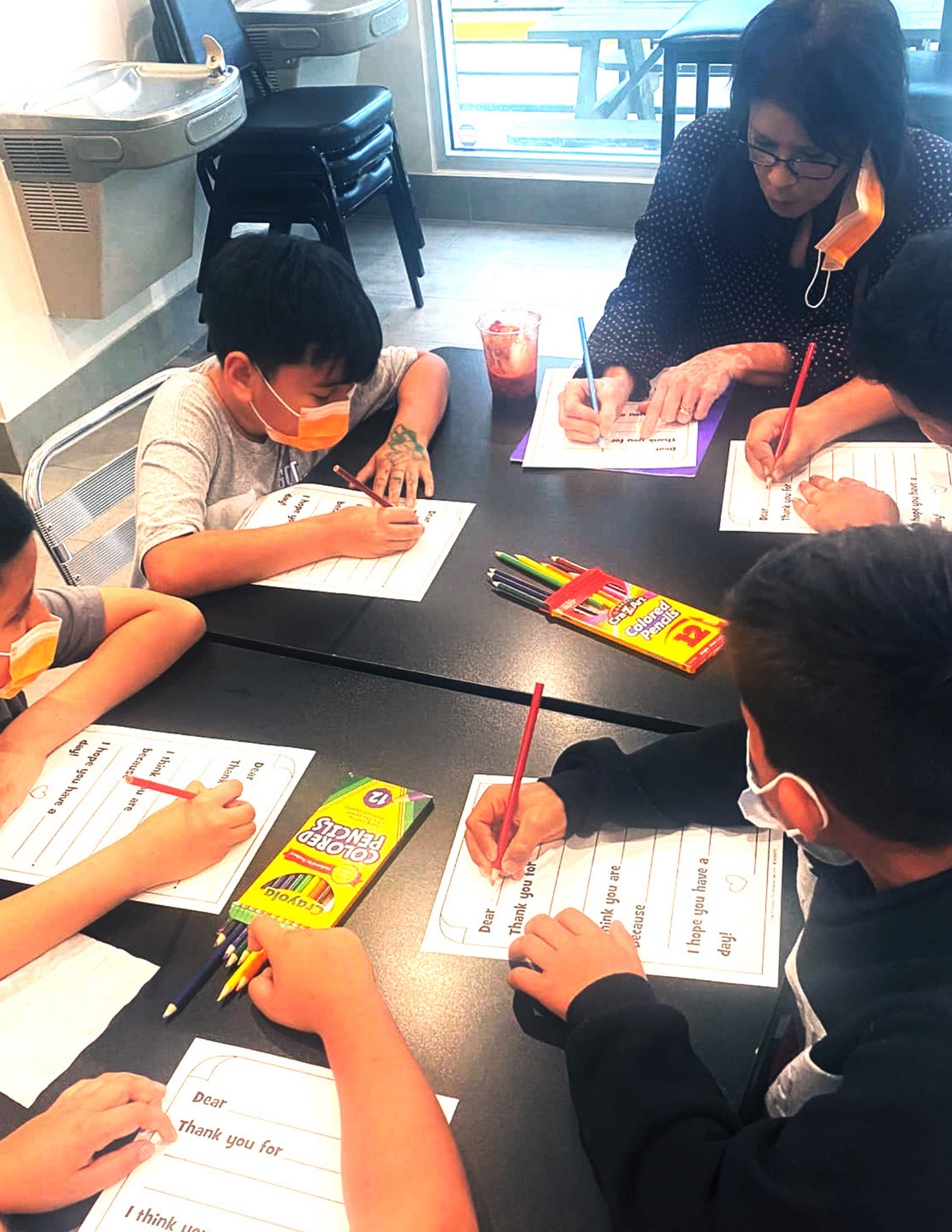




“I came to Port Houston several years ago. I have two boys. My husband and I were police officers fighting against gang violence, and we had to flee due to many death threats. My husband has been suffering from severe mental illness after being detained in a Texas immigration detention center for ten months. When I first arrived at Neighbors in Action, I was scared and very worried about him and our future. But NIA helped me with a deposit so I could rent an apartment, and I started getting involved in the women’s Bible study. I also enrolled my children in our many faith-based children’s programs.

What does NIA mean to us? It means unity, sharing, love, patience, peace, joy, which I can see in each and every leader and volunteer at NIA. I see in their hearts a total surrender, and passion for our children and families. NIA has brought personal, emotional, and most importantly, spiritual changes to our family. This incredible organization has provided so much help. Most of us here in Port Houston are immigrants, and many do not look for help in other places because of fear or lack of transportation. That is why we give thanks to God and to you all for providing this organization in our community.

I am currently a volunteer leader for the NIA women’s ministry, and I am a part of the NIA Board of Directors. I love being involved, and I thank NIA for all the leadership training I have received. Because of you, many families, including mine, have benefited in many ways. Thank you so much, and God bless you all! Peace be with you.” – Maribel



Dear _____
Thank you for _____
I think you are _____
I hope you have a _____ day!

Dear _____
Thank you for _____
I think you are _____
because _____
I hope you have a _____ day!

Dear _____
Thank you for _____
I think you _____

Dear _____
Thank you for _____

Dear _____
Thank you for _____
I hope you have a _____ day!

Our Mission is To Help The Neighborhood of Port Houston Grow **Intellectually** – Through Education

We started the year with an after-school learning center for 24 children, helping them to catch up on homework and months of missed schooling. We continued the program in fall at Port Houston Elementary school for elementary students, as well as at our center for middle and high school students.

During the summer months, NIA offered many educational opportunities, such as 6 week-long camps (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.

Our youth group attended many museums and cultural events in 2021, such as presentations on human trafficking, a lecture series at the Holocaust Museum, and performances at the Miller Outdoor Theatre.

“The youth group at NIA is the favorite part of my week. I love how we are all friends, and how many things we learn. Our trips to museums and performances are wonderful and help me see a world beyond my neighborhood.”

– Jeff, Age 17

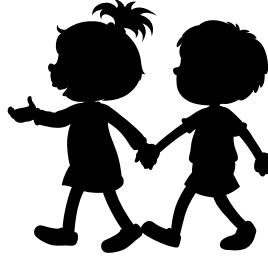


THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



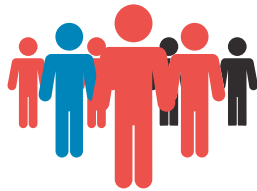
80

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN OUR WEEKLY PROGRAMS



200 PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

48 WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN OUR WEEKLY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER



180 PEOPLE

RECEIVED FREE FLU SHOTS

PROVIDED

1,500



GROCERY/PRODUCE/CARE PACKAGES



419 guests attended the Drive-Thru Thanksgiving Feast



160 guests attended the Drive-Thru Christmas Parties

\$48,457

IN COVID-19

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR 60 FAMILIES

\$67,500

IN WINTER

STORM ASSISTANCE FOR 85 FAMILIES



80 RECEIVED FAMILIES SCHOOL SUPPLIES

12 FAMILIES WERE SAVED FROM EVICTION

VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS

We could not do what we do without our amazing and committed volunteers! In 2021, volunteers worked a total of 1,800 hours, worth \$33,300. Thank you to all who come faithfully every week to build up relationships with our children, teenagers, and parents!

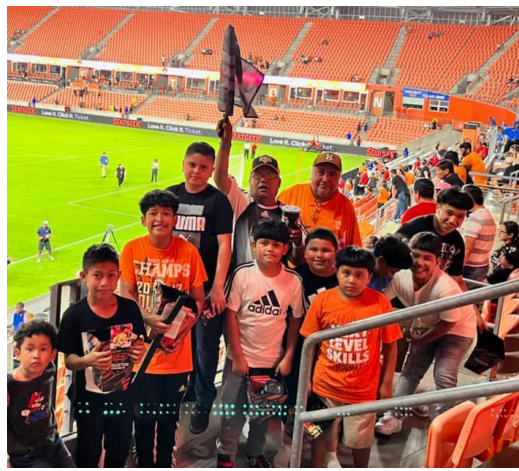
Volunteer Groups in 2021

Cavemen Cookers
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
First Methodist Houston
Girl Scout Troops
Grace Fellowship
Harvest UMC
Lakewood UMC
Kingwood UMC
Memorial Drive UMC
Redeemer UMC
St. Peter's UMC

Community Partners 2021

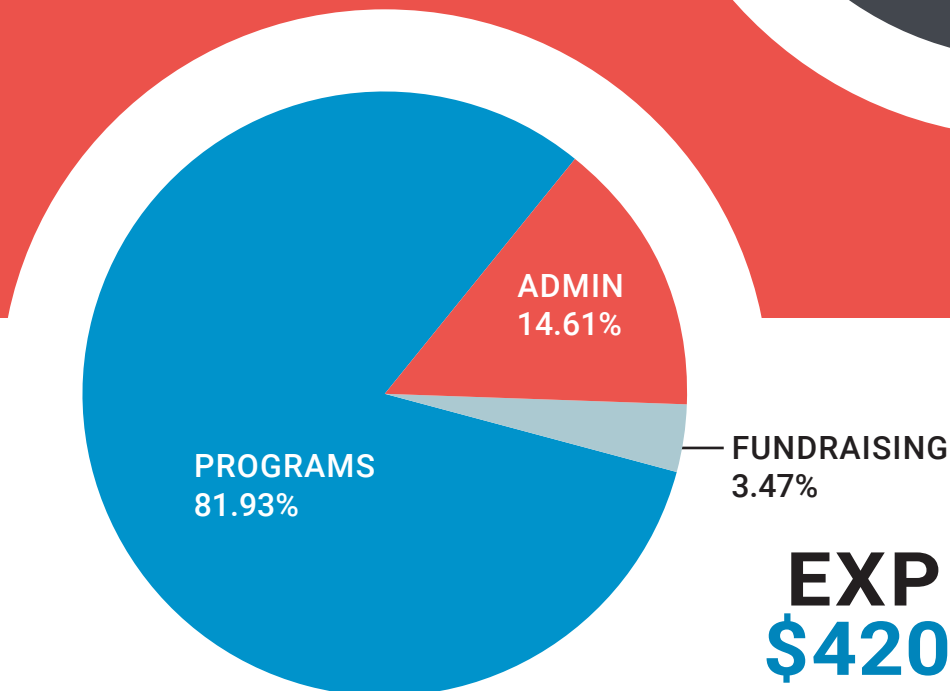
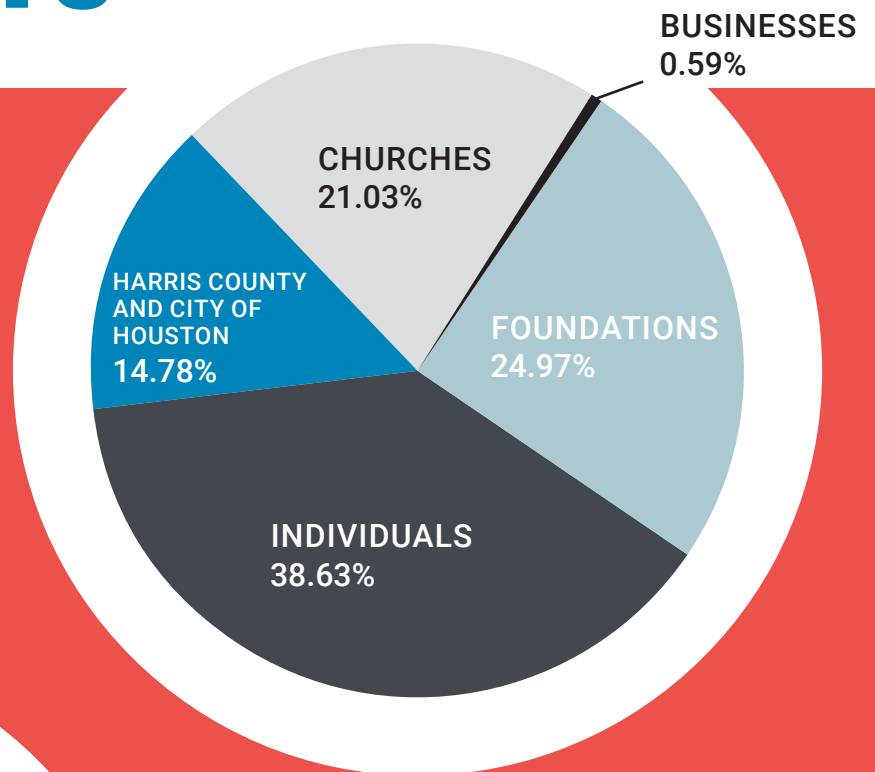
AA Diesel
Abrego Properties
Amigo Trucking
Communities in School

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
Houston Food Bank
Pedro Morales
Palletized Trucking
Port Houston Elementary School
Port of Houston Authority
Sam's Body Shop
Supermercado Suksa // El Rey
Texas Annual Conference of the United
Methodist Church – Church and Community
Health Initiative



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REVENUES
\$548,872.095



EXPENSES
\$420,391.75



Donors in 2021

PROGRAM DONORS

\$100,000 +

First Methodist Houston

\$50,000 – \$99,999

Anonymous
Harris County Winter Storm Relief Fund
Gugenheim Family Foundation

\$25,000 – \$49,999

Texas Methodist Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

John and Terri Gugenheim
Hamman Foundation
Hildebrand Foundation
W L and Kathryn Medford
Joel and Teresa Montgomery
Jeffery Parsons
The Junior League of Houston

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Clayton Boldt
Caring Forever Foundation
John and Minerva Esquivel
Ruthie Estes
Russell and Christie Harrison
Harris County Department of Education
Marek Family Foundation

\$2,500 – \$4,999

William Aiguier
City of Houston Foundation
Houston Endowment
Dale and Jan Imig
Don and Mary Julia Macune
Terry Marriott
Open Door SS Class
St. Paul's Foundation
Steve and Karen Wende
Charles Werlla
Jan Whitehead

\$1,000 – \$2,499

Jerry and Molly Abshire
James Agency
Jack Aulick
Richard Brown
Oscar and Linda Civallero
Tommy and Carolyn Harris
Edward and Sarah Hrebenar
Dan and Kristen Jones
Aaron Lee & Bonnie Jones
Margaret Lam
Ben and Jen McClure
James McGrew
Kevin and Jane O'Brien
Brandon & Lucille Pointer
Alan and Evelyn Radwanski
Shell Oil Company Foundation
Micah and JoAnn Siesennop
Ron Sledge and Virginia
Pittman-Waller
Donna Tomlin
Eric Viehman and Nancy Jenkins
VYUHA Inc.
Byrom Wehner
Adrienne Young

\$500 – \$999

Jim S. Adler and Associates
Donald Ast
John Elledge
Patrick and Erin Fisk
Brandy Flores
Ned and Elva Godwin
Carolyn Gray
Raymond James
Abdul Kargbo and Kathrin Meier
Albert Kidd
Stephen and Jennifer Kirk
Tina Kirsch
Di Anne Kneipp
Houston and Brenda Knox
Lakewood UMC
Beverly Masters
Pattie McTamany Allen
Bethany Miller
Linda Orrick

Ruby Schell
Carol Tardiff
Lawrence Walton
Michelle Wilson
C.M. Wittman

Up to \$500

Cathy Airola
Richard Akkerman
Alpha and Omega SS Class
Margaret Allen
Chuck and Susan Barnes
Becky Barros
Patricia Bonner
Judy Bowers
Steve Breedds
Debbie Bridges
Sharon Brown
Catherine Brown
Juan Cervantes
Ruth Chipongian
Jennifer Coats
Cynthia Compton
Dan and Ellen Coombs
Grace Davis
Lisa Embrey
Amy Fuller
Ray Garcia
Denver Gartner
Chris George
Jesus Gonzalez
Donna Gyles
Shirley Hartmann
Michelle Hartmann
Linda Hazelip
Bill Henderson
Myra Higginbotham
Ed Hungerford
Dawn Hurst
Frank Kampe
Valerie Kelton
Arthur and Annie Kettelhut
Treva Kigar
Frank Klahn
WH and BL Knox
Gail Kocian
Betty Lawrence

Melody Locke and Stan Ryzinski
Logos SS Class
Linda Macdougall
Larry Macune
Cortlan and Amy Maddux
Ken Martin
Vivek and Leslie Massy
Memorial Drive UMC
Mike and Peggy Moore
Linda Morgan
Kim Nguyen
Andrew & Deborah Nixon
Richard Nolander
Kurt and Marlene Nondorf
Artie Onayemi
Jim and Karen Park
Geraldine Paul
Arthur Paulino
Mark and Nancy Polasek
Daniel Ramos
Robert and Janice Reynolds
Pedro and Mary Rico
Barbara Robertson
Ellen Rodriguez
Anthony & Morgan Rogers
Abel Rojas
Lisa Sampson
Darleen Schauer
Ward and Iris Ann Schmidt
Reed Schmidt
Glen and Carolyn Severs
Angela Shaw
Bonnie Yezak

IN-KIND DONATIONS \$120,387.70

AA Diesel
Leticia Alma
Becky Barrios
Dulce Belen
Rosa Bettes
Laura and Clayton Boldt
Ryan Brown
Katie Calhoun
Diana Carrasco
Claudia Chavez
Ruth Chipangian
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Councilwoman Karla Cisneros
Caveman Cookers
Raquel Coronado
Cynthia Durham
Easter Seals
Faith Faith Journey SS Class
Randy Farber
First Methodist Houston
First Methodist Sewing Connection
Martha Gaona
Laura Griffenberg
Juanis Guzman
Valerie Harrison
Shirley Hartmann
Harvest United Methodist
Kingwood United Methodist
Tina Kirsch
Lakewood United Methodist
Lorena Lopez
Maria Lopez
Claudia Lopez
Maribel Lopez
Paula Luna
Josefina Martinez
Karla Martinez
Maria Martinez
Tere Martinez
Ben McClure
Memorial Drive UMC Mission
Memorial Drive UMC Moms' Group

Memorial Drive UMC UMW
Luz Mendoza Olivares
Teresa Montgomery
Pedro Morales
Sara Muniz
Nicole Murphy
Jovitha Nolzaco
Fabiola Nolzaco
Marlene Nondorf
Harry Okabayashi
Perkins Seminary
Eric Potier
Sara Reyes
Sandra & Joe Roberson
Maribel Rodriguez
Erika Rodriguez
Maria Salazar
Bertha Sanchez
Ward Schmidt
Amie Shorter
Rick Solis
St. Peter's UMC
Strawbridge United Methodist
Theresa Strong
Nancy Taylor
Mona Thomas
Together Houston
Cecy Valero
Osiris Viera
Laura Wayne
Jan Whitehead
Woodworkers Splinter
Group of Houston

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

\$100,000

Mabee Foundation

\$10,000 – \$15,000

Jeffery Parsons
Port of Houston Authority of
Harris County, Texas

\$5,000 – 9,999

David Blockhus
Kurt & Marlene Nondorf

\$1,000 – \$2,500

Catherine Airola
Donald Ast
Michael Davis
Dan and Kristen Jones
Abdul Kargbo and Kathrin Meier
Bill and Carol Marshall
Dale May
Sandra Stevens

Up to \$1,000

William Bond
Patricia Bonner
David Brooks
Cynthia Compton
Lonzo Courtney
Grace Davis
Russell and Christie Harrison
Louise Harrison
Michael Kenny
Luisa Kenny
Stephen and Jennifer Kirk
Tammie Mailloux
William McDonald
Nancy Moore
Andrew & Deborah Nixon
Peter and Jo Linda Papadakis
Sue Ramsay
Ellen Rodriguez
Ward and Iris Ann Schmidt
Susan Soto
Anne Whitlock



OUR BOARDS



2022 Board of Directors

Ben McClure
mcclubr@sbcglobal.net

Inri Antu
Linda Civallero
Jeannette Easley
Luz Mendoza Olivares
Deborah Nixon

Maribel Rodriguez
Karla Saucedo
Ward Schmidt
Ron Sledge
Laura Wayne



Advisory Committee

Don Macune
Marlene Nondorf
Diane O'Brien

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.**



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION, INC.

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IRL
AVE
THE