

Transforming Lives



ANNUAL REPORT

2025



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION
VECINOS EN ACCIÓN

Dear NIA Friends,

Hope is stubborn. It shows up where you don't expect it. It hangs on when optimism has worn thin. And in Port Houston in 2025, we saw again and again that hope isn't an idea, it's something people practice, often quietly, often together.

2025 was challenging for our immigrant community. Many families lived with uncertainty and did their best to protect their children and hold onto hope as circumstances continued to change. Parents carried heavy responsibilities. Children picked up on worries that no child should have to carry. And yet, that wasn't the whole story.

Alongside the uncertainty, we saw a lot of quiet courage. Mothers came to prayer group even when they were tired. Fathers worked long hours and still showed up for dads-versus-kids soccer nights. Volunteers kept coming back, not with answers, not with fixes, but with presence. To listen. To stay.

Fr. Greg Boyle says it this way: "The measure of our compassion lies not in our service of those on the margins, but in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship with them." That felt especially true this year. Neighbors in Action isn't a place where help is handed out to "clients." It's a community shaped by relationships. We belong to one another. God has made us one in Him. And on many days, that truth carried us.

Last year also marked 30 years of Neighbors in Action walking alongside the Port Houston community. For three decades, we have shown up in ordinary and faithful ways, trusting that presence matters and that God is at work even when the path is uncertain. In a challenging year, this anniversary became a quiet source of hope, a reminder that what has been built through faithfulness can continue to carry us forward.

One clear sign of hope last year was the purchase of Little NIA, as we lovingly call it. Little NIA was the first place Neighbors in Action ever called home, a four-bedroom residential house we began renting in 2012, long before we had a large community center. It was a simple space, but it held so much: children learning to read, families gathering, trust slowly being built.

In 2025, after years of renting and trusting, we were finally able to purchase this long-loved space. And thanks to your generosity, the year ended with an amazing surplus, allowing us to begin the next chapter of Little NIA's life without the immediate need for a separate capital campaign.

In the year ahead, those funds will be used to renovate the building so it can better serve children, youth, and families. That includes long-needed repairs, refreshed classrooms, safer and more welcoming gathering spaces, and practical improvements that will make the building easier to use day to day.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who gave in 2025. Because of you, we were able to respond to real needs in real time, and also invest in something that will last. Little NIA, along with our main community center right next door, will continue to be places of learning, faith, and belonging for years to come.

Thank you for standing with us this year. Thank you for believing in this community and in the slow, faithful work of accompaniment. Together, we continue to walk alongside our neighbors, building trust, nurturing faith, and reminding one another that we belong.

In Kinship,



Kathrin Meier

Executive Director



SPIRITUAL *growth*

**THE LIGHT WITHIN IS THE HEART OF OUR HOME.
WE ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE
SPIRIT THAT DRIVES EVERY ACTION.**

At the heart of Neighbors in Action is a simple hope: that families in Port Houston and the surrounding communities would grow in their relationship with God and with one another.

Children Spiritual *Growth*


Throughout the school year, children gathered multiple evenings each week for Bible Study programs that included a shared meal, time to play and create, and age-appropriate faith formation. Several NIA children also participated in First Houston United Methodist Church's Vacation Bible Camp, expanding their experience of Christian community beyond the neighborhood. Children also gathered for Children's Church during La Familia, offering them a meaningful and engaging space for worship and learning alongside family life.

Youth Spiritual *Growth*

Middle and high school students met weekly for Bible Study programs on both Thursdays and Fridays, with fellowship and dinner creating a consistent space for belonging and reflection. On Sunday afternoons, teenage girls gathered for Girls' Bible Study, offering room for honest conversation, prayer, and encouragement. Children and youth also participated in overnight retreat experiences, including a Forest Glen overnight retreat, which offered extended time away for worship, community-building, and spiritual growth. They also had the opportunity to attend a For King & Country Christian music concert.







Service remained a key expression of faith across all age groups. Children, youth, and adults served together throughout the year—cleaning and caring for our community center, participating in neighborhood clean-ups, baking cookies for firefighters, writing notes of appreciation to Port Houston Elementary teachers, and more. These experiences helped participants learn—through action—that faith is meant to be lived and shared.

A highlight of the year was Youth Mission Week, a week long, in-town mission experience at Neighbors in Action. Youth stayed overnight at NIA, shared meals, and served through projects with Lifeline to the Homeless, United Against Human Trafficking, and Second Servings of Houston, as well as through local beautification efforts in Port Houston. Daily prayer, Bible study, and reflection helped students connect faith with action and see their own neighborhood as a place of mission.

Adults Spiritual Growth

Faith formation for adults remained a cornerstone of our ministry. Our Women with a Purpose group—more than 50 women—met weekly for Bible Study and prayer, with additional small groups and theology classes offered throughout the year. Women also participated in a Silent Day Retreat at Ruah Center of Spirituality and a Women's weekend retreat, creating space for renewal, rest, and deeper listening to God.

We continued to support men's spiritual growth through our Dads' Bible Study group, which brought together ten men every week to reflect on faith, fatherhood, and intentional presence.

Family Spiritual Growth

Family faith formation remained central to our vision through a monthly Christian Couples' Workshop, La Familia Sunday gatherings, and a family retreat at Trinity Pines Conference Center with approximately 120 participants across generations. Families also came together for special moments of worship and prayer throughout the year, including a Christmas Eve Service and prayer vigils.

In addition, we hosted Quarterly Café con Jesús gatherings, creating relaxed, welcoming spaces for conversation, prayer, and spiritual reflection within the community.



TESTIMONY

Spiritual *Growth* Testimony

"I have seen the difference Neighbors in Action has made in my own children, who are grown now and in so many others in our community. NIA has never been just another program for us. It has been a sacred place where my children learned not only about the Bible, but about respect, gratitude, and how to care for others. It was a place where they could trust the adults around them, share personal struggles, and have real support. I thank God for what NIA has done for my family and for all our families. Thank you Neighbors in Action, for walking with us and helping build a better future for our children and our community."

Martha G.

education

THE SYMBOL OF A DOOR AND WINDOW REPRESENTS THE FRAMEWORK NEEDED FOR TOMORROW. WE ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES BY OPENING THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

Children Education

Throughout 2025, Neighbors in Action offered a wide range of educational and enrichment opportunities for children. At Port Houston Elementary, children participated in a cooking club, learning about food, wellness, and practical life skills. During school breaks, NIA hosted six weeks of camps that blended learning and fun, including arts and crafts, cooking, karate, and Camp Hero, a tutoring-focused camp designed to strengthen academic skills in a supportive environment.

Through Young Audiences of Houston, children ages 4–12 participated in weekly karate lessons, helping build focus, discipline, and confidence. NIA also continued its Girl Scout Troop, which met twice each month and provided girls with opportunities for leadership development, teamwork, and skill-building.

With the support of the Dynamo Foundation, many children and families were able to attend Houston Dynamo and Dash games at no cost, offering shared experiences that fostered joy, belonging, and exposure to the wider city. Children also participated in special outings and enrichment experiences, including trips to the Houston Zoo, Hurricane Harbor Splash Town, as well as yoga and art lessons that supported physical, emotional, and creative development.







A new relationship with Developing Healthy Foods strengthened our after-school programming by providing dinner for all programs, as well as daily enrichment activities such as STEM, sports, and crafts, helping ensure that children could learn and participate in a nourishing, supportive environment.

Youth Education

Educational support for youth remained a priority as well. NIA offered a weekly study hall, providing a quiet, consistent space for homework help and academic support. Youth also participated in cultural and educational outings throughout the year, including visits to museums and other cultural events, as well as fun experiences such as trips to local coffee shops and Six Flags in San Antonio, helping broaden their horizons and build community together. In addition, guitar lessons were offered to kids of all ages, which provided opportunities for creative expression and learning.

Adult Education

Educational opportunities at Neighbors in Action extended beyond children and youth to adults in the community. More than 50 women participated in at least one adult educational opportunity in 2025. Offerings included a weekly ESL class, six-week diabetes education course that equipped participants with practical knowledge to support their health, stability, and independence, as well as sewing classes for women interested in developing vocational skills and exploring the possibility of starting their own sewing businesses.

TESTIMONY

Education Testimony

"I was born in Mexico, but before I could even walk, my parents brought me to the United States. We moved constantly until one day we stopped in Port Houston, a small neighborhood that became home, the place where my story truly began.

Life was not easy. My dad traveled often for work, and my mom was left to raise four kids on her own. One day at Port Houston Elementary, I heard about Neighbors in Action. It became a second home, not just for me, but for my siblings and even my mom. They gave us retreats, camps, and help when we needed it most. But more than anything, they gave us hope and belonging.

Years later, Neighbors in Action welcomed me onto their team as a program assistant and later admin assistant. They gave me the chance to work while studying, helping me become the first in my family to graduate from college. Today, I teach Kindergarten at Port Houston Elementary, the very school where I first heard about Neighbors in Action. Every day, I see kids who remind me of myself, and I dream of the day they too will come back to give back to this community. Neighbors in Action has been a light in my life, and in the lives of countless families."

Karla S.

MEETING BASIC *Needs*

THE SYMBOL OF A HOME REPRESENTS MORE THAN A BUILDING. IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERY FAMILY. WE ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES BY PROVIDING THE STABILITY NEEDED TO WEATHER LIFE'S STORMS.

Financial Assistance *Needs*

In 2025, through our partnership with United Way of Greater Houston, Neighbors in Action was able to support 83 Port Houston families, representing 291 individuals, with rent and mortgage assistance, helping families remain stable during times of crisis.



Through this collaboration, community members interested in building long-term financial stability were also connected to United Way's Integrated Client Journey, a coordinated system that provides personalized navigation and direct connections to trusted nonprofit partners across a wide range of services.

Fresh Food *Needs*

Food access remained a consistent priority throughout the year. Neighbors in Action continued its collaboration with Second Servings of Houston, a food rescue organization that hosted a monthly Pop-Up Grocery Store at our community center. Families were able to “shop” for fresh produce, milk, eggs, and meat in a dignified and welcoming environment, helping ease household strain while strengthening community connections.



Physical & Emotional *Needs*

Support for physical and emotional well-being was also essential. We continued our collaboration with Fuller Life Therapy, a Christian nonprofit that trains and equips developing therapists to provide professional counseling at affordable rates. Through this relationship, free counseling services were offered on-site at Neighbors in Action to individuals and families seeking support.

Natural Disaster *Needs*

In response to ongoing recovery needs from previous disasters, Neighbors in Action also worked with Hope Disaster Recovery to provide \$2,500 gift cards to 20 families, offering flexible financial support to help meet urgent needs during the recovery process.

Community *Needs*

Seasonal and community-wide support continued throughout the year. In August, children and youth received school supplies, and STAAR test snack bags were distributed to all students at Port Houston Elementary. Additionally, at our annual Thanksgiving Feast, we served a delicious meals to 400 community members and provided bags of groceries, gift cards, and gifts to families who attended. We also hosted a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt for more than 200 children, providing meals and gifts, and our annual Children's Christmas Party welcomed 170 children and family members for dinner, games, and Christmas gifts.

Health and wellness education was further supported through events such as the Golden Experiences Health Fair, helping connect families to resources and information that support long-term well-being.

Meeting Basic Needs Testimony

"I am still feeling the aftermath of several disasters—burst pipes and other unexpected repairs that cost so much to fix. A few years ago, my husband passed away, and since then I have been caring for my teenage daughter on my own. I have been trying to pay off my house, and at one point I almost lost it to the lenders. When I received the \$2,500 gift card through the partnership that NIA has with Hope Disaster Recovery, it felt like God sent help at exactly the right time. That support lifted a heavy burden and reminded me that I was not alone."

Maria

TESTIMONY





NEIGHBORS IN ACTIONS

THE YEAR IN

numbers

Our Mission: Neighbors in Action partners with families in Port Houston and surrounding communities to transform lives through:

♥ **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**, 📖 **EDUCATION**, + 🏠 **MEETING BASIC NEEDS** 🏠



128

people attended our family retreat at Trinity Pines Conference Center, ranging in ages from infants to grandparents.

99

CHILDREN & YOUTH participated in weekly Bible studies and shared dinners throughout the year.

11

YOUTH MISSIONS WEEK Youth participated in Youth Mission Week, a local mission experience where students stayed overnight at Neighbors in Action and served organizations including Lifeline to the Homeless, United Against Human Trafficking, and Second Servings of Houston, while also participating in neighborhood beautification projects.

MORE THAN

50

WOMEN participated in adult faith formation opportunities, including weekly Bible Study and prayer, theology classes, and retreats.

10

MEN participated in a weekly Dads' Bible Study using the #DADPREP curriculum.

83

PORT HOUSTON FAMILIES

291 (INDIVIDUALS) received rent & mortgage assistance through our partnership with United Way of Greater Houston.

20

FAMILIES affected by previous disasters received \$2,500 gift cards through Hope Disaster Recovery.

436

INDIVIDUALS received food assistance through our Pop-Up Grocery Stores in collaboration with Second Servings of Houston and food boxes provided by First Methodist Houston

45

INDIVIDUALS received free, on-site counseling services through Fuller Life Therapy.



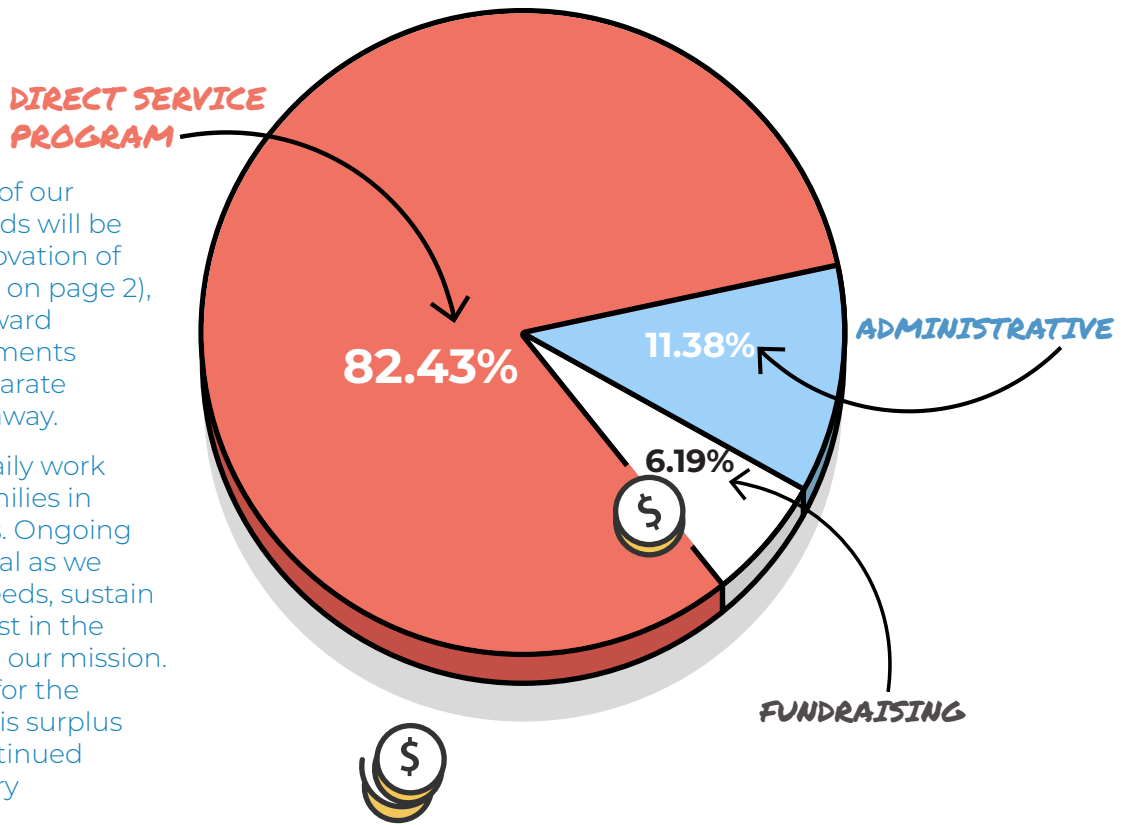
2025 FINANCIAL Statement

General Operating Budget

We are grateful to share that Neighbors in Action ended 2025 with a surplus, thanks to careful stewardship, faithful generosity, and a shared commitment to the long-term health of our ministry. These extra funds will be directed toward the renovation of Little NIA (as mentioned on page 2), allowing us to move forward with necessary improvements without launching a separate capital campaign right away.

At the same time, the daily work of walking alongside families in Port Houston continues. Ongoing support remains essential as we respond to emerging needs, sustain core programs, and invest in the relationships that define our mission. We are deeply thankful for the generosity that made this surplus possible and for the continued partnership that will carry Neighbors in Action into the year ahead.

Total Expenses
\$692,635.20

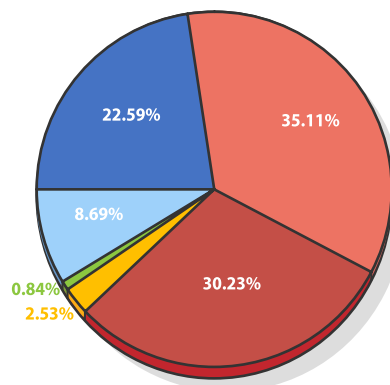


Assets

Cash in Bank Account: \$568,415.52

- Unrestricted: \$532,679.89
- Mental Health Fund: \$35,735.63

Property & Other Assets: \$1,474,092.30



Total Revenues
\$888,956.60

- Churches / Church Foundations
- Foundations / Grants (including Corporate Foundations)
- Individuals
- Harris County Department of Education
- Businesses
- United Way for Emergency Assistance



Donors & Supporters

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

\$150,000 and more

Joseph & Terri
Gugenheim Charitable
Foundation

\$100,000 - \$149,999

Moody Methodist
Church -
The Permanent
Endowment Fund

\$50,000 - \$99,999

First United Methodist
Church

United Way of Greater
Houston

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Dovetail Impact
Foundation

Helm Foundation

Phillips 66

Texas Methodist
Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Anheuser-Busch
Foundation

Hamman Foundation

Harris County
Department of
Education

Hildebrand Foundation

Reitha Jacobs

Larry & Kay Medford

Kurt & Marlene Nondorf

Jeffery Parsons

Rex & Marillyn Lee King
Family Foundation

Aimee & Wynne Snoots

Sisters of Charity of the
Incarnate Word

Richard & Laura Wayne

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Danny & Teresa Abrego

American Endowment
Foundation

AP LP Charitable Fund

David Blockhus

Jerry & Teresa
Bushman

Caring Forever
Foundation

Christ the Servant
Lutheran Church

Glenda Flores

Jim & Lynne Hackedorn

Don & Mary Julia
Macune

Ben & Jennifer McClure

Memorial Drive UMC
Women in Faith

Andy & Laura Pettitte

Brent & Angela Shaw

The Clorox Company

The Sartain & Tamez
Family Trust Fund

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Jerry & Molly Abshire

Ruthie Estes

Fidelity Charitable Gift
Fund

Gainsborough Waste /
Texas Outhouse

Rachel Gummattira

Jenkins & Kamin

Luisa & Michael Kenny

Stanley & Di Anne
Kneipp

Memorial Drive United
Methodist Church

Hardie Morgan

National Philanthropic
Trust

Sara Owen-Gemoets

Port Of Houston
Authority of Harris
County, Texas

Michael & Angela
Rodríguez

Micah & JoAnn
Siesennop

St. Paul's Methodist
Foundation

Patricia Turner

Eric Viehman

Steve & Karin Wende

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Cathy Airola

Mark Bartelsmeyer

Clayton Boldt

Charles & Nena
Brackett

Nancy M Cheatham

Patricia Cleary

Coca-Cola

Dee Dee Dochen and
Paul Grossbard

Haley Eichelberger

John & Minerva
Esquivel

Michael & Donna Kay
Farr

Amy Fuller



Elva Godwin	Up to \$999	Tracy Chevalier	Judy Gathings
Carolyn Gray	William Aiguier	Diane Chowdhury	Jaleea George
Greater Houston Community Foundation	Mark Airola	Betty & Tommy Christian	Chris & Kelsey George
Brian Hall	Gabriela Alejandre	Sue Cole	William & Beth Gillespie
Lynn Kamin	Margaret Allen	Cynthia & Clayton Compton	Blake & Amy Gipson
Abdul Kargbo & Kathrin Meier	Alpha & Omega SS Class	Alicia Crook	Jesus & Patricia Gonzalez
Albert & Elizabeth Kidd	Mariana Alcide	Fred Cunningham	Ryan & Valerie Graeter
Thomas & Mary Lambrecht	American Online Giving Foundation	Cyclix	John & Terri Gugenheim
Jan Larsen	Donald Ast	Suzanne Debien	Lisa Hafer
Lyondell Chemical Company	Jack Aulick	Angelica Diaz	Stacey Hansen
Alan & Evelyn Radwanski	Susan Barnes	Salde Doebbler	Michael & Joyce Harris
Mark & Peggy Scheel	Elizabeth Beal	Nancy Engelhardt-Moore	Valerie Harrison
Shell Oil Company Foundation	Patricia Bonner	Gayle P & Robert M Eury	Linda Hazelip
Ronald & Virginia Sledge	Judy Bowers	Maryann Fanty	Linda Heath
Talos Energy Inc.	Richard Brown	Brandy Flores	Barbara Heitman Bronstein
Lanny Williams	Mark & Mary Kay Buehler	Mike Franco	Karen Hellstern
Louis & Denise Wilson	Alaine Butz	Pamela Fulbright-Scheyer	Cara Hernandez
	Claudia Canales	Raymond Garcia Gartner	Diedra Hlinksy
	Judy Canon	Latasha Gary	Viola Hoelting
	Melina Carrillo		Susie Horr
	Vanguard Charitable		



Corinne & Richard Hulbert	Gail Lloyd	Harry & Marilyn Okabayashi	Lindsay Steszewski
Dawn Hurst	Logos SS Class	Artie Onayemi	Bailey Stevens
Courtney Hutchins	Lone Star Grease and Lubricants, LLC	Cassie Opila	Billie Strickland
Janet Imig	Phyllis Maddox	Becky Osborn	Bill & Monique Studak
Paula Jackson	Jeanette Margle	Amos & CeCe Ozumba	Carolyn Suell
Alexander & Katherine Johnson	Mario Castillo Campaign	Suzanne Palmer	Carol Tardiff
Aaron Lee & Bonnie Jones	Bill & Carol Marshall	Peter & Jo Linda Papadakis	Steven & Paula Thomas
Dan & Kristen Jones	Vivek & Leslie Massy	Marlyn Pieternelle	David & Linda Trekell
Elizabeth Kennedy	Beverly Masters	Teresa Porter	Lidia Tripputi
Karen Kent	Jeff & Alexis McCarty	Sue Ramsay	United Against Human Trafficking
Julia Kerr	James McGrew	Aaron Reimer	United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Inc
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Mike King	Susan Meyers	Ricardo and Valarie Rivas	Andrew Vrana
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Jodi Knight	Betty Montague	Kathryn Rogers	Byrom Wehner
Houston & Brenda Knox	Joel & Teresa Montgomery	Dee Rubin	Cheryl Weigle
Kerry Kolb	Linda Morgan	Maria Rueda	Jan Whitehead
Gregory Krause	Jean Morrison	Darleen Schauer	Ruth Wilkins
Lakewood Methodist Church	Edward & Sherry Murphree	Ruby Schell	James & Lela Windham
Margaret Lam	Lillian Myer	Ward and Iris Ann Schmidt	Katie Wisian
William & Lynn Larson	Newmark Homes	Reed Schmidt	Divina Zamora
Thomas Larwin	Charlotte Newton	Glen Severs	Joyce Zotz
Kenneth & Iona Lawson	Albert Nieto	Richard & Crystal Smith	
Lisa Lee	Emil & Paula Niz	Spindrift Development LLP	
	Kevin & Jane O'Brien		



Donors & Supporters

IN-KIND DONORS

Jerry & Molly Abshire	Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
Amigo Truck LLC	Kurt & Marlene Nondorf
Syb Aucoin	Lance & Rachel Richards
Books Between Kids	Beatriz Riva-Palacio
Pat Bracewell	Andrea Solomon
Alaine Butz	Stratford HS Future Health Professionals
Caveman Cookers	Jan Whitehead
Bridgett Edgar	Wood Workers Club of Houston
First United Methodist Church	
Glenda Flores	
Carmen Garcia	
Cassidy Gilley	
Girl Scout Troop 135039	
Hope Disaster Recovery	
Trish Hughes	
Catherine Johnson	
Abdul Kargbo & Kathrin Meier	
Lindsay Kirkpatrick	
Lakewood Methodist Church	
Lorena Lopez	
Ben & Jennifer McClure	



Volunteers & Community Partners

WE COULD NOT DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT OUR AMAZING COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS!



In 2025, volunteers worked a total of 4,810.45 hours, worth an estimated \$167,339.90. Thank you to all who come faithfully every week to build 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 for 2025:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Cavemen Cookers | NIA Senior Girl Scout Troop |
| ExxonMobil | NIA Women's Ministry |
| First Houston United Methodist Church | Port Houston |
| Harvest Methodist Church | St. Peter's United Methodist Church |
| Lakewood Methodist Church | |
| Memorial Drive United Methodist Church Single Adults | |

Community Partners for 2025:

- | | |
|--|--|
| AA Diesel | Houston Dynamo Charities |
| Abrego Properties | Memorial Drive United Methodist Church |
| Connor's Gas and Diesel | Natural Stone, Inc. |
| Councilman Mario Castillo | Palletized Trucking |
| County Commissioner Adrian Garcia (Precinct 2) | Port Houston |
| Developing Healthy Foods | Port Houston Elementary School |
| Do As I Have Done | Second Servings of Houston |
| Humanitarian Outreach | Suit Up Ministries |
| El Puerto Restaurant | State Representative Ana Hernandez |
| Fuller Life Therapy | Supermercado SuKsa // El Rey |
| Gainsborough Waste / Texas Outhouse | Tahirih Justice Center |
| Golden Experiences | Wood Workers Club of Houston |
| Harris County | Young Audiences of Houston |



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Board Chair

micah.siesennop@gmail.com

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Lynne Hackedorn

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Rev. Lindsay Kirkpatrick

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NEIGHBORS IN ACTION
VECINOS EN ACCIÓN

Kathrin Meier

NIA Executive Director

kmeier@neighborsinaction.com



Neighbors In Action, Inc.

7921 Flaxman Street, Houston, TX 77029



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION VECINOS EN ACCIÓN

Our Mission

Neighbors in Action partners with families in Port Houston and surrounding communities to transform lives through spiritual growth, education, & meeting basic needs.



neighborsinaction.com



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