



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION ANNUAL REPORT

—2020—



EMPOWERING
CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES



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



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION ANNUAL REPORT

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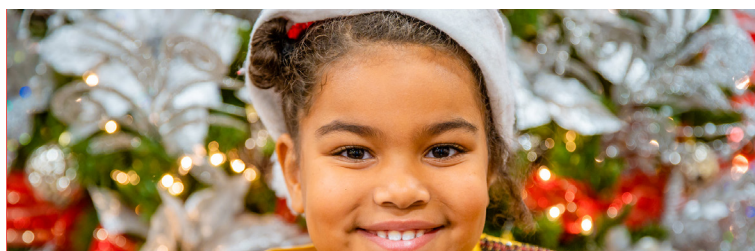
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Letter of the Director



Kathrin Meier

Executive Director

At the beginning of 2020, Neighbors in Action was suddenly faced with a pandemic that has taken a horrific toll on our Port Houston community, with the most vulnerable disproportionately affected. So many of our families have lost employment, lost their homes, and haven't enough to eat. Additionally, many are deeply frightened and depressed, and several have even lost loved ones due to COVID-19. What was God calling us to do in a time of social distancing and quarantines?

After the initial shock, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work, developing new ways of doing ministry and interacting with the many children, youth and adults we consider family. I have been so proud of my staff and volunteers for adjusting to Zoom Bible studies, drive-way spiritual counseling, outdoor worship, safe-distance home visits, weekly food distribution events and drive-thru special events. A special blessing was the partnership with the Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund that allowed us to provide stimulus checks for 89 of the most vulnerable families in our neighborhood. Due to several emergency assistance grants, we were able to double our budget in 2020.

While the delivery of services has radically changed, we remain committed to doing God's work in Port Houston. I trust deeply in God's providence that we will continue to discover surprising ways to meet unimaginable challenges! Please continue to pray and support us and know that you are treasured partners in this sacred work.



Kathrin Meier

What was God calling us to do in a time of social distancing and quarantines?



Letter from the Capital Campaign Committee Co-Chair

In Haiti there is a proverb, "Dèyè mòn gen mòn," meaning, "beyond mountains there are mountains." Tracy Kidder used the translation in the title of his biography of Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health. Kidder says this about the phrase: "Haitians use the phrase in two different ways: to say that there's no end to obstacles, and also to say that there's no end to opportunities."

Little did we know that this proverb would apply to our Capital Campaign and construction of a new Neighborhood Center for Neighbors in Action. I know this is supposed to be the Annual Report for 2020, but I have to share some good and breaking news from 2021: We signed a construction contract in January and we broke ground in February. =If= we have no further disruptions due to economic crises, weather events, or pandemics, we =could= occupy the building in time for the beginning of school in Q3 of 2021. It brings us great joy to imagine a world where vaccinations have made it safe to resume our programming with the Port Houston community in a brand new, fit for purpose facility. have put this text in English so that you can understand the purpose.

To recap 2020, we began the year having raised enough money to proceed confidently with construction. We also had in hand a pledge from the Mabee Foundation of an additional \$100,000 to be paid when construction began. We were well into the permitting process when Covid19 hit in March. The city's Permitting Office and our architects, engineers, and consultants all transitioned to working remotely.

Additional complicating factors were the unique purpose and location of our facility: a building to serve the community, with capacity for 100 people, on a residential street across the street from a city park. Our location is perfect for our mission but raised some concerns during the permitting review. Eventually all questions were resolved and we received the permit in December. During 2020 we also selected a contractor with a long and successful relationship with our architects and who also comes highly recommended for his work with churches and non-profits, including completing projects on time and under budget. Also, the Mabee Foundation has graciously extended payment of their pledge into 2021.

As construction begins, we are entering a period of strategic planning to ensure that we are ready to utilize the building to its fullest potential. As the proverb reminds us, in addition to the obstacles, we have witnessed no end to opportunities in our years in Port Houston with new opportunities created in 2020 by the pandemic and subsequent recovery in 2021. Please "stay tuned" as we make plans for this new chapter for NIA and Port Houston. Additional gifts from our donors will only increase the impact of their past gifts to the Capital Campaign.

Thank you for your support and your prayers. Together we are building Neighbors in Action!



Don Macune

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. While we traditionally offer weekly Bible studies and worship times for children, teenagers, and adults, as well as VBS and faith-based summer camps, we were creative in finding new ways of ministry in 2020. We stayed connected with our children, teens and parents through weekly Zoom Bible studies, Facebook live workshops, one-on-one driveway visits, and virtual VBS and Christian Arts Academy summer camps. Our staff delivered weekly crafts and supplies packages to each child's house, so the children could follow the programs from home. Our women's group met on Zoom until September, when we switched to a safe-distance, outdoor gathering format in the neighborhood park. Our youth group also participated in several service projects, such as food distributions and flu shot events. Our staff has gone out of their way to facilitate safe-distance home visits, backyard spiritual direction, and prayer groups over the phone.

"I am so thankful that NIA has continued all its programs since COVID-19 hit! My children have felt very loved in this time of social distancing."

Divina Z.



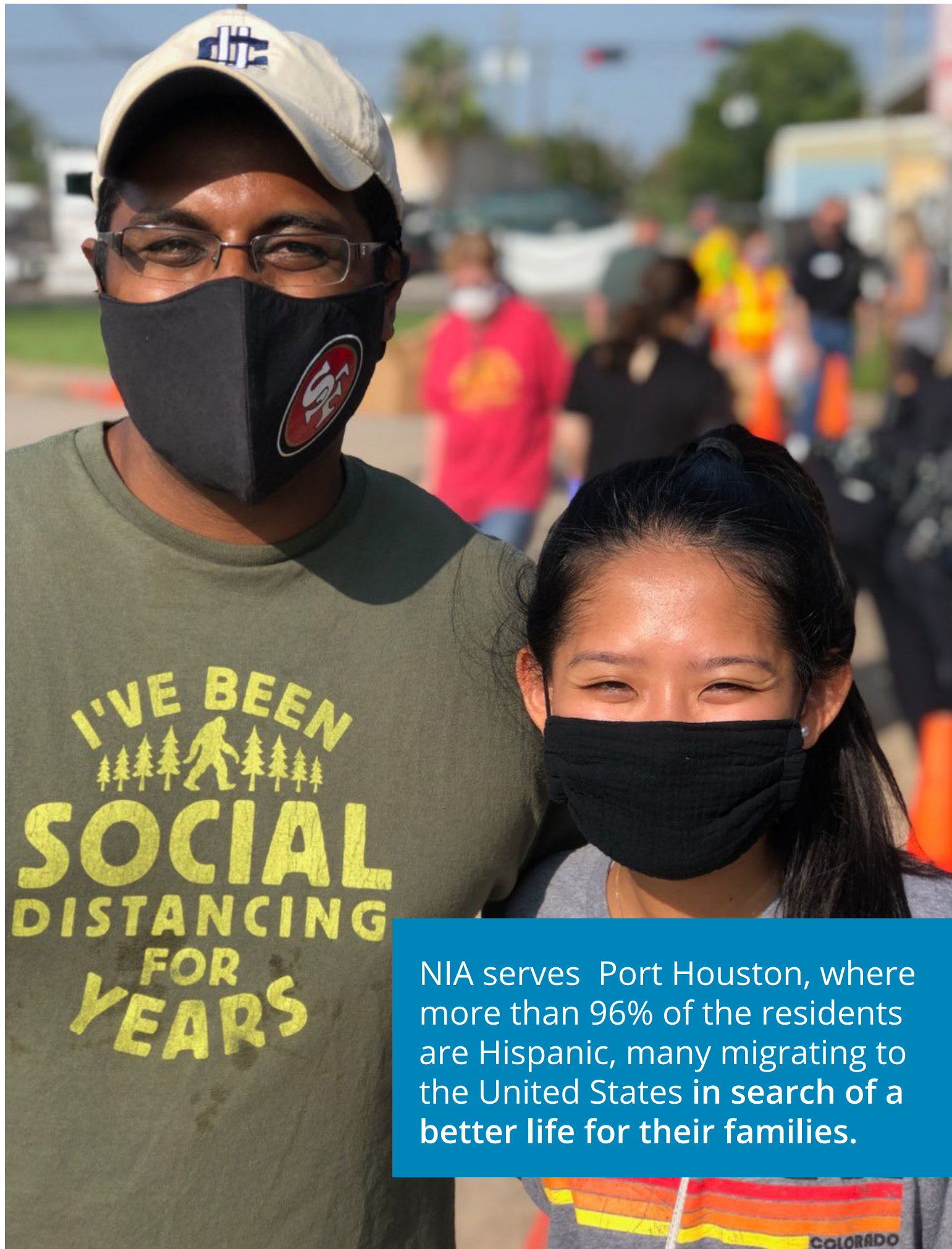
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Neighbors in Action aims to support the families of Port Houston in their relationship with God.



"I am so grateful for the women's prayer group. I have had such a rough year. My husband was deported, and I am left with five children. My teenage son tried to commit suicide earlier this year, and I have been in so much pain because of it. We also barely make ends meet every month because my son and I lost our jobs when COVID started, and we were evicted, too. But coming to the women's prayer group in the park has given me new strength and courage. God is always there to look out for me, and I feel so loved and welcome by the other women. I feel I can share my struggles, and we pray together."

Osiris V.



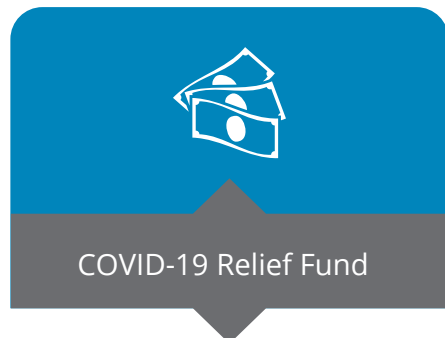
NIA serves Port Houston, where more than 96% of the residents are Hispanic, many migrating to the United States in search of a better life for their families.

Physically

In Meeting Basic Needs Such As Food And Shelter

"My name is Maribel Rodriguez, and my family is originally from Honduras, where my husband and I were police officers fighting against gang violence. We have two children, and just received our permanent residency after we applied for political asylum five years ago due to death threats we received in Honduras on a constant basis for being police officers. My husband has been having severe mental health issues after being detained in a Texas immigration detention center for ten months, where he was abused in various ways. This pandemic has made his mental health worse, because his hours at work were reduced by a lot, so he hasn't been seeing his doctors on a regular basis because we hadn't been able to pay for all the appointments with his psychologist and psychiatrist. He has been worrying about bills and rent, and those stress factors have worsened his condition also. That is why I want to thank Neighbors in Action so much for the emergency assistance we have received. My husband has been able to get the medical help he needs, and we were able to pay rent. My family and I are involved as volunteers to give back some of the blessings we have received."

Maribel Rodriguez – Community Volunteer and NIA Board Member



While Neighbors in Action traditionally focuses on empowerment programs, we shifted our focus to meeting basic needs in this time of crisis. Many Port Houston families have 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 one of 44 partner organizations for the Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund, and we were able to provide stimulus checks for 89 families, with a total of \$125,000. We also received a total of \$75,000 from the Greater Houston Community Foundation, the Texas Methodist Foundation, the Junior League, and First Methodist Missions to assist more than 100 families with rent, medical expenses, funeral costs, and food. In addition, we had weekly food distribution events for 50 families each, as well several large food distributions for more than 300 families each. We also hosted a free flu shot event. Our drive-thru Thanksgiving Feast served more than 350 families. Neighbors in Action organized Drive Thru Christmas parties for the 135 children and youth involved in our programs. We also connected some newly arrived families from Central America with sponsors who helped them get settled with basic things such as clothes, food, toiletries, and furniture.

Emotionally

By Developing Self-Esteem and Providing Support

Emotional support is part of our everyday programs. Some children who attend Neighbors in Action 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 (virtually and in-person), as well as many one-on-one meetings with staff.

We also continued to focus on developing leadership skills. In the beginning of 2020, we trained 4 teenage volunteers to be

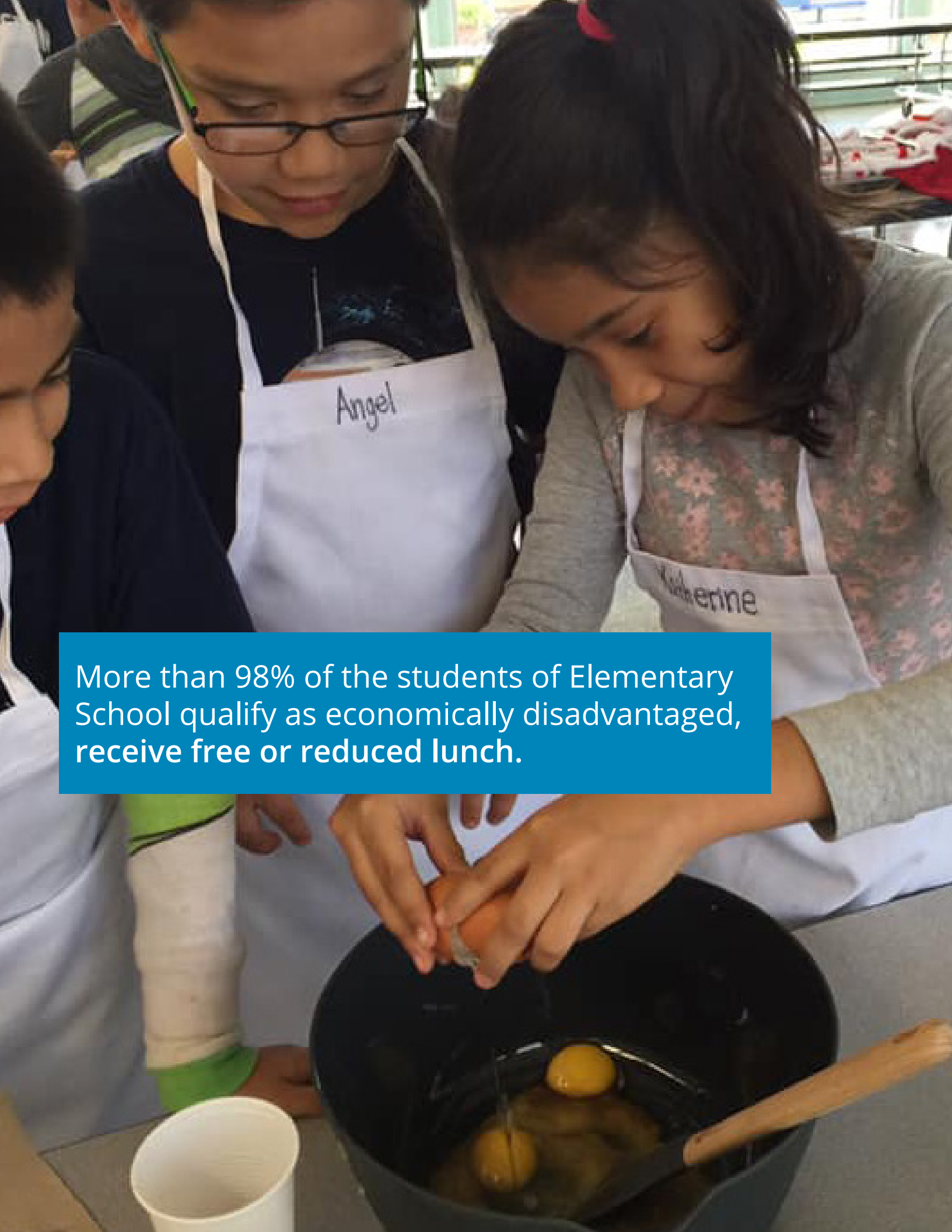
leaders at our programs for children from Pre-K through 5th grade. Six NIA moms are currently part of the NIA leadership team. They get together weekly on Zoom to receive leadership training, discuss ideas, programs and events with our staff. Two of the moms also serve on the board.

"My husband is currently in an immigration detention center. He was pulled over on his way to work because one of the car's taillights wasn't working. I don't know if he will be deported, and I have fallen into depression. My 4-year old son cries every day, asking for his daddy. It was the saddest Christmas I ever had. My heart is breaking for my son, and I don't know how to comfort him. I am so grateful for everyone at NIA who calls to check in on me, who cares for my little baby, bringing him gifts and trying to be there for him when he is sad. Thank you so much for caring about our family and supporting us emotionally in this terrible time."

J. G.



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More than 98% of the students of Elementary School qualify as economically disadvantaged, receive free or reduced lunch.

Intellectually Through Education

Before COVID-19 stopped all in-person programming, we had started an afterschool arts club sponsored by City Connections (which is funded in part by the City of Houston, CASE for Kids, a division of Harris County Department of Education). After the stay-at-home order in March, we continued the club online, delivering the supplies to each child.

We were also able to offer a cooking class camp during summer, thanks to youth volunteer who raised enough funds to not only buy all the groceries for each participant and deliver them to every house, but also to purchase Chromebooks for all children so they could participate in the class. In addition, Neighbors in Action hosted a two-week online Arts Academy for 35 children, delivering the supply bags to each child's home.

In September, we started offering a safe-distance outdoor learning center in the mornings for students of Port Houston Elementary and Holland Middle School. Once HISD opened its schools mid-October, we moved to an after-school outdoor learning center for 24 children, helping them to catch up on homework and months of missed schooling. We also provided school supplies for all families who participated in NIA programming.





THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

**10
FAMILIES**

10 families were saved from eviction.

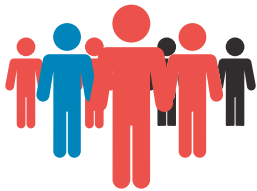
**2,500
LUNCHES**

2,500 sack lunches provided during summer months

**150
VOLUNTEERS**

150 people volunteered throughout the year.

\$225,000 in COVID-19 financial assistance
for more than 250 families



180 PEOPLE
RECEIVED FREE FLU SHOTS

PROVIDED

2,500

GROCERY/PRODUCE/CARE PACKAGES



400 guests attended
the Drive-Thru
Thanksgiving Feast



160 guests attended
the Drive-Thru
Christmas Parties



35 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED
IN OUR VIRTUAL ARTS ACADEMY
AND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



25 WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN OUR
NIA MOMS PRAYER GROUP ON ZOOM/OUTDOOR
IN-PERSON MEETINGS EVERY WEEK



50 RECEIVED FAMILIES
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

facebook
LIVE

70 CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN OUR
WEEKLY ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE PROGRAMMING



Volunteers and Partners

We could not do what we do without our amazing and committed volunteers! In 2020, volunteers worked a total of 2,000 hours, worth \$30,000. Thank you to all who come faithfully every week to build up relationships with our children, teenagers and parents!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS 2020

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)
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
Constable Silvia Trevino (Precinct 6)

VOLUNTEER GROUPS IN 2020

Cavemen Cookers
First Methodist Houston
Girl Scout Troops
Grace Fellowship
Harvest UMC
Lakewood UMC
Kingwood UMC
Memorial Drive UMC
Redeemer UMC
St. Peter's UMC both campuses

*Thank
you!*



“Working with Neighbors in Action has single-handedly been one of the greatest gifts I’ve ever received. I had no idea five years ago that I would be rooting myself within a community so committed to loving their neighbor well that it would fundamentally change the way I see the world. I remember walking into a room full of rowdy kids that very first Monday, thinking I didn’t stand a chance. I thought I would be the outsider, having to prove myself to a gaggle of children. It became evident very quickly that that wasn’t how things worked around here. It took all of five minutes before I was a human jungle gym and the rest was history.

Port Houston, and NIA have become holy ground to me. Turning onto Flaxman ignites a flame in my soul. No matter what my week has been like, no matter how burdened or beat up I am by life’s circumstances, the moment I walk through the door at Neighbors, things change. A hug, a high five, a game of football, a dance party, an untied shoe, these are moments where I see Jesus clearly, and they happen all the time at NIA. I am beyond grateful that I stumbled upon the treasure of this community. It makes me think of Jesus’ parable in Matthew 13:44, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field,” The kids and families at NIA are that treasure and I couldn’t imagine life without them.”

Nick Uselton, Volunteer

Financial Statements

REVENUES
\$582,001.56




Churches (24%) Individuals (21%)
Businesse (1%) Harris County & City of Houston (23%)
Foundations (31%)

EXPENSES
\$493,349.74



Direct Emergency Assistance (49%)
Administrative Expenses (9%)
Fundraising (3%) Programs (39%)

Capital Campaign

 **\$1,240,983.47**
NIA Capital Capital

Since the beginning of the capital campaign, NIA has raised a total of \$1,240,983.47 in gifts, and had spent \$252,521.47 on the purchase of the property, architect and civil engineer fees, lot maintenance, etc. as of **December 31, 2021**.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

In April 2020, NIA received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan of \$31,884.00 through the CARES Act. The PPP provided loans to help businesses and non-profits keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. NIA is currently applying for loan forgiveness.



Donors in 2020

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

\$15,000 +

Anheuser Busch Foundation

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Russell & Christie Harrison

\$1,000 - \$2,500

Kristen and Dan Jones

Abdul Kargbo and Kathrin Meier
Bill and Carol Marshall

Up to \$1,000

Pat Bonner
David Brooks
Cynthia Compton
Bill Henderson
Jan Imig
Stephen and Jennifer Kirk
Andy and Deborah Nixon
Garrett Nondorf
Rachel Paulson
Ellen Rodriguez
James & Lela Windham

In-Kind Donations - \$54,740.16

AA Diesel
Danny Abrego - Abrego Properties
Mary Ellen Abshire
Debbie Bridges
Caveman Cookers
DiMare Produce
First Methodist Houston
Esther Forbus
Melissa Garza
Grace Fellowship Church
Donna Gyles
Harris County
Shirley Hartmann & Girl Scout Troop
Houston Food Bank
Sally Hrebenar
Lakewood United Methodist

Don Macune
Ben and Jen McClure
Memorial Drive United Methodist
Pedro Morales
Edie Oguynn
Tamir & Phillip Pena
Port Houston Authority
Port Houston Elementary
Nydia Quant
Redeemer United Methodist
Sandra & Joe Roberson
Society of St. Stephen, Kingwood UMC
St. Peter's United Methodist
Supermercado Suksa
Mona Thomas
Jan Whitehead

PROGRAM DONORS

\$100,000 +

Harris County COVID-19
Relief Fund

\$50,000 - \$99,999

First Methodist Houston
Greater Houston Community
Foundation
The Gugenheim Family Foundation
Permanent Endowment Fund of Moody
Memorial FUMC

\$25,000 - \$49,999

David Weekley Family Foundation
Helm Foundation
Kurt & Marlene Nondorf

\$5,000 - \$10,000

Clayton and Laura Boldt
Christ The Servant
Lutheran Church
Milton Hanks

Harris County Department
of Education
The Hildebrand Foundation
Texas Methodist Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

David Blockhus
City of Houston Foundation
Ruthie Estes
Michael & Donna Farr
Rachel Gummattira
The Junior League Of Houston
Lakewood United Methodist Church
Don and Mary Julia Macune
McClure Converted
Sandy Miller
St. Paul's Foundation
Union Pacific Foundation
West University United
Methodist Church

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Bill and Pattie Allen
Donald Ast
Jack Aulick
Judy Bowers
John Esquivel
Exxonmobil Foundation
FUMC Open Door Class
Jesus Gonzalez
John and Terri Gugenheim
Michael Hrebenar
Sarah Hrebenar
Aaron and Bonnie Jones
Terry Marriott
Bill and Carol Marshall
Larry & Kathryn Medford
Memorial Drive UMC
Joel and Teresa Montgomery
Network for Good (Facebook
Fundraisers)
Diane O'Brien
Philip and Tamir Pena

Sandra Stevens
 Clayton Turks
 Nick Uselton
 Eric Viehman & Nancy Jenkins
 Lawrence Walton
 Byrom Wehner
 Steve and Karen Wende
 Tracy Wyman

\$500 - \$999

AA Diesel Truck
 Jerry & Molly Abshire
 Alpha & Omega SS Class
 Richard Brown
 Oscar and Linda Civallero
 Vera Dunlop
 Glenda Flores
 Shirley Hartmann
 Carolyn Gray
 Abdul Kargbo & Kathrin Meier
 Treva Kigar
 Margaret Lam
 Logos SS Class
 McClure Charitable Fund
 James McGrew
 Bethany Miller
 Kevin and Jane O'Brien
 Harry and Mari Okabayashi
 Bishale Patel
 Alan and Evelyn Radwanski
 Micah and JoAnn Siesennop
 Karen Wilson
 Jan Whitehead

Up to \$500

Catherine Airola
 Jeff and Laura Aldis
 Margaret Allen
 Inri and Yesly Antu
 Donald Ast
 Bible Discovery SS Class
 Cynthia Blackburn
 Sophia Boateng
 Patricia Bonner
 Kermit and Linda Brence

Walter Buehler
 David Brooks
 Sharon Brown
 Yolanda Caldwell
 Jennifer Coats
 Clayton Compton
 Cynthia Compton
 Valerie Condon
 Conner's Gas & Diesel
 Sherry Coward
 Brook Crichton
 Divas Class
 George Elam
 John Erwin
 Scott & Maryann Fanty
 Patrick and Erin Fisk
 Raymond Garcia
 Denver Gartner
 Chris George
 Cathie Gittleman
 Laura Griffenberg
 Donna Gyles
 Lakisha Hayes
 Stacey Hansen
 William Harris
 Russell & Christie Harrison
 Linda Hazelip
 Bill and Jackie Henderson
 Rebecca Holland
 Harry and Pam Horne
 Houston Arts Alliance
 M Hovind
 Allison Hoybach
 Kelly Hrebenar
 Dawn Hurst
 Chris and Marcie Hysinger
 Jan Imig
 Kathleen Irving
 Joya Inc
 Michael Kenny
 Karen Kent
 Albert Kidd
 Howard Kidd
 Tina Kirsch
 Tom and Mary Lambrecht
 Brent Larsen

Linda Macdougall
 Mary Maiden
 Donnie Martin
 Leslie Massy
 Vivek Massy
 Jeff and Alexis McCarty
 Ben and Jen McClure
 Thomas and Judy McGowan
 Guy Meaders
 Sarah Montgomery
 Nancy Moore
 Linda Morgan
 Morris Export Services
 Natural Stone Inc
 Network Good
 Andy and Deborah Nixon
 Edie O'Guynn
 Peter & Jo Linda Papadakis
 Jim and Karen Park
 Robert & Janice Reynolds
 Lyle Riggs
 Beatriz Riva-Palacio
 Joe and Sandra Roberson
 Tara Roy
 Abel Rojas
 James Roper
 Jean Rupert
 Sam's Body Shop, Inc
 Morgan Sanders
 Darleen Schauer
 Ruby Schell
 Reed Schmidt
 Ward and Iris Ann Schmidt
 Shell Oil Company Foundation
 Spindrift Development LP
 Janis Stevenson
 St. Peter's UMC
 Carol Tardiff
 Bonnie Tooley
 Benjamin Unger
 Hope Webber
 Charles Werlla
 Mark Wimberly
 C.M. Wittman
 Wesley Wright
 YourCause LLC Trustee



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.**



2021 Board of Directors

Chair
 Bill Marshall
bmarshall@neighborsinaction.com

Pattie Allen

Linda Civallero

Don Macune

Ben McClure

Luz Mendoza Olivares

Deborah Nixon

Marlene Nondorf

Maribel Rodriguez

Ward Schmidt

Laura Wayne



Capital Campaign

Capital Campaign Chair

Don Macune
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Capital-Campaign Co-Chair

Marlene Nondorf

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Youth Coordinator
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twoodruff@neighborsinaction.com



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