



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION
VECINOS EN ACCIÓN

Annual Report *2024*





Dear NIA friends,

Thanks to your support, Neighbors in Action has stood in the right place for almost three decades: with the poor, the widow, the powerless, and the foreigner. We have lived in kinship with the disadvantaged, and we have done so in the name of Jesus Christ.

I am humbled each day by the adversity our families have endured, and by the urgency of our mission to transform lives in Port Houston and surrounding communities. I can share individual and collective success stories in this report, but when trying to explain what makes Neighbors in Action truly Neighbors in Action, I often find myself saying “Just come visit us.” At our community center, you will discover what— or rather who—makes us who we are. Neighbors in Action is the young man who came here from Mexico at the age of 15 without speaking a word of English and who is now in college studying engineering despite his father’s death three years ago and his mother’s struggle to support her family by selling tamales. Neighbors in Action is the woman who was a victim of human trafficking and who now praises God for His faithfulness and deliverance during our weekly Moms’ Bible Study. Neighbors in Action is the teenager who took off his best shirt and gave it to a homeless person sleeping in the Port Houston neighborhood park even though he himself lives in dire circumstances and often does not have running water, electricity, or food in his home. Neighbors in Action is you, the person who supports us financially, who prays for us, or donates time and care to teach Bible lessons to our children, to mow our lawn or to organize our monthly pop-up grocery store. Together we are much stronger than the sum of our parts.

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

God bless you,

Kathrin Meier
Executive Director

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

A Testimony of Spiritual Growth

I grew up in Port Houston and my parents still live there. It was a place where opportunities seemed scarce, and the odds felt stacked against me. I grew up around gang violence, poverty, and a neighborhood where, while you could find several bars, you could not find a single library.

I heard about Neighbors in Action (NIA) through my older sister, Mayra, who described NIA as a place where learning about God was made fun. It wasn't long before those special evenings became the highlight of my week. At the time, NIA did not have the building it does now, so if we wanted to be in attendance we had to be sure to catch the weekly bus that took us to First Methodist Church Downtown where NIA held its programs for the first couple of years. Regardless of what was going on, whether it was my older siblings getting into trouble or financial issues in our home, NIA was a place where I found peace, strength, and truly a sense of belonging. One year, all I wished for as a Christmas gift was to be able to attend NIA for an entire year without missing one evening. It was the best gift I could have asked for – even as my mom said “no”.

Over the years, I lost touch with NIA, as I went to college – as the first one in my family to do so – and then became Assistant Principal and Director of College and Career Counseling at KIPP Generations Collegiate. Until a few years ago when my younger sister texted our group chat and wrote, “Did y’all know there’s a Christian youth group right there in the neighborhood?” I quickly did some research and emailed NIA staff that very same afternoon to express my interest in becoming a volunteer. At first, I did not realize that the organization I was signing up to help was the same one that, without fail, would come to pick up my friends and me on the bus every week. Now, in my second year of volunteering, I can’t imagine stopping. This organization has been more than a place to serve—it’s been a lifeline. I’m grateful for the support it provides to our Port Houston families and for the opportunity it gives me to build relationships with the next generation.

NIA is a reminder of how far I’ve come and how faith has always been a constant thread, guiding me through life. It is more than just a place where learning about God is made enjoyable for our students. It’s a community where we offer tutoring, explore college access, share weekly meals and prayer, engage in meaningful service projects, and build genuine life-changing relationships. It is a haven that exudes God’s mercy and kindness as we all strive to fulfill His will here on Earth through each act of His love. I can’t help but remember how, years ago, my Christmas wish was to attend NIA more. And while my mom had said “no”, I found my way back!

- Sandra Ramirez

Our goal is to support the families of Port Houston and surrounding communities in their growing relationship with God.

In 2024, we offered Bible Study programs for children every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening during the school year. Along with the programs, we provided 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, 15 NIA children participated in First Methodist Church’s Vacation Bible Camp.

Neighbors in Action provides weekly prayers, couples’ workshops, worship time and so much more for the spiritual growth of the community.

Our middle and high schoolers met for our weekly Bible Study programs, which included fellowship time and dinner, on Thursdays and Fridays. Teenage girls and boys enjoyed weekly Sunday afternoon Girls / Boys Bible Studies. Our youth group also participated in many service projects in the neighborhood and surrounding communities, including cleaning our community center, picking up trash in the neighborhood, and volunteering at Target Hunger. Eleven youth members joined in a week-long in-town mission trip, staying at NIA at night and working on projects in the community during the day.

Our “Women with a Purpose” women’s group of over 50 women met every Thursday for three hours to enjoy fellowship and participate in Bible Studies. The women’s group also met every Wednesday morning to pray for our neighborhood, staff, and their own intentions. Small group meetings were held every other Tuesday.

In addition to our women’s group, we offered a Zoom Bible Study on Thursday evenings for women who could

not attend our morning programs. In our past year 22 women were able to participate in a weekend retreat in November, and over 20 participated in two silent day retreats at Ruah Spirituality Center.

We were thrilled to partner with Suit Up Ministries to start a men’s Bible Study group that met twice monthly using the #DADPREP curriculum, a collection of weekly lessons on the various aspects and concepts that define what it means to prepare as much as possible when becoming a father.

We hosted a monthly Christian Couples’ Workshop with 11 participating couples, and we continued with La Familia, a Sunday evening program for the whole family that included worship time, prayers and sermons. NIA hosted our first ever overnight weekend family retreat at Trinity Pines Conference Center with 114 community participants ranging from 3 weeks to 71 years of age.

We also continued to focus on developing spiritual leadership skills. Eleven women were part of the NIA Community Leadership Team. They gathered monthly to receive leadership and other spiritual training, and to discuss ideas, programs, and fundraising events with our staff. Two of the women also served on the NIA Board of Directors.





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

A Testimony of Education

I am a widow with a teenage daughter. Often, we have a hard time making ends meet ever since my husband passed away. However, Neighbors in Action has not only helped me with house payments after he died and supported me spiritually but has offered me the opportunity to receive entrepreneurship classes so I can start my own sewing business and take care of my child. I have also enrolled in ESL classes, which will help me a lot for my new business.

- Maria

Neighbors in Action offered many educational opportunities for children, youth, and adults in 2024, such as a weekly healthy nutrition and cooking club at Port Houston Elementary and six weeks of camps for children that included arts, crafts, cooking, karate, and “Camp Hero” (A tutoring camp).

NIA partnered with Young Audiences of Houston to offer classes during the school year for both children and youth, such as yoga, journaling, arts, and cooking. Thanks to our partnership with the Dynamo Foundation, many children and their families were able to attend Dynamo and Dash games for free. Additionally, our Neighbors in Action Girl Scout Troop met twice each month. Also in 2024, Neighbors in Action added monthly karate lessons for children ages 4 – 12.

NIA offered weekly tutoring to our youth, as well as a college readiness camp for our middle and high school students that included overnight trips for college campus visits, and hosting speakers from various colleges. Our youth group attended many museums and cultural events in 2024, as well as fun outings to coffee shops, and Six Flags in San Antonio, TX. In addition, we hosted a three-day workshop in collaboration with PuroPREP. PuroPREP is a holistic youth development program that utilizes an evidence-based curriculum, called Love Notes, to equip our youth from 12 to 19 years old with knowledge and skills around healthy relationships.

Our educational offerings extended to adults, as well. Over 50 women attended at least one of our adult educational opportunities, which included a workshop on financial literacy and weekly ESL classes. We also offered a sewing course for women interested in forming their own sewing business.



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

A Testimony of Meeting Basic Needs

I am so grateful for Neighbors in Action. My son has a chronic health condition and has needed several surgeries. I am the victim of domestic violence, and once I left my husband, I lost the main income for me and my son. NIA helped me with rent for the first month. I attend the weekly Moms Bible study, which gives me much strength and helps me see how much God loves me. I also come to the monthly free grocery store to get fresh fruit and meat for my son. After Beryl, they even gave me a power station, so I can keep my son's medications refrigerated in case of another storm that leads to power outages. Thanks to your kindness, I have experienced God's love for me in new ways.

- Maria

Thanks to the Second Century Vision grant from United Way of Greater Houston, Neighbors in Action was able to support 67 Port Houston families – a total of 252 people - struggling to meet their basic needs.

We provided rent and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, and food with the United Way funding. Through our United Way partnership, we were also able to refer members of our community interested in becoming financially independent to the Integrated Client Journey offered by United Way partners, which provides navigation assistance to connect people directly to resources from the network nonprofit partners, across a range of services. In addition, United Way and The Greater Houston Community Foundation



Greater Houston

provided NIA families with high quality power stations that can be used in times of power outages. We entered into a new partnership with Second Servings of Houston who hosted a monthly Pop-Up Grocery Store at our NIA community center. Second Servings of Houston is a food rescue organization that provides fresh produce, milk, eggs and meat for our “shoppers”.

We continued our partnership with Fuller Life Therapy. Fuller Life Therapy is a Christian nonprofit that trains, equips and empowers developing therapists who provide professional therapy to families and individuals at affordable rates. Thanks to our collaboration, we were able to provide free counseling to interested Port Houston families and individuals at our center.

Our partner organization “Do As I Have Done” Humanitarian Outreach hosted an educational outreach at our center as well as a pedicure night and free shoes for Christmas for all



interested families. DAIHD's mission is to provide compassionate foot-care and to reduce the spread of infection and disease in under served communities through service, awareness, education, and resources.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, Neighbors in Action partnered with BBQ Relief and Phillips 66 to provide 500 barbecue meals to families affected by the storm.

In August, we provided school supplies to our children and youth. We also gave STAAR Test snack bags to all Port Houston Elementary students. Our Thanksgiving Feast provided meals for 400 people in our community, as well as hundreds of gift cards, bags of groceries, and gifts. We also hosted a community wide Easter Egg Hunt for over 200 children, providing meals and gifts. At our annual Children's Christmas Party, we provided dinner and gifts to 170 children and family members.

The Year In Numbers

75

Children participated in our weekly programs

44

Youth came to our weekly Bible Studies & Dinners

60

Women participated in our weekly Women’s Bible Study & prayer groups



11

Youth joined in a missions trip



15 Students visited different colleges

88

Children & Youth participated in different summer camps

400 Meals

were served at our Thanksgiving Feast

250

People volunteered throughout the year

170

Children & Family Members attended our annual Christmas Party

114

People attended our family retreat in Trinity, TX

\$66,877

Emergency Assistance

provided to 67 families

60

Families

received school supplies



10

Families

were saved from eviction



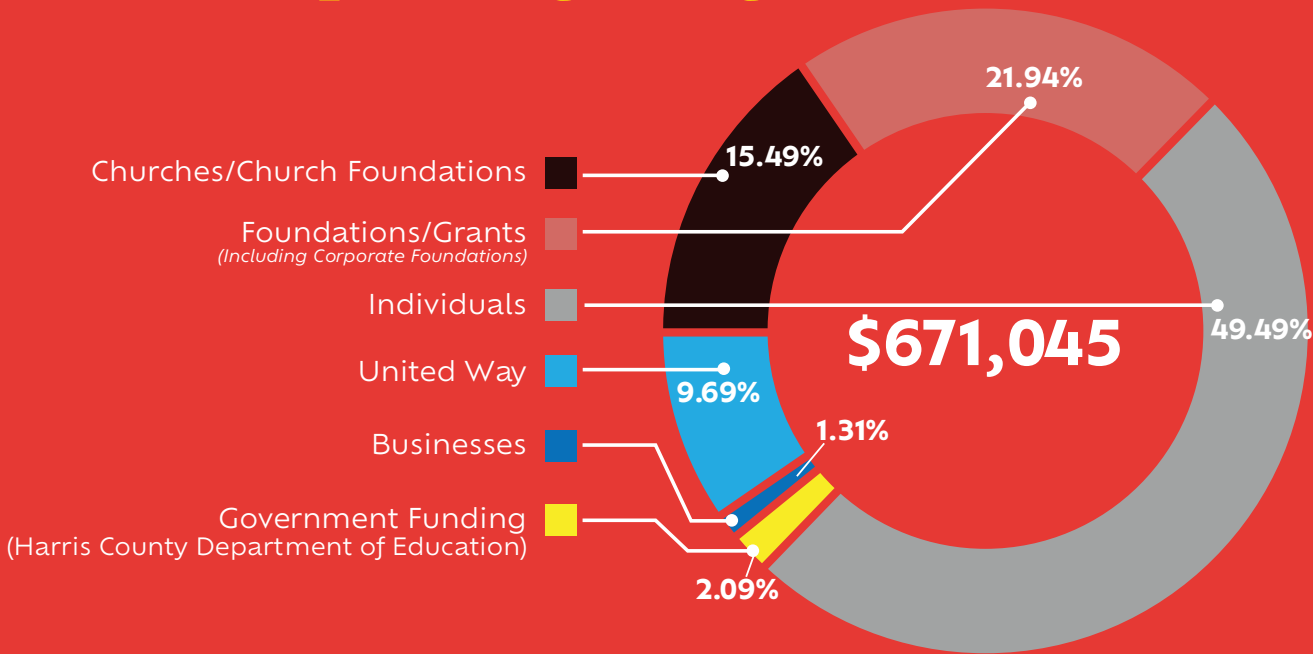
300

STAAR test bags for Port Houston Elementary students

Financial Statement

2024

General Operating Budget



Expenses Operate Budget

\$583,138



Assets

Cash in Bank Account (December 31, 2024): \$ 680,196.99

- Unrestricted Funds: \$629,895.92
- Restricted Accounts: \$ 50,301.07

Building Fund

As of December 31, 2024, Neighbors in Action spent \$1,438,499.51 on the new community center. There was a remainder of \$671.07 for capital expenses.

Mental Health Fund

There was \$49,630.00 in the mental health fund on December 31, 2024

Property and other assets: \$ 1,240,764.18

Donors and Supporters

Neighbors In Action | January - December 2024

General Operating Fund

\$150,000 and more

Joseph & Terri Gugenheim
Charitable Foundation

\$100,000 - \$50,000

First Methodist Houston
United Way of Greater Houston

\$49,999 - \$25,000

Helm Foundation
Phillips 66

\$24,999 - \$15,000

Anheuser-Busch Foundation
Larry & Kathryn Medford
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
The Hildebrand Foundation

\$14,999 - \$10,000

Hamman Foundation
Harris County Department of Education
Ben & Jennifer McClure
Rex & Marillyn Lee King
Family Foundation
Stoller Foundation

\$9,999 - \$5,000

David & Tina Blockhus
Caring Forever Foundation
Community Preschools Corporation
Glenda Flores
Houston Texans Foundation
Michael & Luisa Kenny
Don & Mary Julia Macune
Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
Memorial Drive United Methodist Women
Kurt & Marlene Nondorf
Port of Houston Authority of
Harris County, Texas

Aimee Snoots
The Sartain & Tamez
Family Trust Fund
Donna Tomlin
Patricia Turner
Richard & Laura Wayne

\$4,900 - \$2,500

Daniel & Teresa Abrego
Jerry & Molly Abshire
Kristy Azadi
Christ The Servant
Lutheran Church
Ruthie Estes
Michael & Donna Kay Farr
Elva Godwin

Roshan & Rachel
Gummattira
Jim & Lynne Hackedorn
Michael & Kelly Handel
Houston Young
Lawyers Foundation
Jackson Walker LLP

Albert Kidd
Stanley Kneipp
Alan & Evelyn Radwanski
Angela Shaw
Springmeyer Family Fund
St. Paul's Methodist
Foundation
Eric Viehman & Nancy Jenkins
Steve & Karin Wende

\$2,499 - \$1,000

William Aiguier
Catherine Airola
Debbie Bartelsmeyer
Clayton Boldt

Bohmbach Family
Richard Brown
Patricia Cleary
Yvonne Conklin
Michael Davis
John & Minerva Esquivel
Amy Fuller
Carolyn Gray
Paul Grossbard
Brian Hall
Hank Hamilton
Kristin Hartmann
Aaron Lee & Bonnie Jones
Abdul Kargbo &
Kathrin Meier
Lone Star Grease &
Lubricants, LLC
Lyondell Chemical Company
Mary Frances Mariott

James McGrew
Jo Ann Petersen
Ralson Family
Charitable Fund
Lisa Sarvadi
Micah Siesennop
Ronald Sledge
Sandra Stevens
Talos Production Inc
Texas Annual Conference of
The United Methodist Church
Byrom Wehner

Up to \$999

Diana Abrego
Lisa Airhart
Laura Aldis
Margaret Allen
Alpha & Omega Class

American Online Giving
Foundation
Laine Arbogast
Donald Ast
Jack Aulick
Susan Barnes
Mark Bartelsmeyer
Kelly & Louis Biar
Patricia Bonner
Judy Bowers
Ann Bradford
Cesar Bravo
Kathleen Brickley
Mark Buehler
Glenda Burkhalter
Alaine Butz
Melanie Cameron
Kristen Campbell
Claudia Canales
Veronica Cappadonna
Mariana Castillo
Tanya Castro
Betty Christian
Cynthia Compton
Creating Healthier
Community
Tracy Donovan
Robert Driver
Aliza Dutt
Bridgett Edgar
Haley Eichelberger
Gerald Elphingstone
Scott & Maryann Fanty
Fidelis Sunday School Class
Patrick & Erin Fisk
Brandy Flores

Danielle Fridge
Maria-Anna Galitzine
Ray Garcia
Denver Gartner
Chris George
William Gillespie
Jesus Gonzalez
Marisela Gonzalez
Kelly Gould
Lynn Gremillion
John & Terri Gugenheim
Eva Haier
Valerie Harrison
Linda Hazelip
Linda Heath
Gary Hickman
Viola Hoelting
Susie Horr
Ike Hovind
Edward & Sarah Hrebenar
Richard Hulbert
Dawn Hurst
Jan Imig
Dan & Kristen Jones
JP Morgan Chase Charity
Lynn Kamin
Ashley Kelly
Elizabeth Kennedy
Karen Kent
Julia Kerr
Lea Kiefer
Stephen & Jennifer Kirk
Frank Klahn
Houston & Brenda Knox
Kerry Kolb
Alex Kolb
Gregory Krause
Rev. Thomas & Mary Lambrecht
Bill and Lynne Larson
Lynn Larson
Thomas Larwin
Katherine Lawrence
Kenneth & Iona Lawson
Gail Lloyd
Logos SS Class
Lauren Lorensen

Meghan Lutschg
Phyllis Maddox
Simone & Sean Maher
Jackie & Shelley Malone
Katie Manning
Debra Marmion
Bill Marshall
Beverly Masters
Jeff & Alexis McCarty
Benjamin McCullough
Jennifer Mendoza
Heather Miller
Sandra Miller
Joel & Teresa Montgomery
Nancy Moore
Linda Morgan
Marijean Morris
Jean Morrison
Wendy Moses
Sherron Murphree
Albert Nieto
Paula Niz
Diane O'Brien
Damian Ogier
Artie Onayemi
Suzanne Palmer
Manish Pandya
Peter & Lo Linda Papadakis
Tina Payne
Gibu Philip
Stuart & Carol Porter
Eric & Korren Pugh
Sue Ramsay
Aaron Reimer
Rev. Lance & Rachel Richards
Sandra Roberson
Dee Rubin
Peggy Scheel
Ward & Iris Ann Schmidt
Reed Schmidt
Shell Oil Company Foundation
Carrie Slagle
Richard & Crystal Smith
Leena Soo
Spindrift Development LP
Jason Stabell

Selinda Stewart
Monique Studak
Carolyn Suell
Carol Tardiff
Steven Thomas
Larry Thomas
Carin Thorn
Linda Trekell
United Way of Dallas
Thomas Vance
Andrew Vrana
Stephen Webb
Jan Whitehead
Lanny Williams
Louis & Denise Wilson
James & Lela Windham
Taylor Woodruff
Joyce Zotz

Building Fund Donors

Up to \$500

Susan Gallman
Stephen & Jennifer Kirk
Albert Nieto
Louis & Denise Wilson

In-Kind Donors

Laura & Jeff Aldis
Carmen Araiza
Betty Christian
Xochilt Cruz
First United Methodist Church
Houston
Elva Godwin
Tonya Hamilton
Shirley Hartmann
Harvest Methodist Church
Lowell Henderson
Beth Heyn Kennedy
Georgia Kimmel
Mike King
Lakewood Methodist
Church

Gail Loyd
Don Macune
Karla Martinez
Kathrin Meier
Memorial Drive UMC
Memorial Drive UMC Missions
Memorial Drive UMC Stitchers
Emil Niz
Harry Okabayashi
Cassie Opila
Joann Petersen
Sandra Roberson
Lisa Saradi
Amie Shorter
Ron Sledge
Society of St. Stephen
Kingwood Methodist
Supermercado Suksa
Mona Thomas
Jan Whitehead

Volunteers & Community Partners



We could not do what we do without our amazing and committed volunteers! In 2024, volunteers worked a total of 2,349 hours, worth an estimated \$81,721.71. 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 for 2024:

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

Community Partners for 2024:

| | |
|--|---|
| AA Diesel | Lakewood Methodist Church |
| Abrego Properties | Memorial Drive United Methodist Church |
| Chick-Fil-A on Uvalde & Market | Natural Stone, Inc. |
| Communities in Schools | Operation BBQ Relief |
| Connor's Gas and Diesel | Palletized Trucking |
| Councilman Mario Castillo | Port Houston |
| County Commissioner Adrian Garcia (Precinct 2) | Port Houston Elementary School |
| Do As I Have Done Humanitarian Outreach | PuroPREP |
| El Puerto Restaurant | Second Servings of Houston |
| Fuller Life Therapy | Starbucks |
| State Representative Ana Hernandez | Suit Up Ministries |
| Gainsborough Waste / Texas Outhouse | Supermercado SuKsa // El Rey |
| Harris County | Woodworkers (Splinter Group) of Houston |
| Houston Dynamo Charities | Young Audiences of Houston |
| Houston Food Bank | |



Board Of Directors 2025

Micah Siesennop
Board Chair

micah.siesennop@gmail.com

Maria Cardona

Lynne Hackedorn

Beth Kennedy

Mike King

Claudia Lopez

Ben McClure

Teresa Montgomery

Artie Onayemi

Laura Wayne

Taylor Woodruff

NIA Executive Director

Kathrin Meier

kmeier@neighborsinaction.com

Neighbors In Action, Inc.

7921 Flaxman Street, Houston, TX 77029

www.neighborsinaction.com



NEIGHBORS IN ACTION VECINOS EN ACCIÓN

www.neighborsinaction.com

