



**Friends of
North Richmond**
RICHMOND, TEXAS

A Letter to Our Neighbors

VOLUME 20 | JUNE 2019 | MISSION WEEK EDITION

A Word from our Director

Important Dates:

June 20-July 20:

Ballet Forte Classes: (Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:30pm) Free to the North Richmond/Riveredge Communities! Learn classical ballet skills, plus a recital!

June 24-August 9:

Youth Summer Program: (Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-12:30) Life Skills, Breakfast, Lunch, Soccer, Reading and More!

June 26-August 7:

Youth Soccer Program: (Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am) ANSA (All Nations Sports Academy) is partnering with us to lead a Soccer program for 1st-5th graders!

June 29:

FNR Recovery Work Day. To volunteer, sign up here: <http://bit.ly/fnrworkday>

July 5:

City of Richmond Movies on Morton Street: [Independence Day](#)

August 26:

LCISD Back to School!

August 29:

You Can Academy Orientation

September 9:

First Day of You Can Academy

WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS! We love talking to old neighbors and we love meeting new neighbors. When you love your neighbors as much as we do, you create opportunities to be in relationship them even more! This is why 9 years ago we created Mission Week. While Mission Week looks a little different each year, the purpose remains the same: 1) to build trust and relationships and 2) to create next steps for our neighbors and volunteers to continue to be involved year-round. This year, we hosted our 9th annual Mission Week, and we were blessed by all of our neighbors, volunteers, and friends that joined us! Over 300 people showed up throughout the week and participated in Kids Camp, the Basketball Tournament, the Prayer and Street Team, Adult Hangout, Dance Camp, Home Repair, and so much more. These pages are special and filled with stories from Mission Week I know you are going to enjoy reading.



Elise Kaufman, Director

For more information on ways to volunteer or donate, email our Director Elise Kaufman: elise@attackpoverty.org



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Revitalization



Monthly Mission Week planning meetings with our church and organization partners started in March.



Elena is a North Richmond resident who suffered a fire during the early part of 2019. The fire was contained but destroyed a section of her home that she was using to allow a family friend to live in. During Mission Week, Holy Cross Episcopal Church agreed to come in and restore the burned room for Elena. Many volunteers from Holy Cross put in lots of time and utilized their special talents to repair all the damages to the burned room. They church was so gracious that they even added a few unexpected extras, a new window and two electrical sockets. Elena is so extremely grateful for all the work that

was done to her home. It literally brought her to tears once she saw the finished product. She expressed how she would never be able to repay all the kind people that had a part in helping her in her time of need, but she did offer many thanks to the Lord for touching the hearts of his people and allowing them to be such a wonderful blessing to her and her family.

A Big Thanks to Holy Cross Episcopal, Pecan Grove Baptist, and Real Hope Church for leading demolition and home repair projects in North Richmond throughout Mission Week.

Dance Camp



Sophie Guerra, a former police officer and local dance instructor, grew up in the North Richmond Community. When we asked her if she'd lead Dance Camp at Mission Week, she was so excited! Not only does she know this community so well, but she has a heart for the kids to succeed and thrive! She spent Mission Week with about 30

girls, teaching them some awesome moves to the song "Every Move I Make." On the final night of Mission Week, the girls performed the dance they learned. They did a fantastic job and their hard work really paid off!

Food!

Over 250 yummy meals were served each night of Mission Week. Meals were delivered to residents and volunteers around the community who were working on home repair and revitalization projects. Big thanks to Denise McKee from Holy Cross Episcopal Church, St. Laurence Catholic Church, The Heights Mini Mart, Bob's Tacos, and many generous volunteers for donating food, ice, water, and leading the food team!



Prayer is Powerful

Each summer, we meet new faces, and see some familiar ones. The Prayer Team met under a tent at Mission Week, caring for the prayer needs of anyone who came by. It's not unusual to see a cluster of people huddled together, praying for healing, for provision, or help. Our on-site prayer team was led by Pastor Emma Shorts and Minister Veronica Sanchez. Not only does the Prayer Team offer a comforting and loving presence of prayer, they follow up with those who want to be contacted for more prayer, offer Bibles, and connect them with resources.



Prayer Team Rocks!



The Street Team in our mobile prayer team, made up of small groups of volunteers who walk through the community, offering a listening ear, prayer, and needed resources. Amando Quieroga and Scott Blazek, Street Team veterans, have a big passion to see people come to faith in Christ. They reach out and stay connected with anyone who wants to receive a visit, a phone call or more information. It's truly a blessing to see the relationships that grow and the people that come to faith or take next steps through these teams.

Kids Camp



Over 150 awesome kids attended Kids Camp, and over 70 volunteers served! The kids were part of small groups that enjoyed games, music, stories, crafts, Bible study, and more!

The Grove Church stepped up to lead Kids Camp for the first time. What a gift to see so many people who love kids, Jesus, and give so generously of their time. Thanks to Aaron Cotton for organizing this amazing week for the kids!

Many of the children who attended Mission Week were brought over by Mrs. Nery, our friend and partner. Nery Salazar, a longtime resident in North Richmond, ministers to kids on a weekly basis through her organization, Nery's Promise. For Mission Week, she paused all her regular activities in order to bring the kids over to Kids Camp in her white van. She made several trips along with some fantastic volunteers, dropping off and picking up van loads so that the kids could participate.

Game Time!



Jaden played so hard, he injured his finger on the court. Here's Nathan and Kristen Le, part of our First Aid Team, for getting him all wrapped up!



It's a tradition each year at Mission Week to hold a basketball camp for 6th-12th graders. This year, back at our original location, Seguin Park, we had over 30 teens come and participate, playing their hearts out!

It was an exciting tournament on the last day, and the winners took home basketballs and gift cards, donated by Love Ministries.

We want to say a huge thanks to Mike Haisten for leading this tournament, and all the wonderful volunteers who coached, ran drills, checked in, kept score, stats, and cheered the teams on!

Adult Hangout

Throughout Mission Week, the Adult Hangout was a space for parents, grandparents or any adults to visit, eat, play games, and stay in the shade. On Monday, Access Health came to share resources, and on Wednesday, the City of Richmond brought Bingo and more games. Bingo was fun, with top notch prizes, some original paintings donated by the Art League of Fort Bend. One lady commented that her prize might be the most valuable thing in her home! By the end of the week, we had connected with seven different families, who were given information on the services we provide through Adult Education. Several expressed interest in GED Classes, ESL, and Spanish Classes, and we already have some signed up to join classes. We were able to share with some un-documented community members about Immigration Checklist classes coming soon. We explained to them that we serve everybody in the community and in all our location because we are a Christian based organization that doesn't turn anyone away. They also registered for our ESL classes. We are excited that these families were provided tools and information that will provide them an opportunity to better their lives and the lives of their children.



Community Celebration



Mission Week of 2019 was an exciting experience having the opportunity to meet and engage with many people of different backgrounds and ethnicities coming together for one purpose, celebration! On the last night, as we ended, a new outlook and togetherness left a positive impact on our community. It was a beautiful time of worship, prayer, and healing!

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

We love partnering with the Church! Each year for Mission Week, we meet with many different church and organization partners for several months to plan this big event. Included in this year's Mission Week partners were: River Pointe Church, Real Hope Church, The Grove Church, Pecan Grove Baptist Church, Love Ministries, St. Laurence Catholic Church, Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Calvary Episcopal Church, Access Health, The City of Richmond, The Church of Living Waters, Nova Church, and Lake Avenue Church.



The crew pictured is part of a team that flew all the way from Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena, California to spend their week with us! They were our setup and teardown team, coming faithfully every afternoon to bring Mission Week to Seguin Park. Loading, unloading, setting up and tearing down

tents, tables, chairs and much more, they truly worked their hearts out. They also worked all week on various home repair projects, shoveling and leveling gravel for our new parking lot, demolishing a home, cleaning up the Mt. Carmel Cemetery, but they played with kids, put out signs, and so much more.

Each one of these organizations played a huge part in Mission Week, laying the foundation and creating a space where the community feels welcome and relationships can flourish.

Volunteer Classifieds

Stay in the Loop!

To receive **Reminder Texts** about upcoming volunteer opportunities, **TEXT @fnrvol to 81010**

To register to volunteer, go to <https://attackpoverty.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

- **Summer Program** | *Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30am-12:30pm*
Life skills, meals, reading, and more! Runs June 24-August 9
- **Soccer Program** | *Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am*
Runs June 24-August 9
- **Spanish Teacher**
Teach Spanish skills to those wanting to learn a second language. Schedule according to volunteer availability.
- **You Can Academy** | *Monday-Friday, 2:45-4:45pm*
Sign up to volunteer one day a week for after school tutoring (1st-5th grade). Speak Spanish? We could use your help with our Spanish speaking students.
- **ESL Teachers**
Help adults learn English as a Second Language. Spanish speaking not required.
- **GED Tutors**
Ongoing 1 on 1 tutoring, Evening or Daytime.
- **Computer Class** | *Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm*
Teach intro computer skills for a 6-week class:
- **Office Support**
Data Entry, folding brochures, cutting cards.
- **Prayer Team** | *Tuesdays at 1pm*
We welcome prayer warriors to come pray weekly at our Neighborhood Resource Center.
- **Recovery Work Day** | *June 29*
Register to volunteer here: <https://bit.ly/2YaDKH0>
- **Mercy Goods**
Opportunities for tutoring, mentoring, woodworking and carpentry. Contact zach@attackpoverty.org for details.

Meet Faye



Mrs. Faye Anderson, our morning Front Desk Receptionist, has quite an amazing story! Born in Texas, Faye became a military brat at the age of 6, traveling throughout the US and overseas. She settled at Travis Air Force Base in California, where she married, becoming an Air Force spouse. She had four children, and, after going through a divorce, joined the Air Force. As a single mother, she adopted another baby girl. Faye went to work for the Police Department,

where she worked for 12 years as a dispatcher and community service officer. Following her time with the police force, she went into politics, and was elected as a delegate for Jesse Jackson. When some dangerous tornadoes were headed toward California, Faye decided it was time to move back to Texas. She began to work in a new field, as an Outreach Counselor at the Fort Bend Women's Center. Her time spent with families in the Richmond area was eye opening. She saw a lot of need in the community, and after some prayer and organizing, opened the Robert C. Tate Community Center in North Richmond. This was a place that offered GED classes, Bible studies, church, summer meals for kids, and much more. The Tate Center was open for 12 years. Faye gives God all the credit for the adventures and accomplishments in her life. She is mother to 5, grandmother to 23, and great-grandmother to 3. Next time you're in our building, come say hi to Mrs. Faye!

Thank You for Reading!

**From,
The Friends of North Richmond Team**

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