

A Letter to Our Neighbors

A Word from Our Director

One of our guiding phrases at Attack Poverty is “Awaken Potential; Provoke Transformation”. This phrase is POWERFUL and I’m excited to tell you why.

Awaken Potential: We believe that God has made every person in His image with gifts, talents, passions, dignity and creativity. This means each person is made with an incredible potential to thrive and flourish within God’s plan. At Friends of North Richmond, our programs are created not just to teach English, improve grades, or update resumes. Although these are important aspects, our programs are designed to draw out the beautiful potential within each community member. Through the relationships formed in our programs, we get to speak the truth and love of God as we learn together how to uncover and build upon the gifts, talents, and passions that God instilled in us.

Provoke Transformation: When potential is awakened, it draws us to action. It draws us to use our God given creative power to find solutions and use our gifts, talents, and passions to make those solutions a reality. That is why we believe our neighbors and neighborhood hold within them everything needed to provoke the change they wish to see come to fruition.



And when we all work together to use our gifts, talents, and passions that God gave us, we truly see our neighborhoods transformed for the glory of God!

We love that when potential is awakened, it moves us to provoke transformation within our community.

In the following pages, you will read stories of awakened potential that is provoking transformation in the lives of our neighbors and the community as a whole. I hope you are encouraged by the strength and transformation the following pages hold.

Grace and peace.

Elise Caire

Director of Friends of North Richmond

Learning Pods



We all have learned a lot as we continue to face challenges COVID-19 has brought. This season has challenged us to be creative in how we stay connected with our students and support them in their education. Since we are not able to hold You Can Academy at this time, Mrs. Susan Jackson and Mrs. Anita Winfield have created a schedule of virtual after school learning and in-person learning pods. On Mondays and Wednesdays, the kids get on a Zoom call after school with Susan and Anita to talk about their day, what they are reading and learning. They are also challenged to exercise daily. This is a continuation of the theme of our summer program: Read, Deed, Run.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, we have learning pods. A limited number of students come to our Resource Center and get help with homework. Proper safety precautions are followed, ensuring that every child's temperature is taken, hand washing, distancing, and masks are required. We are so glad to see these awesome kids each week and continue to be on their learning journey. Our amazing volunteers, Imaan, Mishaal, Melissa, and Kathy, work with the kids on anything they need help with, including math, spelling, writing and reading.

Although we can't jump into our regular programs like we normally do, we are grateful for the opportunity to see our students and continue to build relationships and grow.

Come and See: A Community Event



On October 29, we hosted our first annual Come and See Event! This family drive through trunk or treat was a collaboration with many different organizations, churches, and volunteers. It was held in the parking lot of Catholic Charities, just across from our Resource Center. Just in case you missed this memorable evening, here are some fun facts from Come and See:

- 195 cars drove through our line to show off costumes, say hello, and get some candy, treats and other resources.
- 10 different groups decorated their cars, parked at Catholic Charities, and passed out candy and other goodies as families drove through.
- SB Party Pals loaned us some amazing costumes, including Sonic the Hedgehog, Skye from Paw Patrol, and a Unicorn! The kids loved seeing some of their favorite characters as they drove by.
- Mark Miertschin volunteered his time to DJ the event, creating a great mix of music that added a great party vibe as people drove through.
- Access Health conducted a survey while cars waited, asking each family to share what they love about their community and what could make it better. This data will help us understand how to better meet the needs of North Richmond.
- 11 different organizations were represented at this event: Real Hope Church, Catholic Charities, Boys and Girls Club, Helping Hands, Foster High School, Access Health, Calvary Baptist Church, Fort Bend County Sheriff, The Bridge Fellowship, SB Party Pals, and Friends of North Richmond.
- Ashley Maresh with Harlow and May Studios volunteered her time to capture some beautiful photos, you can see the whole album here:
<https://harlowandmaystudios.pixieset.com/friendsofnorthrichmond/>

We appreciate the part each person played, whether it was decorating a car, taking photos, dressing up, buying candy, making a sign, playing some amazing tunes, directing traffic, showing off dance moves, greeting, giving out candy, or talking to residents about their community. Our community joined together in a powerful way to bring smiles to so many faces, especially during a challenging year. We hope to see you there next year!

Important Dates

Mark your calendar for these important dates coming up.



Sign up to receive
community updates:
Text @nrfriends to 81010

Sign up to receive
volunteer updates:
Text @fnrvol to 81010

- **November 19:** Technology Workshop (iPhone, Zoom and computer usage) 6:30-7:30pm at Friends of North Richmond: 1305 Clay St.
- **November 21:** Family Thanksgiving Meal at Friends of North Richmond: 1305 Clay St.
- **December 3:** Technology Workshop (iPhone, Zoom and computer usage) 6:30-7:30pm at Friends of North Richmond: 1305 Clay St.
- **December 17:** Technology Workshop (iPhone, Zoom and computer usage) 6:30-7:30pm at Friends of North Richmond: 1305 Clay St.
- **December 19:** Christmas Market 10:00am-1:00pm at Friends of North Richmond: 1305 Clay St.
- **December 19:** Nery's Promise Christmas Play 5:00-7:00pm at Nery's Promise: 230 Collins Rd.
- **December 18-January 4:** LCISD Closed for holidays
- **December 24-January 1:** Friend of North Richmond offices closed for holidays

New Volunteer Platform



Big News!

Attack Poverty has now switched to a new volunteer tracking platform called Galaxy Digital. Our volunteers can now create their own profile, sign up for opportunities, and track their hours, all in one place.

Mrs. Semetris Sanders, or Mrs. Sam as we like to call her, is one of our first volunteers to register in our new system. We are excited to get her plugged into volunteer opportunities, and we encourage YOU to do the same! Want to set up your own profile and get started volunteering? It's easy. Simply follow this link to sign up:

To sign up for your account on Galaxy Digital, click here:
attackpoverty.galaxydigital.com

attackpoverty.galaxydigital.com

Free Virtual Counseling

Each day we have conversations with residents who are facing many needs that have risen or intensified because of COVID-19. These needs, whether job loss, death, illness of loved ones, uncertainty about school, and more bring many emotions to the surface. Sometimes we just need someone to lend a listening ear, or give us tools to cope with all of the struggles.

Our Disaster Recovery Program can provide free virtual counseling to help address the emotional impact of COVID-19. Contact our community social worker, Natalie Cortes, to learn more.



COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORKER
NATALIE CORTES 832.899.5211
NATALIE@ATTACKPOVERTY.ORG

WWW.ATTACKPOVERTY.ORG/DISASTERRECOVERY
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @APDISASTERRECOVERY



Prayer Line



**Interested in joining our Prayer Team?
Contact Susan Jackson:
susan@attackpoverty.org**

The need for prayer is great, and we know that our community is facing needs and struggles on a daily basis. Our prayer team loves to pray for the needs of our North Richmond community.

We have a prayer line available for you to share your prayer needs:

Simply Text: 832-827-4420

Want someone to call and pray with you over the phone? Simply request a phone call in your text message.

Food Distribution

We have changed our food distribution hours to every Wednesday from 10-11:30am and 2:00-4:00pm. Each week, we serve food to about 50 or more families that drive through our line.

We rely on 5-6 volunteers per shift to help this distribution line to run smoothly. We are taking precautions with our volunteers, including taking temperatures, providing gloves, masks, and sanitizer.



**To sign up to volunteer,
go to
bit.ly/fnrdistribution**

Giving



To give a one-time or recurring monthly gift to Friends of North Richmond, go to attackpoverty.org/donate-now/online-giving

We appreciate your donations! Our distribution efforts are made possible by your generosity. Want to make a difference but can't volunteer?

Here are some ongoing supplies we need:

- Size 4, 5, and 6 Diapers
- Dog and Cat Food
- Baby Wipes
- Kids' Activities and Craft Supplies

Donations can be dropped off at 1305 Clay St. between 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. Our center is open by appointment only, so please email sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org to let us know when you're coming.

Want to contribute financially? You can give online to help us continue the work of meeting basic needs for more families.



Follow us on social media!



Facebook: [@friendsofnorthrichmond](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofnorthrichmond)
Instagram: [@friends_of_northrichmond](https://www.instagram.com/friends_of_northrichmond)

