

A Letter to Our Neighbors

VOLUME 18 | APRIL 2019

Important Dates:

May 2:
National Day of Prayer Gathering: 7pm at
Wessendorff Park. Put on by several local
churches.

May 3:
City of Richmond | Movies on Morton:
[Selena](#)

May 4:
Art Walk & Motor Madness on Morton
Street: 10am-4pm. FNR will have a
resource table and host an interactive
art project.

May 20:
Community Night of Prayer: 6-7pm at
1305 Clay St. Every month, we host an
evening for people to gather and pray
for the community and beyond.

June 10-13:
Mission Week: A week long Mission Trip
right here in North Richmond. **Signup
here:** bit.ly/FNRMW2019

June 29:
FNR Recovery Work Day.
To volunteer, sign up here:
<https://bit.ly/2YaDKHO>

A Word from our Director

At Friends of North Richmond, we believe that poverty is not defined by a lack of money, things, or stuff. We believe that poverty goes deeper - it is broken relationships. Broken relationships with the world around you, the people around you, yourself, and God. That is why we begin all we do with friendship. Friends support one another, believe the best in one another, hold one another accountable and walk beside each other. Friendship is transformative, and it is an honor to call the volunteers, students, and neighbors in the following pages our friends. We'd love to call you our friend as well, so join us for our 9th Annual Mission Week June 10-13 and introduce yourself. We would be happy to meet you!



Elise Kaufman, Director

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



Sunday Serve Days

What is CREE? Community Revitalization Events and Engagement



CREE Work Days:

May 18:

Community Paint Party –
Saturday, 9am-12pm
To learn more, email
sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org.

June 10-13:

Mission Week: 6-8pm Monday-
Thursday. There will be multiple
home repair projects for
volunteers to join.
Register here: bit.ly/FNRMW2019

June 29:

Recovery Work Day – Saturday,
9am-2pm
Sign up here:
<https://bit.ly/2YaDKHO>

A friend and volunteer with Friends of North Richmond, Jan-Michael Jenkins, reached out to us and expressed interest in leading a monthly Sunday volunteer work day in the North Richmond community. In addition to running his own fitness business, Legacy Fitness, he has a desire to use his construction skills and knowledge to benefit others. He believes that this type of boots-on-the-ground work is a great way to be the Church. Jan, along with some hard-working volunteers, are now committed to giving a Sunday a month that they would normally be in church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community.

The Sunday Crew has accomplished so much in such a short amount of time, completing 5 Sunday work days, demolishing a home that was condemned, replacing rotted siding, caulking, painting, and more! They welcome others to join in. To find out when the next Sunday Work Day is or get involved, email sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org.

Meeting Space Available!



Looking for a space to host your next meeting or party? Our Community Room is available to rent for weekdays as well as Saturdays. Although our Saturdays fill up quickly, the room is available Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm to reserve! This room holds up to 103 people, with tables and chairs available, as well as a kitchen and stage with full sound system and screens!

Weekday Rental Hours: 9am-1pm
Saturday Rental Hours: Noon-9pm

To find out how you can reserve the Community Room, email margaret@attackpoverty.org.

Adult Programs

Stay tuned for upcoming Adult Education Opportunities!



Lucinda Cortez, our Fearless Adult Education Coordinator, is a longtime supporter, volunteer, and staff member at Friends of North Richmond. Lucinda grew up in North Richmond and understands her community and its needs well. She loves nothing more than to inspire adults to make next steps in their lives. Loving the families of the community well and offering opportunities for them to grow and succeed is her heartbeat.

Recently, Lucinda had knee replacement surgery. While the surgery was successful, her recovery is challenging. Knowing that she would be out of office for a few weeks, Lucinda trained and equipped some key Adult Ed volunteers to fill her shoes in her absence. A big shout out to the super amazing Carla Stroebel, Barry Bors-Koefoed, Diane Minor, and Rebecca Baker for making things run smoothly! Classes are going strong!



Congratulations Luis on getting your GED!

On top of successful classes, we have another GED success story! Luis Ligus celebrated a GED victory, passing his fourth unit and earning his GED. Luis will be going with his GED tutor Barry Bors-Koefoed to visit Texas State Technical College (TSTC) to explore next steps for his future career. We are so proud of him and grateful for volunteers like Barry who walk alongside people like Luis and many others.

Congratulations Luis!!

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Wanted: Volunteers to commit for the 2019-2020 schoolyear! Our goal is to have 13 volunteers per day, so we can meet our goal of 65 students this fall!

To learn how you can volunteer, email sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org



Important Dates for You Can Academy:

May 24
Early Release

May 27
School Holiday

June 6
Last Day of School for LCISD

Spring fever is in full effect! Parents, teachers, and kids all get a little antsy for the summer days to come quick. This school year is coming to an end with lots of amazing stories. You Can Academy, our after-school program, is getting ready to close and with it many valuable lessons that our children have learned.

Our YCA coordinator, Susan Jackson, has worked on implementing ways to show our students what it looks like to build others through words of affirmation, helping hands, and ways of showing respect. Every time a student is seen showing respect through these actions, they are nominated. A volunteer writes down how the student showed kindness and writes it on a yellow "Respect Card". After 3 cards, the kids receive a trip to the treasure box to pick out something to reward them for their actions. It's something small but we are believing that this will go a long way in producing people that bring change.

To learn more about You Can Academy, or to find out how you can get involved, contact sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org.

Volunteer Highlight:

Did you know that volunteering is good for your health? Studies show that volunteering decreases the risk of depression and can reduce stress levels. It also can help you live a longer life! (Mayo Clinic)



Stories are powerful. Hearing someone's story can give you so much insight into a person's life. We asked Lindsey Saunderson, one of our amazing You Can Academy volunteers, a few questions and loved learning more about her:

Lindsey, tell us a little about who you are and where you're from?

I grew up in beautiful, lush Washington State. I was a dancer, Girl Scout, lover of cats and a

fashionista. Currently, I live in Sugar Land with my husband, our four (mostly) sweet children and three cats. My hobbies include cooking, reading, yoga and shopping.

What's your background (education, job, life experience)?

I graduated from Washington State University, with a BA in Apparel, Merchandising and textiles, and a minor in Business Administration. In 2003, I took a leap of faith and moved to Houston as part of the opening team for Nordstrom, in the Houston Galleria. My time in Houston was spent managing various apparel departments. I transferred with Nordstrom, to Miami in 2007, stepping into the role of Cosmetics and Fragrances Department Manager. A year later, my husband and I welcomed a splendid baby boy and I traded in my high heels, for diapers and burp cloths. I've been a stay-at-home mom since, welcoming three more babies along the way.

Why did you decide to teach yoga?

As my kids started gaining more independence, I was feeling a deep need to connect with others and share my strengths. Deciding to teach yoga was a natural progression for me, as I've been a student for over 15 years, and have first-hand knowledge of the many benefits. With the encouragement of my husband, I enrolled in the RYT200 training at Yoga One.

What brought you to You Can Academy? What has your experience been teaching the kids yoga?

After completing my immersion trainings, I connected with Friends of North Richmond to fulfill my community service requirements for certification. In an effort to get to know the kids at YCA, I started out volunteering after school once a week, before beginning to teach yoga on Fun Friday. As with anything new, it took a little time and patience, but we've worked out the kinks and have an awesome group of little yoginis! My hope is that the time they spend on their yoga mat improves their quality of life, and those around them.

What is the best part about volunteering with the kids at YCA?

Since volunteering at YCA, I feel like I've hit the reset button. I'd become resigned to the monotony of everyday life. The kids serve as a reminder of my identity and the opportunity for personal growth.

Volunteer Classifieds

"I have a passion to tell kids how important it is to get a good education and to go to college. When I tell a kid that I think they are smart, they say "I know, I make A's and B's." I say to them, you are capable at getting all A's. I tell them that is what they should be striving for. I know they are capable of it. I was lucky enough to have a mother that pushed me to be the best that I could be so that I could go to college and be successful."

-**Oscar Lozano**, You Can Academy Volunteer



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

- **Mission Week |** June 10-13, 6-8pm Opportunities for Kids Camp, Basketball, Home Repair, Prayer Team, Food Team, and much more! Register here: bit.ly/FNRMW2019
- **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:** Teach intro computer skills for a 6-week class: Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm
- **Office Support**
Data Entry, folding brochures, cutting cards.
- **Prayer Team**
We welcome prayer warriors to come pray weekly every Tuesday at 1pm at our Neighborhood Resource Center.
- **Recovery Work Day |** June 29
Register to volunteer here: <https://bit.ly/2YaDKHO>
- **Mercy Goods**
Opportunities for tutoring, mentoring, woodworking and carpentry. Contact zach@attackpoverty.org for details.

Meet Margaret



Margaret Monroy is our afternoon Receptionist, making all who enter through our doors feel welcome. She grew up in Wharton, Texas until the age of 11. She moved to Immokalee Florida, where she got married and had four daughters. She moved back to Texas and now has 13 grandchildren! After 19 years working for a company, she was laid off. We first met Margaret through our Jobs For Life class at Friends of North Richmond. She was then hired by Experience Works. Margaret very much enjoys working at Friends of North Richmond as a receptionist. Margaret shares with us what

inspires her, "God inspires me to do my best and to be a kind, loving person and to help people in need. My family inspires me through the love we all have for each other, and we are always there for one another." Margaret's hobbies include walking, reading, dancing and going out with her grandchildren.

Meet Rebecca



Rebecca Baker has been an intern with Friends of North Richmond since December 2018. Originally from Southern California, she has grown to love being a Texan. She will graduate this May from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies. Her true passion is working in under-resourced communities, walking with people to further improve their overall state of well-being!

Currently an HR/Learning Center manager for College Nannies & Tutors Katy, she ensures that local students are able to receive effective 1 on 1 tutoring in various subjects. She is excited about using what she has

learned with us at Attack Poverty for her future work.

Sadly, Rebecca's time with us is coming to an end. Her internship ends on May 3, but we are thrilled for the chance to have Rebecca with us for a few short months. We wish you all the best Rebecca!!

Thank You for Reading!

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

1305 Clay St.

Richmond, TX 77469

P: 281-762-2068

E: NorthRichmond@AttackPoverty.org

AttackPoverty.org/FriendsofNorthRichmond