

A Letter to Our Neighbors

VOLUME 21 | JULY 2019

Important Dates:

- August 3:**
Hope on the Brazos
9-12 @ Common Threads
- August 9:**
Zumba Classes
5:30-6:30pm@FNR (1305 Clay St.)
- August 10:**
Work Day at Pink Elementary
9am-2pm. Sign up here:
<http://bit.ly/fnrworkday>
- August 15:**
Kaboom Community Design Day
6-8pm @FNR (1305 Clay St.)
- August 19:**
Community Night of Prayer
6pm @ FNR (1305 Clay St.)
- August 21:**
You Can Academy Volunteer Orientation
4-6pm @ Attack Poverty Headquarters
(3727 Greenbriar, Ste. 100, Stafford)
- August 24:**
Workday at Pink Elementary
9am-2pm. Sign up here:
<http://bit.ly/fnrworkday>
- August 26:**
LCISD Back to School!
- August 29:**
Community Bible Study
6pm @ FNR (1305 Clay St.)
- August 29:**
You Can Academy Volunteer Orientation
3-4pm @ FNR (1305 Clay St.)
- September 6:**
Computer Classes Start
6:30-8:00pm @ FNR (1305 Clay St.)

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.



Elise Kaufman, Director

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

Summer Program



ERIC ADDS COLOR TO OUR COMMUNITY MURAL, TITLED **Better Together**, DESIGNED AND PAINTED BY THE STUDENTS IN NORTH RICHMOND.

2019 was our first summer to kick off the Summer Youth Program! Led by Susan Jackson, our You Can Academy Coordinator, and Anita Winfield, our You Can Academy Assistant, the Summer Program provides learning activities and fun for Kindergarten-5th grade kids in the North Richmond Community. The day begins with a healthy breakfast, provided by Be a Champion, and the first hour of the program is filled with prayer, singing, visiting, warm up exercises, and practicing social skills. Each day has a different focus: Mondays are Arts and Crafts days, Wednesdays are soccer days, Fridays are Story Time and Fun Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Ballet Classes were offered. Check out the stories below for all the cool ways kids are growing and learning to make a difference in our world!

Arts and Crafts



Each Monday, the kids have learned new art styles and techniques. Several different local artists volunteered their time and talents to teach arts and crafts to the kids. Mexican folk art, Brazilian pop art, Origami, Play-doh, paper flower and watermelon collages, paper airplanes, mural painting, yarn wrapping trees, and shading on different types of shapes. The kids have had the best time learning new techniques, styles of art, and media. Some of the comments we hear is, "Can we do this all day?" "I love painting!" We are thankful to the artists who came to share their time and talents with the kids! We want to give a special shout out to Allehseya Hawk, Alex Salas, and Sophie Guerra for inspiring these young creatives.

Ballet

We have had the privilege of partnering with BalletForte, who has provided Ballet classes twice a week to kids in our community. BalletForte is a premiere, pre-professional classical ballet company. The instructors came every Tuesday and Thursday to work with the students, teaching them some



amazing skills. They practiced and learned an entire dance and performed at a recital held at the Fort Bend Academy of Dance on Saturday, July 20. This was a tremendous learning experience and a blessing to partner with such a generous group of people.

Skills for a Lifetime



Bre'Aja joined our Summer Youth Program this year where the students enjoy 3 fun packed days of playing with slime, educational activities such as reading & art, and life lessons around topics like respect and treating others with kindness. Like many students in a new environment, it took Bre'Aja some time to adjust to the

summer structure and would be frustrated by other students around her. Many times when things didn't go her way, she would act out in hopes of changing the environment fit her wants. But as the summer went on and the students continued to have fun learning about respect and kindness, we had the joy of watching Bre'Aja grow! Bre'Aja now lets the Summer Program Coordinator or the Assistant Coordinator know when something frustrating is going on by raising her hand and talks through the situation. If needing a moment alone, Bre'Aja shows an amazing amount fo self-control and removes herself to a quiet place. We are so proud of Bre'Aja and how she continues to grow into a wonderful young woman. It is a joy to see other students using the life lessons that are being learned in their daily lives!

Soccer



Each Wednesday of the Summer Program was centered around sports! All Nations Sports Academy (ANSA), a local non-profit providing quality soccer to empower youth and their families of all nations through soccer, partnered with us to teach and practice soccer with the kids. Through this time, the kids learned soccer skills, sportsmanship, strength, character development, confidence, and team building. Plus, they got out

lots of energy. But above all, we loved seeing the leadership from ANSA led a devotional time each Wednesday, emphasizing the spiritual component of sports.

Fun Fridays!



Each Friday, the kids enjoyed stories, games, movie days and more! Sheila Phillips, a professional storyteller, joined us each Friday to read and tell stories to the kids - activating imaginations. Not only have the kids enjoyed beautifully told stories and songs, they have loved lots of fun and interactive activities!

Meet Melissa

Born in Edinburg, Texas, Melissa Nori Gomez gave her life to the Lord in 1996, changing her life forever. Immediately she fell in love with the Word of God and shared the Gospel of Jesus with people in the streets in the Rio Grande Valley. In 1999, she moved to Rosenberg Texas, starting a new chapter with her family, getting involved in a

community church in Rosenberg and doing outreach. She ministered to people in apartment complexes alongside other ministries, reaching out to children and families. The YMCA and The Promise Outreach played big roles in her growth, and Melissa worked with children from broken homes and also worked in the schools. She mentored and tutored kids regularly. As Melissa reflects



"I know that without each other, we will not make it. We need each other. I believe like they say at Friends of North Richmond, Better Together. I hope it always stays that way—together. I'm forever grateful for our Community."

-Melissa Nori Gomez,
FNR Volunteer and Pink
Elementary Receptionist

on her life, she credits God for doing amazing things through ministry. Currently Melissa works for LCISD, as a Receptionist at Pink Elementary School. She also is a volunteer with the Friends of North Richmond prayer team, managing our prayer wall and covering the neighborhood with prayer. She loves to work alongside so many ministries that are sharing the love of Christ with the community.

Volunteer Classifieds

- **Saturday Workdays** | August 10 & 24 - Cleanup Days at Pink Elementary. Register to volunteer here: bit.ly/fnrworkday

- **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).

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/>

- **Tree Trimming** | Low hanging branches at our Resource Center in need of trimming.

- **Nutrition Class** | Teach nutrition and health to adults. Schedule according to volunteer availability.

- **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.

- **Mercy Goods** | Opportunities for tutoring, mentoring, woodworking and carpentry. Contact zach@attackpoverty.org for details.

Thank You for Reading!

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

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