

# A LETTER TO OUR NEIGHBORS



*North Richmond Edition*

**Vol. 12**

## Friends of Vince

In January 2015, Friends of Vince was born out of a dream Tina Sansone was given from God as a way to honor her son, Vince who passed away in December of 2011. Vince loved sports and kids, so Tina has made sure that both those aspects and the family's love for art were integrated into her program.



As she was starting up Friends of Vince, Tina noticed many people around her were making jewelry and felt this was something she was supposed to be doing as well. However, she didn't know how to make jewelry! She decided to do what most people do these days to answer a question... she googled it! After reading many articles and watching dozens of videos, she started making simple things like earrings and necklaces. She quickly had piles of beautiful handmade jewelry, but she didn't yet have the answer to what to do with them once she was done.

Later that year while at a cruise stop in Roatan, Tina and her family walked into a little shop where a missionary couple was providing local artisans a place to make and sell their jewelry. Tina laid awake at night trying to fit pieces of ideas together, but then one night her dream started to fall into place.

Tina started collecting original art, crafts, and handmade jewelry to sell. Partnering with Friends of North Richmond and Attack Poverty, she turned those profits into mini sports scholarships to pay for fees, equipment and clothing for children in the Richmond community. She has since grown Friends of Vince into a full 501c3 charitable organization as of July of 2017.

Tina's volunteer and support base is a beautiful mix of Women's groups at River Pointe Church, friends, family, and many others. They have all helped her raise funds to support the children in under resourced communities by creating jewelry, other crafts, and gathering donations as needed. Tina has even worked with a group of teen girls to teach them to make jewelry and sell their masterpieces with 100% of the profits going to the children in their own community!





Friends of Vince has expanded to doing much more than just ports scholarships. Below is just a small portion of the great work Tina and Friends of Vince are doing to support others:

- In 2016, she worked with her volunteers and donors to put on the Spirit of Christmas Market for the North Richmond You Can Academy. Over 90 pairs of shoes were donated and kids from You Can Academy earned the opportunity to walk through the market and “buy” items for their families for Christmas. When the kids were done shopping, all the remaining items were donated throughout the neighborhood.

- For Christmas in 2017, Friends of Vince donated enough Bibles for every student in You Can Academy at Friends of North Richmond to have their own. The students are using the Bibles twice a week during their Bible Lessons.

- In response to Hurricane Harvey, Friends of Vince gathered support to donate multiple loads of clothes and food for students of Pink Elementary and Jackson Elementary who were affected by the hurricane and the flooding.

- In 2018, students part of the Girls on the Run group of Sundown Elementary in Katy were training for their annual 5K, but many of them needed proper shoes to run. Friends of Vince gathered donations and bought each girl a pair of shoes!

The list could fill pages with all the amazing work Friends of Vince has been doing for our communities. Tina and Friends of Vince ensure children have the necessities to thrive.

If you are looking for great gifts for your family or art for your home, we encourage you to find Tina and Friends of Vince at local art shows, festivals, and craft fairs around town. Don't forget 100% of the profits go back to the kids!

**Tina Sansone**  
**Facebook Page: Friends of Vince**  
**Website: [www.FriendsofVince.com](http://www.FriendsofVince.com)**



And he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.  
Mark 16:15



## The Volunteer Classifieds

Email our Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Beth for more details:  
[sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org](mailto:sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org)

### Community Walk Through – Saturday April 7th

Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-12pm, join us for a community walk through in North Richmond! This is a great way for you to step out into the community and meet your neighbors! You will go door to door and talk with residents and listen to their perspective on their community. So come to our Resource Center at 9am Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. The address is: 1305 Clay St., Richmond 77469.

Not sure what to say? Don't worry! We will have an orientation and give you a list of questions to ask residents to make sure you are well equipped.

Sign up at the link below and invite anyone interested!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4bada723a2fa7-community1>

Contact [sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org](mailto:sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org) with any questions.

### YOU CAN ACADEMY

Monday through Friday 3-5pm we host our You Can Academy that tutors and mentors 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. They receive a snack, hear a bible lesson, work on their homework, and then have some free time to play! Relationships form from volunteers showing up consistently week after week and encouraging the students! We currently have 30 students on our waiting list and cannot accept more until we have more volunteers! Email us if you would like to volunteer just one day a week or maybe all five: [sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org](mailto:sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org)



### HOPE AFTER HARVEY

Need prayer? Right in front of our building there is a prayer wall where you can write your prayers, or come inside our office on Tuesday at 1pm to receive prayer from our Prayer Team. If you have a confidential prayer, write them down on a piece of paper and place it in the prayer box in our office. All prayer requests are prayed over by our Prayer Team and local ministers and are kept confidential.. If you have the gift of compassion and prayer and would like to join the Prayer Team, contact Sarah Beth at [Sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org](mailto:Sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org) for more details.



## Where Will You Volunteer?

**You Can Academy** (*Monday – Friday / 3-5pm*) – directed after school tutoring for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**ESL Tutor Assistant** (*Saturday 8:00am – 11:00am*) – help adults learn English

**GED Tutor** (*time and day vary*) - tutor adults as they earn their GED

**Childcare** (*Saturday 8-11am*) – Help ESL and Computer Class students focus and regularly attend by watching their children.

**Computer Class Teacher and Assistant** (*Wednesday / 5-6:30pm*) – help answer questions for adults learning computer skills while the teacher leads the students through the curriculum

**Prayer Team** – receive emails with prayer requests from residents in North Richmond

**Harvey Recovery** – Seeking volunteer skilled in construction, or provide lunches for volunteers

**Street Church** (*Tuesdays / 6:15-7:45pm*) – Support kinder-5th grade children from the North Richmond community as they gather for a family style Bible study by helping prepare dinner and walking through Bible lessons

**Data Entry** – support our staff and programs by helping enter data into our systems

**Sunday Lunches** – Provide or serve a meal for 40+ kids and teens after church on Sunday

**Run to Attack Poverty** (*April 21*) – Volunteer to organize or help on race day!

*Email Sarah Beth to get involved: [sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org](mailto:sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org)*

*Text @fnrvol to 81010 for up to date Volunteer opportunities*

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[attackpoverty.org](http://attackpoverty.org)

## CONTACT US:

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