

A LETTER TO OUR NEIGHBORS



North Richmond Edition

Vol. 8

Mission Week – Year Seven

Four days, 260 residents and over 350 volunteers.... This was Mission Week 2017 presented by UT Physicians! Bringing churches, volunteers, and friends together to love our neighbors in real and tangible ways, we had something for everyone! Kids Camp



hosted by the Bridge Fellowship served over 200 children every night at the Friends of North Richmond Resource Center. They shared the Gospel and taught about the love of Jesus... and five children accepted Christ!

Over 60 teenagers competed in the annual Basketball Tournament lead by Mike Haisten. Hosted at the Boys and Girls Club, family and friends were able to watch from the stands while the final two teams competed for the grand prize. The Street and Prayer Team, lead by Sarah Beth Baca and Crossbridge Church, covered the entire week in prayer and walked door-to-door praying with residents over their struggles and celebrating answered

prayers. For the first time, we also hosted one day seminars for adults to learn about various topics ranging from parenting children with special needs to legal information for tenants.

The final night, Pecan Grove Baptist Church ended Mission Week with the Thursday Night Celebration! It was a party with snow cones, popcorn, music, and food provided by the Holy Smokers from Holy Cross Episcopal Church. That may seem like a wrap for Mission Week, but spread out through out the community, Home Repair Teams worked many days before and many days after Mission Week started and ended. This year, we removed debris from one home and repaired five others. One such home was Ms. Sharron Sharrod's.



A life skills teacher from Foster High School, Ms. Sharrod has lived in the North Richmond community for years. She attends the local church, Love Ministries, so when they began a women's Bible at the Friends of North Richmond Resource Center, she

immediately began attending.

As she spent more time in the Friends of North Richmond Resource Center, Ms. Sharrod learned of their home repair program but hesitated to apply right away. "At first I didn't fill out an application because someone might need it more than me," Ms. Sharrod said. "But while I was in and out of the building each week, I would talk with Anita who works at the first desk, and she would tell me to fill out a home repair application." Eventually, sitting side-by-side, Ms. Sharrod and Anita filled out the application together.



A just a few weeks later, she was chosen as one of this year's Mission Week home repair projects! William Hajdik was assigned as the project manager, and after surveying the house, he knew God's timing was perfect! "There was rotting and termite damage, and if the repairs had waited one more year, the cost to fix the home would have doubled," William said. "We had gotten to the house just in time!"

William, who has done home repairs with Friends of North Richmond for over 8 years, assembled together the perfect team who had worked together for years. The primary focus was the exterior of the house, which was scraped, caulked, and painted to prevent the wood from rotting. They also replaced sections of the fence, repaired her air conditioner, removed and replaced damaged dry wall, fixed brickwork on her front porch, and cleaned up her yard.

But one of Ms. Sharrod's favorite moments was when one day William announced he had a surprise. As Ms. Sherrod walked to the front of her house, she saw a brand new screen door! A screen door was on her wish list but Ms. Sherrod thought it was out of the budget. She was so excited! "I wasn't looking for nothing like that. I didn't expect them to do anything extra!" She said. "They got it all done a little bit more."

Ms. Sherrod cried every day as she thanked the team for their work. "I don't have to worry anymore." She said, "I would've never been able to do or afford this on my own... I am so blessed and so grateful! My prayers were answered."

After completing the repairs, William said, "I've learned that you can't just pray for someone. When God told me to do home repairs, I had to go and do it! If I didn't follow where God was telling me to go, Sharron would still be praying... God used us as a catalyst to get work done. It's not about the thank you's but doing what God asks you to do."



We're so thankful for all the volunteers and partners that followed God's calling this Mission Week and joined with us to be catalysts for our friends and neighbors in North Richmond. To volunteer with us during the school year, simply e-mail our Volunteer Coordinator at elise@attackpoverty.org to get involved.



The Volunteer Classifieds

Email our Volunteer Coordinator Elise for more details: elise@attackpovert.org

COMPLETE THE 10th STREET HOME REPAIR

Although Mission Week is done, there are still a couple of loose ends that need to be tied up. Our largest home repair project on 10th Street has one step left to be complete before the family can move home: *install flooring*. To purchase the flooring, we need to raise \$1,400! **Will you join us to help the Jenkins family return home as quickly as possible?** To donate, click the link - <https://attackpoverty.webconnex.com/fnr-missionweek-2017>

YOU CAN ACADEMY

Starting again in September, Monday through Friday 3-5pm we host our You Can Academy that tutors and mentors 1st through 5th 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 to graduate school to do amazing things with their life! 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!



ESL TUTORS

Monday and Thursday | 9am – 10:30am

An adult's ability to speak and understand English is important if he/she is to participate fully in today's society. The ESL classes are designed to help adults (18 years of age and older) to learn the four basic communication skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – in ways that relate to every day life. We are looking for volunteers to volunteer either one or both days each week for a semester.

FEELING LED TO DO SOMETHING?

We would love to hear what you are passionate about and what program you are interested in starting! Email Beau at: beau@attackpoverty.org



Where Will You Volunteer This Fall?

You Can Academy (Monday – Friday | 3-5pm) – directed after school tutoring for 1st through 5th grade

ESL Tutor (Monday and Thursday | 9am – 10:30am) – help adults learn English

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

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

Home Repair – Assumes some experience with home repair: drywall, construction, painting, etc.

Street Church (Tuesdays | 6:30-7:45pm) - Help check in and register individuals as they arrive

The Take (Wednesdays | 6:30-8pm) - help set-up and tear down the tables, chairs, and tents needed to make Mission Week possible.

Email Elise Kaufman to get involved: elise@attackpoverty.org

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CONTACT US:

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