

A Letter to Our Neighbors

VOLUME 26 | DECEMBER 2019

Important Dates:

December 20:
YOU CAN ACADEMY CHRISTMAS PARTY:
3:00-5:00PM @ FNR

December 20:
THE BRIDGE FELLOWSHIP FAMILY NIGHT:
5:30PM @ FNR

December 21:
FNR CHRISTMAS MARKET, 10AM-1PM @ FNR

December 21:
NERY'S PROMISE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM @ NERY'S PROMISE: 5PM

December 23-January 3:
LCISD CHRISTMAS BREAK

January 6:
ADVANCED ESL CLASSES BEGIN, 10AM-12PM MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

January 8:
NEW INTRO COMPUTER CLASS: 5:30-7PM WEDNESDAYS

January 11:
BEGINNER ESL CLASSES: 9-10AM SATURDAYS

January 21:
NEW EMPOWERED FOR LIFE CLASS: 5:00-6:30PM THURSDAYS

February 20:
VOLUNTEER MEET & GREET: 6:30-7:30PM @ FNR

Christmas with Friends



We love Christmas here at Friends of North Richmond. We love celebrating God's love and sacrifice delivered to us in a baby boy. We love the Christmas music and decorations. We love seeing the love flow as families come together. We love seeing the overwhelming generosity as our friends and neighbors ask how they can serve.

Like many other wonderful organizations and churches, we hosted a Christmas Wishes program. Through relationships with our neighbors, we provided Christmas Trees and gifts for those who were not able to afford to provide these for their

family. Over the years, we celebrated as families and children were able to experience Christmas in all of its joy and wonder. But year after year, we also heard stories of awkward interactions. Stories of fathers never present, of children asking why their parents didn't purchase the gifts, of parents taking a backseat while strangers led Christmas traditions.

We knew that we are called to love our neighbors and thought we were doing just that, but, as we listened, we also knew that somehow our Christmas Wishes program was missing the mark in North Richmond. Although we gave the gift of Christmas Spirit, we also were giving the gift of hurt dignity and pride of our neighbors by putting on display for their friends, family and now strangers that they needed help providing Christmas for their children.

So, for the last two years, we have flipped our Christmas Wishes program on its head and turned it into our new Christmas Market! Instead of giving gifts, we are affirming dignity and self-worth.

Our Christmas Market is driven by the belief that everyone is given gifts, talents, and value. They simply need to find ways to use them! Throughout the year, our friends and neighbors living in North Richmond and Riveredge earn points by volunteering and attending our classes. Every hour of time spent volunteering or attending classes equals 10 points which translates to "\$10" at our Christmas Market. The Market is filled with donated gifts where our friends and neighbors are now able to personally shop for Christmas gifts for their friends and families.

We LOVE this model! We are filled with joy as we watch our friends not only gain skills by attending GED, ESL, Jobs for Life, etc. classes, but also get to personally choose, wrap, and give Christmas gifts to their loved ones. We were especially excited this year as our neighbors led the charge in pricing and organizing the gift donations. It's been amazing as we journeyed together to transform Christmas from a handout to a hand up!

Looking Forward



As the 2019 is winding down, we reflect on a full and eventful year. As we reflect, we are grateful for the opportunity to see prayers answered, meet new friends, connect more deeply with old friends. This year we built a new playground, launched our Summer Program, moved You Can Academy over to Pink

Elementary, celebrated new partnerships with local churches and businesses, and the list goes on.

We have learned and grown so much, and we are anticipating big things for 2020!

We are launching new adult classes in January, including Beginner and Advanced ESL, Intro Computer, and Empowered for Life, a class focused on job readiness for 14-24-year old young adults. To learn how to join a class, contact lucinda@attackpoverty.org. To volunteer to lead a class, contact sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org.

Meet Ria Scott



Ria Scott grew up in Savannah, Georgia. She married her husband Kevin in 2006, and they raised 6 children together. After 23 years of military service, Kevin retired in 2013, and their family moved to Houston, which they now call home. Ria has been a nurse for 28 years by trade, but she's always been a missionary by heart. It wasn't until her family moved to Houston that she began to answer the calling to serve. God led her to a host of wonderful friends that became positive influences and shining examples of true service to others. Ria had always loved connecting people to resources and seeing needs met. Volunteering allows her the opportunity to experience this connection on a regular basis. She discovered Friends of North Richmond by visiting the website of a local church. She then registered for their 5K/10K run at the urging of a friend and was introduced to Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Beth Baca. Soon she began volunteering at FNR and has been a tremendous blessing to our community. Ria's proudest accomplishment is having a healthy and fruitful marriage.

Volunteer Classifieds

- **Computer Class** | *Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm*
Assist students with basic computer skills for a 6-week class.
- **ESL Teacher** | *Monday evenings or Saturday Mornings.*
Lead a class to help adults learn English as a Second Language. Spanish speaking not required.
- **Spanish Teacher** | *Schedule according to volunteer availability.*
Teach Spanish skills to those wanting to learn a second language.
- **Second Sunday Workdays** | *2nd Sunday of every month.* Help with a home repair in the North Richmond area.
- **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!
- **GED Tutors** | *Evening or Daytime*
Assisting students one-on-one working toward their GED.
- **FNR Office Support** | Help with ongoing organizing, data entry, and art projects.
- **Nutrition Class** | *Schedule according to volunteer availability*
- **Prayer Team** | *Tuesdays at 1pm*
We welcome prayer warriors to come pray weekly at our Neighborhood Resource Center.

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/>

Questions about volunteering? Email: sarahbeth@attackpoverty.org

Have you made your End of Year gift?



Your donation can help our programs reach more people. To help awaken potential and provoke transformation in the North Richmond Community, go to: <https://attackpoverty.org/yearend> And select Friends of North Richmond as the location.

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