

A Letter to Our Neighbors

A Word from Our Director

One of our guiding phrases at Attack Poverty is “Awaken Potential; Provoke Transformation”. This phrase is POWERFUL and I’m excited to tell you why.

Awaken Potential: We believe that God has made every person in His image with gifts, talents, passions, dignity and creativity. This means each person is made with an incredible potential to thrive and flourish within God’s plan. At Friends of North Richmond, our programs are created not just to teach English, improve grades, or update resumes. Although these are important aspects, our programs are designed to draw out the beautiful potential within each community member. Through the relationships formed in our programs, we get to speak the truth and love of God as we learn together how to uncover and build upon the gifts, talents, and passions that God instilled in us.

Provoke Transformation: When potential is awakened, it draws us to action. It draws us to use our God given creative power to find solutions and use our gifts, talents, and passions to make those solutions a reality. That is why we believe our neighbors and neighborhood hold within them everything needed to provoke the change they wish to see come to fruition.



And when we all work together to use our gifts, talents, and passions that God gave us, we truly see our neighborhoods transformed for the glory of God!

We love that when potential is awakened, it moves us to provoke transformation within our community.

In the following pages, you will read stories of awakened potential that is provoking transformation in the lives of our neighbors and the community as a whole. I hope you are encouraged by the strength and transformation the following pages hold.

Grace and peace.

Elise Caire

Director of Friends of North Richmond

Relationships Matter



Zeenath is a strong and determined young woman who came to Friends of North Richmond during a difficult time in her life. In 2017, after a series of tough circumstances, she was staying at the Fort Bend Women's Shelter. When she found one of our flyers at the Women's Shelter, she came to our center to inquire about English classes. A recent immigrant from India, Zee knew that learning English would help her make steps toward building a life here. There were many obstacles that Zee needed to overcome. She joined our ESL (English as a Second Language) class, taught by our friend and volunteer, Diane Minor.

Not only did Diane's class help Zee grow in her fluency, but it provided a safe space for her to make friends and ask questions. Diane walked with Zee through many major life steps, including getting a work permit, a job, renting her own place, getting a driver's permit, and teaching her how to drive. Diane has truly become an advocate and friend to Zee, who now calls Diane her "American Mother". Zee and the other students in Diane's ESL class are not only learning English together, but they have built friendships too, often texting and gathering to celebrate birthdays.

Another step toward independence and success for Zee came with learning computer skills. Her work schedule didn't allow her to join the computer class we offered.

However, one of our staff, Emily Adams, took time out to meet with Zee one on one at a time that worked for her schedule. Through these tutorials, Zee was able to gain computer skills that helped her do her job better. Every step she made got her closer to standing on her own two feet.

Zeenath decided to work toward her GED next, and we introduced her to volunteer Bill Vautrain. Those who have taken the GED know this is a big undertaking. Bill has met regularly twice a week with Zee, staying in touch and helping her throughout the pandemic. He tutored her on the math section for months, and she pushed through despite her English limitations. We are so proud to share that in June, Zee took the Math portion of the GED, and she passed! She plans to take the Science test this winter. Over three years time, we have watched Zee grow in so many ways. She got a stable job that gave her more responsibility as she grew and took steps toward independence.

Zee shared with us that, because of the patience and time that Diane, Emily, and Bill invested in her, she was empowered to accomplish things she wouldn't have done on her own. Bright days are ahead for Zee, and we are honored to be a part of her journey.

To learn more how you can be involved in Adult Education, email emmanuel@attackpoverty.org

Financial Assistance



We have been able to provide financial assistance to 40 residents in the North Richmond Community alone!

COVID-19 has impacted everyone on some level, and we have seen so many community members that have lost jobs, had hours cut, and gotten behind on bills or rent.

Thanks to the generosity of the George Foundation, Attack Poverty has been able to offer financial assistance to the communities we serve around Houston. We have been able to provide financial assistance to 40 residents in the North Richmond Community alone!

For community members who apply, we can provide up to \$500 in financial assistance to those impacted financially during the COVID-19 pandemic. This money can be applied toward rent, utilities or mortgage payments. Through this process, we have heard stories of many people who were able to keep their lights on and remain in their homes. Although it's been a tough season, we are grateful to see God's provision in so many ways.

To learn more about our COVID-19 response, click below. To learn more about our COVID-19 Response, go to attackpoverty.org/covid-19/

Free Virtual Counseling

Each day we have conversations with residents who are facing many needs that have risen or intensified because of COVID-19. These needs, whether job loss, death, illness of loved ones, uncertainty about school, and more bring many emotions to the surface. Sometimes we just need someone to lend a listening ear, or give us tools to cope with all of the struggles.

Our Disaster Recovery Program can provide free virtual counseling to help address the emotional impact of COVID-19. Contact our community social worker, Natalie Cortes, to learn more.



COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORKER
NATALIE CORTES 832.899.5211
NATALIE@ATTACKPOVERTY.ORG

[WWW.ATTACKPOVERTY.ORG/DISASTERRECOVERY](https://www.attackpoverty.org/disasterrecovery)

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Meet Emmanuel



Join us in welcoming Emmanuel Frias, our new Assistant Director at Friends of North Richmond! We are so excited to have him on our team! We asked him a few questions so you can get to know him...

Tell us about where you grew up?

I grew up in the Alief area, went to college in Laredo, Texas, and currently reside right here in Richmond!

What is your favorite food, hobby, and tv show/movie?

My favorite food would be enchiladas potosinas-not just any enchilada! My favorite hobbies are playing soccer, spending time with my family, and playing FIFA when I am able to. My favorite TV show at the moment is the All Or Nothing Series on Amazon Prime (documentaries on sports teams) and my favorite movie is Gladiator.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of being a first generation college graduate, as well as obtaining my systems engineering degree.

What brought you to Friends of North Richmond?

What has brought me to FNR is the great people and culture, as well as the shared vision of serving under resourced communities. I have been fortunate enough to have been blessed with help from programs similar to Attack Poverty as I grew up, and I am glad to have joined a place where I can partner with others to help our community.

Prayer Line



**Interested in joining our Prayer Team?
Contact Susan Jackson:
susan@attackpoverty.org**

The need for prayer is great, and we know that our community is facing needs and struggles on a daily basis. Our prayer team loves to pray for the needs of our North Richmond community.

We have a prayer line available for you to share your prayer needs:

Simply Text: 832-827-4420

Want someone to call and pray with you over the phone? Simply request a phone call in your text message.

Food Distribution

We have changed our food distribution hours to every Wednesday from 10-11:30am and 2:00-4:00pm. Each week, we serve food to about 50 or more families that drive through our line.

We rely on 5-6 volunteers per shift to help this distribution line to run smoothly. We are taking precautions with our volunteers, including taking temperatures, providing gloves, masks, and sanitizer.



**To sign up to
volunteer, go to
bit.ly/fnrfoodcenter**

Giving



To give a one-time or recurring monthly gift to Friends of North Richmond, go to attackpoverty.org/donate-now/online-giving

We appreciate your donations! Our distribution efforts are made possible by your generosity. Want to make a difference but can't make it to volunteer?

Here are some ongoing supplies we need:

- Size 4, 5, and 6 Diapers
- Dog and Cat Food
- Baby Wipes
- 2-Gallon Ziplock Bags
- Gallon Ziplock Bags
- Kids' Activities and Craft Supplies
- Bottled Water

Donations can be dropped off at 1305 Clay St. between 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.

Want to contribute financially? You can give online to help us continue the work of meeting basic needs for more families.



Follow us on social media!



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