

A Letter to Our Neighbors

A Word from Our Director

"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?... But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." - Matthew 6: 30-33

As 2020 comes to an end and we reflect, I am reminded that our God is a God of provision. It is needless to say that 2020 has been a difficult year for many reasons. But in the difficulty, we have seen God's goodness and clothing of his children every day.

When COVID-19 first became a reality for our neighborhoods in March, we were in awe of the outpouring of love and support given generously to our community. It was beautiful watching as neighbors shared what they had with each other and volunteers gave tirelessly of their time.

And as COVID-19 continues to be a reality, God's provision has not waived. Families who lost their jobs due to COVID have received financial assistance, students without internet are provided tablets to access their homework online, and neighbors living in isolation are met with prayer on their front porch. This is Matthew 6 in action – God clothing his children more splendidly than the grass of the field.

With the year coming to a close, there is still much work to be done in loving and strengthening our neighbors in North Richmond.



This is why I ask you to prayerfully consider making a year end gift to Friends of North Richmond so that we can continue to become catalysts for change and experience real transformation in our communities.

This year we have been shaken to the core, but as you read the pages below, I pray you see Matthew 6 woven throughout the paragraphs and are encouraged by God's unending provision. Thank you for your support as we continue to move forward awakening potential and provoking transformation one person, one community at a time.

Peace and hope to you this holiday season.

Elise Caire

[Donate](#)

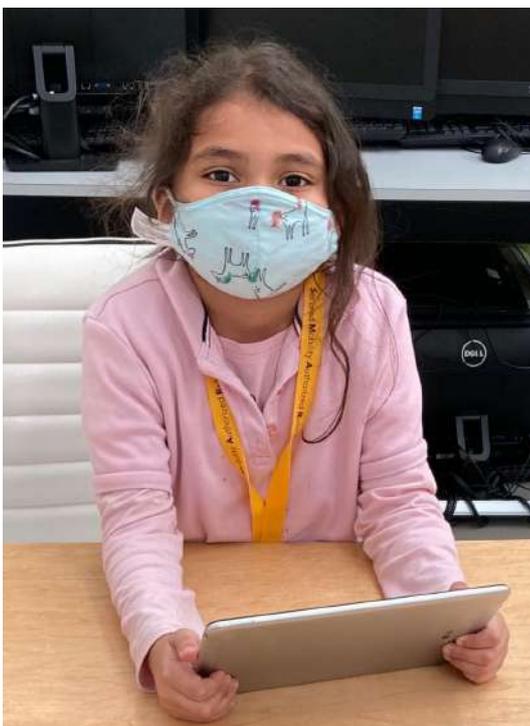
Thanks + Giving



This month, we have been amazed at the generosity that has been extended to our community. Hope Advocates is an organization that identifies and meets needs in communities through volunteers and donations. Hope Advocates purchased 58 pre-cooked meal boxes from Harvest Market and had them delivered in the Harvest Trolley. Each box contained a turkey, sides, rolls, and pie. It was a lovely gift that we shared in our Food Distribution line the day before Thanksgiving. Our distribution efforts are made possible by your generosity.

Another local organization, Home Aid, builds solutions for homelessness. They provided Thanksgiving meal kits for families to cook, gift cards to purchase a turkey, and blankets. Our staff was so excited to deliver these gifts to friends and neighbors safely so they didn't have to leave their homes.

Want to contribute financially? Your gift helps us continue the work of meeting basic needs for more families. Click [HERE](#) to give a one-time or recurring monthly donation.



Melody

Melody has been a student in our after school program since 1st grade. This school year, she's a 4th grader, and it's been a joy to watch her grow! Melody is currently attending our after school Zoom calls on Monday and Wednesday, and she joins our in-person learning pods on Tuesday and Thursday. She has worked very hard, and we have seen some big progress in Melody. She has moved to becoming an independent reader.

Throughout our time with Melody, we have seen her grow in her confidence, and she is now speaking up and finding her voice. We look forward to continuing to see Melody succeed!

Friendsgiving



The holidays are looking a little different for everyone this year. This year, we hosted our first Friendsgiving, a meal shared with our friends and neighbors.

Nova Church and Mighty Moose Printing worked together to plan a fun, safe, family friendly event. A delicious homemade meal was provided by BBQ Infusion, and we served over 250 meals to our neighbors. Families that came to eat could choose to drive through and pick up their food or sit outside at a table. People were invited to take family holiday photos at several different photo booths, and our playground was open for kids to play. Some volunteers offered prayer for those who waited in their cars.

We were grateful for the chance to connect with our neighbors this Thanksgiving.

Special thanks goes out to several local businesses that helped put this event together:

- Nova Church
- Mighty Moose
- BBQ Infusion
- Wrapletes
- Slab City BBQ
- True Mechanical
- R.S. Window Tinting
- Coming To Get You Investigations
- Allegiance Roofing
- Morales Brothers
- Strike Electrical Services

Meet Joe



We are so glad to introduce Joe Bravo, our newest team member! Joe is our Adult Education Coordinator, and we wanted to share some fun facts about him:

Tell us about yourself—where did you grow up and currently live?

I grew up in the neighborhood few blocks away from FNR, and I am currently living in Richmond.

What's your favorite food?

Not sure if I'm being biased but homemade Mexican food always hits the spot.

What's your favorite movie or tv show?

Glee: what I get for being in choir in high school.

What's your favorite hobby or pastime?

Hiking or game nights with friends.

What brought you to Friends of North Richmond?

There's nothing like coming back and seeing the neighborhood grow in a positive way. And all that is not possible without organizations like FNR. Now I can help and be part of the change.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Completing four years in the world's greatest Air Force.

We are excited to welcome Joe to our team!

Important Dates

Mark your calendar for these important dates coming up.



- **December 17:** Technology Workshop (iPhone, Zoom and computer usage) 6:30-7:30pm at Friends of North Richmond: 1305 Clay St.
- **December 19:** Christmas Market 10:00am-1:00pm at Friends of North Richmond: 1305 Clay St.
- **December 19:** Nery's Promise Christmas Play 5:00-7:00pm at Nery's Promise: 230 Collins Rd.
- **December 18-January 4:** LCISD Closed for holidays
- **December 24-January 1:** Friend of North Richmond offices closed for holidays

Sign up to receive
community updates:
Text @nrfriends to 81010

Sign up to receive
volunteer updates:
Text @fnrvol to 81010

Welcome Nova!



To learn more, visit novahtx.com

Join us in welcoming Nova Church to our Resource Center!

Led by pastors Emilio and Alexandra Frias, Nova is a church community whose mission is to help people grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus. With a heart to serve and be a blessing to the community, we are excited to welcome this church to North Richmond.

Services are in English and Spanish, and all are welcome.

Sunday Service Times:

10:00am: English Service

11:30am: Spanish Services

Our Resource Center is located at 1305 Clay St. in Richmond.

Food Distribution

Our drive through Food Distribution is held every Wednesday from 10-11:30am. Each week, we provide food and supplies to 60-70 families that drive through our line. People call ahead to make a reservation, which makes the line run smoothly. We greet each family, take a few bits of information, and load the donations into cars. Often we have activity bags or books to families with children.

We rely on 5-6 volunteers per shift to help this distribution line to run smoothly. Volunteers assist with taking information, tracking numbers, bagging pet food, making deliveries, loading cars, and much more. We follow recommended precautions with our volunteers, including taking temperatures, providing gloves, masks, and sanitizer.



To sign up to volunteer for Food Distribution, click [HERE](#).

For other volunteer opportunities, visit us at attackpoverty.galaxydigital.com

Prayer Line



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:

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

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.

**Thanks for Reading!
-The Friends of North Richmond Team**



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