

ADVANCING COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION BY HELPING CHURCHES SERVE LOCAL SCHOOLS

LOVINGHOUSTON.NET



IMPACT REPORT



"How do we reach our community?" was a prayer I had been praying. When the invitation to Loving Houston's Equipping Session came, I got excited. God had answered my prayer... Thanks, Loving Houston, for equipping us to reach our community."

— PASTOR OLIVER STILLWELL, DAYSPRING CHURCH



PLEASE JOIN US—WITH
YOUR TIME, YOUR TALENT,
AND YOUR TREASURE.
TOGETHER WE CAN
ENCOURAGE THE CHURCH
TO BE WHAT GOD INTENDED,
THE SALT AND THE LIGHT
OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

"...*Love* YOUR
NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF."

MARK 12:31

YOUR SUPPORT

Loving Houston has benefited from the early generosity of a handful of exceptional individuals. These gifts allowed us to launch our organization, prove the concept, develop a strategy focused on supporting schools, and grow substantially. With these strong results in hand, we now seek to broaden our base of financial support to build on the funding received from early investors like David Weekley and Bob McNair. Your support will be leveraged hundreds of times over through the time and resources committed by churches across Greater Houston. By inspiring, equipping, and mobilizing leaders across the city, Loving Houston will continue to provide a multiplier on the investments entrusted to us in 2016 and beyond.

Loving Houston is a 501(c)3 charity, and tax deductible contributions can be made via check, credit card, or bank account transfer via National Christian Foundation Houston. You can also donate stock, mutual funds, and/or non-liquid gifts through NCF Houston. Find more information at LOVINGHOUSTON.NET/DONATE

JIMMY PASSED HIS STAAR TEST because Houston Northwest Church gave Susan an opportunity to mentor at Brill Elementary.

MICHAEL RECEIVED A FULL-RIDE TO TEXAS A&M because Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church recruited Bruce to mentor at Spring Woods Middle School.

By investing in Loving Houston, you will be equipping churches and giving kids like Jimmy and Michael a chance to flourish.

OUR IMPACT IN 2015

DISCOVERED **237**
SCHOOLS WITH A CHURCH
PARTNER, UP FROM
FROM THE 72 WE HAD
IDENTIFIED IN 2014

HELPED
LAUNCH **8** NEW
CHURCH-SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIPS

ENGAGED WITH **60**
LEADERS FROM
40 CHURCHES
THROUGH OUR **4**
EQUIPPING SESSIONS

CONVENED **40** CHURCH
AND SCHOOL LEADERS
FROM **5** SCHOOL DISTRICTS
TO LEARN PARTNERSHIP
BEST PRACTICES

"Could you imagine the impact on our city if 60 or 70% of the churches were engaged with schools? Every school in Houston could have a partnering church with adult role models coming in, helping those kids learn about character and life lessons."

– DAVID WEEKLEY, LOVING HOUSTON CO-FOUNDER

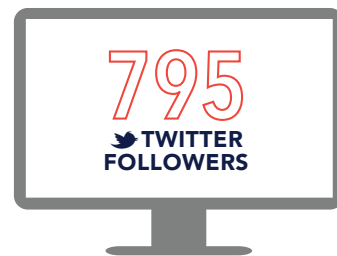
THE PATH FORWARD

1,233 SCHOOLS - 84% OF GREATER HOUSTON SCHOOLS - STILL DO NOT HAVE A CHURCH PARTNER.

Therefore, we are enhancing our communications efforts to reach deeper into the community. We have built strong content on the Loving Houston website (lovinghouston.net), reached out to school districts and community leaders using Facebook and Twitter, and produced excellent videos that demonstrate the tremendous impact of church-school partnerships.

We have also continued to connect with individuals, school districts, churches, denominations, and key nonprofits such as Children At Risk, the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, and Kids Hope USA using the most effective communication medium of all: personal contact and relationship-building.

As word about Loving Houston spreads, we are receiving increasing numbers of calls from school districts, church networks, and church denominations that want to get involved. More than 30 of these groups have expressed interest already in special presentations of our Equipping Session, and we foresee that this demand will continue to grow as more churches join the movement.



JIMMY'S STORY

"What are your fears?"
"The STAAR test. I don't know my 9s and 12s."

There aren't many certain things in life, but Jimmy's teachers were certain that Jimmy would fail his STAAR test every year. This year, it would be because he didn't know how to multiply his 9s and 12s.

Jimmy's mentor Susan was determined to put a stop to this.

"Do you have flash cards, Jimmy?"

You see, mentors weren't allowed to give gifts, but they were allowed to make crafts! Susan and Jimmy faithfully flipped through those flash cards each week, cards that got grimmer and more dog-eared with each passing day.

And then the week of the STAAR test arrived.

After the test, each teacher was handed the papers of students who had failed. Jimmy's teacher was certain that she was missing one paper – Jimmy's. But it wasn't a mistake. Those flash cards (and much prayer from Susan!) had paid off. Jimmy had finally passed!

MICHAEL'S STORY

Michael's parents were divorced. His mom had moved out to Las Vegas, and his dad was never around, working around the clock to provide for his family. Since Michael's dad provided for Michael financially but wasn't able to be there physically, he wanted his son to have a mentor.

Michael had been making As and Bs. Bruce told him he needed to make all As so that he could get into college. Michael honored that commitment. In fact, after making straight As all through high school, Michael graduated with honors and received a full 4-year scholarship to Texas A&M!

Michael shared this via Skype at the 2015

Spring Branch ISD Good Neighbor Celebration:

"I'm here because of my mentor, Bruce... I probably would not be at Texas A&M without him." He thanked the gathered Good Neighbors "for taking time out of your busy schedule to spend some time with a kid."

"You never know what kind of impact you will have,"

the business major told the gathering. He spoke about his future, saying, "I'm going to be a mentor. You can't be blessed like me, and not give it back."¹

There are thousands of kids like Jimmy across Greater Houston who want to know that someone believes in them. Someone who will ask them about their fears and take a few minutes to make flash cards.

There are also thousands of kids like Michael. Kids who feel the void left by busy or absent parents. Kids who long for a caring adult to spend time with them and to believe in them.

And there are thousands of men and women like Susan and Bruce who want to give of their time and resources but just don't know how to get started.

(1) [HTTP://SBSIDSNAPSHOTS.BLOGSPOT.COM/2015/10/GOOD-NEIGHBOR-PROGRAM-CELEBRATES-FIRST.HTML](http://SBSIDSNAPSHOTS.BLOGSPOT.COM/2015/10/GOOD-NEIGHBOR-PROGRAM-CELEBRATES-FIRST.HTML)
*Some names have been changed to protect privacy

THE OPPORTUNITY



1 IN 5 HOUSTONIANS LIVES IN POVERTY.
9% earn less than half the poverty level. ¹

1 IN 4 CHILDREN IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS ARE AT RISK OF HUNGER;
18,630 more children were at risk of hunger in 2015 than in 2014. 450,000 children in Greater Houston don't have consistent access to nutritious food.



42% OF HOUSTON CHILDREN, TYPICALLY IN LOW-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS, ATTEND SCHOOLS WITH A RATING OF D OR F. ²

1 IN 4 HOUSTON ADULTS IS UNABLE TO READ BEYOND A 3RD GRADE LEVEL. This disqualifies them from most jobs that pay more than minimum wage.



Many organizations across our city are addressing these issues of hunger, education inequality, and an unprepared workforce. Yet hundreds of thousands of Houstonians still struggle to meet their basic needs.

The 4,000 CHURCHES in Greater Houston have an extraordinary opportunity to provide a workforce for service in our communities, and Loving Houston has been turning this opportunity into a reality.

"I truly believe that a church ought to be more than just a place where you go on Sunday to worship. We're meant to be the hands and feet of Christ out in the marketplace, in our communities, and in our schools, and to really show true love..."
- DAVID WEEKLEY, LOVING HOUSTON CO-FOUNDER

OUR WORK IN HOUSTON
More than 20 years ago, our Loving Houston advisors and board members began convening pastors around prayer and service in Houston. Beginning in 2006, three events occurred that were instrumental in the formation of Loving Houston.

2006

The Luis Palau Association brought CityFest to Houston, introducing the CityServe model of convening church, business, and civic leaders for the benefit of the city

2013

Union Baptist Association deployed 2,000 volunteers from 75 local churches to renovate homes, complete beautification projects, and distribute basic resources in neighborhoods across Houston

LATE 2013

These city transformation initiatives coalesced into Loving Houston, Inc. led by Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church Senior Pastor Dave Peterson

Loving Houston celebrates, recognizes, and promotes the good already being done by local churches, and engages more churches in the work of community transformation.

Our method is simple:
We equip churches to meet real human needs in practical, hands-on ways.

FOCUS AND FRUIT

Loving Houston's leaders realized that with the many needs and opportunities in our communities, focus was needed. After studying CityServe's School Partnership Network in Portland, Oregon, and talking with Dr. Stephen Klineberg of the Rice University Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Loving Houston committed to helping churches serve local schools.

Church-school partnerships allow children to develop sustained relationships with caring adults who offer much-needed emotional and academic support for success in school and beyond. Churches can also support teachers and engage parents, empowering and encouraging them as we work together for the flourishing of our kids and communities.

"A lot of our families are really struggling, and a lot of our parents are working multiple jobs... The parents feel such a sense of relief that there is somebody else there who they can call on, or who can also be a voice for their kids in the school."
-LINDA BUCHMAN, SPRING BRANCH ISD COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

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8 NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN 2015

