

#### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Celebrating Successes and Looking Forward

What a blessing it has been to serve with you in Loving Houston's ministry of church school partnerships for the past 10 years.

Schools and school districts are continuing to open their doors to invite churches in to serve, and churches are slowly but surely stepping up to answer the call. A culture of church school partnerships is developing across Greater Houston, and the word is getting out that our public schools want church partners!

Church leaders are demonstrating our Loving Houston core values of humility, excellence, commitment, asset-based collaboration, and prayer as they serve. They are *asking* schools how they can help and focusing their outreach efforts personally and strategically, using their existing programs and outreach resources to care specifically for the children and families in their local schools.

Students have adult role models and teachers are being supported and prayed for thanks to the faithful service of local churches!

God has done so much through church school partnerships in the past 10 years, but there is still so much more to be done!

Brittani Davis has been our Director of Programs for the last 4 years and has brought our programming to an exceptionally high level of excellence and accountability. She is now ready to take Loving Houston to the next level as our new Executive Director!

Please pray with me for Brittani and the rest of the amazing Loving Houston team. Pray that God would continue to lead and guide them, that He would continue to give them favor as they reach out to churches and schools, and that students' lives would be transformed for good now and for eternity through the service of local churches because of the work of Loving Houston.

## Thank you as always for your partnership and prayers!



Marilyn Lee Executive Director 2017-2024 Loving Houston



**Brittani Davis** *Executive Director 2024-Present*Loving Houston

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3

Mission & Vision

4

By the Numbers

5

Reflections

6

Quotable Quotes

8

**Future Goals** 

9

Financials

11

How You Can Help

12

Our Team

# It Starts With Loving Our Children



The unfortunate reality is that many families across Greater Houston are struggling. Many students arrive to school hungry, and lacking basic resources like clothing, medical care, and stable housing. Teachers and school leaders are tasked with meeting students' instructional needs while also seeking help for the basic necessities a child needs to thrive.

You want to make a difference in your community. But with all of these challenges, where do you start?

## **Our Solution:**

At Loving Houston, we believe the solution starts with our children. Our children are the heartbeat of our communities today and the leaders of our communities tomorrow.

They have big dreams for their futures, but they're also experiencing the effects of every challenge in their communities. If they can somehow access the support and resources they need to succeed early in life, they will be able to change the trajectory of their own lives and influence their families and communities in positive ways for generations to come.

There are 1.2 million children in the Houston area. How can we help all of these children? Through our local schools!

With 1,500 schools and more than 3,000 churches across Greater Houston, every child in every community can be cared for when churches commit to partnering with schools.



OUR MISSION IS TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION IN GREATER HOUSTON BY HELPING CHURCHES SERVE LOCAL SCHOOLS

OUR VISION IS TO SEE EVERY SCHOOL WITH A COMMITTED, CARING CHURCH PARTNER





Communities are transformed when church leaders and volunteers show God's love, faithfulness, and compassion in their neighborhood schools.





The Loving Houston Partnership Program connects churches and schools through strategic partnerships that have a meaningful impact on the lives of our Houston-area children.

# **2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

LOVING HOUSTON DISTRICT PARTNERS



Aldine ISD • Houston ISD • Humble ISD Klein ISD • Lamar CISD • Stafford MSD

507 schools

**398,179** 

24,040

**STUDENTS** 

**TEACHERS** 

CHURCH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS
IN THESE SCHOOL DISTRICTS





211,741
STUDENTS

12,915

Volunteer Hours = Value

8,5

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS
HAVE SERVED

74,056

HOURS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS SO FAR THIS SCHOOL YEAR\*\*

FOR A TOTAL VALUE OF

\$2.48 MILLION

- \* Some churches and schools have more than one partner
- \*\* Total service hours not including prayer \*\*\* As of April 2024, the Independent Sector and the Do Good Institute estimate the value of a volunteer hour at \$33.49

# OF CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

SERVING STUDENTS & FAMILIES







SUPPORTING TEACHERS & STAFF

PRAYING 2.961





# 10 Years of Helping **Churches Serve Schools**

Schools and school districts across Greater Houston are asking for church partners! Right now, only a fraction of our schools have a church partner. Children are on waiting lists for mentors. Teachers are burning out and retiring early. Principals and counselors are struggling to find the physical resources and relational support their students need to succeed.

The Loving Houston Partnership Program connects churches and schools through strategic partnerships that have a meaningful impact on the lives of our Houston-area children. Every person in every church can do something about the specific challenges their local schools are facing so that our children can achieve their dreams!

## **Church School Partnership Pathways**

We encourage churches to ask schools about their goals and dreams, and to use their unique gifts, resources, and networks to help with one or more of the following partnership pathways:

# STUDENTS & FAMILIES



Mentoring, tutoring, and caring for students and families. Proverbs 22:6

Pink Elementary started a mentoring program in 2016, and The Bridge church provided all of the mentors that first year. Within 3 years, Pink improved from a Drating to a B rating! The principal attributes that improvement to the relationships developed over the years through mentoring and other volunteer relationships.

# TEACHERS & STAFF



**Encouraging and supporting teachers** and school staff. John 13:34

Two small groups from the Champion Forest Baptist Church North Klein campus refinished and redecorated all of the teacher bathrooms at Schultz Elementary. School budgets are tight, and this renovation was such a blessing and morale-booster for Schultz teachers and staff!

# GOODS & SERVICES



Donating goods and services for classrooms and school campuses. Matthew 25:37

Franklin Elementary wanted to provide fresh food for their students who don't have enough to eat on weekend. Redeemer Lutheran Church (a church of 14 people) collected enough money to buy a commercial refrigerator big enough to store food for all of the students in the entire feeder pattern who need extra food. (Even small churches can make a big difference!)

# **PRAYER**



Praying for students and staff. Psalm 127:1

A principal asked their new church partner for prayer. She also asked to know exactly what day and time the church would be praying so that she could pause wherever she was to join them in prayer! Another principal credited their church partner's prayer and encouragement for lowering the teacher turnover rate last year!

# WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

"Tiera was amazing! She always stayed in touch, and gave suggestions and amazing feedback. I love working with Loving Houston in order to serve schools!!!"

> —Shaune Harrison, The Rock W.O.I. Church



TIERA PETERS
Houston ISD
District Coordinator

"Pneuma Church's partnership has made a significant impact on our students, and we are truly blessed to have their support.
Their dedication to our school community is deeply appreciated, and we look forward to continuing this successful collaboration."

—Steven Deutsch, Navarro Middle School



RYAN CANTU
Houston ISD
District Coordinator

"The Transformation Outreach Center through Higher Expectations Church has provided multi-faceted support to Humble High School. In particular, Victor Coleman, Director of the Transformation Outreach Center, has created student internship opportunities through his connections with TechnipFMC. Mr. Coleman has been instrumental in building partnerships with multiple area businesses."



TANISHA VINSON Aldine & Humble ISDs District Coordinator

"Humble ISD has a reputation for excellence in education and an integral reason for this reputation is the community support of Humble ISD students. I count Humble ISD's partnership with Loving Houston as one of these critical collaborations and wanted to share my appreciation for this relationship.

"We have seen firsthand the difference the 46 active church partnerships have made in the lives of our students and appreciate Loving Houston working closely with our Community Engagement team to foster these partnerships.

"...Thank you for all that you do for Humble ISD families."

-Dr. Roger Brown, Humble ISD Acting Superintendent

"Currently, Lamar CISD boasts 50 active Church School Partnerships, with 35 of our schools benefiting directly from these meaningful connections. These partnerships have flourished through the dedicated efforts of Loving Houston, who have been instrumental in fostering relationships between our schools and local churches...

"...[T]he partnership between Loving Houston and Lamar CISD has been nothing short of transformative. Their unwavering dedication to fostering meaningful connections, promoting prayer, and supporting our schools through various initiatives has made a significant difference."

-Dr. Kanesha Waites, Lamar CISD Director of Community Relations

"Tawana is always keeping us updated, motivated, and informed. She's a blessing.

"Loving Houston is an organization that has been crucial to maintaining our partnership with Houston ISD and keeping it alive and well."

—Jaime Obando, CityRise Ministries



TAWANA GOODWIN
Houston ISD
District Coordinator

"Christi's emails are informative and encouraging. I feel like I can reach out whenever I need help or prayer."

> —Sunshine Deeke, Waypoint Church



CHRISTI DIFALCO Fort Bend County District Coordinator "Sheri Peddy is a perfect person for her position. From the day that I met her, [I] could sense her love, dedication, and commitment to what she does at Loving Houston. She has also given us a wealth of information and she has answered all of my questions."



—Randy Woodard, Dayspring Family Fellowship

SHERI PEDDY Klein ISD District Coordinator



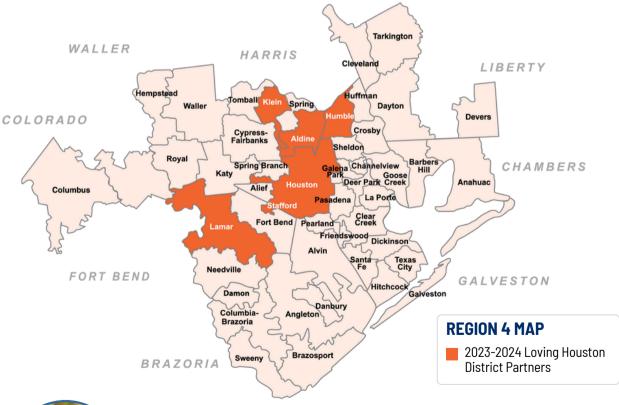


# Looking Forward to the Next 10 Years and Beyond

Loving Houston has helped start nearly 250 church school partnerships, but many more schools and school districts are asking for church partners. Our new Executive Director, Brittani Davis, is committed to partnering with 4 additional school districts over the next 3 years, and doubling our current partner districts by 2030.

## **Future Vision:**

The Region 4 Education Service Center is made up of 48 public school districts in the Greater Houston area representing 1.2 million students in 1,500 schools. With more than 3,000 churches across Greater Houston, our goal is to find a church partner for each one of these schools!

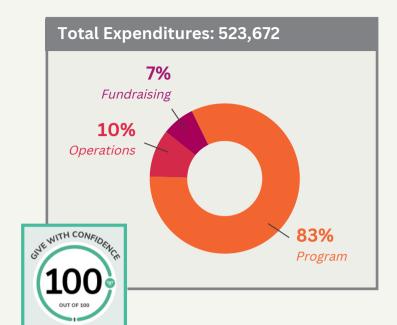


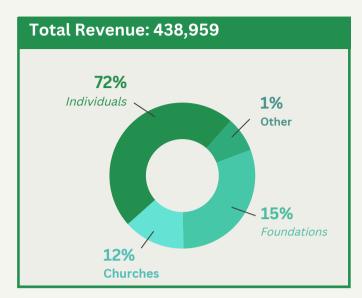


"In Klein ISD, we are so grateful for our faith-based partners... Loving Houston plays an integral part in connecting our Klein ISD schools with these valuable volunteers."

– Dr. Jenny McGown, Klein Independent School District Superintendent

# **Financials**





Our Charity Navigator
Finance & Accountability Rating!

# 10-Year Anniversary Celebration & Fundraiser



"It is such an exciting blessing to know that God is visibly back in the public schools because of Loving Houston's mission and the efforts of your team."

> —Robert Holloway, Loving Houston Supporter











# PRESIDENT'S LIST DISTRICT SPONSOR

Lizzy G's Fine Gifts

DEAN'S LIST

## **DEAN'S LIST SPONSOR**

Mrs. TJ Beck

## **HONOR ROLL SPONSORS**

Mr. Peter & Mrs. Barbara Forbes
Mrs. Kelly & Mr. Michael Handel
Mr. Harry & Mrs. Cindy Holmes
Hope Legacy Collective
Rev. Franklin & Mrs. Linda Lee
Dr. Dave & Mrs. Terri Peterson
Mr. Robert & Mrs. Nancy Zimmerman

**TABLE SPONSORS** 

Mrs. Sheena & Mr. Sajan Abraham
Dr. Tom & Mrs. Sandra Billings
H4OPE / Mrs. Denise Johnson
Mrs. Judye & Mr. John Hartman
Mr. Robert & Mrs. Cynthia Holloway
Humble Independent School District
Mr. David & Mrs. Patricia Jones
Mr. Wilfred & Mrs. Kerry Lau
Mr. Andrew & Mrs. Marilyn Lee
Dr. Jenny & Mr. Brian McGown
One Church @ Harvest Point
Union Baptist Association
Mrs. Terri & Dr. Sam Wang

We praise God for His grace and favor over our first ever fundraising banquet! We are so grateful for every table sponsor, committee member, former and current Board Member, staff person, and supporter who joined us to celebrate how God has worked through Loving Houston over the past 10 years!

"You hit this one out of the park! The event was lovely from beginning to end... It was great fun to be with many friends and to witness the work and success of Loving Houston."

"It was a truly
wonderful evening! The
tables were beautiful.
The room was full.
Speakers were
fabulous! It was really
special for us to see so
many good friends who
came, And we are
delighted that you
made your budget."

-Terri Peterson

-TJ Beck

"The event was 'Way-Over-The-Top' in every detail!! I could rave on and on! And what fun it was to see and visit with others who were on the board in those very early years when God put Loving Houston together. Never did any of us dream what God had in mind. Wow!

-Judye Hartman















# **Giving Levels**

### SCHOOL DISTRICT SPONSOR DONOR

\$36,000 OR MORE

(EXAMPLE: GIVING AT THIS LEVEL HELPS TO FUND THE WORK OF ONE DISTRICT COORDINATOR, CONNECTING APPROXIMATELY 60 SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES AND REACHING NEARLY 20,000 STUDENTS AND STAFF)

#### DEAN'S LIST DONOR

\$15,000-\$35,999
(EXAMPLE: GIVING AT THIS LEVEL HELPS TO FUND ON-GOING RESEARCH, MEASUREMENTS, DATA TRACKING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, ALL OF WHICH ALLOWS LOVING HOUSTON'S CHURCH-SCHOOL-PARTNERSHIP TO BE THE PREMIER NATIONAL MODEL.)

### **HONOR ROLL DONOR**

\$6,000-\$14,999
(EXAMPLE: GIVING AT THIS LEVEL HELPS TO FUND OUR "LUNCH & LEARN" VOLUNTEER EVENTS, REACHING NEARLY 175 PEOPLE PER EVENT.)

## GOLD STAR DONOR

\$1,000-\$5,999
(EXAMPLE: A GIFT OF THIS AMOUNT HELPS TO FUND OUR "SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS", WHICH BRINGS CHURCH LEADERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TOGETHER WHEN EXPLORING A NEW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP.)

#### ACHIEVEMENT AWARD DONOR

\$50-\$1,000 

# **WAYS TO HELP**

We need your help to mobilize more churches to partner with their neighborhood schools!



Connect us with your church



Join our prayer team



Volunteer with Loving Houston



Give financially



# SPECIAL THANKS to...

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Rick Lester (2024 Chair)

Dr. Jenny McGown

Dr. Lawrence Scott

Mrs. Terri Wang

Mr. Robert Zimmerman

#### **STAFF**

Marilyn Lee, Executive Director\*
Kareen Eichberger, Director of Operations
Brittani Davis, Director of Programs \*\*
Tangela Stephens, Administrative Assistant

#### **DISTRICT COORDINATORS**

Ryan Cantu, Houston ISD Central
Christi DiFalco, Fort Bend County
Tawana Goodwin, Houston ISD North & West
Sheri Peddy, Klein ISD
Tiera Peters, Houston ISD East
Tanisha Vinson, Aldine & Humble ISDs

#### **ADVISORS**

Mr. Lawrence Allen, Jr.

Dr. Tom Billings

Mr. Neil Bush

Mr. Scott Brown

Mr. Steve Capper

Mr. Chad Clarkson

Mr. Rick Figueroa

Mr. Peter Forbes

Mr. Brian Gowan

Mr. Mike Malkemes

Mr. Scott McClelland

Mr. Kevin Palau

Dr. Dave Peterson

Dr. Girien Salazar

Dr. Ruth Lopez Turley

### **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Mr. John Alexander Mrs. Kelly Gowan Mr. David Jones Mrs. Amor Ballestero Mrs. Kelly Handel Mrs. Althea Lee Rev. Rickie Bradshaw Mrs. 'Le Hayes Rev. Jeff McGee

Rev. Brian Gowan

And all of the many Loving Houston partner churches, volunteers, and contributors who faithfully serve the Greater Houston community.

\*OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR \*\*INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



The partnership with Loving Houston makes such a positive impact in the hearts and minds of our young people. What you all do is critical to our success in Klein ISD and we could not be more grateful."

**Dr. Jenny McGown** Klein ISD Superintendent



### **CONTACT US**

# Info@lovinghouston.net Lovinghouston.net

- Facebook.com/lovinghouston
- Instagram.com/\_lovinghouston\_
- Youtube.com/@lovinghouston
- Pinterest.com/lovinghouston
- X.com/lovinghouston