

MISSIONS NEWS

FIRST METHODIST HOUSTON

JANUARY 2019





A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Director of Ministries & Missions | Kristen Jones | kjones@fmhouston.com

As we reflect on 2018 and all that God has done, we try to quantify the impact of our financial and resource investments.

However, the greatest impacts may be the ones that we cannot quantify; those we may not see this side of heaven.

The physical touch through hugs that change the lives of our mission teams and those they meet in places like Eagle Pass, Peru and El Salvador. The people who are being served by the family who now have a new home after Hurricane Harvey. The entrepreneur in Haiti who we helped start a grocery store that now employs other people in his village. Or the tens of thousands of people impacted because of each person who attended our leader training conferences in Turkey, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, or Pakistan. That is our story. We are in relationship with a God

who always surprises us, who is weaving a tapestry bigger than we can imagine.

While we cannot list all of the ways the Lord has used you and your investment in 2018, here are some of the ways we have seen Him working.

Thank you for your partnership through your gifts to Missions in 2018. It has been a fun and exciting year.

I am looking forward to what God has for us in 2019.

Serving together,

Kristen Jones

RESPONDING TO NEEDS AROUND US

Lifeline Homeless Ministry, located in the basement of the downtown campus, serves approximately 340 of our homeless neighbors each week, showing God's love to those who may feel forgotten. Through friendship, Bible study, warm clothes, sack lunches, connection to additional services in the city or other needed supplies, Lifeline is a beacon of hope.



Neighbors in Action empowers families and individuals living in the Community of Port Houston through our NIA Community Center and ministries. With daily programs and ministries for children, teens and parents, families in Port Houston are becoming strong leaders in their community and serving others in need.



Refugee Ministry outreach is serving children and their families with three focuses: African families through our Altar/Umoja congregation, Middle Eastern families at Sheffield Square Apartments and newly relocated families through Catholic Charities. By providing friendships and new opportunities to families relocated in Houston from war-torn countries, and by offering weekly programming for the children and teenagers, we are able to present Christ to those who may have never heard of Him before.



MISSIONS FAST FACTS

Neighbors in Action (NIA)

+ Neighbors in Action regularly served 100-200 individuals on a weekly basis this year, and had more than 500 people participate in our programs and events. We offer programs for all age groups seven days a week, and work closely with Port Houston Elementary, because we believe that education is key to helping people overcome poverty and dependency.

+ Neighbors in Action Thanksgiving Feast served 256 guests and 54 volunteers. Many families were blessed and thankful for the food, fellowship, and fun. We had 72 pies/desserts donated by First Methodist members.

+ We collected 300 Thanksgiving in a Bag bags for our families at Neighbors in Action, our Refugee Ministry, Bush Elementary, Ashford Westchase apartments, and helped to restock Lifeline, West Houston Assistance Ministries, and House of Amos pantry shelves.

+ Our Easter Egg Hunt had over 150 kids this year.

Lifeline to the Homeless

+ Lifeline serves 340 lunches per week with 24-30 volunteers serving.

+ 300 hygiene kits were collected in June.

+ Thanksgiving in a Bag supplied enough groceries to Lifeline to last them for four months.

+ A Lifeline client and member of our church attended our Eagle Pass mission trip in October.

+ The Lifeline Sunday School class started in January 2018, and currently has between 30-40 in attendance each week.

Refugee Ministry

+ Provided homework assistance, tutoring, craft projects, and games each Wednesday afternoon, serving about 25 children each week.





Medical Apartment Ministry

+ Our Medical Apartment Ministry provides five fully-furnished apartments at a reduced rate for people undergoing treatment at MD Anderson Cancer Center. The dedicated volunteers keep the apartments looking beautiful and take special care to minister to each tenant, inviting them to church and going the extra mile to make their situations better.

+ We provided a home-away-from-home for 46 families from 14 states who were undergoing treatment in the medical center.

Prison Pen Pals

+ Each month, church members are corresponding with people in prison through our Prison Pen Pals program. We currently have a prisoner tithing to the church.

Change Can Project

+ Collected \$1230.39 to provide an audio version of a new Bible Translation.

Additional Projects

+ Provided school supplies to 90 refugee children and teens, and 200 children in our NIA ministry.

+ Hosted a Back to School Bash for 18 families from Sheffield Square with a dinner, movie, popcorn, and school supply distribution.

+ Through our Online Missionary ministry, we corresponded with over 1800 people from around the world who were searching for God online.

+ 25 women from Port Houston graduated from a City of Houston CERT course (Community Emergency Response Team) that was hosted at NIA. The CERT program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area, and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, search-and-rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.



IMPACTING THE WORLD

120 people served on Mission Trips this year to Haiti, El Salvador, Peru, Honduras, Eagle Pass (2 trips), Cuba and Myanmar (Burma).

Pakistan

Sponsored 12 Christian Training conferences for over 800 people in communities throughout the country.

Nepal

Supported 5 orphan boys with housing, food, and education, and provided support for the pastor of a village church and two house churches.

Peru

Youth mission team led evangelistic outreaches in schools and churches for over 2000 people.

Cuba

Sponsored church staff, missionaries, and their families to a beautiful dinner in downtown Havana.

Kazakhstan

Sponsored student outreach on a college campus for unreached college students in Astana.

Burma

Baptized 8 children at our children's home (5 became Christians after coming to the home).

Honduras

Sponsored 14 children to attend school near Tegucigalpa.

Turkey

Provided a Christian training conference for new young Christian leaders (20-30's).

El Salvador

Our mission team dug a well to provide clean drinking water and hygiene training for a remote village.

Haiti

Provided 14 pairs of goats for families in Haiti to start self-sustaining farming. 135 children from the village gathered in a small church to enjoy games and learn about Jesus.

Eagle Pass

Team members worked hard to build a drainage ditch, clean out a hotel, serve an after-school day care, and hosted a dinner for the family they served. Our junior high mission team served in Eagle Pass, where they painted a home, helped with VBS, and passed out food at a local food pantry for families in need.



HURRICANE HARVEY HOUSE

We are so happy to inform you that Alba is doing well with her kids in the new house. She is attending First Methodist Downtown on Sundays for worship.

- + 6,000 hours worked on the Harvey House.
- + 29 church members volunteered to serve.
- + 24 church members came to serve lunch (Rock Church and FUMC Bryan).
- + Provided 6 days of lunches (\$3000) and an estimated \$17,620 in in-kind donations.



GET INVOLVED

All of the ministries of First Methodist Houston Missions are made possible with your service and your financial gifts.

To find more information on ways to get involved, or to financially support the Missions Ministry of First Methodist Houston, visit our new website.

FMHMISSIONS.COM

OUR TEAM

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